

Virgin Hyperloop One shows off a passenger pod in Dubai

By [Nick Lavars](#)

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Virgin Hyperloop One has been making inroads in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for a little while, having already presented its vision for a route connecting cities across the Middle East, including a 12-minute link between Dubai and Abu Dhabi. Now it has unveiled a prototype pod developed together with Dubai's transport authority, offering locals a little glimpse at a potential future of subsonic tube travel.



Images of Virgin Hyperloop One's prototype pod show a very spacious cabin.

The route between Dubai and Abu Dhabi was first flagged in November 2016, and last year the company described a wider network connecting cities around the region, including Kuwait City, Jeddah in Saudi Arabia and Muscat in Oman.

The 139km trip between Abu Dhabi and Dubai currently takes around one-and-a-half hours by car, and Hyperloop One has said that 4,000 vehicles travel the route daily, costing the economy \$800 million in lost working hours. The project remains a proposal only, but Virgin Hyperloop One CEO Rob Lloyd is in the Emirati capital of Dubai spruiking its potential.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

[\[https://newatlas.com/author/nick-lavars/\]](https://newatlas.com/author/nick-lavars/) Nick Lavars]] was born outside of Melbourne, Australia, with a general curiosity that has drawn him to some distant (and very cold) places. Somewhere between enduring a winter in the Canadian Rockies and trekking through Chilean Patagonia, he graduated from university and pursued a career in journalism. Having worked for publications such as The Santiago Times and The Conversation, he now writes for New Atlas from Melbourne, excited by tech and all forms of innovation, the city's bizarre weather and curried egg sandwiches.

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