

When inviting you into their home or place of business, Arab hosts will always offer tea or coffee. An Abrahamic Family House under construction in Abu Dhabi will feature a mosque, church and synagogue side-by-side. With over 200 nationalities and countless faiths living together, the UAE is home to more than 40 churches, two Hindu temples, a Sikh temple and a Buddhist temple, which welcome multi-national congregations. The information below, adapted from the Middle East Institute, serves as a guideline for visitors to make the most of their travels to the region and the United Arab Emirates, in particular. However the UAE's diverse population means visitors may also hear other languages like Urdu, Hindi or Pashtu. While Islam is the official religion of the UAE, the UAE government is committed to promoting values of inclusion and tolerance. Like traveling to any part of the world, tourists and visitors should be aware of how customs and traditions in the Middle East may differ from life in their home country. English and Arabic are the two most widely spoken languages in the UAE. During Ramadan, families and friends break their fasts together at a hearty meal called iftar. In the UAE, alcohol is served in most hotels but may not be available at other local establishments. If you are visiting a Muslim country during this month, attending an iftar is a great opportunity to learn more about family life and culture in the Middle East. Observant Muslims do not drink alcohol or smoke. Hospitality and generosity are two very important values in the Middle East. The region is known for its welcoming people, who are interested in learning about their guests and welcome them to experience their culture. In general, Middle Eastern society is considered to be both more formal and more traditional than Western society. Guests are recommended to accept the gesture.