EDITOR'S NOTE



Natural beauty outside Reyjkavik and spectacular buildings galore in Dubai. **Beyond your expectations**

Dubai and Iceland. Just the mention of these two places creates distinct images in your mind, doesn't it? Or at least, it does for me. One is the land formed by fire and ice. The other is a desert turned metropolis.

Over the last several years, we have watched Dubai become a major city. There are ever-taller and bigger buildings, man-made islands and even a ski slope in a desert mall. My expectation of Dubai is that it's a land of extreme heat and endless skyscrapers. And somehow, I can't wait to check it out.

As for Iceland, sure I'd seen photos of the Blue Lagoon and those horses, but I have to admit I did not have much of a picture in my mind of what it would be like before going there. Thus it was a bit of an adventure into the unknown for me.

MAYBE BECAUSE OF THIS, I WAS QUITE SIMPLY BLOWN AWAY BY THE STRANGE BEAUTY OF THIS RATHER DESOLATE BUT STUNNING ISLAND near the Arctic after traveling there this summer. You can get a glimpse of what I am talking about in the article *The Wild Side of the Land*.

And while I have not been to Dubai yet, I have built up all those expectations about it. When you think you know so much about a place, it makes it more difficult to travel there. You become afraid that it won't be as good as you hoped. David Kaufman, who writes about Dubai in this issue, says before his recent trip there: "Despite Dubai's modern marvels and nouveau-riche gentility, I remained skeptical – unsure if the city would live up to its endless hype in these endlessly overhyped times."

Luckily for David, the place not only lived up to his expectations, it also exceeded them. Find out the details in *Bold, New World: Dubai*.

Somehow, it is a nice surprise to be in awe of your surroundings in these "overhyped times." Have you been anywhere lately that more than met your expectations? If so, let me know the where and the why.



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