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Dubai Film Production & Permit Handbook

Why Dubai (for producers, line producers, and fixers).

Dubai blends world-class infrastructure with friendly permitting, skilled multilingual crews, and an unmatched range of looks within one compact city. A line producer in Dubai can stage skyscraper skylines, old-world souqs, beaches, deserts, ports, and business districts with short moves and predictable approvals. A strong logistics spine—international air links, modern roads, reliable freight, and top-tier hotels—keeps days efficient, while clear rules from the Dubai Film and TV Commission (DFTC) simplify compliance. The result is a fast, safe, and controllable environment for commercials, features, streaming originals, and unit shoots.

Who This Report Is For

This research report is designed for producers, line producers, fixers, and production companies planning film and television shoots in Dubai. It serves as an authoritative, practical resource, offering in-depth insights into permits, locations, logistics, safety protocols, and compliance requirements. As of August 2025, Dubai's media ecosystem has solidified its position as a global filmmaking hub, and this report provides a comprehensive guide to navigate its opportunities and challenges effectively.

Introduction

Dubai's ascent as a premier filming destination in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region reflects a strategic pivot fueled by government support, diverse locations, and modern infrastructure. Since the Dubai Film & TV Commission (DFTC) was established in 2012, the emirate has attracted high-profile productions like *Mission: Impossible – Ghost Protocol* and *Star Trek Beyond*, contributing significantly to its economy. With the global media and entertainment industry generating \$2.5 trillion in 2024 (up from \$1.6 trillion in 2012 per Oliver Wyman), Dubai's share has grown to 25% of the MENA market, driven by a 8% compound annual growth rate (CAGR). This report, updated for 2025, explores the ecosystem's evolution, offering detailed guidance for professionals based on current trends, regulatory frameworks, and practical workflows.



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Dubai's Media Ecosystem: A Perspective

Historical Context and Growth

Dubai's media ecosystem has evolved from a nascent player to a regional leader, mirroring global hubs like Hollywood and Mumbai. The Oliver Wyman report (2013) highlighted MENA's shift from established markets like Egypt to Gulf states, with Dubai at the forefront due to its pro-active government policies. By 2025, the emirate's media spend has surged, supported by a young population (60% under 25) and economic diversification efforts. The DFTC's initiatives, including the 35%++ cash rebate program (up to \$10 million per project, announced in June 2025), have positioned Dubai as a competitor to international markets.

Opportunities

- **Economic Impact:** Film production contributes AED 1.5 billion annually to Dubai's GDP, creating 10,000+ jobs.
- **Diverse Locations:** From Burj Khalifa's futuristic skyline to Lahbab Dunes' deserts, Dubai offers versatile backdrops.
- **Incentives:** No VAT on production services and rebates attract global filmmakers.

Challenges

- **Regulatory Complexity:** Permit processing times have increased by 10% due to demand, requiring 15-day lead times.
- **Talent Development:** While local crews are skilled, specialized roles (e.g., VFX supervisors) often require international hires.
- **Cultural Sensitivity:** Strict guidelines, especially for Ramadan 2026 shoots, demand early script reviews.

Permit Workflow: From Script to Shoot

1. **Engage a UAE-Licensed Partner** Foreign productions must collaborate with a UAE-licensed production house, a mandate enforced by DFTC. A licensed line producer or fixer acts as the liaison, ensuring compliance and streamlining communication with authorities. This partnership is critical, as unrepresented applications face rejection.
2. **Script Approval (When Required)** Submit a detailed script or synopsis, highlighting Dubai-specific scenes, shoot dates, and locations. As of 2025, the DFTC requires 10–20 days for review, with sensitive sequences (e.g., government sites) taking longer. Lock final edits early to avoid delays.



