

Conor Toolan's Personalised travel

guide to Bahrain

Near your work there are four areas with distinct characters.

- 1) Exhibition avenue area
- 2) Juffair
- 3) Adalya
- 4) The souk
- 5) The diplomatic area



1) Exhibition avenue area

This area is popular with gulf tourist and can be a little sleazy or hard to decipher at times.

That said I've never felt unsafe here although there have been reports of people being run over by drunken tourists.

Eating and drinking

Arirang

A very authentic Korean restaurant popular with east asian expats.

Licensed for beer, the decoration is poor but the food is good, I recommend the Bugalbe.

<https://www.google.com.bh/maps/place/Arirang/@26.2326291,50.5958583,17z/data=!4m2!3m1!1s0x0000000000000000:0x2b53667842b65bc7?hl=en>

Warbler

Located in the Ramee Baisan. It has a happy hour before 7, and is decorated like an English pub (beer on tap).

I recommend the fahitas or the Indian food. A Pilipino band starts around 9 and they are loud. As with many pubs in Bahrain there are some unobtrusive working people.

<https://www.google.com.bh/maps/place/Ramee+Baisan+Hotel/@26.2326291,50.5958583,17z/data=!4m2!3m1!1s0x0000000000000000:0x9a4c9c8846d99b2e?hl=en>

Sleeping

We stayed at 2 hotels here and can highly recommend them.

Holiday Inn

<https://www.google.com.bh/maps/place/Holiday+Inn+Express+Bahrain/@26.2326291,50.5958583,17z/data=!4m2!3m1!1s0x0000000000000000:0x18d916da76ff9209?hl=en>

Holiday Villa

<https://www.google.com.bh/maps/place/Holiday+Villa+Bahrain+Hotel/@26.2323158,50.5973389,18z/data=!4m6!1m3!3m2!1s0x0000000000000000:0x2b53667842b65bc7!2sArirang!3m1!1s0x0000000000000000:0x4d0b454c46f9af0c?hl=en>

You could also try calling in to a few of the apartment buildings and asking the doorman about weekly rates and having a look.

2) Juffair

Juffair is very popular with young western expats.

Eating and drinking

There are lots of places, many pubs are in hotel building, some are nightclub type with covers, some are sleazy, some are more normalish.

You've found "American alley" the main strip for eating.

I can recommend this local food place for mixed grill or half chicken and very good prices

The local restaurant next to this Japanese restaurant

<https://www.google.com.bh/maps/place/Kabuki+-+Japanese+Cuisine/@26.2114748,50.6047198,199m/data=!3m1!1e3!4m2!3m1!1s0x0000000000000000:0x7c8b1d86979b2f5e!6m1!1e1?hl=en>

Al Abraj

for lamb chops (their whole menu is good and cheap)

and Fudrucker for the burger.

For Pubs I kind of remember Rics as having a normalish atmosphere and good pizza (a long time ago.)

<https://www.google.com.bh/maps/place/Ric's+Kountry+Kitchen+Bahrain/@26.21216,50.5985033,17z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m2!3m1!1s0x3e49a8d23dc12c17:0x679f8ed9c8d44e17>

I remember looking in here (because it's called Dublin) and thinking it too sleazy

Dublin

<https://www.google.com.bh/maps/place/Ramee+Palace+Hotel/@26.221848,50.6045444,16z/data=!4m6!1m3!3m2!1s0x0000000000000000:0x2b53667842b65bc7!2sArirang!3m1!1s0x0000000000000000:0x308526a97b1df23e?hl=en>

and this building has the worst vice reputation in area.

Pars

<https://www.google.com.bh/maps/place/Pars+International+Hotel/@26.2189557,50.6037805,17z/data=!4m6!1m3!3m2!1s0x0000000000000000:0x2b53667842b65bc7!2sArirang!3m1!1s0x0000000000000000:0x1cfffbe355fc85e0e?hl=en>

Sleeping

Call in any high rise as ask do they do weekly rates, is it furnished, bedroom number then have a look if it suits.

3) Adalya

This area is popular with older expats and middle class sunnies. There are lots of nice restaurants and a few good pubs.

There's a walking street and the shwarma places are cheap and tasty.

Eating and drinking

Jims: is on the walking street and has a beer garden out the back

<https://www.google.com.bh/maps/place/Jim's+Restaurant/@26.2154526,50.5904338,18z/data=!4m2!3m1!1s0x0000000000000000:0x3c08d580ce2c6fb5?hl=en>

Coco: hidden in a garden next to the more popular Lilu, you might have the wait for the service but the food is good, cheap and you can sit outside.

<https://www.google.com.bh/maps/place/Coco's/@26.2150176,50.5913565,18z/data=!4m2!3m1!1s0x0000000000000000:0xcb828bd9a75da98c?hl=en>

Al abraj adalya: another of the chain

<https://www.google.com.bh/maps/place/Al+Abraaj/@26.2141975,50.5865972,18z/data=!4m2!3m1!1s0x0000000000000000:0xcd755bb0f88f62f3?hl=en>

JJs: American style Irish pub, big.

<https://www.google.com.bh/maps/place/JJ's+Irish+Pub/@26.2191648,50.5881378,19z/data=!4m2!3m1!1s0x0000000000000000:0xbac55fa27370ed6b?hl=en>

Baan Sueng Thai: a big empty pub downstairs with cheaper pints and you can get tom yum delivered to the table if you insist.

<https://www.google.com.bh/maps/place/Baan+Saeng+Thai+Restaurant/@26.2178135,50.5877108,19z/data=!4m2!3m1!1s0x0000000000000000:0xa6ecec6fe2b7a5bb?hl=en>

Maguires located in (entrance around the corner) this building: small Irish pub.

<https://www.google.com.bh/maps/place/Mansuri+Mansion+Hotel/@26.2118721,50.58624,18z/data=!4m2!3m1!1s0x0000000000000000>

4) The souk

A warren of tiny streets, this is the place to buy your cheap souvineers. I definite market atmosphere, the buildings are run down but not historic. You can enter from "Bab al Bahrain" and wander till you tire, then try to find the way out. If you can see high rises that's a clue.

5) The diplomatic area

The preserve of big fancy hotels, which tend to be packed with fancy expensive restaurants and usually a pub.

Radison Blue (has an Irish bar I think)

<https://www.google.com.bh/maps/place/The+Diplomat+Radisson+Blu+Hotel,+Residence+%26+Spa/@26.2419523,50.5918758,17z/data=!4m2!3m1!1s0x0000000000000000:0x120cfa200a9fab82?hl=en>