

Fact Sheet

Dubai: Calendar of events

Dubai has a rich and diverse calendar of high-profile events taking place throughout the year ranging from sporting activities, through to cultural festivals, as well as music and shopping events. Below is an overview of some of the key events taking place each year in the emirate.

Summary of events:

DATE	EVENT	TYPE
19-22 November 2009	Dubai World Championship	Sport
November – end March (annually)	Horse Racing	Sport
2 December (annually)	UAE National Day	Public holiday
3-5 December 2009	Dubai Rugby Sevens	Sport
9-16 December 2009	Dubai International Film Festival	Culture / entertainment
10-12 December 2009	World Offshore Powerboat Championship	Sport
16-20 December 2009	Eid Al Adha	Religious festival
18 December 2009	Islamic New Year or "Al-Hijra"	Public holiday
January - February 2010 (dates tbc)	Dubai Shopping Festival	Culture / entertainment
22 January 2010	Dubai Marathon	Sport
January – March (annually)	Dubai International Racing Carnival	Sport
1-7 February 2010	PGA Dubai Desert Classic	Sport
10-19 February 2010	Dubai International Jazz Festival	Culture / entertainment
14-27 February 2010	Dubai Tennis Championships	Sport
March 2010 (dates tbc)	Dubai Desert Rock Fest	Culture / entertainment
17-20 March 2010	Art Dubai	Culture / entertainment
27 March 2010	Dubai World Cup	Sport
June – August 2010 (dates tbc)	Dubai Summer Surprises	Culture / entertainment
11 August – 11 September 2010 (approx)	Ramadan	Religious festival
11 September 2010 (approx)	Eid Al Fitr	Religious festival

Dubai Shopping Festival www.mydsf.ae

Location: Various venues

Date: January - February (annually)

The Dubai Shopping Festival (DSF) is the ultimate experience for serious shoppers, but it also offers more than just shopping. During this period Dubai comes alive with a carnival atmosphere, and various events are held around the city. DSF has now matured into a major retailing and entertainment extravaganza.

Dubai Marathon www.dubaimarathon.org

Location: Various (start and finish adjacent to the Dubai World Trade Centre).

Date: 22 January 2010

The Dubai Marathon is one of the first marathons in the calendar year and attracts global attention.

Dubai International Racing Carnival www.dubairacingclub.com

Location: Meydan Racecourse

Date: January – March (annually)

Attracts some 200 horses from 14 countries throughout the season. In addition to the racing, the Dubai Racing Club organises glamorous social occasions, including the ever popular Fillies & Fashions competition. The Dubai International Racing Carnival is a sporting and social event not to be missed.

PGA Dubai Desert Classic www.dubaidesertclassic.com

Location: Majlis Course, Emirates Golf Club

Date: 1-7 February 2010

The annual Desert Classic is recognised as one of the finest sporting events in the Middle East. Every year Dubai welcomes the likes of Tiger Woods, Colin Montgomerie, and Ernie Els for the four day event which is part of the European Professional Golf Association Tour.

Dubai International Jazz Festival www.dubaijazzfest.com

Location: Dubai Media City

Date: 10-19 February 2010

The first Dubai International Jazz Festival took place in 2003 and was a huge success which has helped attract world-class musicians such as James Blunt in 2009 and the Bee Gees' Robin Gibb in 2008. The festival lasts ten days, presenting over 120 artists to an audience of 28,000. The action centres around Dubai Media City and, once the concerts have finished, jam sessions often continue at hotel bars.

Dubai Tennis Championships www.dubaitennischampionships.com

Location: Dubai Tennis Stadium

Date: 14 – 27 February 2010

Dubai's professional tennis tournament held on outdoor hardcourts. The tournament organises both a men's and women's event for the biggest names in tennis at the purpose-built stadium.

Dubai Desert Rock Fest www.desertrockfestival.com

Location: Dubai Festival City

Date: March 2010 (dates tbc)

The Dubai Desert Rock Festival is now a two day event celebrating the different styles of rock music in the world on one stage. Acts for 2009 included Opeth, Chimaira and Arch Enemy.

Art Dubai www.artdubai.ae

Location: Madinat Arena, Jumeirah

Date: 17-20 March 2010

Art Dubai aims to bring the world's leading artists, galleries, and collectors together in Dubai in a celebration of all forms of contemporary visual art. As Dubai becomes an important art market, an advisory committee will ensure that the art on show is exciting and diverse; that collectors can buy with complete assurance and that the exhibition reflects the many cultures for which Dubai has become such an important hub.

