

Dubai—Land of Contrasts

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A small mosque built for laborers in Dubai at a nearby construction site features minarets outlined with green neon lights, as if aspiring to the glow of Dubai's skyline. The example hints at some of the contrasts in this photo-essay about a culture changing massively amidst the wealth of oil. The discrepancy between Dubai's traditional past and the modern future it desires results in an environment with a perplexing identity. Vast desert land is covered by grass fields and invaded by skyscrapers; traditional souks became modern shopping malls; shopping malls become indoor ski resorts, and luxurious hotels look like traditional sailboats. Like a minaret framed by neon lights, Dubai is "history rising."



Medinat Jumeirah, shopping mall inspired by local traditional architecture



The Camel Caravan, public art project



Billboard advertising the construction of *Burj Dubai*, world's tallest building



Old Souk



Mall of the Emirates



Painted fence near the *Dubai Creek*



Private home under construction



A traditional sailing boat, for display at the *Dubai Museum*



Burj Al Arab Hotel



Ski Dubai, indoor winter resort at the Mall of the Emirates