

Where
in the
World?

Dubai is testing
flying taxis that
would operate
without a pilot.
Hop in!

CITY OF THE FUTURE

Flying taxis? Driverless trains? Robot cops?
Welcome to the Middle Eastern city of Dubai. BY TOD OLSON

Imagine a city where everything runs by itself.

Need to report a robbery? Find a robot police officer. Need to get to work? Call for a flying taxi—with no pilot.

A city like this may seem like science fiction. You might think it won't exist in your lifetime. But you probably haven't been to Dubai.

Growing Fast

Dubai may be the fastest-growing city on Earth. It's located in the Middle East, in a small country called the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

On one side of Dubai, there's a hot, dusty desert. On the other side is a sparkling body of water called the Persian Gulf.

For centuries, Dubai was a small fishing village. In the 1960s, oil was discovered off the coast. The discovery helped make the city rich.

Today Dubai has the world's tallest building. It's called the Burj Khalifa. The building towers more than a half mile above the city. It takes 36 workers three months just to wash its windows.

Dubai welcomes about

15 million tourists every year. Many of them come just to shop. The city has two of the world's biggest malls.

One of the malls even has an indoor ski slope with fake snow. Outside, desert temperatures can reach 120 degrees Fahrenheit. But inside Ski Dubai, you can build a snowman.

Smart City

Dubai has also become one of the world's most high-tech cities. Dubai's leaders want to make the city as "smart" as they can. In a