

OFFICIAL VISIT GUIDE 2026

# the Burj Khalifa

Dubai · From 37.18€

https://burjkhalifa.visit-tickets.com/en/ · Skip-the-Line Tickets & Official Prices



# History & Experience

ORIGIN & HISTORY

## From Ground to Sky: The Burj's Rise

GOOGLE 4.7 ★★★★★ 170 566 {pdf_label(lang, 'reviews')}

TIQETS 4.4 ★★★★☆ 12 840 {pdf_label(lang, 'reviews')}

The Burj Khalifa stands as a testament to human ambition, rising from the heart of **Downtown Dubai** to pierce the clouds at an staggering 828 meters. Originally conceived as 'Burj Dubai', this architectural marvel was designed by Adrian Smith of Skidmore, Owings and Merrill, drawing inspiration from the Hymenocallis flower, a local desert bloom. Its Y-shaped floor plan is not merely aesthetic; it is a structural necessity that maximizes views while minimizing wind forces, allowing the tower to withstand the harsh desert conditions with grace and stability.

Construction began in 2004, but the project faced significant challenges during the **2008 financial crisis**. The global economic downturn forced a refinancing of the entire Downtown Dubai project, leading to a temporary halt in progress. Despite these setbacks, the tower continued to grow, eventually surpassing all previous records for height. The sheer scale of the engineering required involved pouring over 330,000 cubic meters of concrete, enough to build a highway from New York to Washington D.C., showcasing the immense logistical effort behind its creation.

The tower's name was officially changed to Burj Khalifa on January 4, 2010, during its inauguration. This renaming was a political gesture honoring Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the Emir of Abu Dhabi, who provided crucial financial support to complete the project. This act symbolized the unity and cooperation within the United Arab Emirates, transforming a commercial development into a national icon that represents resilience and forward-thinking vision in the face of adversity.

Today, the Burj Khalifa is more than just a skyscraper; it is a vertical city housing residences, offices, and the luxurious **Armani Hotel**. With a budget of approximately $1.5 billion for the tower alone, it anchors a $20 billion development that includes the Dubai Mall and artificial lakes. Its completion marked a new era for Dubai, establishing the city as a global hub for luxury, tourism, and architectural innovation, forever changing the skyline of the Middle East.

## THE EXPERIENCE

Stepping into the lobby, you are immediately struck by the sheer verticality of the space, where marble floors and soaring ceilings hint at the heights awaiting you. The atmosphere is one of hushed anticipation, a blend of luxury and technological precision. As you wait for the elevator, the air conditioning hums softly, contrasting with the heat outside, while the polished surfaces reflect the bustling energy of the visitors. It is a moment of transition, leaving the ground world behind to enter a realm where gravity seems less relevant and the horizon expands infinitely.

The ascent itself is a visceral experience, a rapid climb that compresses time and space. When the doors open on the **124th floor**, the silence is broken by gasps of awe. The panoramic windows offer an unobstructed view of the city, stretching out to the desert and the sea. The light here is different, sharper and clearer, illuminating the intricate geometry of the buildings below. Whether you are witnessing the golden hour or the twinkling city lights at night, the perspective shifts your understanding of scale, making the metropolis look like a meticulously crafted model.



PREPARING FOR YOUR VISIT

# Practical Information

ADDRESS

Downtown Dubai · Metro: Burj Khalifa/Dubai Mall (Red Line, exit towards the Mall)

OPENING HOURS

Open daily from 8:30 AM to midnight. Evening slots close earlier, please check availability.

PRICES

Child free depending on age (check variants). {promo}.

VISIT DURATION

Allow 1h30 to 2h for the standard experience (124th/125th). Add 30 minutes if you opt for the SKY ticket to the 148th floor for VIP access.

PHOTOS

Mobile phones and compact cameras allowed. Tripods prohibited and drones banned. Clean the glass to avoid reflections in your shots.

