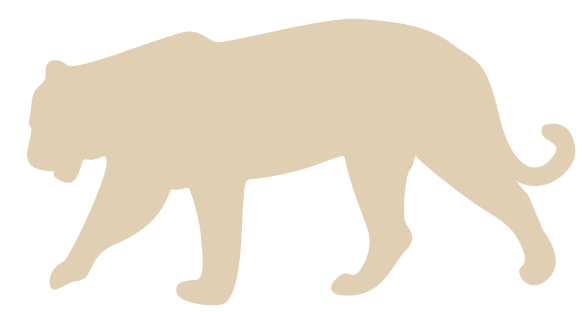


Arabian Wildlife.

Extinct

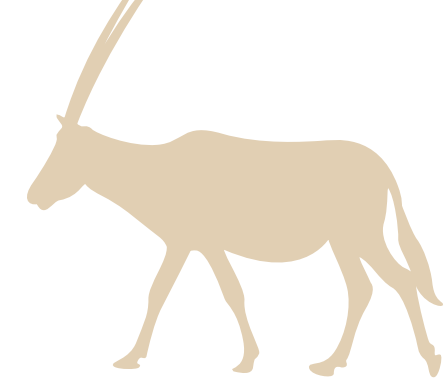


Last Caspian tiger is shot-Iran, 1953

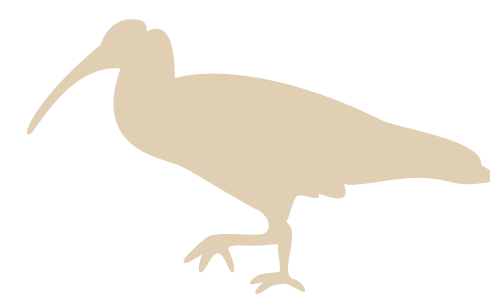


Last Arabian ostrich dies- Jordan, 1966

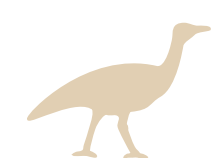
Endangered



Last wild herd of Arabian oryx is shot-Oman, 1972



Bald ibis is critically endangered with less than 50 breeding pairs left



Houbara bustards are the favorite prey of falcons and are caught for sport

Tallest Building in the World: Burj Khalifa

828m

(2,700 ft) Total Height

452m

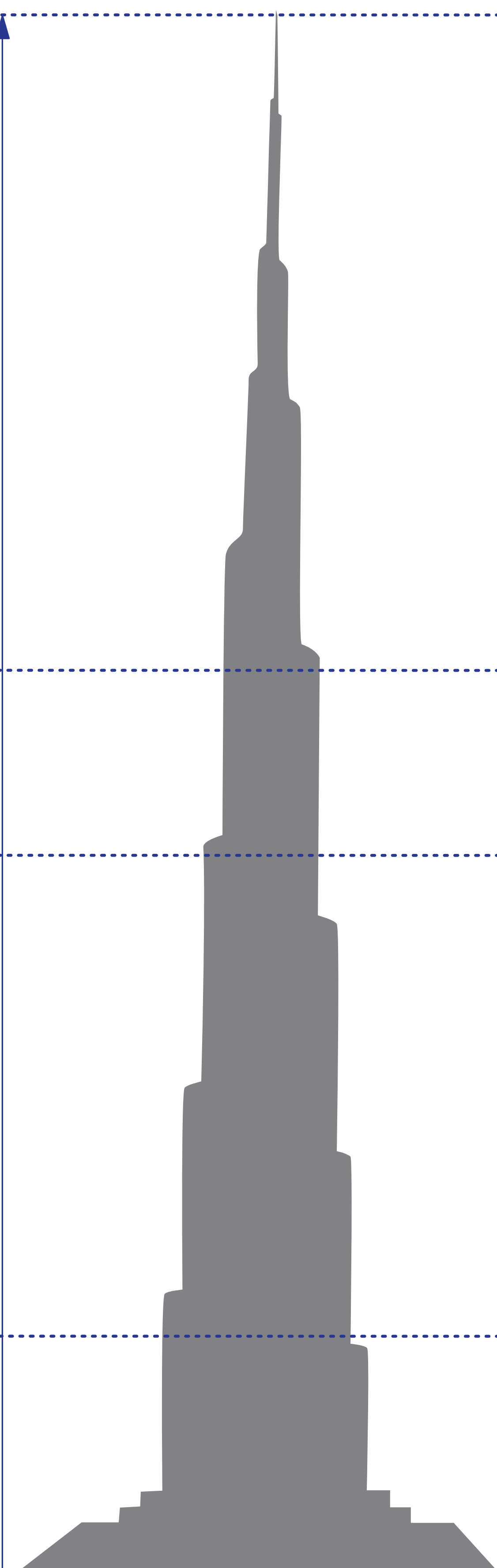
(1,483 ft) Viewing Deck

29%

Unusable Space

15%

Unoccupied Space



Dubai

Grotesque Abundance or Architecture Oasis?

Introduction

The goal of this project is to present a variety of perspectives about the city of Dubai for comparison and contrast in order to begin to evaluate the complexities of the city. For some people Dubai has an overwhelmingly negative stigma but to others quite the opposite is true. Through my own experiences from my 7 week study abroad in Dubai I hope to provide an honest perspective that reveals what the city is like. As with any evaluation it is important to present both sides including the negative aspects. Research will therefore present the truth about the Dubai that visitors and tourists don't typically see. Dubai's story is quite a unique and strange one given that the city sprung up out of the desert in less than a decade. This has created some inherent sustainability problems and an otherworldly environment that most people struggle to comprehend.

1. Architecture

This picture shows the shadow cast by the tallest building in the world, the Burj Khalifa, from 452 meters up in the air on the viewing deck. The shadow falls across the Dubai Mall and one of the many reflecting pools and fountains that make up the development. This building was design by SOM. Dubai abounds with new and dazzling architecture but none as tall as the Burj Khalifa which anchors the entire skyline and one's place within the city.

2. Masdar

This picture shows a portion of Masdar city which is a sustainable development in Abu Dhabi designed to be carbon-zero with no cars and efficient buildings with exterior shading. The city does have electric vehicles that operate without drivers and run off batteries recharged from solar panels. The city was designed to operate without the power grid and be completely self-sustaining though some would argue that the plan was not properly put into action and the city doesn't perform as well as it was designed to.

3. Mosque

This picture is the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque in Abu Dhabi. The UAE is an islamic state and the mosque is an important place for religious worship. It is open to visitors for free but guests must wear appropriate clothing to gain admittance to the mosque. An abaya is available for each woman to borrow to wear into the mosque. Women must keep their heads covered and everyone must remove their shoes before entering the mosque.

