

BEYOND THE BURJ KHALIFA

THERE'S MORE TO DUBAI THAN ITS ICONIC LANDMARK. HERE IS A POTPOURRI OF EXPERIENCES AND SIGHTS THAT WILL MAKE YOUR TRIP TO THE FABLED CITY MORE MEMORABLE. **BY BINDU GOPAL RAO**

Think Dubai and its glitzy skyscrapers come immediately to mind. However the cosmopolitan city has several sights that go beyond, revealing a culturally rich, gastronomically vibrant and pulsating adventurous place. And if you are wondering where to head to for a summer break, well, Dubai beckons with its numerous sights that offer something for everyone in the family.

With a motley mix of adventure activities there is much to choose for adventure seekers in Dubai. Start your day with an outing at the Laguna

Laguna Waterpark



Waterpark that has a range of water-based activities which are a sure way to beat the heat. Based on your aptitude for adventure you can choose from rides like the Constrictor, a high intensity tube ride; Free Fall, a ride for the brave-hearted; Mad Racer, a mat racer ride; The Loop, a ride that will twist and turn as you splash into the water; and Wave, an exciting skate boarding experience. There is also a splash pad for toddlers and small children and an Infinity Pool to relax. The venue has several restaurants and also an interesting ice cream parlour called I Scream where you can sample unique ice cream flavours like Zucchini, Tabbouleh, Karak tea and Elderflower. Cabanas line the place and if you simply want to chill and beat the heat, relax in one of them. Located on the beachfront of La Mer, you can also swim in the placid waters of the beach here.

If you prefer a more virtual experience head to the VR Park Experience at Dubai Mall that has several exciting activities like Dubai Drone, Dune Bash, Hologate, Sphere, VR Maze, Burj Drop, Drifters, Virtual Rabbids, Holocube VR and We Play VR. While you have to remind yourself that the action is actually virtual, there are enough thrills and spills here that will set your pulse racing. The Burj Drop for instance, definitely not for the faint hearted, will see you seated and take you up an elevation and give you the illusion of falling off the Burj.

Also check out the Dubai Ice Rink where you can experience real life skating experience that will almost make you forget that you are actually in a desert. The rink allows you to borrow skating shoes and there are also instructors to help you skate.

Dubai's heritage hub, Al Bastakia in Bur Dubai is the place to head to if you are a culture aficionado. A must-see here is the Coffee Museum that showcases a