PUBLIC

Accessible to all. Watch out for glass and crowds for young children. Strollers must be left at the cloakroom if necessary. Safety is a priority near the outdoo

HOW TO GET THERE

# Access & Transportation

**Metro**

مطار دبي الدولي (33 min)

**Bus**

: The Dubai Mall — 7 min à pied

مطار دبي الدولي (54 min)

**Car**

مطار دبي الدولي (41 min)

**Bike**

مطار دبي الدولي (55 min)

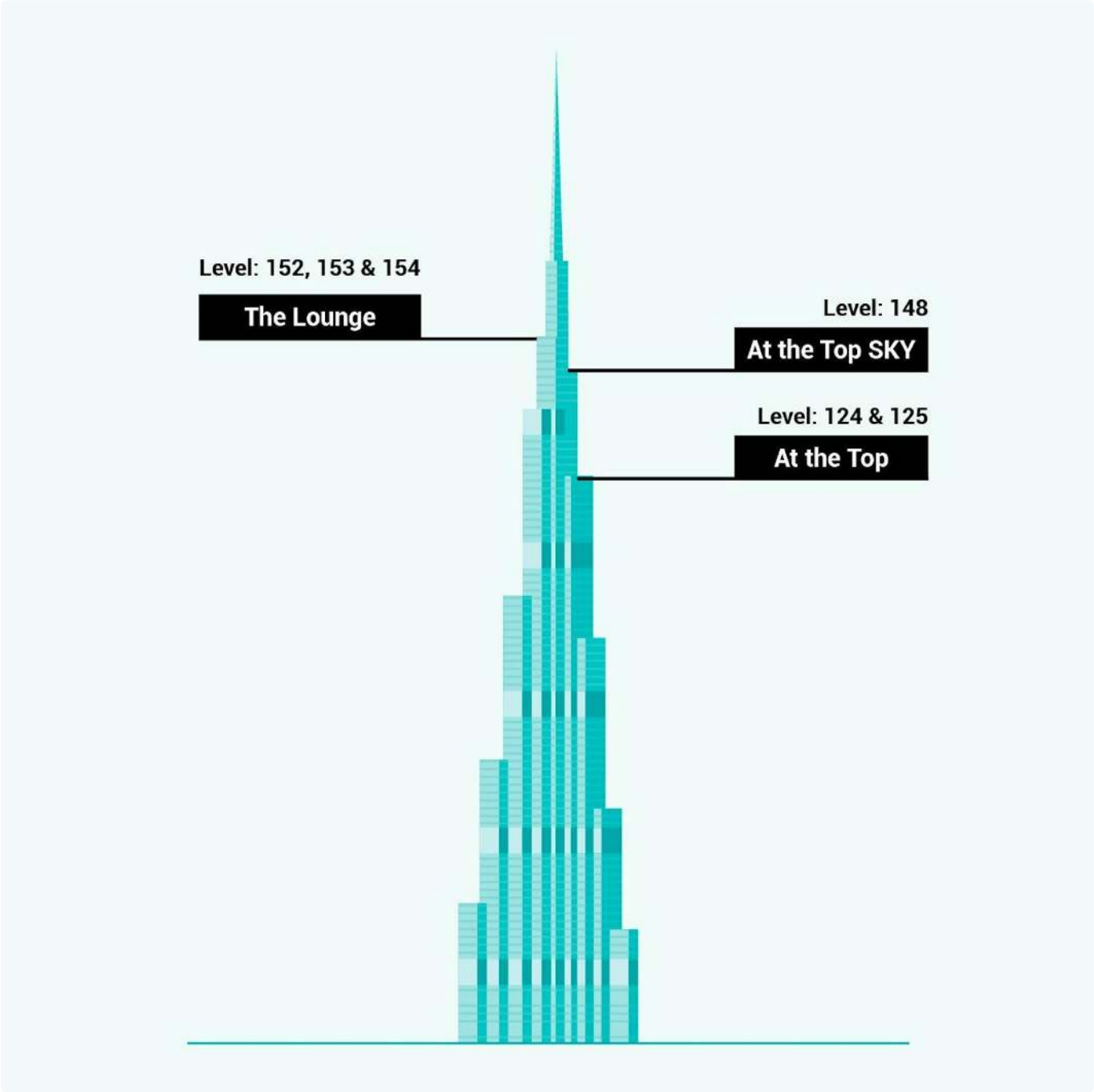
LOCALISATION

# Où se trouve the Burj Khalifa ?




📍 Burj Khalifa, 1 Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Blvd - Downtown Dubai — 0 Dubai

🌐 25°11.832′ N, 55°16.463′ E




ORGANIZATION

# Navigating the Vertical Journey

**Level 1 (Lobby & Entrance)**

The journey begins in the grand lobby of the Burj Khalifa, located within the Dubai Mall. Here, you will pass through strict security checks similar to airport protocols. The area is spacious and modern, with clear signage directing you to the elevators. It is the perfect place to buy a souvenir or grab a quick coffee before the ascent.

