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 [AVIATION](#) |
 [HOSPITALITY](#) |
 [TRENDS](#) |
 [WHAT'S ON](#)

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING IN DUBAI

Thursday 18, November 2010

With the cost of holidays in Europe rising, many are looking at holiday destinations further afield. HolidayCheck tells you why Dubai is our top choice for Christmas shopping this year.

Many Holiday companies have cut the prices of flights, hotel rooms and packages to long haul destinations, making holidays to Dubai comparable in price to popular European holiday spots. The lack of taxes and duties on consumer goods also make it the perfect place to stock up on Christmas presents.

So what opportunities are there in the United Arab Emirates most famous city for shopping enthusiasts? From huge air conditioned malls to crowded markets and souks, there is always a bargain to be found. The shops here offer much more convenient opening hours compared to many European countries. Most malls and shopping areas are open till 10pm at night and as it is a Muslim country, this is the same on Saturday and Sunday.

Dubai is home to the largest shopping mall in the world, The Dubai Mall. It measures a total of 350,000 m², which is roughly equivalent to the size of 50 football pitches. It houses over 1,200 different shops selling everything from bargain electronics to Haute Couture and designer labels. Top names include Galeries Lafayette, Bloomingdales, Hamleys toy store and Marks and Spencer. If you want to be really close to the shops, it is also possible to stay at the onsite hotel.

Escape the outdoor temperature, at the Dubai Emirates Mall, where along with what you would expect in a shopping mall, you will also find the Middle East's first indoor ski slope, Ski Dubai. The average temperature in December is 26 degrees so this may be a welcome break from the heat!

The traditional markets and souks provide a more authentic shopping experience. Tourists can find unusual gifts, trinkets and antiques. For those who enjoy bargains, souks provide the perfect opportunity to practice your bartering skills.

If you are looking for an extra special gift, visit the world famous Gold Souk in Diera. Unlike in many other countries the price of gold is not measured per piece in the UAE. It is determined by the weight, purity and whether it was handmade or machine made.

A holiday in Dubai can include shopping from start to finish. For those last minute presents, you can always rely on tax free shopping in Dubai international airport. Shops are open 24 hours a day, so no matter what time of day you fly, you can always shop. It is also a great place to pick up exclusive buys as new products like perfumes are available in the airport before they are available in the rest of the UAE.

Source: <http://www.holidaycheck.com>

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