UAE RULES · BEFORE-YOU-GO GUIDE

Driving in the UAE

Who can drive on a foreign licence, speed limits, fines and black points, toll roads, parking and what to do after an accident.

Checked 18 October 2026 · 100go.ae/rules/driving/

Amounts are as of October 2026 and may change.

Who can drive

- In Dubai, a visitor on a visit visa may drive on their own licence if it was issued in a GCC country or one of RTA's 20 exception countries.
- RTA's list of 20 countries: Austria, Belgium, Britain, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, USA.
- With such a licence a visitor may drive only light vehicles and motorcycles.
- An International Driving Licence issued abroad can be used in Dubai only on a visit visa, and only for a light vehicle or a motorcycle.
- On a transit visa you may drive a Dubai-registered vehicle only with a valid International Driving Licence and approval from the insurance company.
- To rent a car in Abu Dhabi you need a passport copy, a credit card and a valid home-country licence or an international driving licence. UAE residents need a UAE licence.
- Driving on a foreign licence where this is not permitted is fined AED 400; not carrying your licence is also AED 400.

Speed limits and radars

- The posted sign rules. Without a sign, Dubai defaults are: parking areas and service roads 25 km/h, urban single carriageway 40, urban dual carriageway 60 or 80, rural roads 100, freeways 120 km/h (minimum 60 km/h).
- A speed limit shown on a Variable Message Sign overrides the limit posted on the same road.
- Some roads also have a signed minimum speed. Driving below it is fined AED 400.

Fines and black points

- Speeding fines: up to 20 km/h over — AED 300; up to 30 — 600; up to 40 — 700; up to 50 — 1,000; up to 60 — 1,500, 6 points, 15-day impound; over 60 — 2,000, 12 points, 30 days; over 80 — 3,000, 23 points, 60 days.
- Since 29 March 2025 the UAE applies the new Federal Decree-Law No. 14 of 2024 on Traffic Regulation; it covers all vehicles, drivers and pedestrians.
- Under the new law, using the horn within city limits is restricted to emergencies only.
- Pedestrians may not cross roads where the speed limit exceeds 80 km/h.
- Using a mobile phone or being distracted while driving — AED 800 and 4 black points.
- Driver or any passenger not wearing a seat belt — AED 400 and 4 black points.
- Running a red light — AED 1,000, 12 black points and a 30-day vehicle impound.
- Driving in a way that endangers lives or safety — AED 2,000, 23 black points and a 60-day impound.
- Not giving way to pedestrians at a crossing — AED 500 and 6 black points.
- Not giving way to ambulances, police or official convoys — AED 1,000 and 6 black points.
- Window tint above the permitted percentage — AED 1,500.
- Not keeping a safe distance behind other vehicles — AED 400 and 4 black points.
- Not using the indicator when changing direction or turning — AED 400.

Amounts and black points are from the fines table published on u.ae (Ministerial Resolution 178 of 2017). The new federal traffic law, Decree-Law No. 14 of 2024, has applied since 29 March 2025 — check the source before you travel.

Alcohol and driving

- For driving under the influence of alcohol the fine is decided by a court, plus 23 black points and a 60-day vehicle impound.
- Dubai has zero tolerance for drunk driving: the driver is arrested and the court sets the fine.
- Decree-Law No. 14 of 2024 lists driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs among serious violations with strict penalties.
- You must be over 21 to buy or consume alcohol (Abu Dhabi).

Toll roads

- Salik (Dubai toll gates), Mon–Sat: AED 6 at peak 6–10 AM and 4–8 PM; AED 4 at 10 AM–4 PM and 8 PM–1 AM; free 1–6 AM.
- On Sundays (except public holidays and events) Salik is AED 4 all day, free 1–6 AM.
- From 1 June 2026 a 5% VAT applies to all Salik toll transactions.
- During Ramadan the timings change: peak 9 AM–5 PM, free 2–7 AM.
- Al Mamzar North/South and Al Safa North/South: passing the second gate of the pair within one hour is charged once only.
- Darb (Abu Dhabi tolls): AED 4 per crossing at peak 7–9 AM and 3–7 PM, Monday–Saturday; free on Sundays and official public holidays.
- Since 1 September 2025 Darb's daily (AED 16) and monthly caps for private vehicles are removed — every crossing is charged.
- Since 4 May 2026 two new Darb gates — Ghantoot (Sheikh Maktoum bin Rashid St) and Wahat Al Karama St — charge AED 4 per crossing 24/7.

Parking

- Improper parking — AED 500; parking on the pavement — AED 400; parking in a disabled bay or in front of a fire hydrant — AED 1,000 and 6 black points.
- Dubai parking can be paid by SMS, WhatsApp, the RTA Dubai app or the Parkin app.
- Since 4 April 2025 Dubai has variable parking tariffs: peak pricing 8–10 AM and 4–8 PM (excluding Sundays and public holidays), out of 14 chargeable hours a day.
- Parkin multi-storey car parks in Dubai: AED 5 per hour, 24/7; a maximum of AED 40 for over 8 hours in 24 hours.
- On major holidays RTA makes public parking free (e.g. Eid Al-Adha, 25–29 May 2026), except multi-storey parking; dates are announced per holiday.
- Abu Dhabi (Mawaqif): premium bays (white & turquoise kerb) AED 3/hour, max 4 hours; standard bays (black & turquoise) AED 2/hour or AED 15 per day.
- Mawaqif is charged 8 AM–midnight and free on Sundays and public holidays; pay by cash, card, the Darb app or mobile phone.

If there is an accident

- Crowding (rubbernecking) at the scene of a traffic accident — AED 1,000.
- After an accident call the police on 999 (anywhere in the UAE), give your location and wait for instructions. Ambulance: 998.
- Minor accident, no injuries: move the car to the shoulder so it does not block traffic and wait for the police at least 15 metres from the car.
- If anyone is injured, leave all vehicles exactly where they are and wait for an ambulance.
- Minor accidents can be reported online via the MoI UAE, Saaed, Abu Dhabi Police, Dubai Police or Rafid (Sharjah) apps.
- Not stopping after causing a minor accident — AED 500, 8 black points and a 7-day impound (light vehicles).

Rental cars

- In Dubai all car rental offices must use RTA's unified contract: undisclosed fees (such as extra toll-gate charges) are prohibited and the security deposit must be refunded within the set timeframe.
- Under RTA's unified contract the car's condition is documented with photos at handover and return, and renters must not be charged costs arising from accidents or during the repair period.

Children in the car

- Children under 4 must ride in a child seat; the fine for not using one is AED 400.
- Children under 10 or shorter than 145 cm may not sit in the front seat; the fine is AED 400.

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Checked 18 October 2026

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