**Source**: VisitBritain/Kubi Kalloo research March-April 2021. See the <u>full report</u> for more detailed findings.

# **Reluctant Returners**

UK expats in the UAE

### WHO THEY ARE

Age	56%
18-24	
25-34	
35-44	
45+	
Household income	
AED 11,999 or less	
AED 12,000 - 15,999	
AED 16,000 - 19,999	40%
AED 20,000 - 39,999	
AED40,000 - 59,999	

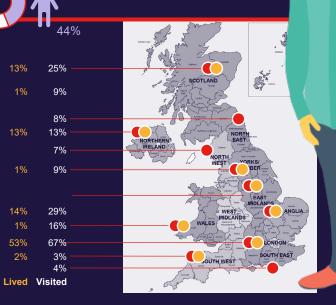
Are self confessed 'risk takers' who pride themselves on being 'the person that moved to the UAE'. Their life as an Expat is part of their personality, and is fast becoming a part of who they are!

#### WHY THEY LEFT

- UK weather getting them down
- Struggling to save money & feel like life was just a routine
- They are looking to *break the cycle*
- Life in the UK not giving them what they needed, felt *caged*

## Moved to UAE with:

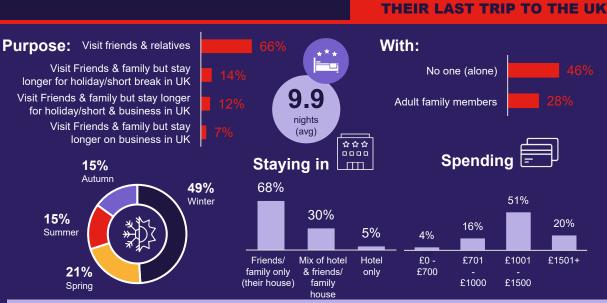




- ... and why would they look back? Their life in the UAE is amazing!
- C I can do whatever I want,
  - whenever they want.'
- If I want to go skydiving tomorrow, I can skydiving tomorrow.'



They are not looking to move back to the UK yet. They are still travelling the world and getting a tax free pay-packet. They haven't been away for long enough to begin looking to go back home.



They come home to visit their friends and family (81%). The remaining activities include eating gourmet food (49%), drinking alcohol (40%), escaping their everyday routine (39%), meeting new people (37%), and eating local delicacies (37%). They are all there to facilitate their main goal, which is to see their friends and family. Their trip home is stressful. It's the 'return of the king'; the person who left the UK behind, who is allowed to come home and be paraded around like a royal visiting a country. They aim to see as many people as quickly as possible, so that they can visit somewhere else with the holiday days they've managed to save as a result





UK expats in the UAE

#### THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UK

It's their home, and it will always be their home. The main draw of the UK is the people. **Reluctant Returners** can go anywhere, seemingly whenever they want. So when they think of the UK, they think about the people that they left behind. No other country has that to offer them.





They spend on average 9.8 days in the UK, and spend roughly £1000 on a trip, meaning they are spending £102.04 a day without a hotel. If we convince just 1% of people like Reluctant Returners to spend just 4 extra days in the UK, this could equate to £408,160 in spend, which is likely to be higher if we turn this stay into a leisure break, with a hotel.