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3. **Location Owner Approvals (NOCs)**
 - **Private Property:** Malls, hotels, and towers require owner NOCs, covering security, freight lifts, and hours (e.g., AED 5,000–25,000+).
 - **Government Assets:** Beaches, heritage sites, and roads need DFTC routing, adding 5–10 days to the process.
4. **DFTC Permit Application** Filed via the DFTC One-Stop Shop (OSS), applications should batch multiple days/locations. Include call sheets, risk assessments, Public Liability Insurance (PLI), crew lists, and schedules. Processing takes 2–15 days, depending on complexity.
5. **Specialist Approvals (As Needed)**
 - **Aerials/Drones:** GCAA/DCAA registration, flight plans, and police NOCs take 7–15 days.
 - **Roads/Lock-ups:** RTA and Dubai Police require lane closure plans and marshals.
 - **Beaches/Parks:** Dubai Municipality adds lifeguard/wildlife riders.
 - **Heritage Zones:** Dubai Culture imposes rigging/light limits.
 - **Events:** DET approvals are needed for public activations.
6. **Insurance & Safety** PLI must meet AED 1 million minimums, with add-ons for equipment and vehicles. Risk assessments for stunts, heat (40°C+ in summer), and drones are mandatory, with a safety lead appointed on-set.
7. **On-Set Compliance** Carry printed/e-copies of permits and NOCs. Adhere to time windows (e.g., 6 AM–10 PM for public areas) and crew caps (50–100 persons). Cultural norms, especially near mosques, require careful planning.

1) Permit Architecture: Who Does What, and In What Order

Lead agency: DFTC.

All city filming runs through the Dubai Film and TV Commission's permit portal. DFTC coordinates with other authorities and issues the master permit tied to dates, locations, and activities. A capable line producer or fixer in Dubai will prepare the application package, evidence of insurance, activity risk notes, and location owner letters when private property is involved.

Dependent authorities (typical touchpoints):



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- **Dubai Police** – public safety, road control, crowd management, weapons and stunt oversight.
- **RTA (Roads & Transport Authority)** – roads, bridges, interchanges, bus stops, metro interfaces, water taxi piers; any road hold or lane closure needs RTA.
- **Dubai Municipality** – beaches, parks, corniches, public spaces, waste plans.
- **Dubai Civil Aviation Authority (DCAA)** – drone permissions inside the Emirate; **GCAA** at federal level for airspace rules.
- **Private owners** – malls, hotels, DIFC, Dubai Marina estates, Business Bay towers, Palm Jumeirah plots, Al Seef and Al Fahidi properties. Written owner consent is required before DFTC can finalize.
- **Security estates and special zones** – ports, free zones, heritage districts, and waterfronts often have their own gate approvals in addition to DFTC.

Indicative Fees & Timelines (Verify with DFTC)

Item	Typical Figure/Window	Notes
DFTC permit application	AED 1,000–5,000	Non-refundable; location fees are separate.
Government location permit	AED 2,000–10,000 (per day)	Varies by asset; durations and categories differ.
Private location fee	AED 0–25,000+	Security, cleaning, and overtime add costs.
Script approval	10–20 working days	Sensitive sequences may extend review times.



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Drone permissions

7–15 working days

Registration, flight plan, geo-fencing, and NOCs required.

These are estimates—confirm current rates and service level agreements (SLAs) with DFTC and asset owners.

Locations: Fast Picks by Look & Control

Futuristic Skylines & Glass Urbanism

- **Downtown (Burj Khalifa), DIFC, Business Bay, Dubai Marina**
- Ideal for sci-fi or action films. Dawn shoots ensure clean plates, but traffic advisories and security clearances are essential. Small units (under 50 crew) work best.

Submission rhythm and lead times.

Routine exterior B-roll can clear within a few working days once all letters and insurance are in place. Anything with road holds, large crowd scenes, SFX, weapons, or drone work requires more runway—plan 7–15 working days, sometimes longer during citywide events or peak tourism periods. Airport or airside scenes sit outside the standard cycle (see §6).

What must be in the file.

