**Arabian Magic- Tahira Khan makes the most of Dubai in under a week.**

It’s possible! You can enjoy Dubai in only a few days and you will still feel as if you have had a great time and not missing out on a lot. I travelled with my daughter and a friend and even though we were all female we had no issues and had the opportunity to experience the sightseeing, shopping, adventure and still had time for a bit of relaxation. So how did we do so much in only 5 days? Let’s find out.

**Arrival**

We started off from Dubai airport catching a taxi to our hotel, which was The Rotana Rose Rayhaan located in the central part of Sheikh Zayed Road. The location was an important part of the holiday as it meant we were easily accessible to Deira, which is the old side of Dubai, and also the modern and rich part, which is the Jumeirah beach side. We had just 3 days to squeeze in what we wanted to do so organization and planning was a key part prior to the holiday. As the places, were open all day long until late night, we had plenty of time to dedicate activities based on a day and evening basis. Ok, so the evening of arrival we familiarized ourselves with the hotel and took a local walk outside and just prepared for our day ahead.

**Day 1 – Sightseeing and Indoor exploration**

Okay, this was what everybody does the usual sightseeing, we took a taxi and ventured out to see The Atlantis, both of the Burj buildings and Palm Islands. We wanted to make the most of the time and we cut this down to half a day. Then we went to Dubai Mall later to browse through and also visited Kidzania, which is located in the Mall. It’s a world in itself to explore, I must say. It provided children working roles and there were all sorts of industries where children experience a fun learning environment in many different private and public sector roles. These ranged from being a chef and making pizzas in Pizza Express or being a dentist, or working in a bank. I thought this was something unique and different so I wanted my daughter to experience the real world in a fun way. She really enjoyed every minute especially making her own pizza and being a dentist. We dined in a restaurant within Dubai Mall and then caught the Fountain show at 6 pm. Bearing in mind we went in August, so taking in the heat was unbearable outside. We were obviously quite tired so we headed back to the hotel and rested for a couple of hours and then went to Marina walk in the late evening when the temperature decreased. It was more beautiful to visit at night as the lights are lit up and the view is spectacular of the tall buildings on the outskirts of the harbor. We walked around looking at the boats and then went to a restaurant had a meal, shisha and fruity mocktails.

**Day 2 – Shopping and Safari**

This was a shopping and activity day, we couldn’t miss that. We started about 10am and headed down to Deira, which is known to grab local bargains, we were asking people and taxi drivers for information on where to go and what to do.

The Knife Souk was one of the Souks where I mainly shopped from haggled my way and bought some exclusive key pieces. Gifts and souvenirs to give to people upon return was from a supermarket named Day 2 Day supermarket which is huge, and you can find all sorts of things fairly cheaply compared to the souks and shopping malls which were literally all the same thing and quality. We bought T-shirts, dates, fridge magnets and keyrings at a quarter of the price and all in one short taxi ride.

At 3.30pm, we were booked to be collected for the Desert Safari experience behind the supermarket and it all worked out perfectly. We were hot and drained from the shopping so a long drive was just what we needed. We purchased a voucher online through a site called ‘Hit the deals’ and ‘Groupon’, that entitles a group of four for a desert safari experience for £50, which was great. It was all pre-booked through email. That was one of the activities we didn’t want to miss out on and wanted a good range of activities to do. We stayed at the Rose Rotana hotel that evening and I had the opportunity to try a Latin themed buffet, which was great and all Halal. The outdoor pool area was lovely to lounge around in especially during the evening and lit up with twinkling skyline buildings all around us, it was most definitely a really chic view. The hotel staff always had a warm smile and it was a tremendous experience staying in the second largest building in Dubai after The Burj. That was a high in itself.

**Day 3- Beach and Outdoor Adventure**

After an early breakfast we set out towards Marjan Island Resort Island and Spa which is located on the outskirts of Dubai, on an Island called Ras al Khaimah. It is about an hours drive from central Dubai and this was a place where we wanted some beach adventure and end our holiday with some spa relaxation and treatments just before we headed back to the UK. Themed around The seahorse, this resort was a real treat, but full of Arab families it can be slightly overwhelming. The Island is still developing with other up and coming resorts so it’s a great place to get away from the hussle and bussle of Dubai and get some peace. The Resort has it’s own contained beach where people can participate in jet skiing, banana boat rides and really relax. It is mainly used for the guests of the resort so you will not find the general public using this beach. The room we had was quite grand with amazing and open views of the resort. It seemed literally in the middle of nowhere and no way part of Dubai. It was a lovely sandy clean beach with warm aqua blue water and completely safe for children to play in. However the hotel itself was more like a beautiful monument that was a complete sight within itself. So we spent the day in the resort, the outdoor pool was great for kids. There was also a Pirate Club, a Moroccan Restaurant and Café located on the promenade. The Pirate club had, arcade games and general family entertainment. There is also an indoor pool for females only which we took advantage of in the early hours of the morning.

**Day 4 - Relaxation and Spa**

Ok, so we needed to end our holiday on a relaxed note, we walked around photographing everything. The lush green gardens were really reviving just at the back of the resort. I have to mention that the breakfast in this place was more like a huge continental buffet with a selection of Indian parathas to English pancakes for breakfast. The choice was vast and never ending, it was a never ending bliss. Not to forget the man on a stove ready to serve you your own choice of omelette.

I had booked in for a special treatment at the Lamar Spa on the last day which was the “ Pharaohs Luxury Signature treatment” This was definitely a luxury in itself it is one of the Egyptian themed treatments that was offered. I was taken to a special room with a bath tub where I had a warm soak for fifteen minutes infused with rose oils and petals, then `I was layed on a bed of warm coppery beads and given a deep relaxing body massage with golden oil and warm rice bags in areas of deep muscular tension. It was really comforting. And I definitely felt like Cleopatra going back in to my room.

**Day 5- Departure**

Time to head back to the airport, we had to be awake early to catch a flight by 1.30pm and landed back into the UK by the evening. It was definitely a short but sweet trip and great to get a good mix of activities in such a short time span. I think the idea is to list all the key activities you want to pursue and plan everything in advance. Good organization and planning is vital to any holiday and you don’t need to waste so many days especially if you have limited time or a budget. Travelling with females only in Dubai for the first time seemed a little daunting at first. But the people they do look after you especially if you have a good hotel that can make a lot of difference.