

OMAN DELIGHT | 05 NIGHTS

Combining breathtaking natural beauty with an expertly maintained cultural heritage, the Sultanate of Oman is one of the least known, yet most exciting destinations in the Middle East.



The mountains of North Oman with their rugged scenery, calming solitude- where people live much as they have lived for centuries- there are breathtaking views, dramatic canyons and gorges and high-altitude plateaus and mountain villages. The vast sandunes of Wahiba Sands- home to legendary bedouines. Majestic Forts and castles, local souqs, and villages...the people....and more.... Come and be inspired!

Oman welcomes you! Ahlan wa Sahlan!



Trip Highlights

- Heritage of Oman
- The Hajjar Mountains
- The old Town of Nizwa
- Heritage souqs and villages.
- Turtle Beaches
- Wadis & Plantations

Programme In Short

DAY	ITINERARY	OVERNIGHT
01	Muscat – Arrival, City Tour	Muscat
02	Muscat – Al Hamra - Misfat al Abriyyin- Jabal Akhdar	Jabal Akhdar
03	Jabal Akhdar – Explore the Villages	Jabal Akhdar
04	Jabal Akhdar - Wadi Bani Khalid- Jalan Bani Bu Hassan – Ras Al Jinz	Ras Al Jinz
05	Ras Al Jinz – Wadi Shab- Bimmah Sinkhole- Muscat	Muscat
06	Muscat – Dolphin & Departure	



ITINERARY

DAY 01 | AHLAN WA SAHLAN! WELCOME TO OMAN!

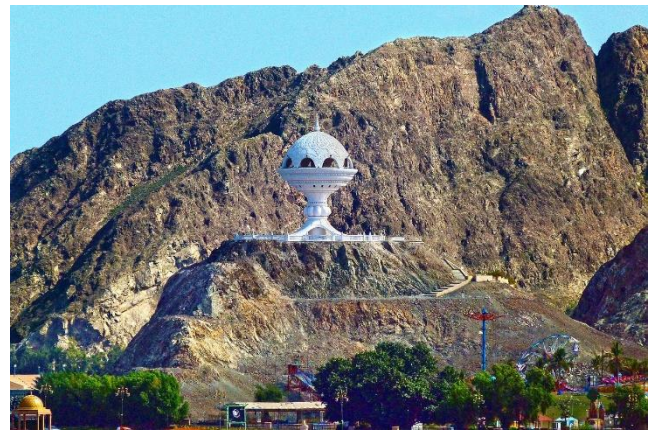
Ahlan wa Sahlan! Welcome to Oman!

Arrive at Muscat International Airport. Transfer by private air-conditioned vehicle to your hotel in Muscat. This short drive to your hotel would provide you the first impressions of a clean and green capital.

Arrive and check-in at the hotel (check in time is 14.00 Hrs).

Pick up from hotel at 14.00 Hrs for Muscat City Tour

Afternoon you will explore Muscat, the clean capital city. A unique blend of the ancient & the modern, Muscat is a beautiful clean city, which lies in the middle of a maze of brown pleated mountains, lulled by the Arabian Sea. The city has undergone dramatic development in the past two or three decades, however it has never lost its pride in its heritage & culture.



You will continue your drive through the ministries area where you can see a number of modern buildings with touches of Islamic architecture.

We will visit the Royal Opera House which is the leading arts and culture organization in the Sultanate of Oman. Located in Muscat, Oman, the vision of the Opera House is to serve as a centre of excellence in global cultural engagement. The "Opera Galleria", Royal Opera House Muscat's new flagship shopping destination, is host to wonderful shops, international brands, and an array of international cafés and dining options. It boasts 50 shops offering a wide range and carefully balanced mix of art outlets, gems, fashion and perfumes. You will drive to the old Muscat, the most charming part of the city.

Then we would enter the enchanting **Muttrah souq** with its narrow-covered alleys where the exotic smells of mounds of spices, coffees, ancient remedies and enticing perfumes fill the air. Your next visit would be the **Bait Al Zubair Museum**. With the variety of exhibits, modern display methods and information provided, the museum serves as a real window on Oman's rich heritage and culture.

A photo stop at the magnificent **Al Aalam Palace** (the official residence of Sultan Qaboos) flanked by the twin Portuguese **forts of Mirani & Jalali**.

Return to hotel.

Overnight Stay in	MUSCAT	Meals	B	-	-
Hotel	As per Choice	Website			

DAY 02 | HAJJAR & VILLAGES

(MUSCAT-Grand Mosque -Al Hamra-Misfat Al Abriyeen-Nizwa- jabal Akhdar)

Before you proceed, you will visit the ***Grand Mosque**, which is an architectural marvel and is perhaps the landmark of the city.

*:-The Grand Mosque is open Sat to Wed 0800-1100 hrs only.

: -Ladies visiting the Grand Mosque are required to cover their head with scarf and do not wear shorts, beachwear or sleeveless outfits as they are to be fully covered

: - Men visiting the Grand Mosque should wear long trousers.

Continue drive.

You may explore the village of **Al Hamra**, at the foot of the mountains, where 400 years old mud houses are still standing and occupied.

Start driving up the Western Hajar Mountains rising over 2000 metres, which can be seen from far away as you approach them. The mountain **village of Misfah** with stone dwellings and the terrace farming village of **Wadi Ghul** also would be visited.

You may visit the **Nizwa fort** and the **Nizwa souq**. The 17th century round fort and the souq famous for intricate silver jewelry are the major attractions of Nizwa. Built on a solid base of rock, the huge tower was designed to withstand the vibrations of 24 cannons.



