

# City in the sky.

Dubai, in the United Arab Emirates, is different from other cities. It is a city of glass skyscrapers in the desert. One of these is the incredible **Burj Khalifa** skyscraper. It is 828 metres high and has got more than 160 floors. You can see it from about 100 kilometres away! The temperature in the desert is

sometimes 50° C, but it's cool inside this modern building . This amazing skyscraper is large enough for 25,000 people. It has got a luxury hotels, offices, restaurants, swimming pools, libraries, a gym and 900 expensive flats. From the visitor area on the 124th floor, the cars in the streets below are tiny. The tower has got 57 very fast lifts, but there are also lots of stairs if you've got lots of energy.





In the Burj Khalifa area there are parks and a large lake. There is a big shopping centre next to the tower.

This enormous building has got over 1,200 luxury shops. The city of Dubai is a fantastic place, but only if you are very rich and you like shopping.





Construction of the Burj Khalifa began in 2004, with the exterior completed five years later in 2009. The primary structure is reinforced concrete. The building was opened in 2010 as part of a new development called downtown Dubai. The building was originally named Burj Dubai but was renamed in honour of the ruler of Abu Dhabi and president of the United Arab Emirates, Khalifa bin Al Nahyan ; Abu Dhabi and the UAE government lent Dubai money to pay its debts.

Critical reception to Burj Khalifa has been generally positive, and the building has received many awards. There were complaints concerning migrant workers from South Asia who were the primary building labor force. These centered on low wages and the practice of confiscating passports until duties were complete. Several suicides were reported.