



Callamus - Your Trusted Advisor.

**14** | CALLAMUS  
YEARS | WEALTH | TAX | CORPORATE

EXPLORING THE UAE TAX REGIME

Dubai is the most populous city in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and the capital of the Emirate of Dubai. Located in the eastern part of the Arabian Peninsula on the coast of the Arabian Gulf, Dubai aims to be the business hub of Middle East and MENA Region. It is also a major global transport hub for passengers and cargo.

The Emirate of Dubai gives two options for incorporating a company:

**Freezone and Mainland**

### Mainland

Mainland is the area outside of the UAE free zones. Mainland companies are allowed to carry out business without restrictions throughout the UAE and internationally.

A local sponsor is no longer needed to get a Dubai mainland license for almost all activities (for example auditing & law office).

### Advantages:

- ▶ Rental of office anywhere in the UAE
- ▶ Do business in UAE & all over the world
- ▶ 100% foreign ownership
- ▶ There are not currency restrictions
- ▶ Very fast employment visa processing
- ▶ Big advantage of bidding on government projects
- ▶ Ability to open a corporate bank account easily

**Major disadvantage of the mainland companies is that from 1st of June of 2023 are liable for 9% corporate tax over a profit of 100,000\$ (375,000AED)**

## Freezone

Free Zones are specific economic areas where a company can do business with 0% tax\* and customs rates. The free zones originally started in order to assist the flow of investments in UAE because they allow 100% foreign company ownership. The UAE has over 50 free zones in all seven emirates. Free zone companies are allowed to trade with other companies in their own free zone and internationally, but they are not permitted to trade directly with customers in Dubai and the UAE mainland.

### Beware of:

- Some free zones will oblige you to rent physical office space (this must be within the free zone)
- The cost of a license for your business may vary in each free zone
- Every free zone in UAE has different reputation with UAE banks, and one must take this into account when selecting the right free zone for you. For example, freezones outside the emirate of Dubai is very difficult to open account any more

\*Qualifying activities from qualifying free zone person (QFZP) provided that the QFZP satisfies the de minimis requirements or apply for small business relief.

**Advantages:**

- 100% Ownership
- Option to incorporate a company under common law DIFC & ADGM
- Physical office space not mandatory
- 0% corporate and income tax\*
- Option to incorporate remotely
- Lower cost and flexibility to operate
- Is not necessary to have a bank account in UAE
- Client does not need to travel to issue visa immediately

*\*Qualifying activities from qualifying free zone person (QFZP) provided that the QFZP satisfies the de minimis requirements or apply for small business relief.*

## **UAE Golden Visa**

10 year property investment visa

### Criteria:

- Invest at least **(\$545,000)** AED 2 million in properties (through qualified real estate company)
- The amount of investment can be divided across three properties (completed or off-plan properties)
- In the case of a mortgage, AED 1 million of property value should be paid to the bank (approved banks)

## **Benefits of Golden Visa**

- Applicant's spouse and unmarried children of any age may be added at no additional investment
- Favourable tax regime for investors



# BENEFITS

OF THE GOLDEN VISA UAE

1

10 years of renewable residence

Duration of stay outside the UAE  
does not nullify the Golden Residence

2

3

No sponsor or employer is required

Residence for family members, including  
spouse and children with no age limit

4

5

In the event of the death of the primary Golden  
visa holder, family members can stay in the UAE  
until the end of their residence permit

Process:

Applications for UAE Golden visa must include a completed application form along with supporting documents and enough funds. This visa is valid for 10 years and can be renewed thereafter. Even if you reside outside the UAE, this visa remains valid.

Once the initial due diligence checks have been completed and the retainer paid, then the application for UAE residence can be submitted to the government.

After meeting all the requirements and application approval, the successful applicant receives a six-month multiple-entry visa so that they can travel to UAE. The processing time for the residence application takes over eight weeks.

*The Golden Visa is automatically renewable and is granted to investors, entrepreneurs and professionals, amongst others. It enables expatriates to live, work and study in the U.A.E. without requiring a national sponsor. The visa is valid regardless of how long the holder resides outside the country.*

## Family office set up

Family Offices have become very popular between wealthy families, with a lot of them relocating in the UAE region. The primary function of a Family Office is to manage all current financial affairs as well as the estate of the family.

Our team can assist the set up of a single family office, by choosing the correct zone for your needs.

Normally the set up of such entities is happening in four free zones which have common law, DIFC (Dubai), ADGM (Abu Dhabi), DMCC (Dubai) & DWTC (Dubai)

Dubai has signed double tax treaties with several countries, offering opportunities for tax optimisation and reduction of tax liabilities. The absence of inheritance and wealth taxes further enhances the appeal of Dubai for HNWIs seeking to preserve and pass on their wealth to future generations.

**Callamus** is a boutique consultancy providing bespoke, end-to-end corporate services ranging from company formation to accounting, bookkeeping, immigration as well as compliance services for entrepreneurs looking to set up their next venture in the UAE. We work alongside to strategize, startup, and scale businesses in the UAE and the broader region.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING YOU

## Contact Details

Our Offices:

Address: 93 Charilaou Trikoupi, Kifisia, 14563, Greece 

Email : [info@callamus.com](mailto:info@callamus.com)

Tel. : +30 210 429 4958

Address: Dubai Silicon Oasis, DDP, Building A1, Dubai, UAE 

Email : [info@callamus.com](mailto:info@callamus.com)

Tel. : +971 54 382 8806