

Desert encounter adds spice to Oman adventure

13 December 2016: A fun host and an exciting itinerary are essential elements of every great famil, but it's those chance encounters with locals that can make a journey truly memorable – just ask Byron Cruise & Travel's Jessica Milford, who made a genuine connection during an exclusive Travellers Choice trip to Oman hosted by Peregrine Adventures and Etihad Airways.

"One of the highlights of the trip was a 4WD journey across the Wahiba Sands for a night at 1000 Nights Camp," says Jessica. "When we got there I decided to take a selfie with a camel and before I knew it he came right up behind me and licked half my arm and half my face."

It wasn't the only memorable moment on the famil, which saw seven Travellers Choice members experience Peregrine's 'Taste of Oman' tour. Led by a local leader, the agents wove their way through bazaars and souks, visited spectacular mosques, toured Oman's forts, took a sunset cruise along Muscat's coast, and swam in the crystal clear waters of the tranquil oasis, Wadi Bani Khaled.

Less authentically Arabian, but just as entertaining, says Jess Black from Capricorn Travel in Perth, was Autobahn, one of the city's more unusual nightclubs.

"It is a wonderfully tacky car-themed bar at Al Falaj Hotel in Muscat, which has a painted road running through the middle and guests sit in a white stretch limo which has been converted into booths," says Jess.

The agents also experienced Etihad's award-winning business class, spent a night at the luxurious St Regis Abu Dhabi and took the controls of a flight simulator at the EY Training Academy.

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