

My life in (sunny) DUBAI



1968

December 1968: Arrive from Pakistan with my mum and sister.

1969

April 1969: My younger sister is born in Al Maktoum Hospital

Six Emirates get together and form a Union named the United Arab Emirates (RAK joined in 1972)



1971

Started school in St. Mary's



1975

Went to boarding school in Murree, PK



1976

Studied at Arab Unity School and got my GCE's (O'levels)

1983

Travelled with my family to Germany for medical treatment for my mum. Travelled back overland and was in Iran when the revolution started



1978

Moved to Karama from the Ghubaiba area and still live on the same street!



1979

Started collecting LP records from Jashanmal's shop in the newly built Al Ghurair Centre



1983

My parents somehow manage to save 15K dirhams and buy an Apple IIe computer which they imported from the USA!



1984

Started attending the youth group at Holy Trinity Church on the invitation of a friend



1985

Got my first SLR camera with a zoom lens



Did a three month course at Polyglot School and learnt how to type!



Switched from LP records to CDs

1987

1992

WS Atkins

Worked for WS Atkins

Started working by doing temp jobs.

1986

1988

Started travelling/holidaying with my sister



1986

Got my driver's licence!



1992

Left Dubai for 5 1/2 months to pursue my dream of sound recording, but ended up volunteering in a Braille (charity) press. Met my future business partner-to-be!



1995

Helped set up a tour company which did private tours in small groups



1996

Was part of the first batch of tour guides to get licenced by the Dubai Tourism and Commerce Marketing Board (before they became a Department)

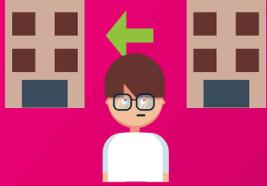


1997

Was gifted my first mobile phone by my family



Moved out of my parents' home when my aunt down the road emigrated



Worked for IIR/Informa (a Conference company who were/are the leading provider of professional training to the region)



1998

2011

1999

Y2K

Y2K - I was there! (Thrilled to experience not just a new century, but a new millennium!)

2000

Bought the car (that I still drive now) from my Dad



Switched from VHS to DVD! Bought a batch of classic movies on DVD from Amazon.com. Discovered mp3 (thanks to my nephews)



2002

First laptop - a COMPAQ Presario



2003

Went digital with my photography



blipfoto

Joined Blipfoto.com

2012

Moved house again for the third time in my entire life; still on the same street!



Got to my first and only Olympics (so far)



2008

My Dad presented me with a DSLR for my 40th birthday



2012

2016

Did various roles to keep afloat in an unpredictable business environment

2014

Finally relented and got my first Smartphone after holding on to a candy phone for the longest time



2017

Started Tumbleweed Portal Services with Geraldine, the parent company of The Graffiti Wall



Through it all, I have had innumerable eclectic experiences, met some amazing people and made some irreplaceable life-long friends, all thanks to my parents bringing me to Dubai! Sadly, I have also had to say goodbye to too many special friends, Dubai being such a transient place. This December (2018), I will mark 50 years of living here, 40 of them on the same street in Karama!