

Cafe Arabia



If you haven't been by the most unique coffee shop in town, you really should give the gorgeous Cafe Arabia a visit. Everywhere you look – from the funky menus to the art work on the walls and the stunning lanterns hanging from the ceiling – you'll see pretty, exotic things, and the drinks and food are just as beautiful as the surroundings.

If for no other reason, come for the funky selection of unique regional gifts. We love the colourful ceramics, the handbags and slippers, the camel milk chocolate and the selection of authentic coffee beans and dates, all for sale.

Bright, airy and comfortable, Cafe Arabia is a perfect spot day or night, with European and Arabic style breakfast available all day. In the mood for something substantial, we were pleased to find that the eclectic menu features several recipes handed down from family and friends of proprietor Aida Mansour. We started with the spicy tomato salad, a recipe provided by Aida's

grandmother – if the lady was anything like her kicky salad, we would have loved to have met her.

Alongside the salad, we tried the signature Cafe Arabia Country Club. Described as ‘a favourite across the nation’, this lovely layered sandwich is made with feta, labneh and zaatar on brown toast topped with tomato and fresh garden herbs and like the decor was light and fresh. The Fettuccini Chicken Alfredo – a more standard western dish made with sauteed beef bacon and alfredo sauce – was creamy and divine.

Of course, being a coffee shop, you’ll find plenty of juices, teas and coffees on offer, both Western and Arabic.

We especially love the Emirati chai bil hail, black tea made with cardamom, ginger and milk. Do yourself a favour and give this place a try – you’re sure to be back.

Laura Fulton

What? Cafe Arabia

Where? 15th Street between 2nd/Airport Road and 24th/Karamah, opposite Al Mushrif Children’s Park

Cost: Most items AED 20-40

Why? Aida hopes to see her establishment become one where people of different cultures can ask questions and find out more about their fellow residents of Abu Dhabi

Why not? While there are plenty of foods kids can eat, like eggs and pancakes, you won’t find chicken nuggets or other typical kid fare

We say: Definitely stop by for a fantastic cup of coffee or tea, a healthy snack or meal and an informative multicultural experience

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