

mayfair times

MAYFAIR / ST JAMES'S / MARYLEBONE
APRIL 2026

David Gandy

ON TAILORING
AND TRAVEL

PLUS
DUBAI
SPECIAL

SPOTLIGHT ON
SUPERCARS



DYNAMIC DUBAI

Residents of Dubai share why they chose to move to the emirate, what they love about living there and their thoughts on recent events

WHEN AND WHY DID YOU MOVE TO DUBAI?

I moved to Dubai in January 2025 with my husband and our four children. We wanted to create a rhythm of life that allowed for more family time while continuing to pursue our professional work.

Dubai also holds a very personal connection for me. I grew up here and my parents still live in the city, so in many ways it felt like returning home. At the same time, Dubai has evolved so dramatically over the years that coming back felt like discovering an entirely new city.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT LIVING IN DUBAI?

One of the things I love most is waking up to sunshine almost every day – there's something about that light and warmth that immediately lifts your mood.

Dubai also has an incredible sense of possibility. It's a city filled with people who have come here to build something, to create, to innovate, and that energy is very inspiring to be around. I also really value the sense of safety. It means a great deal to me that my children can move around the city independently and I can feel at ease.

FAVOURITE PLACES TO GO AND THINGS TO DO?

Dubai has so many wonderful places to explore, especially with children. I love taking my kids to Kite Beach, where you can really feel the relaxed side of the city. We also enjoy heading to the desert, which is a beautiful reminder of the landscape and history of the region. The golf courses are exceptional, particularly Emirates Golf Club.

When it comes to food, I love some of the older, more traditional restaurants that have been part of the city for years, as well as newer places like J1 Beach. Bkry makes some of the best coffee and croissants in the city.

I also enjoy taking the children to Mirzam Chocolate and 3Fils, a fantastic Japanese restaurant that has become something of a local institution. Other favourites are Orfali Bros, Rialto at Marsa Al Arab, Bento-ya, Kumo for the best coconut matcha cloud and my mum's house.

Karina Choudhrie

Indian by birth, the designer-jeweller is the creative director of luxury jewellery brand K&Co, with a presence in London and Dubai



WHAT IS A TYPICAL DAY?

I begin with meditation, then get the children ready for school and take the baby to nursery before heading to the gym. After that, most of the day is spent in the office. Work in this region is incredibly dynamic, particularly when I'm developing bespoke jewellery pieces for clients.

I usually try to be home by late afternoon so that the evening is dedicated to family – dinner together, walks and spending time with the children before bedtime.

WHAT DO YOU MISS ABOUT LONDON?

One of the things I miss most is simply walking. In London I would easily walk 15,000 steps a day – taking the children to school, walking to the office and meeting friends. I also miss the parks, the neighbourhood grocery stores and the wonderful farmers' markets. London has such a strong sense of local community.

ARE THERE ANY SYNERGIES BETWEEN MAYFAIR AND DUBAI?

Mayfair has a long-established heritage in art, jewellery and fine craftsmanship, while Dubai represents a more modern but incredibly dynamic luxury market. What connects them is a shared appreciation for the very best the world has to offer – whether that's fine jewellery, design, hospitality or culture.

HOW HAVE RECENT EVENTS AFFECTED YOUR VIEW OF DUBAI?

If anything, it has given me an even deeper respect for Dubai and its leadership. I was in the city with my children when everything began, and what struck me most was how calm and organised everything remained.

There was a clear sense that the situation was being managed thoughtfully and responsibly, which created a strong feeling of safety for residents. Even during a difficult moment, daily life felt orderly and people remained composed. That sense of stability was very reassuring as a parent.

DO YOU SEE THIS MAKING DUBAI AND ITS PEOPLE MORE RESILIENT?

Yes, absolutely. Experiences like this tend to strengthen resilience and reinforce people's confidence in the systems and leadership around them. There is a strong sense of community here, and I think moments like these ultimately deepen that collective confidence.

IS IT BUSINESS AS USUAL?

Largely, yes. Day-to-day life and work have continued much as normal. From a business perspective, there have been some logistical challenges with international shipments, but within the region things have remained very active. People may be slightly more mindful about very large gatherings, but overall the city continues to move forward with its usual sense of momentum.

Bella Roberts

The director of her family business Megasteel Ltd in the UAE, where she also runs Megasteel LLC FZ, splits her time between her homes in Belgravia, the Cotswolds and Dubai



WHEN DID YOU MOVE TO DUBAI?

I moved in January 2026. I love the warm weather, culture, all the incredible food and, above all, it's very safe.

WHAT ARE YOUR FAVOURITE THINGS TO DO?

A weekly hammam at Izil and lunch at Jou Jou Brasserie, Bâoli, Casa Amor and Il Ristorante – Niko Romito.

HAVE RECENT EVENTS CHANGED HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT DUBAI?

No, it hasn't changed how I feel

about Dubai at all. If anything it makes me appreciate being here even more because the government has ensured all of its citizens and visitors remain safe and that is their top priority. It has been very comforting to see. Everyone is being very strong and resilient, and it's nice to see we all feel safe enough to continue our lives as much as possible.

WHAT DO YOU MISS ABOUT LONDON?

I miss Hyde Park, Green Park and St James's Park, where I used to enjoy walking daily.

Yogesh Mehta

The vice-president of Fentons International FZE divides his time between Dubai and London

WHEN DID YOU MOVE TO DUBAI?

February 2025.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT IT?

It's an extremely modern city with a very high standard of living.

FAVOURITE HAUNTS?

The amazing restaurants like Sirene by Gaia, The Arts Club, Cé La Vi and LPM.

WHAT DO YOU MISS ABOUT LONDON?

Walking through the parks, the history and culture.

HOW HAVE RECENT EVENTS AFFECTED YOUR VIEW OF DUBAI?

Dubai is quite resilient. Things are normal – no panic and the defence system is very good.

