

The Ibn Battuta Shopping Mall Gift Card Case Study

The UAE's First Shopping Mall Gift Card

March 2010

- The Ibn Battuta Mall prepaid gift card was launched in August 2009, in conjunction with Visa CEMEA, Nakheel Retail Shopping Malls (owner of the Ibn Battuta Mall), and payment processor Global Processing Services.
- The card, launched on the Visa Electron platform, is issued by Union National Bank (UNB),
- The gift card can be bought from the mall customer service desks from as little as Dhs250 to as much as Dhs2,500.



- The Ibn Battuta Mall gift card is the first prepaid open-loop gift card to be launched in the Middle East and is also the first prepaid product of any type to be co-branded and distributed by a third party and not directly by a bank.
- The Ibn Battuta Mall is one of the largest shopping malls in the Middle East region, covering 1.2 million square feet. Comprising six separately-themed courts, it is host to a wide range of retail and entertainment merchants including the UAE's first IMAX cinema, and restaurants
- They aim to sell around 220 cards per month with an average card value of AED400 (\$108).

- Substantial Marketing support:
 - 8ft tent cards around the mall with giant floor stickers with arrows to the point of purchase, and giant signs at the gift service desd
 - Advertise a buy a card and shop in Ibn Battuta Mall and win 5,000 Dirham's (£1,000) in 5 local magazines, from Ahlan (Hello in Arabic) to Grazi
 - Advertise the product to niche markets, Nakheel/Retail corp., arranged with various home furnishing and fine china type shops the ability to buy this product on wedding lists, like with Debenhams in the UK
- Al Futtaim also launched a JCB gift card. Each mall had its own gift card and there was also one that can be used across all four malls: www.mallgiftcard.ae/FAQ.html
 - Mall of the Emirates, Deira City Centre, Sharjah City Centre, Ajman City Centre and Mirdif City Centre











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