

The Rise of Burj Khalifa

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Abstract

From a stranded, deserted stretch of land, to a booming oasis now, the UAE is easily regarded as the marvelous product of a far-sighted vision, the one crafted under the exceptional, strong leadership of Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan. Being armed with the skills of a visionary and possessing unwavering determination, he was set on establishing a prosperous nation that would not only create a bustling platform of business and trade but also bring in values of morality, kindness, and peace in a bid to help others in need. Now known for its oil reserves, this country's primary source of livelihood was rooted in fishing, pearl diving, camel rearing, and the like.

Since its inception in 1971, the United Arab Emirates has constantly been distinguished as an icon for innovation and creativity, enhancing its social and economic status and transforming into a primary destination for talents from across the World and businesses in record time.

By abiding by the vision to be among the most innovative nations of the world, the UAE went from being a Desert Land to being the country that, amidst a pandemic, managed to launch a planned space exploration mission, The Emirates Mars Mission "Hope Probe" to provide a complete picture of the Martian atmosphere and its layers, expected to touch the surface in 2021.

Introduction

The United Arab Emirates has not inherited any significant heritage from its history neither any conspicuously distinctive culture. Perhaps it's an irony that it makes history every day building for future generations who can be proud of its ancestor who envisioned a modern progressive and inclusive society. Today when the nations across the World are at virtual wars, the United Arab Emirates and particularly Dubai revels in a ministry of happiness. That indomitable spirit and strong visionary leadership have ensured that citizens of 193 countries cohabit this city of gold.

Dubai is not just a modern city. It is a land of the biggest, brightest, and the best; a land full of superlatives that are recognized as one of the most fascinating cities of the world. It makes a claim for fame through the Guinness World Records, standing tall amongst them all is the fascinating Burj Khalifa. At 800 meters into the sky, it is today the tallest structure in the world with exquisite architecture.

Burj Khalifa

Amidst many World-class infrastructural marvels in the vast landscape of this desert country, lies mankind's most wondrous feat of engineering - The tallest building in the World, The Burj Khalifa, designed by Adrian Smith. In concept and execution, Burj Khalifa has no peer - besides being a symbol of international cooperation, a beacon of progress, it is also the emblem of the new dynamic and the prosperous Middle East. This success was not based on oil reserves, but on the reserves of human talent, ingenuity, persistence to rise. Burj Khalifa embodies this vision. Its construction was envisioned with the purpose to deviate from UAE's reliance on the oil industry and venture into tourism.

Interesting Facts

Aside from holding the world record for being the tallest building, the Burj Khalifa holds six other records - the tallest freestanding structure, greatest number of stories, highest occupied floor, highest outdoor observation deck, elevator with longest travel distance, and the tallest service elevator.

The tower is a symbol of singular wealth concentration, a concentration of power reminiscent of an ancient system of hereditary monarchy, justified by strong monotheistic beliefs. UAE ensured there was an amalgamation of culture and development through the culmination of this dream, brought to life by its competitive instinct within a longstanding structure of pride and dominance.

Timeline

1. Foundation

As the foundation was laid in January 2004, His Highness Shaikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan became president of the UAE. Thus, began the UAE's journey towards architectural excellence.

2. Transformation

The design is derived from Islamic architecture. As the tower rises from a flat desert base, there are 27 setbacks, a step-like recession used for the aesthetic purpose in a spiral pattern, decreasing the cross-section of the tower as going upward and creating convenient outdoor terraces. With each setback, designers and creators managed to realize a part of their dream. As UAE boasted of the completion of its 50th level of the Burj Khalifa in June 2006, His Highness Shaikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum became Vice-President and Prime

Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai after the late Shaikh Maktoum Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of UAE and Ruler of Dubai. With this changing of empires came the opportunity for over 6500 Emiratis to vote for the Federal National Council in the UAE's first election, and the National ID Card (Emirates ID) Project was launched by President Khalifa.

Upon construction of its historical 100th floor in January 2007, UAE opened the doors of two magnificent architectural wonders, Shaikh Zayed Grand Mosque in Abu Dhabi and Dubai Mall. With the completion of the 150th floor of “Burj Dubai”, UAE went on to create the largest man-made structure.

