

UAE passport world's 'most powerful'

9th December, 2018



The passport of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has risen to the top spot on the list of the world's most powerful passports. This is according to the Passport Index - an online service that provides insights on passports and required visas. UAE passport holders now enjoy the greatest freedom of movement globally of any nationality in the world. The Passport

Index shows that UAE passport holders can travel visa-free to 167 countries and require an entry visa from 31 countries. The second most powerful passports are the Singaporean and German passports. The USA passport is ranked at number four. Holders of the Afghanistan passport have the least freedom of movement.

The UAE passport achieved the number-one position on the eve of the country's 47th National Day celebrations. The Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, His Highness Sheikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, expressed his pride in his country's achievement in a tweet. He wrote: "A big 'thank you' goes to the working teams for their great efforts to strengthen the UAE's status, enhance its reputation, and facilitate procedures for Emirati citizens. Congratulations to the UAE leadership and people for this worthy achievement." A Passport Index spokesman said: "The Emirati passport has witnessed unprecedented progress globally in the past few years, reflecting the international stature of the country."

Sources: gulfnews.com / thenational.ae / arabnews.com

Writing

All passports should allow holders to travel everywhere freely. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

passport / UAE / the top spot / insights / freedom of movement / nationality / visa / number one / eve / celebrations / pride / achievement / strengthen / reputation

True / False

- a) A website called Visa Index said the UAE passport was the world's best. T / F
- b) UAE passport holders can travel visa-free to 167 countries. T / F
- c) The USA passport holds the number three spot. T / F
- d) Afghanistan's passport holders have the least freedom of movement. T / F
- e) The UAE will hold its 50th National Day celebrations next year. T / F
- f) The article said the ruler of Abu Dhabi tweeted his thanks to his people. T / F
- g) The UAE's prime minister congratulated the UAE leadership. T / F
- h) A website said the UAE's passport reflected the country's global stature. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| 1. risen | a. attained |
| 2. insights | b. need |
| 3. holders | c. importance |
| 4. require | d. bearers |
| 5. ranked | e. good name |
| 6. achieved | f. understanding |
| 7. eve | g. noble |
| 8. reputation | h. day before |
| 9. worthy | i. classified |
| 10. stature | j. ascended |

Discussion – Student A

- a) How strong is the passport of your country?
- b) Why is the UAE passport so strong?
- c) What do you think of your passport?
- d) Why are passports necessary?
- e) How useful is visa-free travel?
- f) Should we be able to travel freely anywhere in the world?
- g) What different kinds of visas are there?
- h) What will passports of the future be like?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. risen to the top | a. insights on passports |
| 2. This is according | b. 'thank you' |
| 3. an online service that provides | c. of movement |
| 4. passport holders can travel visa- | d. stature of the country |
| 5. the least freedom | e. pride |
| 6. expressed his | f. to the Passport Index |
| 7. A big | g. progress |
| 8. enhance its | h. spot on the list |
| 9. unprecedented | i. free to 167 countries |
| 10. reflecting the international | j. reputation |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- How important are passports?
- What do you know about the UAE?
- How does your country celebrate its independence day?
- How proud are you of your country?
- What is your country's biggest achievement?
- What is the international stature of your country?
- What questions would you like to ask the Passport Index?

Spelling

- the world's most rwoeupfl passports
- This is dcorancqi to the Passport Index
- an online service that provides stgnhsii
- of any tiaonynltai in the world
- rriueqe an entry visa from 31 countries
- have the least freedom of meonvtme
- vehiedca the number-one position
- National Day eestlracobni
- pride in his country's cithnmveeea
- efforts to strengthen the UAE's sastut
- facilitate epuesdrocr for Emirati citizens
- pdcnuedtere progress

Answers – Synonym Match

1. j	2. f	3. d	4. b	5. i
6. a	7. h	8. e	9. g	10. c

Role Play

Role A – Strongest Passport

You think having the strongest passport is the biggest achievement for a country. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their achievements. Also, tell the others which is the least worthy of these (and why): richest country, World Cup champions or best universities.

Role B – Richest Country

You think being the richest country is the biggest achievement for a country. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their achievements. Also, tell the others which is the least worthy of these (and why): strongest passport, World Cup champions or best universities.

Role C – World Cup Champions

You think being World Cup champions is the biggest achievement for a country. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their achievements. Also, tell the others which is the least worthy of these (and why): richest country, strongest passport or best universities.

Role D – Best Universities

You think having the best universities is the biggest achievement for a country. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their achievements. Also, tell the others which is the least worthy of these (and why): richest country, World Cup champions or strongest passport.

Speaking – Achievements

Rank these with your partner. Put the best achievements for a country at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| • Happiest country | • #1 tourist destination |
| • Richest country | • World Cup Final win |
| • Safest country | • Best universities |
| • Best passport | • Best healthcare |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	F	d	T	e	F	f	F	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.