



All that Glitters

From the gold-lined walkways of the gold souk to the exotic fragrances of the spice souk, shopping at Dubai's more traditional outdoor markets is a must-do. The gold souk in Deira is famous for its bargain prices, high quality standards, and sheer variety – some shops are so crammed with gold and jewels that the glow spills out onto the street.



Marina Market

Community markets are a relatively new concept in Dubai, yet a popular one all the same. The Marina Market, held each Friday from October to April at the Marina Walk, is the first to take place on a regular basis. Wander along past stalls selling traditional and modern crafts, stopping to have a chat with the vendors along the way. The Marina Market is particularly pleasant because of its location, as the unofficial headquarters of 'New Dubai', and while you're there you can enjoy a meal in some of the newest, and hottest restaurants in town.

Ay Karama!

The Karama shopping complex is perhaps just as famous a tourist attraction as the souks, although for slightly more dubious reasons. In years gone by, this was the mecca of fake designer goods, and the only place to get that 'I can't believe it's not Gucci' handbag. However, since the Dubai government decided to clamp down on fake goods (and rightly so), the focus of Karama has shifted quite significantly.



What's to Come

So, the Mall of the Emirates is currently the 'Big Momma' of Dubai's shopping mall scene, but it won't be for long. Dubai Mall is part of the Burj Dubai development (the Burj Dubai will allegedly be the tallest building in the world when it is completed in 2008). As such, the mall will eclipse the Mall of the Emirates as Dubai's biggest, but only for a short time. The Mall of Arabia, which will open in Dubailand any time after 2009, is set to be not just the biggest mall in Dubai, but the biggest in the world, much to the delight of shopaholics everywhere.



Dubai's glitzy malls are built with hot summers in mind – these temples of retail heaven are air conditioned to the max so that you can shop up a storm even when it's sweltering outside



Shopping Heaven!

Even when the weather is glorious outside, it's still hard to resist the pull of the shopping mall. The list is endless, but there is one that should be on your to-do list. Try visiting the stunning Ibn Battuta Mall which is worth visiting for its architecture alone. Split into six sections, each with a different theme based on the discoveries of 14th century explorer Ibn Battuta.

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