

2 June 2010, Wednesday

We booked our travel on a dhow through Arabian Adventures – costs 575 dirham (costs less than \$200 AUD) paid in cash. We had to leave the cash in an envelope with the concierge of the hotel. Arabian Adventures will pick us up for an 8.30 to 10.30 pm tour of Dubai's waterways and provide dinner as well for the price. That is quite good value considering we get a dhow tour and dinner.

We had problems drawing money out of the cash machine in the hotel. It kept saying that the transaction could not be processed. Must have tried 3-4 times before we reported it to the front desk. They maintained it was not their machine and suggested we try the atm in the hotel across the street. We did and managed to withdraw 1000 dirham without any problems.

Most things here are cash for taxis and snacks/coffee so carrying extra dirham is the go.

Taxi ride from the hotel to the gold souk – cost is just under 30 dirham. Taxi air conditioner was not working very well.



The souk is something to see. It is in the old part of the city and you feel like you are in a market. From the moment you step into the area you are approached by people asking if you want a watch, tee shirts, jewellery and so on. The heat is oppressive and I felt straightaway. The only way you can get relief from the heat is to step inside one of the air conditioned jewellery shops and look at the merchandise.

We did just that stopping in a few shops to look for that special something for my beloved (who you ask? – Sandra of course). You can bargain and it was fun to be able to do just that.

We eventually found the right special something and you will have to visit us to see what Sandra got from moi. She said that would also do for her birthday but she knows I will not do that. By the time her birthday comes around in December 2010 (her 70th) I will have considered something else.

Because the heat was so oppressive, I wanted to get back to the hotel. Therefore, we did not visit the spice souk or get on the transit system.

Better taxi this time – air conditioning worked better. I paid the taxi driver 30 dirham although the price was less. I have read on the internet that payment for taxis is very low here and I suspect that any tips are much appreciated.

Just got back from a visit to the gold souk in Dubai. Dare I say it – what a wimp I am – imagine suffering from the heat – this is coming from a bloke who was born in India?

I am going swimming later. Fantastic pool and we also used the Jacuzzi. Met a chap from India called “Amal” who lived very close to Pallavaram, India (where I lived until 1963).

Internet charges are 25 dirham per hour in the hotel. That is not too bad considering that you don't have any other choice unless you go out and buy a dongle. The latter requires that you take your laptop to a shopping centre, find a retailer, have the dongle setup (if they will do it for you – I was lucky in Falkirk, Scotland, because I insisted when the initial time I tried to use the dongle failed – I went back and the store Manager did the right thing).

We had afternoon tea in the lobby area to ensure we were not too hungry for the evening's entertainment.

Arabian Adventures picked us up from the hotel around 7.15 pm and drove us to the wharf where the dhows are moored. Lots of traffic as buses, cars etc, dropped off passengers. We booked for dinner and a cruise up “The Creek” as it is called.

Dinner was a smorgasbord and we had to walk from the top deck to the bottom one to make our selections. We then handed our plates to a waiter who brought it to us when we resumed seating.

It was quite hot and balmy at the start and the temperature dropped somewhat during the cruise which became quite beautiful with all the lights of the buildings coming into play as the night wore on (the cruise started from 8.30 pm and finished at 10.30 pm).

I found myself drinking lots of water as if I was dehydrated.

Arabian Adventures dropped us back to the hotel. Sandra went shopping for something she saw when we had dinner at “The Blue Elephant” restaurant last night.

Settled the hotel bill and then turned in for the night which turned out to be one where sleep did not come. I was subconsciously concerned that I would sleep through two mobile alarms and a wake up call.



Not sleeping will be good because I can do that on the plane – 11 hour journey anticipated.

3 June 2010, Thursday

Arabian Adventures will pick us up from the hotel between 7 and 7.30 am to take us to the airport for a 10.05 am flight. I managed to confirm our seats on Wednesday.

Breakfast is served at the hotel from 6.30 am. As usual, I will ask the chef to make me a cheese omelette.

Both Sandra and I have enjoyed our time here in Dubai, particularly the opulence of this 5-star hotel and what we have seen. No doubt, Sandra enjoyed the rewards of our shopping visit to the gold souk market.

Gary Noel is picking us up from Perth airport on Friday morning (the flight gets in at 0055 hours).

We were stuck on the tarmac at Dubai for about 30-40 minutes – apparently the pallet in the plane hold was stuck and they needed extra manpower to shift it.

It was a smaller plane – only 2/3 full. Passengers were encouraged to find vacant seats and sleep across them if required. Several passengers took up this option as the flight is normally 10 hours 50 minutes.

Sandra took up the option and had a sleep using two of the window seats.

I watched a few movies, listened to music from 1964-1966 and just enjoyed the experience.

Managed to catch a few zzzzs all of this sitting up.

I asked for Jim Beam bourbon and the stewardess did not what it was – I then realised that they only know Jack Daniels whiskey.

4 June 2010, Friday

Got into Perth airport at 1.30 am and went through the usual procedure of passport control and picking up luggage. Thankfully customs waived us through without further checks to our baggage.

We got into Robin Court at 3 am – many thanks to Gary.

Sleep took a while coming.



This is all from me regarding the travel notes.

I have enjoyed keeping this personal diary and thank you for allowing me to share the experiences with you.

I will be placing all images and comments on my website fairly soon – I will send you an email with the url reference.