

World's Tallest Building Opens in Dubai

Some people call it an amazing feat of engineering. Others call it a work of art. Whatever you think of the building that opened in Dubai on January 4, one thing is certain: it is the tallest building in the world.



Known as “The Burj” (*burzh*), a word that means “tower” in Arabic, the world’s newest skyscraper rises 2,625 feet above Dubai. The 160-story building includes a hotel, more than 900 homes, and lots of office space. The Burj has

- its own market and library;
- four swimming pools, including an outdoor pool on the 76th floor;
- a restaurant on the 122nd floor;
- an observation deck on the 124th floor;
- a Muslim house of worship (a *mosque*), on the 158th floor;
- 57 elevators that travel at speeds up to 40 miles per hour; and
- underground parking for 3,000 cars.

A 27-acre park with six fountains surrounds the building.

The Burj cost \$1.5 billion to build. It includes enough steel to stretch from New York City to Tokyo, Japan, and concrete equal to the weight of 100,000 elephants. More than 26,000 glass panels were used in its construction. Construction took more than five years and 22 million person-hours. The Burj is expected to hold as many as 25,000 people at any one time.

Dubai is located in a country called the United Arab Emirates. It is the second largest of the country’s seven emirates (states). Its seaside location -- at the crossroads of Asia, Europe, and Africa -- make it an important port of trade. Its beaches make it a popular vacation spot. People who live there say that life in Dubai can be summed up by five s-words: sunshine, shopping, seaside, sports, and safety.

TOO MUCH?

Some people say The Burj is “too much.” They say it is a “pointless symbol of power.” It will never be fully occupied and it will cost too much money to maintain, they add.

NEWS WORDS

engineering concrete
maintain occupied
observation worship

THINK ABOUT THE NEWS

From the pyramids to The Burj, man continues to build buildings higher and higher. Imagine that you will be the architect of the next “world’s tallest building.” Create a design for the skyscraper you would like to see.