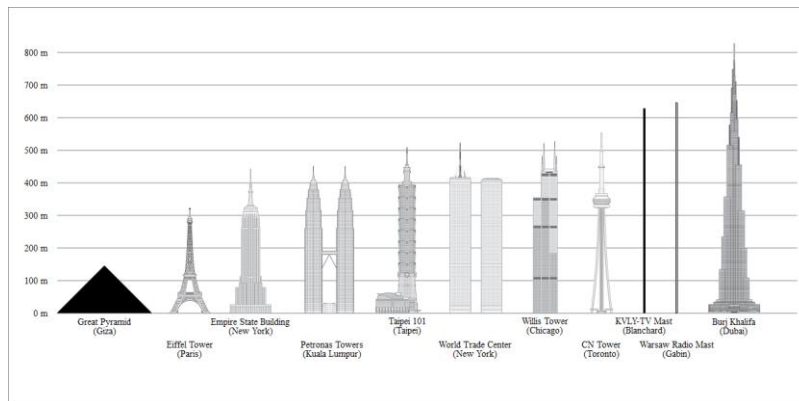


Image 1: Burj Khalifa Height

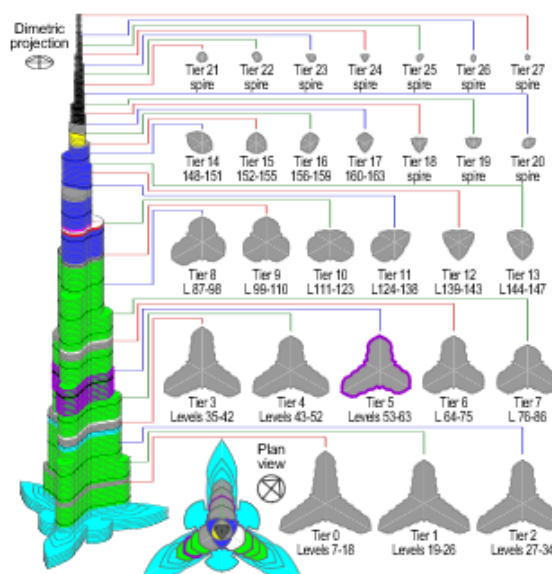


Image 2: Burj Khalifa Floor Plan



Image 3: Burj Khalifa

3. Recession

Work on the Burj Dubai was delayed in November when 40,000 laborers went on strike for a week over pay and working conditions, as builders involved - experienced financial problems as the recession had struck the Globe. Sheikh Khalifa, the ruler of the United Arab Emirates, granted monetary aid and funding, thus resulting in changing of the name of Dubai Burj to "Burj Khalifa". Despite these obstructions, the spire was completed, and Burj Khalifa was nearing completion. On the other hand, another major project of the World's longest automated driverless train system and the first in the Gulf region was completed, and the "Dubai Metro" was launched.

4. Completion

The exterior of the Burj Khalifa was completed in October 2009 and opened to the public in January 2010 raising the bar of standards in the architecture arena, it was the recipient of the

2010 "Best Tall Building Middle East & Africa" award by the Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat, going forth to win the award for best project of the year at the Middle East Architect Awards 2010 Awards.

With these achievements, one can draw a parallel between how beautifully the crafting, growth, and progress of the Burj Khalifa mimics the revolutionary transformation of the United Arab Emirates over those years - truly, no less than a miracle.

5. Beyond

Symbol of Solidarity

The Burj Khalifa is no stranger to displaying messages of solidarity. Through 2020, it lit up in the flag colors of various countries and displayed "We are with you", to empathize with the challenge of battling the Covid-19 Pandemic. Not limited to this, it has gained a reputation for being the embodiment of support, pictures of which are seen echoed around the world.

15th January 2020: Burj Khalifa lit up with the statement 'We can all help' and the hashtag #MatesHelpMates to show support for the Australian Bushfire Crisis.

2nd February 2020: It reflected the Chinese flag colors to support Beijing over the Covid-19 outbreak.

3rd February 2020: It paid tribute to NBA legend Kobe Bryant and daughter Gianna, who passed away in a helicopter crash.

16th March 2020: A spotlight was focused on Italy, one of the hardest-hit nations from the COVID- 19 pandemic.

The UAE's symbolic act reinforces its humanitarian values and willingness to offer all support to different countries and its people in times of distress.



Image 4: Burj Khalifa lights up for Italy

Symbol of Humanity

A million lights adorned the mighty structure, for a feat aptly justified - a million meals donated to families affected by Covid-19, via the Nation's biggest community campaign: "10 Million Meals" for vulnerable individuals and families. The 1.2 Million meals in a single week orchestrated by the whole community established the UAE's position as a global community.

Conclusion

The Dream Ahead

As part of the 2021 vision, the UAE aims to foster a green, sustainable country, and reduce its dependency on oil. In addition, its evolution into a Smart Nation began as they took to integrating technology into wide areas of the government and produce a well-connected hub via digitalization. It aims to become inclusive by increasing the influx of foreign cultures and expanding its cultural landscape.

The nation is set on establishing a secure, tolerant, cohesive, and ethical society that embraces happiness, a positive lifestyle, and high quality of life. UAE focuses on developing programs to prepare future generations to serve as the UAE's goodwill ambassadors, as well as promoting women's participation in all sectors, making the UAE one of the best places to live in the world.

Acknowledgment

1. The images from Wikipedia:

1. Burj Khalifa Height
2. Burj Khalifa Floor Plan

2. Burj Khalifa by Ridhi Anand (Personal collection)

3. Burj Khalifa lights up for Italy: The image is from Dubai Media Office

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