- Script or creative synopsis; location list; dates and windows.
- **Owner letters** for private property; floor plans for interior rigs where relevant.
- **Insurance:** public liability, employer's liability, third-party property; stunts/SFX extensions if applicable.
- **Risk assessment & method statement** for any elevated risk activity (stunts, pyrotechnics, water, night exteriors with traffic interface, drone).
- **Crew list** with nationalities and passport copies if requested for certain zones; **equipment list** for customs support.
- **Traffic plan** if seeking lane closures or rolling road blocks (RTA + Police).



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- **Drone plan** with aircraft data, pilot credentials, launch/landing map, and geo-fencing notes (DCAA/GCAA).

Heritage & Old Dubai

- **Al Fahidi (Al Bastakiya), Al Seef, Deira Creek**
- Rich in cultural texture, these sites require Dubai Culture approval. Early morning shoots minimize street noise; compact rigs (e.g., Ronin-S) are recommended.

Waterfronts, Beaches & Canal Vistas

- **Jumeirah Public Beaches, Dubai Canal, Creek Promenades**
- Managed by Dubai Municipality, these locations need marshals for public safety. Avoid protected zones and plan for swimmer traffic (June–August).

Desert & Dunes

- **Lahbab/Red Dunes, Dubai Desert Conservation Reserve**
- Popular for epics, these sites demand 4x4 convoys and heat protocols (shade, water). Wind/noise planning is critical for sound recording.

Industrial Belts & Backlot Builds

- **Al Quoz, Warehouse Districts, Dubai Production City**
- Perfect for controlled sets and night shoots. Coordinate power and fire exits with property managers.

Airports & Airside Visuals

- **DXB / DWC**
- Require Dubai Airports and DFTC coordination. Expect security escorts and kit limits (e.g., no lithium batteries airside).

Studio & Support Ecosystem

Dubai Studio City is the epicenter, offering stages, backlots, post-production, and rentals (e.g., ARRI Alexa, RED Komodo). Line producers cluster camera, lighting, grip, and storage near sets, reducing transport costs by 15%. Local crews handle core roles, while specialty heads (e.g., VFX) are flown in, adding 10–20% to budgets.



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2) Stunts, SFX, Weapons, and Crowd Scenes

Professionalize early.

If the scene involves stunts or pyrotechnics, appoint a qualified stunt coordinator and SFX supervisor, and include their resumés and licenses in the application. Dubai Police will assess safety barriers, impact zones, and emergency response. An experienced fixer will budget for ambulance cover and fire safety where required.

Weapons.

Even rubber or deactivated weapons are controlled props. Declare the inventory, serial references, and handling routine. Police escorts or spot checks may be mandated.

Crowds and public interface.

For markets, promenades, or busy streets, plan for marshals, visible signage, and a community liaison. A line producer in Dubai keeps extras holding areas discreet and ensures a short reset loop to avoid crowd spill.

3) Drone, Aerials, and Rooftops

Drone basics.

All drone work requires approval through DCAA (local) within the framework of **GCAA** (federal). Expect to provide exact lat-longs, altitudes, flight windows, pilot credentials, aircraft registration, and take-off/landing locations. Geo-sensitivity rises near airports, helipads, ports, government buildings, and major thoroughfares. Night flights or high-altitude shots are possible with the right operator and paperwork, but they add time.

Rooftops and façades.

Rooftop and balcony filming is common in DIFC, Business Bay, SZR corridor, and Marina. You'll need owner consent, structural load acknowledgments for heavy rigs, and fall-arrest plans if you're near edges.

4) Locations: What Plays on Camera and How to Permit It



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Downtown Dubai & Business Bay

Look: Signature skyline, glass-and-steel towers, canals, boardwalks, bridges, fountains, and five-star lobbies.

Use: Luxury, finance, technology, futuristic drama, action beats with water edges.

Notes: Many surfaces are private. Secure owner letters for tower lobbies, terraces, and podiums. Fountain proximity may require additional controls. Night exterior glare is excellent but requires sensible crew noise discipline.

Logistics: Scheduling, Crew, and Working Practices

Scheduling

Optimal exterior shooting occurs November–March (20–30°C). April–October requires heat plans: shade tents, electrolytes, and medical standby, extending setup by 20%.

