

TUESDAY JUNE 14, 2022  
DHU AL QA'DA 14, 1443

[gulfnews.com](http://gulfnews.com)



Scan for  
our social  
media

# GULF NEWS

© All rights reserved 2022

NATION | P3  
**How UAE  
inspired serial  
adventurist**



THE VIEWS | P7  
**Food crisis can  
lead to further  
deforestation**



BUSINESS | P13  
**Companies need  
to embrace  
gender diversity**

TABLOID | 4-5

**MAN BEHIND  
THE MAGIC  
OF COKE  
STUDIO 14**

Xulfi opens up on  
his love for music,  
commitment to  
art and pursuit of  
excellence in his craft



## UAE helped me to push my boundaries, adventurer says

BACK FROM SUB-ORBITAL SPACE FLIGHT, HARDING'S NEXT STOP IS TITANIC WRECK

DUBAI

BY SUCHITRA BAJPAI  
CHAUDHARY  
Chief Reporter

**M**et Captain Hamish Harding, a long-time UAE resident of British origin who is a diehard serial adventurer. Just back from a sub-orbital space flight aboard Jeff Bezos' Blue Origins NS-21 sub-orbital rocket system on June 4, Captain Harding said it was the innovative spirit of UAE, his home for 20 years, that helped him push his boundaries.

Captain Harding, 57, who is the chairperson and founder of Action Aviation, an aircraft brokerage company in the UAE, spoke to *Gulf News* after returning from a successful fifth human space flight mission, as part of the six-member crew of astronauts aboard the Jeff Bezos Blue Origin NS-21 sub-orbital rocket system which took off from a desert in Texas under the New Shepard Programme.

Describing the incredible adventure, for which he shed around 9kg in six weeks, Captain Harding said, "It was an amazing experience."

Captain Harding, who is also chair of the Middle East chapter of the Explorers Club, an international organisation founded in New York in 1904 for advancement of exploration and scientific enquiry, said the UAE has been one of the driving forces behind helping him pursue adventure.

"I have been to the depths



■ Captain Hamish Harding with his fellow crew members from the Blue Origin NS-21 mission.

of the ocean and out into the space and in a few weeks about to explore the wreck of the Titanic near Greenland. In all my endeavours, it is the UAE which has inspired me. Ever since I set up my home here 20 years ago, I have never ceased to be amazed by the spirit of adventure in this country, which is always striving to achieve the biggest, the fastest. Records in excellence in this country has always helped me push my boundaries."

While his love for adventure began when he was five years old and he watched astronauts successfully reach the moon, Captain Harding feels living in the UAE helped nurture this spirit. "In the UAE, there are so many things to do. It is easily one of the greatest skydiving locations on earth, has some of the finest scuba diving sites on the east coast," he said. "The UAE has been a pioneer in the Space mission in the Middle



**I have been to the depths of the ocean and out into the space and in a few weeks about to explore the wreck of the Titanic near Greenland. In all my endeavours, it is the UAE which has inspired me."**

**Captain Harding**  
| UAE resident

East and can easily become the second launch site for sub-orbital flights for Blue Origin, after the Mexican desert."

His message to the younger generation is to nurture the spirit of exploration and scientific enquiry. "The UAE offers plenty of things to help hone your adventure streak. In cooler weather, I strongly recommend that people climb the tallest peak, Jebel Jais of the UAE. This mountain at an altitude of 6,000 feet is imminently doable. Once mountain climbing is done, take up scuba diving, sky diving, build up your spirit to achieve bigger and bigger goals."