

DUBAI AND OMAN 2012



How should I summarize 12 days full of stunning experiences, sunshine in March, establishing contacts at interesting business meetings, trying traditional food and unbelievable hospitality of Omani students on one page? I have no idea...

We started our adventure at the 20th of March 2012 around 5 am at the main station of Stralsund. Later in Hamburg 21 students from different semesters of LTM, TDS, BWL and KMU boarded the plane with the direction: Arabian Peninsula. First destination of our excursion was Dubai. This city is surprising, special, extraordinary, splendid, sparkling, exotic... For hours we admired the highest building of the world: Burj Khalifa and enjoyed the great fountain. In our free time we took a trip with the water taxi over the Creek and strolled through the different Souks (traditional Arabian markets) to buy some souvenirs for those at home. But we also had work for our studies to do. On our schedule there were a lot of company visits. In Dubai we had the great pleasure to have a closer look behind the scenes of "DTCM Government of Dubai", "Nakheel" and "Atlantis The Palm". Here we followed interesting presentations about Dubai, tourism strategies and sustainability. We also made a little boat trip into the Palm Jumeirah and walked through the luxury suits of the "Atlantis The Palm" hotel.

Our second destination was the Oman which is the complete opposite to Dubai. It is more traditional, quiet, natural, gently, unexpected... None of us will ever forget our night in the desert under this amazing sky full of stars and then the sunrise on the dune at 5:30 in the morning. It was so nice and quiet like the world stopped turning for one moment. Another remarkable experience was the traditional Omani restaurant where we sat on the floor and had hummus, shark in coconut and Arabian coffee with dates just to name a few dishes. The little tour to the Wadi and our Dhow cruise snorkeling trip with millions of jelly fishes were the worthy end of our Oman adventure. This sounds like a lot of fun and indeed it was, but before we also had some business to do. So we had meetings with "Royal Oman Police", "PDO Exhibition Center", "The Wave" and of course with students of our partner university "GUtech ". Here we attended presentations about police work in Oman, where the oil comes from, how Oman wants to bring their tourism industry forward. With students of our partner university we had a discussion round about for example the comparison of social and economic challenges. All this appointments changed the point of view of us students and broaden our mind. Especially our meetings with the Omani students made the excursion unforgettable because they showed us places we would have never seen without them. They took us to the beach at night, went out with us partying all night at the Hyatt Hotel Muscat and smoked fresh shisha (made from real fruits) with us in a typical Omani restaurant. A lot of prejudices concerning the Islam, the Middle East or terrorism were eliminated due to this personal experience.

So what did we learn during our excursion: Arabian people don't walk – they take the metro or a taxi. In Dubai you can be at the beach and 10 minutes later on the ski slope. Border crossing is not that easy, if you can't find the right one, and if you say that you don't want your food spicy – you get it really, really spicy. Finally I want to say that none of us regret the participation in the excursion Dubai & Oman 2012 and we will never forget a single day.

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