

## Popular Areas to live in Abu Dhabi for families attending Bis Abu Dhabi

- Raha Beach area** – Al Zeina, Al Muneera and Al Bandar. Al Zeina and Al Muneera have similar facilities while Al Bandar has a Marina instead of a beach.
  - **Al Zeina** features apartments, penthouses, townhouses and villas. It caters to a range of budgets. Al Zeina has 6 pools and gyms, play ground as well as a private beach. It's popular with families from school so there's usually someone for the kids to play with. It's also car-free internally with all parking underground – making it pedestrian-friendly. Takes 20-25mins to drive to school. Al Zeina also has a medical centre, chemist, a couple of restaurants and a Waitrose supermarket. Al Zeina is under the flight path, so need to watch which block and floor level if you are sensitive to noise. Families love it as it many say it feels like a resort.
  - **Al Muneera** – similar to Al Zeina with a combination of villas, townhouses and apartments and a private beach. Has several pools, gyms and play grounds. This compound features more restaurants including a Jones the Grocer, Leopolds of London and La Brioche (amongst others). There is a Carrefour supermarket and mini-market.
  - **Al Bandar** – similar facilities to Al Muneera and Al Zeina but with a Marina instead of a beach. Less popular with families than Al Zeina or Al Muneera and more expensive. Has a number of restaurants and cafes as well as a Spinneys supermarket.
- Raha Gardens** – a very large villa compound consisting of several communities with a shared pool and gym and small mall with a small supermarket in the centre. The pool and gym facilities are part of the shopping complex so not necessarily walking distance from all villas. Some of the villas also have small private pools. Each community has 1 or more play grounds all walking distance from villas. Raha Gardens is also quite popular with school families and is a little closer to school – about 18-20mins.
- Al Forsan** – a fairly new compound with good feedback so far. Within the complex it has a giant Spinneys supermarket, food outlets, indoor play centre and small shops. There are shared pool and gym facilities and play areas. About 15 mins drive from school.
- The Al Rayanna** compound is in Khalifa City A, near Al Forsan Sports complex. It is apartment-style living (1-3 Bedroom) and has nice facilities – great pools, gym, playgrounds and basketball area. A supermarket is coming soon. Many apartments overlook Abu Dhabi Golf course. About 20 mins drive from school.
- Al Reef** – again, very popular with school families. Looks a long way out on the map but is about 20mins from school due to good freeway. It's also nice and close to all the facilities on Yas Island – Yas mall, Waterworld, Ferrari world. There are 4 villages (Arabian, Desert, Mediterranean and Contemporary) in Al Reef, along with the Downtown area and shops/cafes. They are all essentially the same houses but with different facades. Arabian is possibly the most local in terms of residents. Each village has a shared pool and gym and playgrounds. The 5-bed villas also have a small private pool. Al Reef is quite good value-for-money. Downtown Al Reef has a large supermarket, pharmacies, salons, café's and food options. Great if you need to travel to Dubai often.

6. **Mohammad Bin Zayed City (MBZ)** – very close to school – most zones are less than 10min from school. Often here you get private stand-alone villas or small compounds, so won't have the same level of community that you might get in one of the larger compounds. Some have pools but many don't. Good value for money and is an up-and-coming area.
7. **Sas Al Nakeel (SAS)** – nice and close to school – about 10 mins-15mins max. Another very popular compound with school families. It's one of the older ones though so internal fittings of the villas can be a bit dated. The compound features a large pool and gym, function hall, kids playground, as well as a small Spinneys supermarket, Café, hair & beauty salon and chemist.
8. **Khalifa City A** – close to Al Raha Gardens area. Similar to MBZ area, these are private stand-alone villas or small compounds so won't have that same level of community/outside living space that you might get in one of the actual compounds. Some have pools but many don't. Depending on where in Khalifa City A, distance to school could be 10-25 mins.
9. **Mangrove Village** – about 15mins from school and also popular due to ease of transport options into the city as well. A range of 4 and 5 bedroom villas with a good standard of fittings. Some 5 bedroom villas have their own pool. The compound features an indoor and outdoor pool, small beach and football pitch, kids play grounds, gym, basketball court, tennis court, café and kids nursery plus occasional care centre and play centre. There is a Spinneys supermarket at the complex.
10. **Seashores village** – next door to Mangrove Village. A bit cheaper, but also has two pools, gym, tennis and basketball courts, squash courts, football pitch, kids playground and small mini-market. A little cheaper than Mangrove Village.
11. **Rihan Heights** – Next to Zayed Sports City, so can walk down to it. Lovely apartments (1-3 bedroom and penthouses. Very well maintained with great facilities. Large pool, shared gym facilities, playground and recreation room. There is a café and Spinney's supermarket. Many families have their sport activities here such as Harlequins rugby, football, basketball, tennis, and 2 popular fitness centres. There are also food outlets, a bowling centre and ice rink at ZSC. 15mins from school