Dubai World Cup www.dubaiworldcup.com

Location: Meydan Racecourse

Date: 27 March 2010

The Dubai World Cup has been held annually since 1996 and is the richest horse race in the world with an increased prize fund in 2010 of US\$10 million. The race was the creation of Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the Ruler of Dubai. This horserace meeting is a social highlight of the year and the 2,000 metre title race attracts top thoroughbreds from the USA, UK, France, Australia and Japan.

Dubai Summer Surprises www.mydsf.ae

Location: Various venues including shopping malls

Date: June – August 2010 (dates tbc)

Dubai Summer Surprises (DSS) is the perfect counterpart to the emirate's hot summer featuring bargains and a stream of children's entertainment. The 10 week long event mainly takes place in Dubai's shopping malls and features a range of family focused activities and events.

Ramadan

Location: Various venues

Date: 11 August - 11 September 2010 (approx)

(Ramadan varies each year starts approximately 10 days earlier each year as it is based on the lunar, instead of solar, cycle.)

The Holy Month of Ramadan is the religious festival of fasting for Muslims. It is an ideal and tranquil time for visitors to experience the special religious and cultural atmosphere of Dubai. Practising Muslims will fast during Ramadan from sunrise, and at sunset people flock to the hotels' Ramadan tents for a traditional Iftar meal which breaks the fast for the day.

Eid Al Fitr

Location: Various venues

Date: 11 September 2010 (approx)

Eid Al Fitr, also known as 'Feast of the Breaking of the Fast', takes place at the end of Ramadan. Each evening there are fireworks displays and Muslims get together to sing and dance to traditional bands. There are also stalls selling traditional food and handicrafts.

Dubai World Championship

Location: Earth Golf Course at the Jumeirah Golf Estates

Date: 19-22 November 2009

The Dubai World Championship will be held on 19-22 November at the new Greg Norman designed 'Earth' course at Jumeirah Golf Estates. This globally renowned sporting event is set to be the crescendo of The Race to Dubai - The European Tour competition.

Dubai Rugby Sevens www.dubairugby7s.com

Location: The Sevens

Date: 3 – 5 December 2009

The Dubai Rugby Sevens is the opening round of the International Rugby Board's Sevens World Series and also one of the Middle East's most popular social weekends of the year. Featuring 16 of the best Sevens nations in the world, the Dubai Rugby Sevens has grown into a sporting event that attracts fans from around the globe. A new rugby complex called "The Sevens" is now the new permanent home of the competition and to other sporting events.



Horse racing www.nadalshebaclub.com / www.dubairacingclub.com

Location: Nad Al Sheba Racecourse

Date: November – end March

Horse racing at the Nad Al Sheba track features local and international steeds and their jockeys. Following Muslim beliefs, no betting is allowed, however various competitions offer cash prizes.

UAE National Day

Location: Various locations

Date: 2 December (annually)

A three-day holiday in the first week of December marks the founding of the UAE in 1971 when it gained independence from the UK. Parks and public places host cultural activities and at night the city is decorated in lights.

World Offshore Powerboat Championship www.class-1.com

Location: Dubai International Marine Club

Date: 10 - 12 December 2009 (Dubai Grand Prix)

Combining the glamour, power and spectacle of intense competition, the UIM Class 1 World Offshore Powerboat Championship races, take place over two days in mid December. Top teams from around the world compete in this glamorous and powerful spectacle of intense competition.

Eid Al Adha

Location: Various venues

Date: 27 November - 1 December 2009

Eid Al Adha, or Feast of the Sacrifice, occurs on the tenth day of the Islamic month of Dhul Hijja. It is one of two Eid festivals celebrated by Muslims. In Dubai there is a four-day holiday and celebrations tend to take place in individual homes, rather than the more flamboyant celebrations that take place to mark Eid Al Fitr.

Dubai International Film Festival www.dubaifilmfest.com

Location: Various venues

Date: 9-16 December 2009

The Dubai International Film Festival is a week long, non-competitive, celebration of film from around the world. Reflecting Dubai's cosmopolitan and multi-cultural character, the festival showcases a wide selection of features, shorts and documentaries from around the world. The festival also celebrates excellence in Arab and world cinema by screening a repertoire of critically-acclaimed and award winning films. The annual event always promises to premiere films of excellence and also host innovative events celebrating the magic of cinema.



Islamic New Year or “Al-Hijra”

Location: Various

Date: 18 December 2009

Celebrated throughout the Muslim World, the Islamic New Year or “Al-Hijra” occurs on the first day of the month of Muharram which begins on Hijra in the Muslim calendar.

