

# SELF-CATERING VILLAS AND APARTMENTS ARE SMART OPTIONS FOR VISITORS



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With over 5.8 million visitors in 2005 and occupancy rate in excess of 83 per cent, Dubai is fast becoming one of the world's premier tourist destinations. It is clear that local accommodation providers are riding the biggest wave of their lives as demand has clearly overtaken supply.

On the quality front, there is a wide choice of accommodation available in Dubai ranging from hotels or hotel apartments to self-catering villas and apartments. The latest option is much sought after in recent days.

Renting a furnished apartment or villa on self-catering basis proves to be a cheaper option than staying in many hotels — especially if you intend staying in Dubai for longer than the usual package holiday. It also helps if you are a large group or simply wish to have greater flexibility and privacy.

One of the most popular areas of Dubai is the Dubai Marina with its cosmopolitan atmosphere and posing a challenge to the most exclusive waterfront developments anywhere in the world.

Booking a hotel in Dubai Marina is out of reach for many travellers who would rather spend their budget on shopping. For this reason renting a self-catering apartment or villa can be a smart option, being more affordable, comfortable and even exciting.

There are many villas and apartments



■ Renting a furnished apartment or villa on a self-catering basis proves to be a cheaper option than staying in many hotels — especially if you intend staying in Dubai for longer than the usual package holiday. Dubai Marina (above), and Jumeirah Beach Residence (below) will be the most popular options among travellers

available for short-term rental on a self-catering basis. These can be for a minimum of one guest to as many as 15 according to the design of the individual property.

When planning to book a holiday apartment or villa in Dubai on self-catering basis, it is necessary to carefully select the right agent to deal with. The most recommended would certainly be those actu-

ally based in Dubai that can guarantee you full assistance on a 24-hour basis.

It is really the quality that matters when you choose your holiday home in Dubai. Some properties are equipped with every amenity you could think of, while others could end up being a bad surprise, to say the least. The list can reach a point where your vacation could get badly compromised.

Professional agencies maintain and check on the properties on a regular basis in addition to supplying accessories and services to a level that can meet and in some cases go beyond the standard of a five-star hotel.

Probably the best way to go about it, when possible, would be to actually inspect the premises before making any payment. This way you will be able to check the consistency with the information (photos or descriptions) that were displayed on the agent's website or catalogue.

In the end it all comes to experience and professionalism. There are many companies offering holiday villas and apartments in Dubai and around the world, which is a great advantage as it keeps the competition alive and the rates affordable.

However, be careful and do your homework before making your final choice. At the end of the day, it is your holiday on the line and you do not want to jeopardise it just to save a few bucks.

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