

Hippy Chic's name alone conjured up images of Birkenstocked yummy mummies looking for extra special salads and quirky organic treats after meditation circle in one of the neighbouring villas. So we were surprised to walk into what is basically a groovier version of the popular spicy chicken chain Nando's. It's not Portuguese, though – more like KFC chic.



Hippy Chic (and Hippy Deli) at the Etihad Plaza is casual and cosy. In a very vibrant, funky diner with VH1 on in the background, you order a combo deal at the counter then chat over cola while watching the gym groupies passing by.

The food's not bad, either. If you don't eat meat, you may be in for disappointment, though the deli section has a decent spiced pumpkin and couscous salad or lemon herb tortellini for you. But if you do have carnivorous leanings, the flame-grilled chicken is a feisty number. Pair it with Hippy Fries and festive Magical Mixed Rice. And don't forget the dipping sauces – the perfectly piquant peri peri sauce is most popular here but we dig the slightly sweet Asian BBQ sauce more.

Complete that basic yet reliable lunch (and that Fiona Apple music video) with a gigantic wedge of moist Groovy Carrot Cake or the trippy chocolate brownie, and you have the perfect Saturday afternoon in front of you.

By Kara Martin

What? Hippy Chic

Where? Etihad Plaza, Khalifa City A

Cost: About AED 140 to stuff two. They also do brilliant meal deals – a half-chicken with two sides and a fountain drink costs just AED 35

Why? Somehow a simple meal is made memorable, and it's because of the chicken. We also love the cafe's unique and chilled out interior – when was the last time you saw a lava lamp?

Why not? The deli section's non-meat offerings aren't as good as their fresh chicken dishes

We say: Dude, you should totally go there

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