### Level 124 & 125 (At The Top)

This is the standard observation deck, offering 360-degree views through high-tech binoculars and panoramic windows. Level 124 features an outdoor terrace, though it is covered and open on the sides, exposing visitors to strong winds. Level 125 provides additional indoor viewing areas with fewer crowds, allowing for more intimate photos and a closer look at the city's layout.

### Level 148 (At The Top SKY)

The VIP experience on the 148th floor offers a private lounge, complimentary drinks, and a guided tour. This level is significantly less crowded, providing a serene environment for photography. The view from here is more exclusive, with dedicated spaces for viewing the city and the desert beyond, making it ideal for those seeking a premium, relaxed experience.

## ACCESSIBILITY

♿ **Accessibility for people with reduced mobility**

Full wheelchair accessibility via elevators and ramps, but expect queues.

👨‍👩‍👧 **Families**

Child-friendly; strollers must be checked at the cloakroom; watch out for glass panels.

🎧 **Audio guide**

French, English, Spanish



# Must-sees

SELECTION

## Unmissable Views and Architectural Wonders

01 124th Floor

### The Outdoor Terrace (124th Floor)

The only outdoor space accessible with the standard ticket, this terrace offers a unique sensory experience. The **strong winds** at this altitude remind you of the height you have reached. It is the best spot for feeling the raw energy of the sky, though you must hold your belongings firmly.

> 💡 The wind here can be surprisingly powerful, often creating updrafts that can lift loose items, so secure your hats and cameras.

02 125th Floor

### Panoramic Windows (125th Floor)

These high-tech windows provide unobstructed views of the city. The glass is treated to minimize reflections, but **cleaning the glass** is still recommended for the best photos. You can see the curvature of the earth and the vast expanse of the desert meeting the sea.

> 💡 The windows on the 125th floor are particularly sensitive to interior reflections, so wipe them carefully before snapping a shot.

03 148th Floor

### At The Top SKY Lounge

This exclusive lounge offers a VIP experience with **complimentary drinks** and a private guide. The space is designed for comfort and luxury, with plush seating and fewer crowds. It is the ideal place to relax and enjoy the view without the hustle and bustle of the lower levels.

> 💡 The SKY ticket includes a guided tour that provides insights into the architecture and history of the tower, enhancing the experience.

04 All Floors

### The Dubai Fountains View

From any of the observation decks, you can see the **Dubai Fountains** below. The choreographed water show is synchronized with music and lights, creating a mesmerizing spectacle. Viewing it from above offers a unique perspective on the scale and precision of the performance.

> 💡 The fountains start just after sunset, so timing your visit to coincide with the show is highly recommended.

05

Elevators

### The Elevator Ascent

The elevators themselves are a marvel of engineering, holding the record for the **highest speed** and distance. The rapid ascent provides a thrilling sensation, compressing the journey to the top into just a few minutes. It is a testament to the technological prowess behind the tower.

> 💡 The elevators are designed to minimize ear pressure changes, ensuring a comfortable ride for all passengers.

06

All Floors

### Desert and Sea Horizon

On a clear day, you can see the **Arabian Sea** and the vast desert stretching to the horizon. The contrast between the blue water, the green parks, and the sandy desert is striking. This view highlights Dubai's unique geography and its transformation from a desert outpost to a global city.

> 💡 The visibility can be exceptional, allowing you to see landmarks like the Palm Jumeirah and the Burj Al Arab clearly.

