

## Why do people prefer Canada over Dubai in spite of Dubai being tax-free and having a better climate?

Both countries have their pros and cons, here's a short summary:

### Where the UAE beats Canada:

1. Weather - UAE does have very hot summers, I got used to them, there's basically no cold weather, so if you're not a fan of winters, Dubai is for you. Canada has brutally cold winters, and icy roads cause a lot of accidents in winter.
2. Visiting - UAE is made for tourism, it's easier to get a tourist visa for UAE than to get one for Canada.
3. Work permits - The UAE has an economy that's much bigger than its native population, so getting work permits as an expat is so much easier than in Canada. In Canada, the same principle applies BUT Canada has more Canadians than expats, so it's relatively harder for employers to recruit foreigners.
4. Ease of credit - It's much easier to access credit in the UAE than in Canada, and you'll generally have higher starting limits in UAE, but just be careful and read the fine print coz you can get jailed for failing to pay your dues.
5. Accommodation- landlords are stricter in Canada than in UAE. In Canada, landlords tend to do credit checks, reference checks and the like, making the process longer and more time consuming, but in UAE, the contract preparation was a one day process.
6. Ease of travel - As a major transit hub, Dubai is within an 8 hour flight from about 66% of the world's destinations. You can get to more places in one flight from Dubai than from Canada.

### Where Canada beats UAE:

1. Social benefits - In the UAE, your income is not taxed, but you won't get any financial assistance from the Government. In Canada, you get taxed but you also

get benefits such as universal health care, free education for kids, child subsidies, child benefits, tax credits and the like. So even though you pay tax, the benefits you get can outweigh the taxes you pay.

2. Accommodation -you have more inclusions in the rent in Canada than in Dubai. Here, You don't have to pay for water and heating separately, but in Dubai You have to pay for these (and in summer where it gets really hot you pay a lot for cooling). Apartments in Canada come with more standard amenities than apartments in UAE, so overall you get a better deal on accommodation.

3. Immigration - While it's harder to migrate to Canada than it is to move to the UAE, Canada does offer permanent residence and citizenship to foreigners. In the UAE you stay forever as a temporary resident and have to renew your visa every 2/3 years as long as you continue to qualify.

4. Criminal code - The UAE has a stricter criminal code than Canada. Some of the things that are considered crimes in the UAE are not criminal in Canada. In the UAE, being pregnant and unmarried is a crime, there's no bankruptcy protection in UAE - generally, there's more stuff that can get you arrested in UAE that wouldn't get you behind bars in Canada. You can even smoke weed in Canada, it's legal.

5. Labour laws - In Canada, workers can join and form trade unions. In the UAE, it's between you and your employer. The Ministry of Labour in UAE has laws that protect your rights on the job, but not the job itself. In UAE, you are usually at the mercy of a visa sponsor for your right to live and work in the country, which gives some employers lots of power to abuse.

6. Natural beauty - The UAE is in a desert, so most attractions are artificial. There's nothing that is in the UAE that can't be easily replicate elsewhere in the region, but Canada has lots of natural beauty and landscapes, more stuff to enjoy.

**Disclaimer:**

Based on few pointers as above. The opinions and views differ as per individual experiences.