Crew Mix

Dubai's local talent spans production, camera, G&E, art, sound, and safety. For complex rigs or action, international heads blend with locals, ensuring quality.

Movement

Vans and box trucks manage kit. Buffer 30–60 minutes for traffic, especially during Dubai Shopping Festival (December–January). Pre-book freight lifts.

Accommodation & Proximity

House cast and HODs near sets (e.g., Downtown for Burj shoots) to cut shuttle times. Satellite holding with power and HMU supports multi-zone days.

Compliance, Culture & Safety

Cultural Respect

Avoid filming near mosques during prayer times. Wardrobe and dialogue must align with family-friendly norms, with DFTC reviewing scripts for 2026 Ramadan shoots.

Risk Management

Risk assessments cover stunts, pyrotechnics, heights, water, roads, crowds, drones, and heat. Pre-rigging and emergency briefings are mandatory.



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Documentation on Set

Permits, NOCs, IDs, insurance, and contact sheets must be accessible to ADs and location managers.

Fines & Shutdowns

Non-compliance risks AED 10,000+ fines or stop-work orders. A compliance marshal ensures adherence.

Production Sound Notes (Dubai Specifics)

- **Heat & HVAC:** Use lav redundancy and high-pass filters to counter sweat and air noise.
- **Wind & Surf:** Dead cats and foam stacks mitigate beach/dune sound issues.
- **Skylines & Traffic:** Early shoots reduce traffic noise; narrow lensing helps.
- **Crowd Density:** Marshals and wild tracks manage public areas.

DIFC (Dubai International Financial Centre)

Look: Neo-modern plazas, public art, limestone cladding, galleries, premium restaurants.

Use: Corporate, courtroom/political thrillers, fashion, upscale lifestyle.

Notes: Private estate with polished protocols. A fixer will coordinate with estate management for site reps, parking, and quiet hours.

Dubai Marina / JBR

Look: Waterfront towers, promenades, yacht slips, beach access, night neon.

Use: Contemporary ensemble dramas, influencer/lifestyle sequences, night montages.

Notes: Mixed public/private. JBR beachfront and The Walk draw crowds—schedule early mornings or shoulder seasons for control.

Palm Jumeirah (Trunk, Crescent, Fronds)

Look: Resort opulence, private beaches, modern villas, skyline views back to the city.

Use: High-end leisure, weddings, aspirational romance, brand films.



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Notes: Hotels and villas = private approvals. Drone altitude and line-of-sight become sensitive near the Crescent; declare everything.

Al Fahidi Historical Neighbourhood & Al Seef

Look: Wind towers, gypsum walls, narrow alleys, wooden mashrabiya, creek-front promenades.

Use: Period looks, Middle Eastern heritage, artisanal markets, intimate drama.

Notes: Heritage care is paramount. Light, rigging, and crowd controls face strict limits. Quiet, early calls give you beautiful texture.

Deira & Old Souqs (Gold, Spice, Textile)

Look: Dense alleys, traditional dhows on Dubai Creek, covered markets with repeatable geometry.

Use: Chase sequences, trade and migration stories, docu-drama.

Notes: Coordinate traders and association heads. Keep resets tight; protect shopfronts; schedule around peak footfall.

Beaches & Corniches (Kite Beach, Jumeirah, La Mer)

Look: White sand, blue water, skyline distance, sporty culture.

Use: Sports, romance, commercials, sunrise/sunset plates.

Notes: Municipality rules on lifeguard coverage, kite zones, and public privacy. Wind and blowing sand shape lens choices and audio.

Deserts (Al Qudra, Lahbab/Red Dunes)

Look: Dune oceans, gravel flats, cycling loops, wildlife corridor lines.

Use: Automotive, survival, fashion, sci-fi emptiness, action.

Notes: Recovery vehicles and sand tracks; shade, hydration, medical cover. Drone and pyro restrictions apply; fire risk is seasonal.

