UAE

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Vocabulary

Backwater: a place or situation in which no development or progress is taking place.

Flank: to be situated on each side of or on one side of (someone or something).

Flog: to sell, especially quickly or cheaply.

Trinket: a small ornament or item of jewellery that is of little value.

Haggle: dispute or bargain persistently, especially over the cost of something.

Suffice: be enough or adequate.

Gawp: stare openly in a stupid or rude manner.

Eg.: At weekends the roads are jammed with holidaymakers coming to gawp at the parade.

Unwind: relax after a period of work or tension.

Eg.: It helps them to unwind after a busy day at work.

Hub: the effective center of an activity, region, or network.

Stunt: an action displaying spectacular skill and daring.

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United Arab Emirates

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is a federation of seven emirates that has grown from a quiet **backwater** to one of the Middle East's most important economic centres.

Though traditionally conservative, the UAE is one of the most liberal countries in the Gulf, with other cultures and beliefs generally tolerated. Politically it remains authoritarian, however. The current president is **Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan**. Sheikh Khalifa became president on 3 November 2004, following the death of his father, Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan.

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