



# NYE in Dubai 2016!

## African American Travelers

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# Dubai(Egypt) FAQs

## About Dubai:

- **Where will be staying?**
  - We will be staying at the Holiday Inn Downtown Dubai.
- **What amenities are included with the hotel?**
  - The hotel includes free breakfast, internet, gym and pool, among many others.
- **How are we getting around?**
  - We will be guided by SuperJet Travel. Super jet Group is a full-fledged travel and tourism company with professionally trained staff having been in business since 1999.
- **Is a visa necessary to enter Dubai?**
  - Citizens of the USA, Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, the United Kingdom are not required to have a visa for stays of less than 30 days. They will be granted a free-of-charge One Entry Visit Visa upon arrival, and can extend for up to a total stay of 60 days for AED 620. A penalty of AED 100 per day is charged to visitors who overstay. For longer stays, travelers must obtain a visa before arrival in the U.A.E.
- **What is the currency of Dubai:**
  - The monetary unit of the U.A.E. is the dirham (designated as Dhs or AED, which stands for Arab Emirate Dirham), which is divided into 100 *fills*. Bills come in the following denominations: 5 (brown note), 10 (green), 20 (light blue), 50 (purple), 100 (pink), 500 (blue), and 1,000 (burgundy). Please google AED to USD to get the current exchange rate
- **Language and Religion?**
  - **The Language** - English is widely spoken in Dubai and most public information is written in English as well as Arabic. There are many people from Iran and South Asia here speaking Persian, Hindi, Urdu, and Pashto, as well.
  - **The Religion** - Islam is the official religion of the U.A.E. and is integral to the local culture
- **What are the typical working days and hours?**
  - The Weekend is Friday and Saturday. Office Business hours operate a split shift from 8 to 1, and then from 4 to 7.
- **What should I wear in Dubai?**
  - While you more than likely won't need a new wardrobe. You are going to want to err on the side of conservative. **Women** are encouraged to wear dresses, knee length skirts, and anything not tight. You may want to avoid spaghetti vest tops, and try to cover your shoulders and back. However, when it comes to dressing for bars and clubs the rules no longer apply, and you wear what you would in the US. For **men**, shorts and t-shirts are absolutely fine!



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- **Are there any items that I cannot bring?**
  - Pornographic material of any kind; non-Islamic material for the purpose of distributing to others, weapons, laser pens, ivory, and alcohol.
- **Can I get drunk?**
  - Although the UAE is a Muslim country, alcohol is usually available at all restaurants based within a hotel. Independent and street restaurants will normally NOT serve alcohol by law. If you have had a drink, under no circumstance should you drive! The penalties for drunk driving are severe!
- **Can I get high?**
  - DON'T DO IT! Penalties are severe, and with any proof in your bloodstream constitutes an offence of trafficking
- **How do they feel about homosexuality in Dubai?**
  - Although Homosexuality does exist on the ground in the UAE, it is actually illegal, and so it is best not to declare that you are gay. Penalties for homosexuality are up to 10 years in jail. However, if you do not flaunt your sexuality you should be fine.
- **Are there any safety concerns?**
  - They not bout that life! The UAE is probably one of the safest places in the world. Considering that most people living there are expatriates there to make more money, no one wants to jeopardize their income generating potential, so crime is low! However, both Dubai and Abu Dhabi are notorious for car accidents, so be careful when crossing the streets.
- **What are other things that I should know?**
  - Swearing in public could get you a fine or even sent to jail
  - Public displays of affection are frowned upon
  - Sex outside of marriage is illegal. So don't have sex in front of a court house
  - Showing someone the sole of your shoe is considered an insult.
  - Crossing your legs (especially in front of someone of high importance) is considered rude
  - Don't give someone your back
  - Shaking hands is the normal male greeting. Use the right hand!
  - Shaking women's hands is not the norm. It may be best to wait until the hand is extended to you in this situation.
  - Always show respect to females (i.e. Give women the option to sit down where she wishes to sit, stand when she enters the room, and let her go through the door first) Apparently chivalry didn't die, it moved to Dubai.



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## About Egypt:

On our way to the UAE, we are fortunate enough to have an 11 hour layover in “the cradle of civilization”, and we plan to use every second of that 11 hours to take in the sights.

- **What about the “turest”?**
  - In the four years since the ending of the Arab Spring, Egypt has made a quick economic rebound driven by energy, infrastructure, and healthcare (source: <http://www.cnbc.com/id/102141210>). While terrorist attacks are still a concern, most of the it occurs in the Sinai Peninsula, 4 hours east of Giza.
- **How do they treat women?**
  - Egyptians are known to harass women walking alone. It is suggested that you only leave the airport if you are staying with the group.
- **How are we getting around Egypt?**
  - We will be picked up at the airport by On The Go tours and taken on a guided tour of the pyramids.
- **Do we need Visa’s?**
  - A passport and visa are required for U.S. citizens traveling to Egypt. **Tourists can obtain a renewable single-entry 30-day tourist visa on arrival at Egyptian airports for a 25 USD fee.** A multiple entry visa is also obtainable for 35 USD. Egyptian immigration officials occasionally have denied entry to travelers without explanation. U.S. citizens who have experienced difficulty with their visa status in Egypt or are concerned about their eligibility for a visa upon arrival should apply for a visa at an Egyptian embassy or consulate prior to travel. Visas for gainful employment or study in Egypt must be obtained prior to travel.



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