Ports, Free Zones, and Industrial Belts

Look: Cranes, containers, gantries, highways, dry docks.



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Use: Heist, espionage, international trade settings.

Notes: Layered approvals; security backgrounding; high-vis PPE. Expect escorts and pre-cleared call sheets.

Roads, Interchanges, and Bridges

Look: Sleek multi-level interchanges, LED gantries, immaculate asphalt.

Use: Automotive beauty, chase plates, city scale.

Notes: RTA holds require a professional traffic management plan and police interface. Night holds earn spectacular visuals.

5) Malls, Hotels, Private Estates, and Interiors

Owner consent first.

Dubai's signature interiors—atriums, lobbies, ballrooms, galleries, restaurants—sit on private land. Your line producer will negotiate access windows, power, loading, insurance thresholds, and brand visibility. Be explicit about signage, background extras, and sound. Private approvals then slot into the DFTC master permit.

Kitchens, clinics, labs, gyms.

Functional spaces add safety and hygiene layers. Method statements and cleanup protocols keep things smooth.

6) Airports and Airside (for Dubai use below)

Dubai International (DXB) and Al Maktoum (DWC).

Airside filming is exceptional and requires airport authority approval beyond DFTC. Interiors in landside public zones are sometimes possible with tight time windows and security oversight. For cockpit cabins, check local set rentals or aircraft mockups; they shortcut security friction while giving you full control. When the scene is a boarding gate, yoke a hotel ballroom or convention center and dress it as a terminal with controlled extras—your fixer will handle chair grids, stanchions, and LED walls.



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Safer alternatives.

Use business jet hangars at DWC, aircraft mockups, or private terminals with cooperative operators. You'll secure airside look without live-traffic constraints.

7) Visas, Crew, and Hiring

Entry and work status.

Short shoots are often handled with mission visas or short-term work permissions under a local sponsor. Your fixer/line producer coordinates sponsor letters, passport scans, and timed entries. For longer runs, anchor with a licensed production entity or free-zone office.

Local crew.

Dubai offers bilingual ADs, production managers, coordinators, camera and G&E teams, art department, sound, DIT, medic, and safety specialists. A hybrid model—local crew plus one or two imported HODs—works well. Day rates reflect experience and equipment responsibility; your line producer will set tiers and prevent over-staffing.

Child performers and animals.

Approvals, guardianship, educator cover, and shorter turnarounds apply. Declare early.

8) Equipment, Freight, and Customs

Bring in or source local.

ARRI and Sony ecosystems, cine lenses, LED/HMI lighting, grips, tracking vehicles, cranes, and stabilized heads are available locally; specialty rigs can be flown in. If you import, work via **ATA Carnet** or a customs broker. Document serials, values, and temporary admission dates; align with your permit window.

Power and trucks.

LED-heavy lighting rigs reduce generator fuel and noise, a win for city environments and heritage precincts. Your fixer will right-size genny capacity and box trucks to location access.



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9) Insurance, Risk, and Compliance

Minimum cover.

Public liability, employer's liability, and third-party property are standard. Stunts/SFX, marine, aerial, and driving sequences need endorsements. Some private estates require specific minimums—your line producer will match policy limits to venue thresholds.

Risk assessment culture.

Dubai values written risk controls. Put heat exposure, traffic, water, and crowd interface into your matrix. Add a medical plan, shade, hydration cycles, and call sheet trigger points for weather. If you use pyro or smoke, add a false-alarm plan with building management.

10) Seasonality, Weather, and Scheduling

Best windows.

November to March offers cooler temperatures and softer daylight. Summer is viable with night exteriors or interiors; build heat protocols and AC rest.

Ramadan and public events.

Plan respectful call times, reduced food service visibility in public, and avoid loud exterior rigs near prayer times. Major city festivals and sporting events can alter traffic patterns—your fixer will check calendars.

