



Bahrain vs Dubai

Bahrain vs Dubai comparison for business setup. Compare costs, tax regimes, licensing, and lifestyle factors to decide where to base your GCC operations.

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BAHRAIN VS DUBAI

Which GCC hub is right for your business? A comprehensive comparison.

FACTOR	 BAHRAIN	 DUBAI
Corporate Tax	0% (no CIT)	9% (>AED 375K)
VAT Rate	10%	5%
WLL Setup Cost	~BD 1,500	~AED 25,000+
Office Rent (sqm/yr)	BD 48-144	AED 800-2,000
Foreign Ownership	100%	100%
Residency Via Business	Yes	Yes
Cost of Living	30-40% lower	Higher
Fintech Hub	CBB Sandbox	DIFC/ADGM

WHEN BAHRAIN WINS

COST-SENSITIVE SMES

Setup costs, office rent, and living expenses are significantly lower. A startup can operate in Bahrain for a fraction of Dubai's cost.

FINANCIAL SERVICES

Bahrain is the oldest financial center in the Gulf. CBB's regulatory framework is well-established for banking, insurance, and fintech.

REGIONAL HQ

0% CIT makes Bahrain ideal for holding companies and regional HQs. No capital gains tax on disposals, no WHT on distributions.

QUALITY OF LIFE

More relaxed lifestyle, strong expat community, excellent schools, and easy access to Saudi Arabia via the causeway.

CHOOSING BETWEEN GCC HUBS?

We provide objective, tax-focused analysis to help you decide.

COMPANY

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