RIT Faculty-Led Study Tour to Dubai, UAE

by Rick Egan<br>by Rick Egan<br>by Rick Egan
RIT Faculty-Led Study Tour to Dubai, UAE

by Rick Lagiewski
Senior Lecturer
College of Applied Science and Technology
Background

1st Course Trip, January 2011

4 Credit Undergraduate / Graduate Course

10 Undergrads, 3 Graduate Students

Goal: Deliver additional in-person graduate course and diversify Dubrovnik, Croatia option
The Course

Customized meeting dates over two quarters

Special Topics Course - Study Tour: Tourism in the Middle East - the case of Dubai’s transformation to a global tourist destination.

Quizzes, papers and presentations

Group Dynamics

Travel Planning
Initial Experience Gained

- Discovered there is a Study Abroad Approval packet
- Non-U.S. female students require a Visa AND special permission to enter UAE
- Best to eat meals family-style or order pre-set menus
- RISK management requirements - doesn’t always mean it will be “safe”
- “Local” industry contacts are priceless
- Better to prepay tours
- Two chaperones are better than one
- It takes a team of people at RIT and a little luck
Date: 11/22/2011

Visa Request

Dear Dubai Immigration Office,

Would you please grant Ms. Ye Wang, Ms. Xiao Yu and Ms. Yujia Wang who are females traveling without family a tourist visa. They are traveling with me to RIT Dubai as part of a graduate course called Tourism Policy Analysis. The class consists of 8 students coming from RIT in New York where they are full time students. We arrive in Dubai on January 14 and depart on January 21. Our whole group is traveling together and have reservations at the Flora Creek Deluxe Hotel Apartments.

1) Given name: Ye Surname: Wang
   DOB ___________________________ Passport#
   Female

2) Given name: Xiao Surname: Yu
   DOB ___________________________ Passport #
   Female

3) Given name: Yujia Surname: Wang
   DOB ___________________________ Passport #
   Female

I will be fully responsible for the above guests during their stay in Dubai.

Thank you,

Richard “Rick” M. Lagiewski
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Pre-Trip Logistics

- Airline Tickets
- Study Abroad Approval Packet
- Marketing to Students (and parents)
- Restricted Class Registration
- Student Selection Process
- Hotel and Visa
- Create Faculty Packet (Student Emergency Contacts, Copy of all Passports, Contracts, Local Contacts, Study Abroad Packet)
- Budgeting
Budget

Hotel $550
Meals/Tours $400
Airfare $1,300
Program Fee $280
Books $40
In-country Transportation $140
Total $2,710
In-Country Logistics

- Departure: 2 hours early - issue visas
- Arrival: visa and non-visa students
- "Safety Card"
- Itinerary
- Professionalism
- Speakers
- Free Time - end of trip
- Number One Rule: Never Travel Alone
Dubai Itinerary 2013 (as of 1/8/13)

Friday, January 11, 2013 be at airport 10:00 AM Delta Airlines flight 2146

1) Saturday, January 12
   • 8:10PM Arrive Dubai
   • 10:30PM Group Dinner - Smart Casual

2) Sunday, January 13
   • 9:15 AM City Tour – Casual
   • Lunch on your own
   • 2 PM Burj Al Arab 7 Star Hotel- Professional
   • 6 PM Dinner on your own Downtown Dubai / Dubai Mall
   • 7:40PM Burj Kalifa Tour @ Downtown Dubai / Dubai Mall

3) Monday, January 14
   • 8:15 AM Rise and Shine Tour – Casual
   • 12:30 Lunch on your own
   • 2 PM Dubai Marina Yacht Club – Professional
   • 7 PM Dinner Cruise – Casual

4) Tuesday, January 15
   • 9:30AM JW Marriott Marquis Hotel - Professional
   • 3:00PM Leave for RIT Dubai
   • 7:00PM for Group Dinner Flooka Dubai Marine Beach Resort & Spa – Smart Casual

5) Wednesday, January 16
   • 8AM-6PM In Abu Dhabi– Professional
   • Lunch on own
   • 7:00 PM Dinner & Shopping at Madinat Jumeirah on your own – Smart Casual
   • Abra tour

6) Thursday, January 17
   • 9:00 AM Hotel Lobby SKI DUBAI – Casual
   • Lunch on own
   • 2:00 PM Emirates Golf Club – Professional
   • Dinner on own
   • 6:00 PM Dubai World Cup Carnival Horse Racing

7) Friday, January 18
   • Free Day
   • 3:00 PM Hotel Lobby Dinner in the Desert – Casual

8) Saturday, January 19
   • Free Day
   • 8:00PM Hotel Lobby Leave for Airport

* Likely to switch days will handout final itinerary at airport
Post-Trip

- Community Presentation
- Thank-you notes
- Final papers
- Review Journals
“Words of Wisdom”

- Build trip dates around airfare
- Create clear and stringent student selection process
- Limit it to 13 students – i.e. consider in-country transportation methods when choosing a group size
- Organize Itinerary around 85% Group time, 15% Free time
- Use quality tour operators
- Plan your itinerary around most important speakers first
- Over emphasize the cultural differences, even if they’re not true
- Be humble and grateful – you can’t produce a great trip alone!
Resources

1. UAE - Culture Smart!: the essential guide to customs & culture by John Walsh
2. Top 10 Dubai (EYEWITNESS TOP 10 TRAVEL GUIDE) by DK Publishing
3. City of Gold: Dubai and the Dream of Capitalism by Jim Krane
4. Beaches, Ruins, Resorts – The Politics of Tourism in the Arab World by Waleed Hazbun
5. Dubai: The Vulnerability of Success by Christopher M. Davidson

Tour Operator:

Arabian Adventures
THE DESTINATION MANAGEMENT COMPANY

My Contact Information:

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Any Questions?