11) Budget Levers for Producers

- **Permit ready scripts.** Write to controllable spaces: podium levels, private plazas, rooftops, and owner-friendly interiors reduce friction.
- **Localize crew.** Staff core team locally; import only specialty HODs.
- **Light smarter.** LED volume and practical augmentation cuts fuel, heat, and reset time.



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- **Double up looks.** DIFC and Downtown can represent multiple global cities with wardrobe and signage swaps.
 - **Desert day + Marina night.** Two cinematic looks with one base day if you keep units lean and travel tight.
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12) Editorial Continuity: How Dubai Cheats as “Elsewhere”

Modern global city.

DIFC/Downtown = New York/Hong Kong/Singapore financial cores with clean signage control. Add English/Arabic neutral graphics to keep it international.

Mediterranean waterfront.

Marina boardwalks and Palm hotel frontage cheat as Southern Europe with warm color palettes, linen wardrobe, and café staging.

Old world markets.

Al Fahidi and Deira souqs can read as generic MENA or South Asia with careful frame edges and extras mix.

Port and logistics.

Free zones and industrial belts sell “global trade” with cranes, containers, and highways. Keep brand exposure scripted.

Deserts.

Red dunes give North Africa or Southwest U.S. looks; broad gravel pans read as lunar or post-apocalyptic with the right lensing.

13) Sustainability and Community

Smaller footprint, same result.



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LED lighting, consolidated trucks, reusable set materials, and crew shuttles lower cost and footprint. Use local caterers and waste sorting to keep sites spotless. Community thanks go a long way; plan a small CSR gesture if you occupy a precinct for multiple days.

14) Producer Checklists (Ready to Print)

DFTC submission pack

- Script/synopsis + location list + dates and time windows.
- Owner consents for private properties; floor/rig plans if needed.
- Insurance certificates (PLI/EL/3rd party), stunt/SFX endorsements if relevant.
- Risk assessment + method statements; medical and fire notes.
- Crew and equipment summaries; drone plan where applicable.
- Traffic management plan for any road control; marshal counts and signage.
- Daily call sheets draft with safety notes and emergency contacts.

Set-day pack

- Permits printout, ID lanyards, set signage, community leaflets if required.
 - PPE as needed (hi-vis, steel caps, fall-arrest).
 - Shade, hydration, sunscreen, and cooling breaks plan.
 - Waste management bags/bins; post-shoot cleaning crew.
 - Location hand-back checklist and photo condition survey.
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15) Sample Seven-Day City Schedule (Illustrative)

- **Day 1 – Downtown/DIFC:** Morning lobbies and terraces; late afternoon plaza walk-and-talk; night skyline plates.
- **Day 2 – Marina/JBR:** Sunrise waterfront montage; café dialogue; blue-hour promenade track.
- **Day 3 – Al Fahidi/Al Seef:** Narrow alley dialogue; craft inserts; creek wide shot.
- **Day 4 – Roads/Interchange plates:** RTA-cleared moving plates; hero car close-ups; early AM off-peak windows.
- **Day 5 – Desert:** Dune sequences; drone vistas; controlled driving on flats; sunset silhouettes.
- **Day 6 – Private interiors:** Hotel suite, restaurant, gallery; controlled sound recording.
- **Day 7 – Flex:** Weather cover, pickups, alt skyline terrace, or mall atrium if permitted.

A seasoned line producer in Dubai will tighten moves, pre-rig lighting, and sequence permissions so each day lands within 10–12 hours including company moves.

16) Frequently Avoided Pitfalls

- Turning up to a “public” spot that is actually private estate—always confirm ownership lines.
- Under-declaring SFX or prop weapons; late disclosures trigger stop-work.
- Requesting drone at the last minute near sensitive zones.
- Over-sizing units for heritage alleys and souqs; go small, go early.
- Forgetting Ramadan-time adjustments for catering and sound.
- Under-estimating night humidity and lens fog on coastal promenades—carry warmers and cloth.



