

# A NEW CANAL TO BOOST DUBAI TOURISM AND TRADE



The Dubai Gulf Emirate, which is well-known for its large projects, has another attraction. A three-kilometer-long canal linking the bay to the Gulf is intended to boost Dubai tourism and business.

The canal is between 80 and 120 meters wide. **Along the waterway, residential facilities, hotels, restaurants, and recreation facilities will be built**, according to a report from the authorities responsible for the project.

Dubai tourism authorities expect the canal to be a huge attraction for tourists and expects 30 million extra visitors per year. According to media reports, a shopping center will also be part of the project.

“The canal is a unique tourist and business center,” said the head of the public agency Mattar al-Tajer. Three bridges lead across the canal. The project, which started in October 2013, cost around 2.7 million dirhams (about 660 million euros).

The waterway was officially opened on November 9 by the ruler of Dubai, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktum.

**Dubai has evolved from a sleepy fishing village to an international trading center within half a century; mainly thanks to its huge oil deposits.** The city already boasts the highest building in the world, the 828-meter-high Burj Khalifa. The Dubai Emirate has established itself as a popular tourist and shopping destination, given the unrest in many other popular Arab countries.

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