

Lessons 11–12 A changing landscape

- What can you see in the pictures?
- How are they different?

Reading

- 1 Read the article and answer the questions below.
- 1 What sort of place was Dubai in the past?
- 2 What can you find on Sheikh Zayed Road today?
- 3 The word *luxurious* (paragraph 1) means:
 - a hard
 - b deluxe
 - c big
- 4 The word *astonishingly* (paragraph 3) means:
 - a amazingly
 - b terribly
 - c sadly



Amazing changes

The incredible growth and development of Dubai can be best seen by comparing images of the city 30 years ago and now. Nowadays, Dubai is a mixture of beautiful homes, **luxurious** living and entertainment, and it has become a popular – and safe – Middle East destination for travellers.

The city was a humble pearl-fishing village until the discovery of oil in 1966, which saw the arrival of many foreign workers and the formation of the United Arab Emirates in the 1970s, leading the city to boom.

Astonishingly, the earlier photo shows Sheikh Zayed Road some time in the 1980s. It is one of the longest roads in the UAE, starting in the heart of Dubai and stretching to the border of Abu Dhabi. The road was named after former president Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, who was the driving force behind the formation of the UAE.

Today, three decades later, the same road is lined with flashy skyscrapers and outstanding buildings. New developments have sprung up along the the Gulf coast, such as the world-renowned Palm Jumeirah, Dubai Marina and Dubai Waterfront. With seven-star properties, the world's tallest tower, underwater hotels and man-made islands, Dubai is an intriguing mix of Middle Eastern traditions and a modern way of life.

Dubai has exploded onto the travel scene as an incredible, must-see city. And, with daily flights from many world capitals, Dubai has now become the place to be.