

# Abu Dhabi online

Chances are, like us, you're permanently parked at your PC or glued to your smartphone. There's no denying it, the UAE population is spending more time online. We've rounded up the best blogs, top twitterers, amazing apps, online shops and stats. So whether you're an internet lurker, aspiring entrepreneur or Facebook friend, read on to find out what's happening on our world wide web

## Get appy

From galleries and games to bill paying, here's our pick of UAE apps to download today

### ADSPORTS

Information on AD Sports scheduling.

### KALIMAT

An utterly addictive word game in both English and Arabic.

### GULF NEWS

The latest news from the daily newspaper in either iPhone, iPad or Nokia format.

### ABU DHABI RADIO

Select your favourite radio station and then listen to it on the go.

### VOX CINEMAS

What's showing and when, screening times, e-tickets and cinema locations.

### ABU DHABI MAP & WALKING TOURS

One for visitors – download and send them on their way. Maps, routes, landmarks and information.

### ACTIVE ABU DHABI

Outdoorsy types rejoice – you can get advice and insider info on anything from kayaking to yoga.

### ABU DHABI OFFLINE MAP & GUIDE

Maps and info for the capital that can be used without internet connection.

### UAE WEATHER RADAR

This weather map has real-time updates – which is vital if you are off-roading or out on a yacht. It is available in both Arabic and English.

## Top tweeters

Our pick of the UAE's 140-character chatters

### @TheLemonadeBoy

Followers: 113,390

Who is he? Com Mirza is an entrepreneur and all around 'creative madman'.

Tweets about: Famous inspirational quotes

Likelihood he'll tweet you back: Pretty high – Com is a daily tweeter

### @lollipop26

Followers: 32,423

Who is she? Laura is a beauty blogger who flits between Dubai and London

Tweets about: Beauty products and tips

Likelihood she'll tweet you back: High – Laura is a self-confessed tweet-aholic

### @DJBliss

Followers: 8,390

Who is he? Marwan Parham is an Emirati nightclub and radio DJ

Tweets about: His gigs and twitpics

Likelihood he'll tweet you back: Reasonable – depends if you have something to say

### @AshrafGhori

Followers: 25,723

Who is he? Ashraf Ghori is an artist and award-winning film-maker.

Tweets about: Arts, graphics and news

Likelihood he'll tweet you back: Good – Ashraf tweets... a lot

## Percentage of the UAE population using internet



## Percentage of the UAE population on Facebook

**FACT:** The UAE is number nine in the world's top ten countries by Facebook penetration. Iceland is number one worldwide – 66.5% of its population have a facebook account



## Style blog!

Picking out your new wardrobe needn't be a solitary task. Dubai fashionista and blogger Bebhinn Kelly's [www.hellwafashion.com](http://www.hellwafashion.com) helps you trawl through latest trends, from designers to high street and everything in between.

NatGeo AD is the social media brand with the most 'followers', the Abu Dhabi branch has 70,173 followers across Facebook, Twitter and YouTube

5.5 MILLION Twitter users in the region



40% of them in the UAE



## Food blog!

Unlike actual food, when it comes to food advice, you can never have too much. Check out [www.duguzzle.blogspot.com](http://www.duguzzle.blogspot.com), the sparkling blog from our very own The Critic (p40), James Brennan.

## Age of facebook users in the UAE

45%  
over 30  
years old

55%  
15 - 30  
years old

### New blog!

While most of us moan to our mates about the weird and wonderful people that live in the UAE, a certain anonymous blogger has taken it online. Check out [www.mrsmadisondubai.com](http://www.mrsmadisondubai.com) for all the stereotypes; the campers, the old-timer, the waxer, the newspaper letter writer - which one are you?



The most viewed Abu Dhabi YouTube video is a clip from BBC's *Top Gear* showing the Bugatti Veyron racing a McLaren F1 through the city streets

### UAE



Facebook users in the UAE are 66% female and 34% male

### WORLDWIDE



Globally, the average is 56% female and 44% male

### UAE facebook users showing status as 'married'



### Language of UAE Facebook users



## How to build your own app

Got a great idea for an app that can change the world, make life easier or just pass the time while you're on the metro?

