



From top: The Dubai Ice Rink; a gold shop at the Grand Souk

wide selection of antique items that depict regional and international coffee history and culture. The exhibits here include a variety of ancient coffee processing machines, a room dedicated to coffee origins, Middle Eastern antiques, catchy vintage coffee ads that dot the walls and interesting coffee literature. The two-storied building is a delight for coffee lovers and the entry fee includes a complimentary cup of Turkish or Arabic coffee that you can relish on completion of your visit.

Located close by is the Khanjar Museum where you can see a variety of daggers on display. Within glass cases you can see dagger maker tools, Emirati dagger parts and more. Jehangir Alam who looks after the place tells me that each dagger takes almost a month to make and each part is made by almost five different people who have skills in various materials. Goat skin is used to make the covering of the dagger as it is more durable and easy to sew.

For a different experience, head to the Museum of Illusions that will test your mind, play tricks and give you a whole new lesson on how perspectives matter. Located in the Al Seef heritage area, the museum has several interactive models that you can actually touch and feel while you solve cryptic puzzles along the way. This is where you will click many

photographs so make sure your camera is fully charged. And while the Grand Souk at Deira is a must-see, do stop at the Municipal Museum here that overlooks the creek. The building has retained its traditional rooms which today house old documents and is an ode to municipality history.

With a vibrant restaurant scene, you are never too far away from food in Dubai. Interestingly the food here is a spread of varied cuisines courtesy the large expatriate population of the city. For an elevated dining experience — literally and figuratively — book a table at Atmosphere, the tallest restaurant in the world. You can sample a three course menu here that includes starters like Organic Salmon Gravelax, and Hand Dived Scallop; main course that includes Wild Seabass, Celeriac cooked as a risotto; and desserts like Vacherin and Chocolate Extravaganza.

For an American meal complete with sushi, steaks and hand-crafted cocktails, try Kona Grill. Likewise if you are here on Wednesday you can experience an extensive buffet and Arabian-themed night complete with dance performances at Ewaan at Palace Downtown. And for an authentic Emirati meal head to Sikka Café. Apart from a traditional breakfast, you can also try the cold mezze options like the Baba Ganoush, Tabbouleh, Muhammara and Hummus as well as the hot mezze options like Grilled Halloumi, Chana Dal and Naan bread and Sambousek.

This is where you can try the famed dessert Legaimat, a fried mini ball dumpling dunked in honey and date sauce as well as the Chebab Katayef made with shredded mozzarella cheese, walnuts and date syrup. Do not forget to wash it all down with the famous Karak Chai. Dubai is a city that takes you on an endless discovery. Well, isn't that what travel should be all about?