07

All Floors

### Sunset Golden Hour

Visiting during the **golden hour** offers the most spectacular lighting conditions. The sun casts a warm glow over the city, creating long shadows and vibrant colors. This is the best time for photography, as the light enhances the architectural details of the buildings below.

> 💡 Book your ticket 30 minutes before sunset to capture both the day and night views in one visit.

08

All Floors

### City Lights at Night

As night falls, the city transforms into a **sea of lights**. The illuminated streets and buildings create a dazzling display that is best viewed from the top. The contrast between the dark sky and the bright city is breathtaking, offering a different perspective on Dubai's energy.

> 💡 The city lights are particularly vibrant on weekends, when more people are out and about.

TIPS

# Smart Strategies for a Seamless Visit

TIMING

Book your ticket 30 minutes before sunset to experience the 'Golden Hour,' capturing both the day and night views.

BILLET

Purchase tickets online 2-4 weeks in advance, especially for sunset slots, as they sell out quickly.

PARCOURS

Start with the 124th floor terrace, then move to the 125th floor for indoor photos, and finish with the SKY level if you have the VIP ticket.

PHOTO

Clean the glass windows with a cloth to avoid reflections, especially on the 125th floor.

PAUSE

Eat at the Dubai Mall before your visit, as food options are limited on the observation decks.

ENFANTS

Watch out for glass panels and crowds; strollers must be left at the cloakroom if necessary.

AUDIOGUIDE

The audioguide is available in multiple languages and provides useful context, but the view speaks for itself.

CONFORT

Wear comfortable shoes and dress in layers, as the temperature can vary between the mall and the top.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

# FAQ

### How far in advance should I book for the Burj Khalifa?

We recommend 2 to 4 weeks for sunset slots which sell out quickly. For daytime hours, a few days are often enough, but online booking remains mandatory to guarantee your access.

### What is the difference between At The Top and At The Top SKY?

At The Top (124th/125th) is standard and more crowded. At The Top SKY (148th) offers VIP access, a private lounge, drinks, and fewer crowds. SKY is more expensive but quieter.

### Are tickets refundable or changeable?

Generally non-refundable and non-changeable, unless specific paid options apply. Check the exact terms at the time of purchase, as policies may vary depending on the provider.

### Is there a current promotion?

Prices fluctuate based on demand. Watch for combined offers with the Dubai Aquarium or the Mall. {promo}

### What is the best time to visit the Burj Khalifa?

The sunset is the ideal slot to see the city by day and night. For maximum clarity and fewer people, prefer midday. Avoid evening peak hours.

DID YOU KNOW?

# Anecdotes & curiosities

### The Flower Inspiration

The Burj Khalifa's design is inspired by the **Hymenocallis flower**, a local desert bloom. The Y-shaped floor plan mimics the flower's petals, providing structural stability and maximizing views.

### Concrete Highway

The amount of concrete used in the foundation is enough to build a **highway from New York to Washington D.C.**, highlighting the immense scale of the project.

### Wind Engineering

The tower's shape is designed to **minimize wind forces**, which can be a significant challenge for such a tall structure in the desert.

### Political Renaming

The tower was renamed Burj Khalifa to honor **Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan**, who provided crucial financial support during the 2008 crisis.

## AROUND THE MUSEUM

The area surrounding the Burj Khalifa is a hub of activity and luxury, centered around the **Dubai Mall**. Before or after your ascent, explore the mall's vast atrium, which houses the Dubai Aquarium & Underwater Zoo, offering a stark contrast to the height of the tower with its deep blue depths. For a more traditional experience, walk across to **Souk Al Bahar**, where you can enjoy dinner with a direct view of the fountains. The **Dubai Fountains** themselves are a must-see, choreographed to music and starting just after sunset, providing a spectacular finale to your day. For the best photo opportunities of the tower itself, head to **Burj Park**, a landscaped area that frames the skyscraper perfectly against the lake.



Visiting the Burj Khalifa is not just about seeing the view; it is about feeling the pulse of a city that never stops dreaming. Standing at the edge of the world, you are reminded of the **power of human ingenuity** and the beauty of looking beyond the horizon. It is an experience that lingers in the memory, a vertical journey that offers both perspective and inspiration, leaving you with a sense of wonder that transcends the physical height.