FRANCE AND THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Visits

- November 2017: visit of the French President on the occasion of the inauguration of the Louvre Abu Dhabi
- June 2017: visit to France of the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Sheikh Mohamed Bin Zayed al Nahyan

Strong cultural and educational links

- 30,000 French people living in the Emirates
- 60,000 schoolchildren learning French in the UAE (12% of the school population)
- 5 French schools with 8,000 pupils
- France: fourth-ranked host country for students from the Emirates

Close economic ties in the region

UAE:
- France’s second-largest trading partner in the Gulf
- Second-largest Gulf investor in France

France:
- Over 600 French subsidiaries established
- Third-largest investor in the UAE

Close cooperation and flagship projects

- Louvre Abu Dhabi: the most important museum cooperation project undertaken by France
- Paris-Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi (created in 2006): the only French-language university in the Gulf
- Abu Dhabi International Conference for Safeguarding Cultural Heritage in Conflict Areas (December 2016)
- ALIPH: international fund for safeguarding endangered cultural heritage

A strategic defence and security relationship

- Presence of French armed forces in the UAE since 2009 (850 troops)
- New 15-year defence agreement came into force in 2012