

Wind wishes you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



On behalf of Wind International and its group of companies, The Wind FZ-LLC would like to wish all of its clients a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We would like to again take this opportunity to thank you for your support and commitment to our projects as we strive for perfection.

Christmas in Dubai



Wind to Announce Launch of New Venture



The Wind FZ-LLC's newsletter is pleased to inform clients that Wind International is in the process of establishing a new company in Dubai in the near future.

It is believed that the new venture will expand the group's development wing and facilitate its quest to become a "one-stop solution" for property development at all its stages and levels. The new establishment is set to be involved in urban design and contracting.

Expect more information in the newsletter, as soon as it emerges.

Palm Deira's 10-year wait



Taken from AMEInfo

Investors in the Palm Deira are being given the chance to cancel their investments, or transfer to another development, after Nakheel announced a minimum ten-year wait until completion. According to a company

statement, the reclamation itself may take at least six years.

Land deals hit over AED 1 billion



The total value of land transactions in Dubai for the period December 17-25 peaked at AED 1.065 billion, of which approximately half was recorded on December 24 and 25. Notably on Christmas day, AED 425 million worth of transactions took place in the city.

A total of 33 sale transactions were registered with the Department by the end of last week, the most valuable of which was a plot in Al Barsha First that was sold for Dhs33.3 million. During the period under review 22 mortgages worth Dhs352.99 million were registered.

Dubai buys \$100m German mall



Taken from AMEInfo

Dubai Investment Group, part of Dubai Holding, has purchased the Hanscenter outside the Baltic port city of Rostock for \$100m. This is one of the largest shopping centres in Northern Germany with a retail floor space of 530,000 sqft and 2,500 car parking spaces, reported Frankfurter Allgemeine.

Britons flock to Dubai



Taken from 7 Days

The number of Britons who bought a property in **Dubai** in 2005 has increased by 60 per cent over the last year, according to currency specialist HIFX's new Global Property Hot Spots report.

However, Dubai did not report the largest increase; the number of Britons buying a property in Bulgaria rose by 77 per cent in the same period. Traditional favourites France and Spain are still the most popular places for **UK** residents to buy second homes, but interest there is on the wane, found the survey.

"Although France and Spain remain the most popular destinations to buy abroad, due to their proximity and the cheap price of travel, British citizens are starting to look further afield," said Alex Wright, director of HIFX.

"Dubai is an attractive location for Brits with the winter sun averaging eight hours a day. Property prices are relatively cheap compared to international standards and rental yields are still high.

Dubai has many grand projects to increase its visitor numbers which should sustain rental incomes for investors." But, overall, Britons owning property abroad tend to cluster closer to home.

Zabeel Park to Open



Taken from Gulf News

Zabeel Park, the first technology-based recreational theme park in the Gulf, is set to open its doors to the public on Tuesday, December 27.

The park, spread over 47 hectares of land on Shaikh Zayed Road between the Trade Centre Roundabout, Zabeel Road and Shaikh Rashid Road (Karama), is aimed at boosting domestic and international tourism in Dubai. It is divided into three plots, all of which are interlinked by pedestrian bridges. The Dh200 million park comprises a number of provisions including food courts, a cricket pitch, amphitheatre, exhibition centres and special facilities for boating.

There are plenty of play areas for children, while adults can spend their time sitting at the lakeside restaurants and enjoying the scenic beauty of the park.



The main attraction of the park will be a mega bowl, which will be used for organizing multi-purpose activities including weddings, parties, birthday functions and other events associated with college and business establishments.

Apart from functions, the mega bowl will be used to conduct exhibitions and shows from time to time. A terraced seating arrangement in the mega bowl will accommodate 2,000 people at any one time.

A mini-cricket pitch also forms part of Zabeel Park. Although not as big as a cricket ground, the mini-cricket field with a standard pitch and outfield promises to provide plenty of entertainment for cricket fans.

Another of the park's main features includes a 4.3 kilometre jogging track. A boating lake is the central feature of the southern part of the park. Road trains will be provided to take people around the park. The park will also feature a series of high-tech interactive displays

including educational and recreational exhibits grouped into three zones.

These are the Alternative Energy Zone, the Communications Zone and a Techno Zone. An Imax theatre, panoramic tower, a space maze modelled on the planetary system and other technology-based attractions will be some of the park's other attractions.

Dubai Christmas: Shopping mania, carols and snow



Emiratis take a look at Christmas decorations at the Dubai's new indoor ski resort. Christmas and New Year are not official holidays in Dubai, but this doesn't prevent people from joining in the festive mood and packing the booming Gulf emirate's many shopping malls

Taken from the AFP

Christmas and New Year are not official holidays in Dubai, but this doesn't prevent people from joining in the festive mood and packing the booming Gulf emirate's many shopping malls.

In one of Dubai's latest and biggest malls, a man in traditional garb snaps a photograph of his son in front of a huge silver and blue Christmas tree surrounded by skating mechanical penguins.

"Of course we are Muslims and have our own holidays, but this holiday (Christmas) is another opportunity for kids to have fun," said the man, who did wish to be identified. In contrast to neighboring Saudi Arabia, where Christmas is banned, Dubai's holiday trappings and spirit are much appreciated by the significant expatriate community, which makes up the majority of the emirate's estimated 1.2 million population.

"I have been living in Dubai for the past two years and when I am in restaurants and malls, I feel like I am in Liverpool. And now there is snow and skiing, what more can I ask for?" said Patrick Shweder, 16, a native of the northern English city.

Dubai, which has fashioned itself into an important tourist attraction in recent years, inaugurated a man-made 272-million-dollar (230-million-euro) ski resort in early December, complete with the world's first indoor black-run, glacial winds and even icicles. Outside the resort, Shweder posed for a photograph in front of a giant statute of Santa Claus.

At a furniture store inside the mall, business is brisk for artificial Christmas trees and decorations, despite the high price tags. A medium-height tree with ornaments and lights costs at least 300 dollars, said Samar Safi, a native of Lebanon, who has been living in Dubai for 25 years.

At another Dubai extravaganza called Madinat Jumeriah, a complex of restaurants and shops in a Venice-meets-Arabia setting, some 100 children from the local British school sing traditional Christmas carols to an enthusiastic crowd.

"When we arrived in Dubai what we missed the most was the festive mood this time of the year, but we noticed things were changing each year," said Cathy Hech from Britain. "Now we are enjoying Christmas carols in the open air. We are very happy."

Her friend Alice Nolan has even formed a four-member group of carolers that has performed at more than a dozen private Christmas parties in Dubai so far this year.

In Muslim Dubai, all Christmas symbols are secular. There are no crosses, angels or nativity scenes anywhere in sight, except inside some of the city's churches.

Picture of the Week:



For the latest progress and pictures from Wind Tower I and II, please visit:

Wind Tower I

<http://www.farayand.org/wind%20process/process%20page.htm>

Wind Tower II

<http://www.farayand.org/wind%20process/process%20pageii.htm>

Note: To click on the above links, hold Ctrl and click with the left mouse button simultaneously