



FREE RESOURCE

The Ultimate Dubai Moving Checklist

Everything to do before, during & after
your move to Dubai — week by week.

5

phases

60+

tasks

8

weeks

0

stress

WHAT'S INSIDE

- 3 months before — Research, documents & planning
- 1 month before — Logistics, bookings & paperwork
- 2 weeks before — Final prep & admin
- Arrival week — First steps on the ground
- First month — Settle in & get sorted

Your Moving Checklist

Work through each phase in order. Tick off every item as you go.

3M

3 MONTHS BEFORE YOUR MOVE DATE

Research, visas & big decisions

Decide which visa type you need
Employment, investor, freelance, golden or remote work — check dubaimovehub.com/visas

Start your visa application or ask your employer to begin sponsorship

Research Dubai neighborhoods — choose your top 3 areas
Use the neighborhood guides at dubaimovehub.com

Research international schools if you have children
Waitlists can be 6–12 months — start immediately

Apply to schools and get on waitlists
Top schools fill up fast — apply to 3–4 simultaneously

Give notice at your current job
Check your contract for notice period requirements

Get your documents attested / apostilled
Degree certificates, birth certificates, marriage certificate

Book a reconnaissance trip to Dubai if budget allows
See neighborhoods in person before committing to one

Research health insurance options
UAE law requires all residents to have health insurance

Tell your bank you are moving internationally
Avoid card blocks and set up international transfer access

TIP Document attestation takes 2–6 weeks. Start this before anything else — it blocks visa applications if delayed.

1M

1 MONTH BEFORE YOUR MOVE DATE

Logistics, bookings & paperwork

- Book your flights**
Book early — one-way tickets often cheaper than returns from abroad
- Book temporary accommodation for first 2–4 weeks**
Serviced apartments or hotel — do not sign a long lease before you arrive
- Hire an international moving company for your belongings**
Get 3 quotes — compare FIDI-certified movers
- Research and shortlist real estate agents**
Use the directory at dubaimovehub.com for vetted agents
- Open a UAE bank account (some allow pre-arrival applications)**
Emirates NBD and ADCB allow online applications before arrival
- Sort health insurance — choose your plan**
Your employer may provide this — confirm before buying separately
- Arrange shipping for your car if bringing one**
Takes 4–8 weeks by sea — book early
- Arrange pet relocation if applicable**
Requires vet certificates, microchipping and specific vaccinations
- Cancel or transfer UK/home country subscriptions**
Gym, streaming, phone contracts, insurance policies
- Forward your mail to a trusted person at home**
- Inform your home country tax authority of your departure date**
- Contact your pension provider about overseas residence**

2W

2 WEEKS BEFORE YOUR MOVE DATE

Final admin & packing

- Confirm all bookings — flights, movers, temp accommodation**
- Pack an arrival essentials bag — keep it in your hand luggage**
Documents, 2 weeks of clothes, laptop, chargers, basic medicines
- Get UAE SIM card research done — Du or Etisalat**
Buy one at the airport on arrival for immediate connectivity
- Obtain driving licence International Permit if needed**
Some nationalities can exchange directly — check dubaimovehub.com

AW

ARRIVAL WEEK

First steps on the ground in Dubai

- Buy a UAE SIM card at the airport**
Du and Etisalat both have desks in arrivals — get one immediately
- Check into your temporary accommodation**
- Get your UAE medical fitness test done**
Required for all visa types — find approved centres at [ICA.GOV.AE](https://ica.gov.ae)
- Get Emirates ID biometrics appointment**
Book online at [ICA.GOV.AE](https://ica.gov.ae) — bring passport and entry stamp
- Open your UAE bank account in person if not done pre-arrival**
Bring: passport, visa, Emirates ID application receipt, salary letter
- Register with your country's embassy or consulate**
Important for emergency contact and voting registration
- Set up your DEWA account (electricity & water)**
Required to activate utilities — done online at dewa.gov.ae
- Get a Nol card for Dubai Metro**
Available at any Metro station — AED 20 card + credit
- Download and set up Careem and Uber apps**
- Explore your chosen neighborhood on foot**
Visit the supermarket, pharmacy, and nearest mall
- Locate your nearest hospital and GP clinic**
Important to know before you need them

TIP Do not sign a long-term apartment lease in your first week. Live in temporary accommodation for 2–4 weeks so you can explore properly first.

M1

YOUR FIRST MONTH IN DUBAI

Get settled, sorted & started

- Collect your Emirates ID when notified**
Check status at ICA.GOV.AE — usually ready in 1–2 weeks
- Find a long-term apartment and sign your lease**
Pay by post-dated cheques — 1, 2, or 4 cheques per year
- Register your tenancy contract with Ejari**
Required by law — done online or via your real estate agent
- Transfer your driving licence to a UAE licence**
UK, US, EU and many others can exchange without a test
- Activate your health insurance**
Confirm your Emirates ID number is linked to your policy
- Register children at their new school**
Bring: passport copies, previous school reports, vaccination records
- Set up your internet at home**
Etisalat (eLife) or Du — book installation 1–2 weeks in advance
- Get your vehicle registered if you shipped a car**
Requires UAE driving licence + insurance before registration
- Join local expat communities and groups**
InterNations Dubai, Facebook expat groups, area-specific WhatsApp groups
- Set up a will / legal documents**
UAE has specific inheritance laws — expats should create a DIFC will
- Book a flight home to visit family**
The emotional reality of moving — plan your first trip home early

Your free resources at dubaimovehub.com

Everything you need to settle in Dubai — all free, all in one place.

- **12 Neighborhood guides**
Find the perfect area for your lifestyle and budget
- **6 Visa guides**
Step-by-step breakdowns of every UAE visa type
- **Cost of living calculator**
Estimate your real monthly budget before you arrive
- **Vetted service directory**
50+ trusted providers for real estate, visas, insurance and more