

Ras Al Khaimah is continually growing to be home to an exciting, diverse, multi-cultural blend of dynamic and professional people enjoying the unrivalled quality of life Ras Al Khaimah has to offer. Its location, less than one hour from Dubai, ensures that inhabitants can enjoy a more quiet and peaceful location while being able to reach Dubai easily and in a short time to take advantage of services and leisure options available there.

Safety

Street crime is very rare in Ras Al Khaimah and most visits to and stays in the emirate are trouble free. Expatriates are nevertheless advised to follow normal precautions to ensure safety and to purchase appropriate insurance.

Public Transport

Apart from school buses organised by individual schools and transportation organised by employers for staff members, there are no public bus lines operating in Ras Al Khaimah. There are no public buses connecting Ras Al Khaimah with other emirates. The only public transport modes are air-conditioned taxis which can be hailed on the street or booked by telephone.

Health

Medical facilities in RAK are of a high standard. Both public and private sector options are available. Currently there are 5 hospitals in RAK. The Health and Medical Services Department provides medical care for all UAE nationals, visitors and resident expatriates. Currently expatriates can go to any hospital as long as they have a valid health card. However, this may change in the future and all expatriates may be required to have private insurance coverage.

Most medicines are readily available at pharmacies which can be found in the Manar Mall and across the city of RAK. The opening hours are 9am till early evening. Emergency 24-hour pharmacies are open in all hospitals.

Leisure Activities

Saqr Public Park and the smaller Khuzam Park offer green areas for picnics as well as a wide selection of gaming and entertainment facilities for both children and adults. There is also large children's playground in the Manar Mall.

Sights in Ras Al Khaimah Include

- National Museum of Ras Al Khaimah: housed in the former palace of the ruling Al Qawasim family, it shows natural history and arts and crafts of the past centuries.
- Dhayah Fort: the only surviving hilltop fort in the UAE.
- Shamal and Sheba's Palace: tombs and ruins of a medieval palace attributed to the Queen of Sheba.
- Al Falayah: the former summer residence of the ruling Al Qawasim family.
- Al Jazeera Al Hamra: an abandoned village showing the architecture of 1950s.
- The Old City and Souq: offer an opportunity to see both traditional and modern shops as well as artisan's workshops.

Khatt Hot Water Springs Resort, opened in 1982, offers a large swimming pool and various spa facilities for relaxation and regeneration. Other leisure options in Ras Al Khaimah include date farms, an ostrich farm, Ahmed Bin Majid's memorial, camel racing course and camel farms.

Many other tourism and leisure facilities are currently at various stages of planning and construction. These include the WoW theme park, a heritage village and Jebel Jais Mountain Resort.

The emirate of Ras Al Khaimah has beaches and a coastline, fertile plains and green oases, as well as rugged mountains and dry wadis. It can thus offer a wide spectrum of leisure and recreational activities – from water sports to walks in the wadis and mountains or desert safaris and dune driving.

The Ras Al Khaimah Tourism Authority (RAK Tourism) has information on sights and other places to visit and can organise a tour.

Sport Facilities

- Tower Links Golf Club is a 18-hole, 72-par course, fully floodlit, and has a golf academy, driving range and short-game facilities. It also has a clubhouse restaurant and an Irish pub.
- The Bowling Centre has 12 lanes, food court, internet cafe and recreational center.
- Ras Al Khaimah Shooting Club has air-conditioned gun, pistol, rifle and archery ranges as well as a fast-fighting shooting range.
- Al Jazeera Aviation Club is the only micro light club for hobby flying in the entire Gulf Cooperation Countries region. It is authorised to train and issue micro light pilot permits and has a fleet of modern micro light aircrafts, two landing strips, a hangar, and a clubhouse.
- Ras Al Khaimah Equestrian Club
- Ras Al Khaimah Water Ski club
- Emirates Maritime Sports and Diving Centre
- Carting club

Shopping

- The Old City and Souq: an opportunity to see both traditional and modern shops.
- Manar Mall: a modern Western shopping mall opened in 2005, it offers the Carrefour hypermarket, a large number of shops, pharmacies, bank outlets, an exchange office, restaurants, a Starbuck's cafe, a hairdresser, a large food court, children's playground and a seven-screen multiplex cinema.
- Lulu Supermarket: offers a variety of products, particularly food and accessories.
- Spinney supermarket: an Australian chain, opened in Al Hamra Village complex in early 2008.
- Home Centre: offers a wide selection of furniture and furnishings.
- Al Safeer supermarket: offers food items and clothing, shoes, kitchenware and toys.
- Ras Al Khaimah also has several vegetable and fruit markets and a fish market.

Restaurants

There is a wide selection of both traditional and modern restaurants in Ras Al Khaimah. These are located both in the old city and in the modern Nakheel quarter. The public can also use restaurants in hotel complexes in and outside the Ras Al Khaimah city, such as the Hilton Beach Club, Al Hamra Fort Hotel and Khatt Springs Hotel. There are a restaurant and an Irish pub at the Tower Links golf club. McDonald's and Kentucky Fried Chicken chains have outlets in Ras Al Khaimah.

How to Relocate to Ras Al Khaimah

Immigration Requirements for New Entities in the UAE

It is a mandatory requirement to register a new company's name with the Immigration Department and the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs. Since most of the companies recruit their employees from abroad it needs to register a file at the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and Immigration Department once they have received their trade licence. Without registering with both these departments an entity cannot employ its staff. Upon registering the company/entity shall be issued a registration card from the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs called 'Establishment/Labour Card'. The card issued by the Immigration Department is called 'Establishment/Immigration Card'. All the visa applications submitted to both the departments should be accompanied with a copy of the above 'Cards'.

Immigration Procedures

- A contract with the new employer/sponsor has to be signed before the application for work/residency visa is submitted to the relevant authority.
- Visa – see Visas and Residence Permits factsheet for detailed information on visas.
- A medical check and fingerprinting have to be undertaken within 30 days after the arrival to the UAE.

Life for Foreigners in Ras Al Khaimah

Driving License

While tourists may drive in the UAE on their national or international driving licenses, all residents in the UAE must obtain a UAE driving license within 30 days of the beginning of their stay in the UAE. To obtain a driving license in the UAE, one needs to be a resident of the United Arab Emirates. If the person is a resident of Ras Al Khaimah but has a visa issued in another emirate, then the person needs to obtain a transfer form, allowing the person to obtain a driving license from Ras Al Khaimah.

Individuals, who have driving licenses from any of the GCC countries or any of the countries mentioned below, can transfer to a RAK driver's license without having to take driving lessons or tests: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Holland, Iceland, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Singapore, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

Those who want to transfer their license must be at least 18 years old, have a valid driver's license, have a residence visa in RAK, and fill in the driver's license form with one passport size photograph, original passport and one photocopy, original driver's license and one photocopy, eye test report and AED 100. For other than GCC licenses, it is also required to obtain a letter from the Embassy or Consulate, from which the driver's license was issued, confirming that the driver's license is valid. If the driver's license is not in English or Arabic, it is also required to have the license translated at the Consulate or Embassy. Individuals with an Indian international driving license will be required to obtain a new license in order to drive in the UAE.