

R I X O S

HOTELS

This document aims to set the standards for social ethics and mutual respect that shall be followed by all UAE citizens, residents and visitors in respect of the Emirates' culture, religion, and habits.

The Symbols of the State

- Show respect for the UAE's rulers, flag, and national emblem. Abusing these symbols is a punishable offence.

Ethics

- Respect the culture, customs, and traditions of the UAE and its people.
- Avoid improper behaviour and adopt courtesy and moderation.

Religious Practices

- Islam is the official religion of the UAE, and its customs and symbols should be respected.
- Committing blasphemy or sacrilege is considered offensive and can lead to legal consequences.
- Allow Muslims to pray freely when the call to prayer is announced.
- During the month of Ramadan, Muslims fast from dawn to sunset. Throughout this month, eating, drinking or smoking in public spaces during daylight is considered a public offence.
- Mosques are revered places for Muslims, so you must follow a conservative dress style if you visit any mosque. Both men and women must cover their arms and legs and avoid wearing skirts or shorts shorter than their ankles. A headscarf will be given while entering, for females to cover their hair within the premises. You will have to take off your shoes before entering the building.

Mutual Respect

- Personal freedom is guaranteed but must not endanger lives, health, security, or liberty.
- Exercise of freedom should be in accordance with UAE laws.
- Islam does not differentiate between nationalities and races.
- There is no official dress code in the UAE, so feel free to wear your style; however, its best to avoid offensive or revealing clothing, especially outside pools or beaches, and to dress appropriately for heritage areas and religious sites like mosques.

Alcohol, Drugs, Smoking

- Possessing, consuming, buying, or selling drugs is a crime and is punishable by law.
- Alcohol consumption shall be confined to designated areas (i.e., licensed restaurants and venues that serve alcohol to their clients).
- Driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs is strictly prohibited.
- Smoking outside designated areas is subject to fine.

Public Facilities & Museums

- Public facilities (i.e., public parks, benches, bus stops, etc.) shall be kept in good condition.
- Maintain a respectful atmosphere in museums, including refraining from loud conversations.

Transportation

- Driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs is prohibited.
- Minimise your ecological footprint by choosing eco-friendly transportation options and accommodations.

Beaches

- Wear proper swimwear acceptable to local culture. Swimwear shall not be worn outside the beach, as decent dress is the rule in the rest of the city.
- Nudity is strictly forbidden, and decent dress should be maintained outside of the beach.

Photography & Social Media

- Photos of people - and especially photos of women and families - in public places shall not be taken without their permission. Taking photos of people is a sensitive issue in the local culture.
- Exercise caution when sharing content on social media platforms, respecting privacy and cultural sensitivities.

Resource Consumption and Waste Reduction:

- Conserve water and energy resources due to the desert environment and limited freshwater sources.
- Reduce waste through recycling and encourage green behavior.

Respect for nature

- Hunting all kinds of wild animals or birds or threatening wildlife and biodiversity is prohibited.
- Camping in the desert is only allowed with a license from the competent authorities.
- Prohibit activities that harm the marine environment or endanger marine life.
- Fishing is only allowed with a license from the competent authorities.
- Stay on designated paths and trails to minimise damage to the natural habitat.
- Avoid littering and dispose of waste properly in designated bins.
- Refrain from touching, removing, or damaging plants, rocks, or artefacts.
- Observe wildlife from a distance and do not disturb their natural behaviour.
- Please note that using certain substances, such as toxic sunscreens and repellents, may be harmful to both the local environment and your health.

Preserve Cultural Heritage

- Follow the rules and regulations set by cultural sites and heritage areas.
- Do not deface or vandalise any structures, artefacts, or artworks.
- Respect any sacred or restricted areas, and adhere to dress codes or photography restrictions.
- Listen to and follow the guidance of local guides or cultural experts.

Engage with Local Communities

- Be mindful of local customs, traditions, and social norms.
- Interact with locals in a respectful and culturally sensitive manner.
- Support local businesses and artisans by purchasing authentic souvenirs and crafts.
- Learn about the local culture, history, and traditions, and share your knowledge with others.

Practice Responsible Tourism

- Reduce waste by carrying reusable water bottles, bags, and toiletries.
- Offset your carbon emissions through credible carbon offset programs.
- Educate yourself about the destination's environmental and social challenges and find ways to contribute positively.

Emergency

- 999 for Police, 998 for Ambulance, 997 for Fire Department

By adhering to these guidelines, you not only ensure a memorable and enjoyable experience for yourself but also play an active role in protecting the environment, preserving cultural heritage, and supporting local communities. We appreciate your cooperation in promoting responsible and sustainable tourism.

Thank you for being a responsible traveller.

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