4. Desert

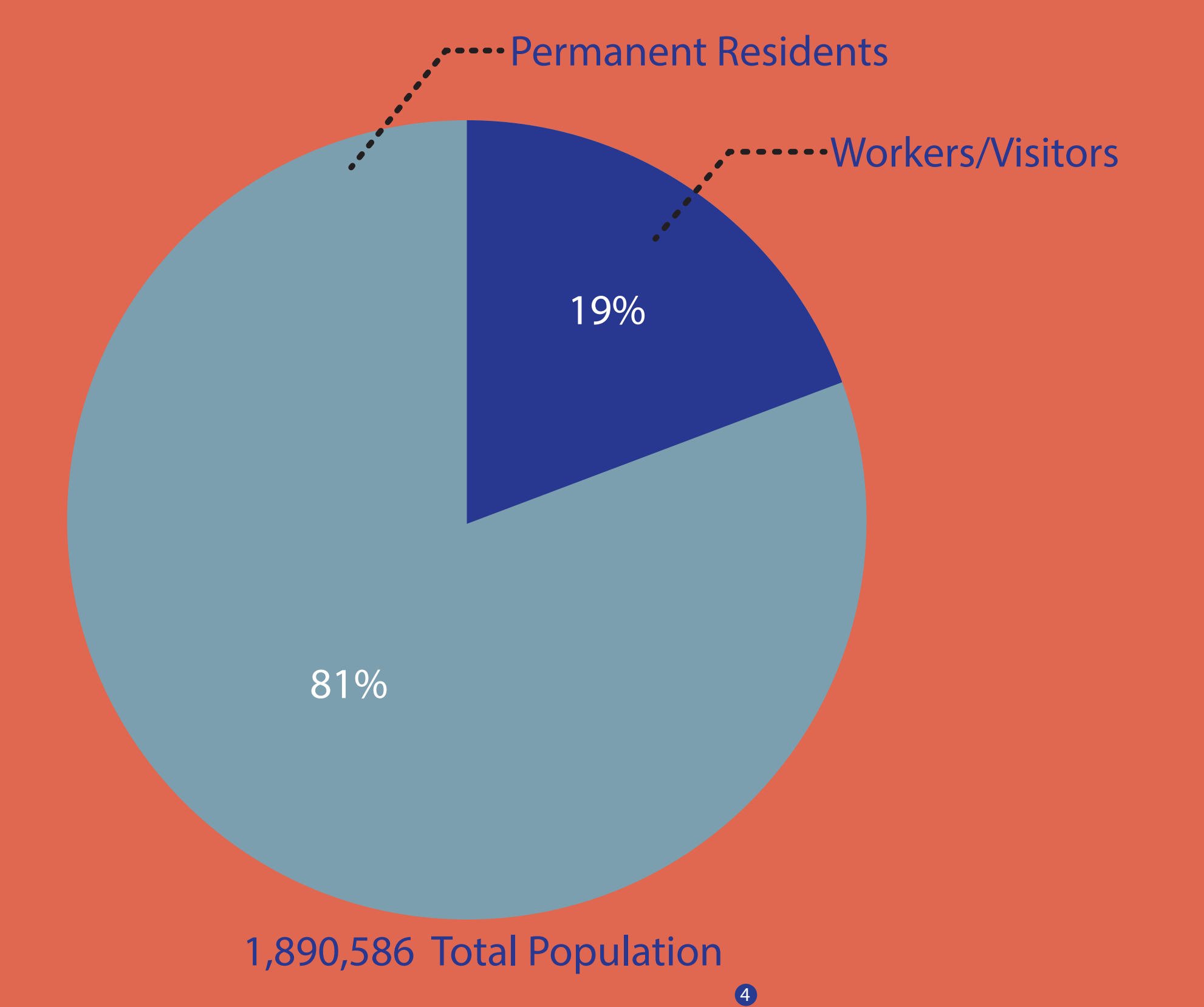
This picture shows me standing in the Arabian desert outside the Emirate of Sharjah. The sand is very fine and red in color and the wind blows consistently across the dunes. There are no animals or water in sight but you can see powerlines stretching into the distance. If you drive far enough though even the powerlines disappear and you are enveloped by rolling sand dunes.

Conclusion

Dubai is no doubt a city that has grown more quickly than any city previously on Earth, and in one of the most unlikely of places. Its refreshing pools, indoor malls and lavish buildings make it a popular tourist destination. Under the surface of the sparkle and wealth are some troubling problems. In its haste to spring out of the desert, the city's rulers used the equivalent of slave labor to fit their construction needs and Dubai was built with a vagrant disregard for the environment.

Sources

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Islands

The creation of 3 sets of man-made islands off the coast of Dubai in the Persian Gulf poses many potential issues for Dubai. Dubai only has 28 miles of coastline and by building in the water they sought to expand the length of their coast to 930 miles in length. The islands were created by dredging sand from the sea floor. On top of the sand is a mesh, which is water-permeable, to hold the sand in place. One-ton rocks cover the sand and on top of these sit two more layers of 6 ton rocks. The process of building these islands buried existing reefs and damaged ecosystems. Also the islands sit so low above sea level that there is concern for the effect that global warming and rising sea levels will have on the developments.

Waste

Dubai's waste treatment plant has to deal with 480,000 cubic meters (17 million cubic feet), of sewage every day which is twice its design capacity. In order to handle the back up of waste and the lines of trucks waiting to dump their loads, some drivers would simply dump their load down drains that fed into another district.

“In the last year [2010], tourists have swum amid raw sewage in Dubai's slice of the Persian Gulf”

Water

Salinity levels have risen from 32,000 ppm to 47,000 ppm in about 30 years which is enough to threaten marine life

“Like a Middle Eastern version of Las Vegas, Dubai's biggest challenge is water, which may be everywhere in the gulf but is undrinkable without desalination plants. These produce emissions of carbon dioxide that have helped give Dubai and the other United Arab Emirates one of the world's largest carbon footprints. They also generate enormous amounts of heated sludge, which is pumped back into the sea”

“The emirates desalinate the equivalent of four billion bottles of water a day. But their backups are thin: at any given time, the region has, on average, an estimated four-day supply of fresh water”

Erin Martin