Until recently, the only people who could develop (and make cash) from app building were tech-heads. Now, Apps Arabia, an Abu Dhabi-based investment fund, is inviting UAE residents to pitch their ideas and make their app-based dream a risk-free online reality. So how does it work?

1. Wannabe app entrepreneurs register and submit their idea for investment.
2. Successful applicants are contacted and Apps Arabia finds suitable developers.
3. It invests in the development (if you have an idea you don't pay a dirham), it is created, tested and submitted to the appropriate app store. This takes around three months.
4. Revenue from sales is kept by Apps Arabia until the investment is paid off. Profits are then split between the entrepreneur (70 per cent) and Apps Arabia (30 per cent).
5. You become the next Mark Zuckerberg. It could happen.

[www.appsarabia.com](http://www.appsarabia.com)

86%

of mobile internet users use their devices while watching TV

## Where to buy

Forget your Amazons, Net-A-Porters and eBay's, the UAE has a raft of home-grown websites packed with products. No conversion rates, shorter delivery times and help at the end of the phone. Welcome to your new lunchtime time-wasters and last-minute saviours

### FOR HOMES



[www.wallcravings.com](http://www.wallcravings.com)

Vinyl waterproof, removable wall stickers, this excellent site is packed with decals to transform your home into an individual space. Designs range from the graphic to the floral, with Arabic calligraphy, famous quotes and nursery-friendly illustrations. Prices start from Dh5125.

### FOR FLOWERS



[www.upscaleandposh.com](http://www.upscaleandposh.com)

Flowers, chocolates, balloons, cookies and more ordered online and delivered to your (or your beloved's) door. Easy to navigate, arranged by occasion and well-priced.

### FOR FASHION



[www.boutique1.com](http://www.boutique1.com)

The Dubai home to Lily Allen's Lucy In Disguise label, Boutique 1's online offering looks uncannily similar to Net A Porter, and offers a high standard of sartorial choices. Clothing and accessories from the likes of Issa, Halston Heritage and Erdem are available, plus menswear, stationery, books, gifts and a rather nice discount section.

### FOR GADGETS



[www.aido.com](http://www.aido.com)

Standing for All I Do Online, Aido offers gadgets, books, games, DVDs, quirky gifts and homewares, plus iPads and accessories. We love the massive Scratch Map poster (Dh670), which allows you to scratch off countries as you visit them. To win a BlackBerry PlayBook from Aido, turn to page 97.

### FOR CHILDREN



[www.sandypants.com](http://www.sandypants.com)

After spotting a gap in the market for long-lasting toys, stylish children's clothes and innovative products, plus party bags and travel items, Dubai mums Donna and Patricia launched Sandy Pants. Regularly relied upon for presents and party essentials, it has quickly become the go-to website for busy parents thanks to its next day delivery service.

### FOR AUCTIONS



[www.souq.com](http://www.souq.com)

If you love the buzz of bidding, check out Souq. New and used items, motors, tickets, properties and all manner of bric-a-brac is waiting to be bought for a bargain price. Just have a bit of savvy - we found an original Banksy which we'd recommend checking out before parting with your dirhams.

### FOR LIFE



[www.dubizzle.com](http://www.dubizzle.com)

Dubizzle has expanded beyond apartment browsing to a site where you can pick up furniture for free, check out social snaps and even find a job. A website that is as essential to living in the region as a bottle of Masafi, pair of sunnies and some Hawaiian Tropic factor 30.

### FOR FOOD



[www.casseroleonline.com](http://www.casseroleonline.com)

Chef-prepared meals delivered to your desk or door. This website allows you to order soups, salads, main meals, drinks and desserts - you just need to heat it up. Particularly recommended are the lasagne and ratatouille, with prices starting from Dh18 for a caesar salad. And there's no minimum order.

### FOR DJS



[www.djcorner.ae](http://www.djcorner.ae)

Gadgets galore at this online emporium, with DJ gear from headphones to turntables, plus lighting, stands and cables. Ideal for those who don't want to buy internationally, the company is based in Deira and shipping is free on orders over Dh1,000 within the UAE.