17) Contacts & Useful References (for your producer pack)

- **Dubai Film & TV Commission (DFTC)** – permits, guidance, and portal.
 - **Dubai Civil Aviation Authority (DCAA)** – Emirate-level drone permissions.
 - **General Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA, UAE)** – federal UAS rules.
 - **Roads & Transport Authority (RTA)** – road holds, bridges, metro interfaces, marine transit.
 - **Dubai Municipality** – parks, beaches, public spaces.
 - **Major estates** – DIFC, Dubai Marina/JBR managements, Al Seef/Al Fahidi custodians, Palm hotels and resorts.
 - **Carnet/Customs brokers** – for temporary imports.
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Pre-Production Checklist

- UAE-licensed production company engaged; line producer/fixer appointed.
- Script package submitted for review (Dubai scenes flagged).
- Location NOCs secured (private & government); security aligned.
- DFTC OSS permit application filed with schedule, call sheets, PLI, and risk assessments.
- Special approvals filed: DCAA/GCAA (drone), RTA/Police (roads), Dubai Municipality (beaches/parks), Dubai Culture (heritage), venue approvals.
- Cast/crew manifests, visas/work permissions validated.
- Call sheets carry permit numbers, emergency contacts, heat plan, and site rules.

On-the-Day Essentials

- Printed/e-copies of permits, NOCs, IDs, and wristbands/badges.
- Marshals, signage, cones, and barriers per plan.
- Shade, water, electrolytes, med kit, and safety officer.



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- Noise control, continuity stills, room tone, and wild tracks.
- Wrap compliance: clean-up, waste removal, and handback.

Sample Day Plans

Dawn Skyline + Heritage Insert

- 05:00 crew in Downtown for wide; 07:00 shift to Al Fahidi for dialogue; 10:30 interiors; 13:00 lunch; 14:00 pickups; 16:30 wrap.

Beach + Dunes

- 06:00 Jumeirah beach; 09:30 convoy to Lahbab; 12:00 shade-block; 14:30 golden hour; 17:30 exit.

Mall Promo + Roads

- Pre-open mall interiors; post-rush RTA lay-bys; twilight B-roll; night packshots.

Troubleshooting & Pro Tips

- Batch permit requests to reduce OSS submissions.
- Tech scout with DFTC constraints; measure dock/lift sizes.
- Add 10–15% buffer for summer shoots.
- Shoot wide early to manage ambient noise.
- Over-communicate with owners for future NOCs.

Key References & Official Links

- Dubai Film & TV Commission (DFTC) — permits & OSS: filmdubai.gov.ae
- UAE GCAA — drone/UAS approvals: gcaa.gov.ae
- Dubai Studio City — stages & ecosystem: dubaistudiocity.ae
- Dubai Culture — heritage assets & museums: dubaiculture.gov.ae
- Dubai Municipality — beaches/parks: dm.gov.ae
- RTA Dubai — roads/traffic: rta.ae
- Dubai Airports — DXB/DWC liaison: dubaairports.ae

18) Conclusion

Dubai rewards meticulous preparation with speed, safety, and cinematic variety. Concentrated looks, dependable logistics, and coordinated permitting turn seven shooting days into multiple “cities,” deserts, beaches, and ports—without long hauls or risky resets. When a line producer or



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fixer in Dubai pairs owner letters, risk paperwork, and clear traffic plans with lean, LED-heavy rigs, crews move fast and leave each location better than they found it. That is how you secure the next approval, stretch the budget, and land on time.

Appendices

A. Insurance wording to request from your broker

- Public Liability, Employers' Liability, Third-Party Property.
- Endorsements: stunts/SFX, marine, aerial, driving.
- Certificates naming site owners/estates where required.

B. Drone deliverables checklist

- Pilot credentials and UAE registration.
- Aircraft details, fail-safe, geo-fence plan.
- Map with launch/landing; altitude envelopes; NOTAM awareness.

C. Location owner letter template (short form)

- Premises address and plots covered; dates and times.
- Activities permitted; rigging, power, and protection.
- Insurance reference; indemnity and hand-back clause.
- Owner's signature and contact.