

Dubai's golden zones

When searching for prime luxury properties in Dubai, there are five key areas.

Emirates Living

Emirates Living incorporates one of the most prominent addresses in the city, Emirates Hills — set around The Address Montgomerie Dubai's golf course — as well as The Meadows, Hattan, The Lakes and The Springs with villas offering two to 12-plus bedrooms, making it ideal for young professionals as well as families. Each enclave has communal pools, children's play areas and numerous lakes with water fixtures as well as town centres within the communities featuring supermarkets, shops, gyms, cafés and nurseries such as Jebel Ali Village Nursery and Raffles.

The Lakes has The Lakes Club, where you'll find a Fitness First outlet with an outdoor swimming pool and

Reform Social and Grill, a very popular restaurant. Located just off Shaikh Zayed Road, Emirates Living is well positioned, providing residents with easy access to the city centre. There are also multiple schools located in Emirates Living — Dubai British School, Emirates International School, and Dubai International Academy.

The Palm Jumeirah

The Palm Jumeirah is far from the hustle and bustle of the city, but easily accessible, traffic permitting. It's connected to the mainland by a bridge, while the rest of The Palm can be accessed from the crescent by an undersea tunnel. The Palm Jumeirah offers one- to seven plus-bedroom villas and apartments catering to young executives as well as families. Beach clubs, marinas, multiple dining options and shopping outlets

make it an exciting place to live in. The apartments come with pool and beach access, while the villas have private pools.

Atlantis The Palm has many options to keep children entertained with the Aquaventure Waterpark and The Lost Chambers Aquarium. There are nurseries on The Palm as well, but if you'd like to expand your options, you can choose from many nurseries and schools in the nearby areas of Al Sufouh and Umm Suqeim.

Arabian Ranches

This popular community offers families a fantastic lifestyle. With a variety of town houses and villas on offer, ranging from two to six bedrooms, it caters to small and large families. It's equipped with communal swimming pools and children's play areas in each enclave, and is home to a desert-style golf

course, Arabian Ranches Golf Club, designed by Ian Baker-Finch in collaboration with Nicklaus Design, as well as Jumeirah English Speaking School. The golf club is a social hub as well as a community centre with a sizeable supermarket and coffee shops. There's also an equestrian centre with two polo fields, a showjumping arena and boarding facilities for horses. The only downside is that some people perceive Arabian Ranches to be too far from the heart of Dubai.

Dubai Marina

Dubai Marina is one of the world's largest purpose-built waterfront developments made up of more than 200 residential high-rises, shopping malls, restaurants, hotels and promenades. All properties come equipped with modern finish and high specifications, and range from studios and one-bedroom apartments to luxurious penthouses.

An attraction within itself, the cosmopolitan district is also popular with

business executives and tourists thanks to a wide range of top-end hotels and retail options. The benefits of owning a high-rise apartment here lies in the expansive, unobstructed views of the Marina and Dubai's glittering skyline.

Al Barari

Al Barari is a hidden gem nestled within a lush private oasis, offering luxury family villas and, more recently, off-plan apartments. It also boasts a spa and a fantastic organic restaurant called The Farm (that also offers essentials such as bread and milk). Both are well worth a visit.

As Al Barari expands, it will have its own community centre with shops and a supermarket to cater to the residents of the secure gated community.

It's also positioned a little far out from the city, like the Arabian Ranches, but there are plans for a road to be opened that will connect Al Barari directly to Downtown Dubai.

- By Victoria Garrett