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Go for the gold from new ATM machine at Abu Dhabi hotel

This week the plush Emirates Palace Hotel in Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates rolled out the ultimate ATM machine in its lobby: It dispenses gold instead of cash. Guests can now get booty that comes in the form of 1-, 5- and 10-gram bars, as well as gold coins, at a price that the machine updates regularly, according to the website for Gold to Go.



The shiny machine, which made its debut at the hotel May 12, takes cash — and gives you a receipt, of course. Future machines will be able to process credit cards such as Visa and MasterCard.



Ex Oriente Lux, the German company that created Gold to Go, says on its website that the recent global financial tumble led to the development of the precious-metal vending machine.

“While the burst of the ‘credit bubble’ tore down stock markets and the general loss of trust in the global finance market system severely shocked all capital markets, Gold to Go has been developing its gold vending machine,” the website says, “... to provide an opportunity to invest quickly and easily in quality-assured precious metals.”



The company, which installed its first machine last year at Germany’s Frankfurt Airport, hopes to expand to more places in Germany, Switzerland and Austria.

Mary Forgione, Los Angeles Times Daily Travel & Deal blogger

Video: A gold vending machine rolled out May 12 at the Emirates Palace Hotel in Abu Dhabi. Credit: Associated Press

Upper photo: Users put in cash and can select bars or coins. Credit: Gold to Go

Lower photo: The gold comes in a gift box. Credit: Gold to Go

<http://travel.latimes.com/daily-deal-blog/index.php/go-for-the-gold-from-6917/>