**Know before you go to Dubai**

**Local time**

The local time zone is GMT + 04.00.

**Weather**

The weather in Dubai is very comfortable in November. It is the start of the best season to visit the city. Average temperature is between 25-28°C (77-82°F).

**United Arab Emirates visitor information**

<http://www.dubai-online.com/essential/tourist/>

**Emergency Contact Numbers**

Police                   999

Fire                       997

Ambulance       998

**Pharmacies**

Select pharmacies are open 24-hours. The most common pharmacies are Aster, Life.

**Currency**

UAE's official currency is the UAE Dirham (AED). The current exchange rate is 1 US$ = 3.67 AED.

**Credit Cards**

All major credit cards are accepted in vast majority of shops and restaurants. Attendees may find it useful to obtain a small amount of local currency for incidental expenses and tipping. While taxis are increasingly accepting credit cards, this is not universal, so you may require some cash for taxi fares.

External currency is not usually accepted, but money exchange offices are everywhere.

**Electrical & Voltage Information**

The UEA electrical system uses a Single-phase voltage 230 V at 50 Hz (cycles) and a [G-type plug](http://www.iec.ch/worldplugs/typeG.htm). This is the British-style 3-pin plug.

**Country code**

From overseas, dial +971, then the phone number including area code.

**Local laws and etiquette**

Alcohol is not commonly drunk in public places or malls. While independent restaurants are not allowed to serve alcohol, hotels, sports clubs and specially designated areas are permitted to serve alcoholic drinks in their bars and restaurants. However, to drink in a bar or restaurant, you need to be more than 21 years of age.

It is better to always carry a photo ID with a date of birth on it.

Many local municipalities have bans on smoking in public places, malls, metro stations, bus stations. “No smoking” signs should clearly indicate the areas in which smoking is prohibited.

Please wear respectful clothing in public places such as hotels, restaurants, malls and markets. Shoulders and knees should be covered.

Do not take pictures of local residents without asking their permission. Photography of many government buildings is prohibited. Be aware of signs prohibiting photography.

Tipping is a practice that is common and expected for some services. For example, in places of dining, 10-15% of the bill is desirable to be left as tip for the waiter/waitress. Other examples include tipping cab drivers, hotel maids and tour guides (at your discretion). Most high end hotels and restaurants include a 15% gratuity on the bill. Guests should check the bill before tipping.

UAE uses the metric system. The temperature is measured in Celsius; distance is measured in Km, etc.

Health and emergency services can be quite expensive if you do not have proper coverage. Ensure that your insurance plan has international coverage.

Cars in the UAE drive on the right hand side of the road.

**Transportation**

Information about the conference venue and arrival information is at: <http://ieeelcn.org/Attendee_Venue.html>

**Wi-Fi**

Wi-Fi is widely available throughout Dubai and especially in shopping malls and the airports where it is provided free of charge.

**Internet Restrictions**

Some Voice Over IP calls and messaging services such as Skype and Facebook Messenger, are operational in Dubai. Others like Viber and Facetime seem to be restricted.

**Cell Service**

The two major telecommunication companies operate 4G mobile networks in the UAE. These companies are **[Du](http://www.du.ae/" \t "_blank)** and **[Etisalat](http://www.etisalat.ae/" \t "_blank)**. Some information on temporary subscription plans for visitors is available at the following: <http://prepaid-data-sim-card.wikia.com/wiki/United_Arab_Emirates>

**Dhow Cruise and Safari Dress Code**

Comfortable casual. We recommend that you bring sunglasses, sunscreen and a hat for the desert safari. The temperature can drop significantly at night in the desert, so please also bring a light jacket.