


UAE Free Zone Comparison Chart

|  | General information | Benefits | Types of companies | License types | Charter capital requirements | Office premises | Audit requirements | Number of visas per minimum office size | Registration timelines | Cost of registration |
|---|---|--|---|--|---|--|--------------------|---|------------------------|----------------------|
| DMCC Dubai Multi Commodities Centre | DMCC is a government entity established in 2002. It is the world's largest free economic zone located in the Jumeirah Lake Towers (JLT) district, the entire district is governed by the free zone. It is the most prestigious and expensive free zone in the UAE. It was the first free zone in the UAE to offer crypto licenses to its clients. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possibility to obtain a Dual License for certain activities; Possibility to get crypto licenses from the DMCC Crypto Centre; Redomiciliation to/from the free zone is allowed. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited Liability Company Branch Company | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trade License Service License Industrial License Crypto License | Proof of paid-up charter capital (AED 50,000 min) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offices Flexi-desks Warehouses | Required | 2 visas per 1 flexi-desk | 2-3 weeks | AED 49 790 |
| Meydan FZ | The free zone was established in 2009 by Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the owner of Meydan Group and Ruler of Dubai. A modern free economic zone in the heart of Dubai, Meydan is close to the emirate's most important landmarks of the emirate, which gives investors a number of strategic benefits. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The free zone companies are allowed to engage in certain times of business activities in the mainland; Possibility to get up to 6 visa quotas per 1 flexi-desk; Up to 3 activities groups can be combined in 1 license; Partnerships with the key UAE banks. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited Liability Company Branch Company | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trade License Service License | No minimum charter capital requirements, charter capital does not have to be paid up. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offices Flexi-desks | Not required | Up to 6 visas per 1 flexi-desk | 3-5 days | AED 16 700 |
| IFZA The International Free Zone Authority | IFZA is one of the most popular free zones in the UAE. It is situated in the very dynamic part of Dubai and offers a comprehensive range of facilities, tailored to cater to the multifaceted needs of modern businesses. It operates under the regulation of Dubai Silicon Oasis Authority. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Free of charge flexi-desk for 1 year; Partnerships with the key UAE banks; Free of charge visa quota upgrade. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited Liability Company Branch Company | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trade License Service License | No minimum charter capital requirements, charter capital does not have to be paid up. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offices Flexi-desks | Required | 2 visas per 1 flexi-desk | 3-5 days | AED 15 200 |
| AFZ Ajman Free Zone | AFZ was established in 1988 and since then more than 9,000 companies have been registered in the free zone. It is one of the region's steadiest and robust business ecosystems located in the very centre of the UAE's Northern Emirates. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fast registration (1-2 days); Proximity to the Port of Ajman; Up to 3 groups of activities can be added on 1 license. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Free Zone Establishment Free Zone Company Branch of a Company | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trade License Service License Industrial License Freelancer License | No minimum charter capital requirements, charter capital does not have to be paid up. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offices Flexi-desks Warehouses | Not required | 2 visas per 1 flexi-desk | 1-2 days | AED 8 600 |
| UAQ FTZ Umm Al Quwain Free Trade Zone | UAQ FTZ is located close to the UAE's major seaports, as well as to Dubai International Airport and Sharjah International Airport. It has direct access to the UAQ Port. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One of the lowest registration costs among free zones; Proximity to the Port of UAQ, UAQ companies enjoy discounts on port services. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Free Zone Establishment Free Zone Company Branch of a Company | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trade License Service License Industrial License Freelancer License | No minimum charter capital requirements, charter capital does not have to be paid up. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offices Flexi-desks Warehouses | Not required | 2 visas per 1 flexi-desk | 3-5 days | AED 10 700 |
| JAFZA Jebel Ali Free Zone Authority | JAFZA was established in 1985 and since then has become one of the largest free zones in the world and an integral part of DP World UAE's integrated business hub. As of 2023 JAFZA hosts over 9,500 companies. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> World-class infrastructure, including a deep-water port, an airport, and a road network; Own customs office; Possibility to obtain a Dual License for certain activities. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Free Zone Entities Free Zone Company Public Listed Company Branch of a Company | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trade License General Trade License Service License Industrial License Logistics License E-Commerce License | No minimum charter capital requirements, charter capital does not have to be paid up. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land plots Warehouses Flexi-desks Offices | Required | 2 visas per 1 flexi-desk | 3-4 weeks | AED 58 200 |
| DIC Dubai Internet City | DIC is the North Africa's and Middle East's biggest information and communication technologies centre. DIC is home to more than 1,600 companies, including several ones from the Forbes top lists. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The largest IT hub in the region; World-class infrastructure based on the most innovative technologies; Strategic location in the centre of Dubai. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited Liability Company Branch Company | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Software License Internet and Multimedia Telecommunications and Network IT Services E-Commerce License | No minimum charter capital requirements, charter capital does not have to be paid up. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offices Flexi-desks | Required | 1 visa per 1 flexi-desk | 1-2 weeks | AED 48 200 |
| DWTC Dubai World Trade Centre | DWTC has been a free zone since 2015. DWTC hosts year-round international trade fairs, various themed exhibitions, and prestigious international conferences, which are complemented by the innovative free zone and real estate within its structure. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possibility to register a Single Family Office and Multi Family Office; Possibility to get a crypto license; Redomiciliation to/from the free zone is allowed. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited Liability Company Branch Company | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trade License Family Offices Service License Event Management License Logistics License E-Commerce License | The minimum charter capital is AED 1,000. If the charter capital amount exceeds USD 82,000, it is necessary to provide a letter from the bank confirming that the charter capital has been contributed. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offices Flexi-desks | Required | 2 visas per 1 flexi desk | 1-2 weeks | AED 28 400 |
| ADGM Abu Dhabi Global Market | ADGM is one of the world's largest financial free economic zones. It offers a wide range of financial activities. It was established in 2015, and has earned global acclaim for its robust, progressive regulatory frameworks, legal system based on English common law, and business services. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Direct application of English common law; Commercial license can be obtained online; No need for notarial certification of corporate documents; Redomiciliation to/from the free zone is allowed. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Company Private Company Partnership Branch Company | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial Non-Financial Retail Fund Manager SPV | The minimum charter capital for a public company is USD 50,000. For private companies there are no minimum charter capital requirements. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offices Flexi-desks | Required | 1 visa per 1 flexi-desk | 1-2 weeks | AED 20 770 |
| DIFC Dubai International Financial Centre | DIFC is a leading global financial centre in the Middle East, Africa and South Asia (MEASA) region, with more than 4,300 active companies registered there such as HSBC, Citibank, Standard Chartered and Barclays. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Direct application of English common law; Possibility to register a Single Family Office and Multi Family Office; Possibility to obtain a Dual License for certain activities; Redomiciliation to/from the free zone is allowed. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited Liability Company Special Purpose Company Partnership Recognised Company | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial Non-Financial Innovation License Family Offices Fund Manager SPV | USD 50,000 min | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offices Flexi-desks | Required | 4 visas per 1 flexi-desk | 1-4 weeks | AED 7 300 |