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Where is Home

tranquil bubble of an island, when it finally is time for us to leave, the sense of dislocation can be unsettling. First-generation expats would have already uprooted themselves from their respective home countries, to find life in Bahrain. Second-generation expats call this place their home. Unfortunately, we do not enjoy the pleasure of being able to run back to the country when there is a long weekend or during summer vacation, just because we call it home. Where do we tell the next generation home is? When we want to feel the warmth of the sand on a chilly night in some part of the world, where do we turn to? While this is generic to anyone leading an expat life, Bahrain has a cosmic pull of its own. The country manages to retain most of its newcomers, welcoming them into its fold, watching them grow and flourish and multiply, willing them to never leave. Missing Bahrain is a phenomenon unto its own, which is why most veteran expats have taken 40 or so years to finally make the call to head back to their places of origin. A part

s expats who live their lives in this of us will always take the sea and the vast boundless skies with us to whichever corner of the world

we end up in. The smorgasbord of culture will always be a part of our lives. The light that flickers in our eyes every time Bahrain is mentioned on a list of best places for expats to live in, that is the expression of acceptance beyond measure.

Bahrain Writer's Circle's beloved Brett Beeson is making her way out of here, onwards to leaps and bounds of success we are certain. A naval officer who wished to follow in the footsteps of her family's legacy and serve her country, a poet who enthralled crowds in Bahrain and elsewhere, and so much more, she has shared with Weekender, her final goodbye to Bahrain. Featured here are a few excerpts

"The packers are here, and the sound of ripping tape fills the air.

My walls, once full of bright and colorful paintings from all over the world, are bare.

The echo of my piano has faded, its black-

and-white-keys wrapped away.

> I guess this really is goodbye.

I arrived in Bahrain on 27 March 2017, almost two and a half years ago. Since my arrival, I've climbed Kilimanjaro, ran a 240 km ultramarathon, hung out with baby elephants in Sri Lanka, and

relaxed by Norway's sheer

cliff sides. I've visited the Taj Mahal, poked through the Annapurna region inhaled gelato in Cinque Terre, and waved at Azerbaijan's Russian border. My complete lack of abaya fashion sense aside, I even enjoyed tea in Jeddah's oldest palace

Those are just brief snapshots, thoughfleeting moments. What about the memories that stayed, the ones that have shaped me?

....Second, I'll remember all of the activities I had to do to *compensate* for all of that amazing food- Coach trying to make me sprint at Gaelic football, paddle boarding at Beach Culture, horseback riding envy at the Dilmun Club, sweating through the Cross Island Run, or helping out with the Bahrain Ironman 70.3 teams (I was never brave enough to do the full race alone). I'm sure even go-kart speeding helped with some of those calories, although, again, that might have been because I was doing it wrong.

.. To the Manama Singers and their full schedule of performances- thanks for letting me crash the party! To my beleaguered, heckled Gaelic Football teammates- hey, we kept it entertaining, right? Hold My Karak always made for a good time, whatever/wherever they were performing. I knew I would never be bored at Raven's Nest, whether it was Open Mic, Debate/Discussion Night, or watching Dungeons and Dragons."

.. As a shameless plug- if you ever are looking for a community of acceptance, compassion, and support, look no further than Mahdi al Aseeri's brainchild in Sanad. Through Zombie Runs, Poetry Night, Karaoke and Acoustic- there's never a dull moment. And just when I paused, it seemed there was another Russian ballet, another modern art festival, or another traveling Broadway show to visit."

... In conclusion- no matter where I go, Bahrain will remain with me as a very special, memorable place. It is unique. It is colorful, its rich, diverse cultural heritage evident in every nook. And it is beyond welcoming- the hearts of its citizens warmer even than our balmy August days (a true feat, indeed).

Thank you for everything."

Let's hope the world keeps knowing you and your work in the years to come





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BAHRAIN IMPROV GROUP



Eating out

WHAT: DEGUSTATION DINNER WHEN: 12:00 PM - 03:00 PM, 07:00 PM - 11:00 PM, SEPTEMBER WHERE: PLUMS

Experience a sensory journey through a 5-course tasting menu with an optional blind beverage pairing. Perfect for culinary enthusiasts and couples or friends seeking an exciting dining experience

WHAT: MAMMA MIA MONDAYS WHEN: 07:00 PM - 11:00 PM, MONDAYS WHERE: PRIMAVERA

Start the week with Italian favorites at Primavera. This season, let us entice your palate with a new menu featuring a selection of traditional pizza and pasta

WHAT: SEAFOOD FESTIVAL AT LA MED WHEN: 07:00 PM TO 10:30 PM, MONDAYS Where: La Med, Ritz Carlton, BAHRAIN

The Ocean's finest bounty is served and your favorite catch of the day is prepared in a variety of ways - grilled, steamed, fried or poached - from the buffet spread and live cooking stations.







Nightlife & Music

WHAT: RAYVANNY LIVE IN BAHRAIN WHEN: SEPTEMBER 12 WHERE: CORAL BAY RESORT

Party it up this weekend with the Tanzanian musician, songwriter, and dancer Rayvanny live in Bahrain! Supporting acts include DJ Nesto, DJ Wisky, and DJ Jomex.

WHAT: MUSENIGHT CONCERT SERIES WHEN: SEPTEMBER 13 WHERE: WYNDHAM GARDENS

The legendary MuseNight Concert Series is back. With a phenomenal lineup of original artists bringing you new sounds in a visceral visual and sonic experience. From psychedelic Khaleeji electronica to industrial pop synth-heavy jams, you'll hear music unlike anything else.

WHAT: CARRIBEAN NIGHT WHEN: SEPTEMBER 13 WHERE: Z LOUNGE CLUB

Savor the relaxed island life at Z Lounge Club with this creatively themed Caribbean night. Tuck into some mouth-watering dishes from a wide variety of Caribbean cuisine. DJs Guy and MCPJ will keep you on your feet all evening with the soulful Caribbean tunes of soca and calypso music. Join in the fun anytime between 9 pm and 2 am. Free entry for couples and ladies and the dress code is smart casual.











The incidents of pets going missing/stolen is very prevalent in Bahrain, especially pedigrees. Hundreds have gone missing - never to be found. Some people let their pets free-roam, but there are just too many hazards. If you have a secured pet (one that does not free-roam) that has gone missing and you would like to be included in the Programme, please check Lost, stolen and found pets in Bahrain Facebook for the information needed. Contact Peg Altemueller directly via private message or email ampmpa2@yahoo.com.

Have You

Beloved Pets?

LIESEL

Female Calico, 3 yrs, green eyes, very sweet temperament, answers to name, not wearing collar or ID tag, slipped out, Hunainiyah Riffa (near Riffa Fort), REWARD for afe return, went miss 25/8/19 Tel: 39630370 or 33395032 SPICE Male Tabby, 10 yrs, neutered, microchipped big cat, very timid/frail, not wearing collar or ID tag, long hair (but just

Tel: 34377062

Missing Pets Seen These Beloved Pet

LUCY Female German Shepherd. 5 yrs, wearing collar but no ID tag, garage door left open, most likely STOLEN, Al Hidd (Block 112 near Road 1203), vent missina 2/9/19. Tel: 36111155



TINKERBELL Female Shih Tzu, 4.5 yrs, brown/hazelnut colour w long hair, not wearing collar or ID tag, gate left open, likely STOLEN, West Riffa, BD200 REWARD for safe return, went missing 25/8/19. Tel: 39340424