

The Magic *of Dubai*

By Patty Alfonso

A few months ago I made a choice that would change the course of my life. At the time, I could perceive the energy of what the choice created and yet, I did not know exactly how this would show up. That's the beauty of following the energy! You don't need to know, you just need to choose. Here is what unfolded for me...

I was invited to be a part of an International Experts Forum in Dubai where 40 experts in their field would speak to entrepreneurs about what they know. The energy was light and expansive that I said 'yes' right away.

As I prepared for my first trip to the Middle East, so many things started to come up for me! What would it be like for a single woman in Dubai? What am I supposed to wear?

What are the customs and culture like? If my partner comes with me, can we hold hands in public? What will the people be like? Will they look at me funny? Really, what do I wear? Noting too tight, no cleavage, no shorts, pants? The questions were endless and as I looked in my closet I realized I probably needed a whole new wardrobe. This may sound silly to you. And it even seemed silly to me and yet, these things were floating round in my Universe like a cold you can't get rid of.

And then there is also what we are taught in the media about the Middle East. The fear and hatred that is propagated was also swirling around in my Universe. Our team assured us we had nothing to worry about...and they were so very correct!

I arrive in Dubai after a 20 hour flight. I grab a “Ladies Only” taxi and she drives me through the most spectacular city I have ever laid eyes on. The architecture is fascinating! The buildings seem to be from the future with their steel structures bending and twisting in ways I’ve never seen before. Every building is unique and exudes its own energy of wealth and grandure.

I check in at my hotel. In order to get acclimated to the time change, I decide to go for a walk at The Mall of Emirates, the largest mall in the world. Interestingly enough, this is where I get a true sense of the magic of Dubai.

This place is like no other in the world. With the largest community of expats, it is a true melting pot of cultures. Beyond what I’ve seen in New York or California, in Dubai you will find people from all over the world.

As I sit at the restaurant people, I see Arabian Abaya’s, Persian Chadors, Indo-Pakistani Purda’s and Malaysian Kerudung’s as well as women dressed in a variety of Western clothing. From jeans and t-shirts to tight skinny tube dresses. The men are equally as varied. Some wear Thawb’s and Ghutra’s and some do not.

What I find the most interesting is that no one cares what the other person is wearing. There is **NO JUDGEMENT** present in this cornucopia of cultures!

Beyond what you can so clearly see, the energetic space available is so comfortable. I don’t have the exact words to convey the ease and comfort that my body and I felt while in Dubai. I’ve traveled the world over the last two years, and I’ve never felt this much ease! How does it get any better than that?!

The City invited me into a new level of being. Having spent most of my life hiding away from judgments, Dubai created the space for me to finally say “Enough”! Creating and collaborating with 40 other amazing beings, in a city that has no judgment allowed me to step out in a way that has truly changed the course of my life. I have more of me now. I stood in front of entrepreneurs from all over the world and talked about my Pole Dancing business, energy, autism, creating a different future and the madness of this reality. If I can do that in the Middle East, I know I can do that anywhere!

Finally, I have a new sense of a part of the world that is so often misunderstood.

I know Dubai is quite progressive and I do wonder what we can all learn from this magical, oasis in the desert.