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Tourist Activities in Dubai get a historic boost, as Pearl Diving makes a comeback to public consciousness by Andy Cena

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Beauty, longevity, perfection â€“ the flower of immortality has been referred to by different names in the legends of yore! More commonly known as the humble pearl, to this day, it remains a symbol of purity and trust. Truly a fascinating tale for something that originally begins life as an irritant that intrudes into the life of the sea shell.

To those involved the harvesting of these magnificent, the pearls are more than a precious bauble, pearling to them, is a way of life. Many would be mistaken to think of pearling as a job to keep for life. The truth however, couldnâ€™t have been far away from that. In reality, pearling was a high pressure job and the divers lived a tough life. They had less than three minutes to dive down to the depths of the ocean and harvest the pearls. Anyone whoâ€™s tried diving would know just how strenuous an activity it is. These pearlers had to do this day in and day out, from sun up to sun down all through the four months of summer. But in the end, they barely earned enough to make two ends meet for themselves and their families. This is because, the precious pearls they brought to the surface were considered to be raw materials that would only sell for fantastic sums after they were processed and worked upon. Thus, it was the divers who got the short end of the stick more often than not. But it was perhaps the increasing popularity of the cultured pearl where foreign irritants were inserted into the sea-shells through human intervention that led to the demise of the Emirati pearling industry.

Dubai and indeed the whole of UAE have come a long way since then. Today, trade and tourist activities in Dubai have replaced the pearlers of yore. But the traditional influences of the past havenâ€™t been forgotten. The emirate has learned to take brave strides into the decades to follow even as it embraces its rich heritage.

Pearling is making a comeback of sorts, all thanks to the efforts of the Emirates Marine Environmental Group (EMEG). They have joined hands with the Jumeirah Group and begun offering guided tours that seek to reacquaint tourists and locals alike, of this cultural wealth from the past. Enthusiasts, eco-tourists or anyone who seeks to get in touch with a forgotten tradition that goes back way into the history books of the Gulf now have the perfect opportunity to try out pearling.

The Jumeirah Beach hotel organizes pearling expeditions that are fast becoming one of the must try attractions in Dubai. Starting off on a traditional dhow type boat, tourists get complete guidance from trained pearling experts on board the expedition. Besides pearl diving, tourists can also try their hand at shucking oysters together besides snorkeling around the dhow if they wish to take a break from diving. A sumptuous lunch is served on board by the expert culinary staff onboard, followed by a leisurely return back to the Hotel.

So go on and give it a try. While bagging that precious pearl might involve some luck, an experience worth remembering is guaranteed!

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