Continue driving towards Jebel Akhdhar.

Visit the pretty village of Birkat al Mauz, where you enjoy a walk through the lush green date plantations.

You now take the stretch of winding road up to Jebel al Akhdar (2000m), the green jewel of the Al Hajar mountain ranges. Enjoy the cool climate up in the mountains and see Jebel al Akhdar which is famed for fruit orchards laid out in terraces along the mountain slopes and irrigated by falaj, traditional water systems.

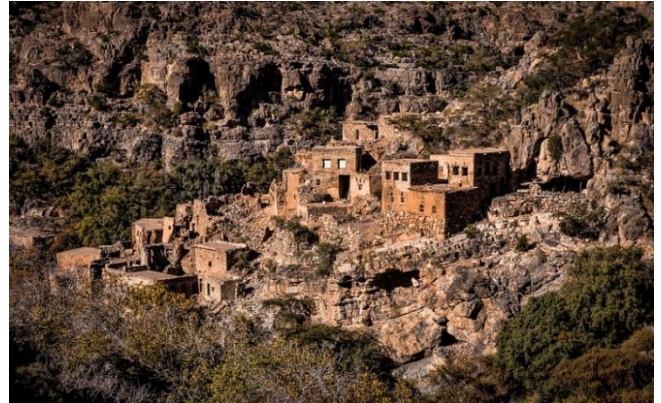
Overnight Stay in		JEBEL AKHDAR	Meals	B	-	-
Hotel	STD	As Per Choice	Website			

DAY 03 | GREEN MOUNTAINS!

(JEBEL AKHDHAR)

Explore the Jebel Akhdhar Mountains, its valleys, and orchards on your own or simply enjoy the “cooler” weather here and the pool at the Hotel. Enjoy a stroll in the nearby village on your own.

A large variety of fruit including peaches, apricots, figs, grapes, apples plums and pears are grown here from July to September and almonds and walnuts are cultivated. Tiny villages, including picturesque Saiq, Al Ain, and abandoned Wadi Bani Habib, dot the landscape and overlook a spectacular vista of peaks, gorges and wadis. The roses of Jebel al Akhdar fill the air with fragrance from March to April, when they are in full bloom, and rose water is distilled in the homes of the villagers.



Overnight Stay in	JEBEL AKHDHAR	Meals	B	-	-
Hotel	As per choice	Website			

DAY 04 | WADI & TURTLES

(Jabal Akhdar- Wadi Bani Khalid -RAS AL JINZ)

After breakfast proceed to Ras Al Jinz

You will drive to the interior of Oman, passing the desert town of Ibra and you will start seeing the beauty of the sand dunes rising as you drive closely along the bordering villages. On the inland side of the great mountainous backbone of the Sultanate of Oman, where sands lap at the thresholds of farmlands, a string of border towns marks the zone of transition between nomadic and settled peoples. In the oasis villages of Oman, however, desert and village economies have mingled for ages to their mutual benefit.

En-route visit at **Wadi Bani Khalid**. The Wadi has several beautiful mountain formations and landscapes. The walk to the pools of Wadi Bani Khalid is quite interesting, along the falaj (small irrigation canals) and past mango trees and other crops. Farmers in the area, despite the rough terrains, have managed to cultivate land at the foothills of the mountains by using the water streams to irrigate the crops. This is quite a refreshing visit; and you would be able to enjoy a swim in the waters here.





Turning inland again you will see some of the less visited towns of Oman. Jalan Bani Bu Hassan and Jalan Bani Bu Ali; towns comprising a conglomeration of watch towers, old fortified houses, forts and crumbling old walls.

In Jalan Bani Bu Hassan you can see (from outside only) the 200-hundred-year-old mosque with 52 domes. You can also see the ruins of a huge old fort belong to a powerful Omani tribal family. The door carvings are typical of that you find in most part of Arabia.

You will drive along the virgin and rugged shores of central Oman's east coast offering unspoiled and breathtaking sceneries of Oman's desert hinterland and pass fishing villages and areas ideal for bird-watching.

Arrive at Ras Al Jinz and check-in at your small hotel right on the beach!

Ras Al Hadd is where the first sunrise in the whole of Arabian Peninsula is seen – the adjoining Ras al-Jinz houses one of the largest nesting areas for Green Turtles in the Indian Ocean. An exceptionally high number of turtles nest here each year, with an average of 30,000 only nesting on the beaches of Ras al-Jinz. The turtle reserve opens at night (9.00 pm) as well as at dawn (4.00 am) for the public to see the turtles nestling on the sands and depending in your luck, you would be able to see a few or or more of these wonderful creatures. Please note that photography is allowed only during the dawn visit.



Note: Peak period for Turtle watching is from June to September. Eventhough Turtle watching is a year around activity, turtle watching is not guaranteed as this is a natural activity.

Overnight Stay in		RAS AL JINZ	Meals	B	-	-
Hotel	DLX	As per Choice	Website			

DAY 05 | WADIS, DHOWS & COASTAL ESCAPE

(RAS AL JINZ-SUR-WADI TIWI -WADI SHAB - MUSCAT)

Today you would embark on a long thrilling drive from Sur to Muscat. With stunning views of the waters of the Arabian Sea on one side and the rocky cliffs on the other, this is an exciting drive along the coast road to Muscat.

Stop at coastal town of Sur. for a quick short visit. Sur has historical importance and dhows used to sail to India and other countries from Sur. Many of the rich people of Oman belong to Sur and you can see many big seaside mansions along the way. Driving on to Sur, we would visit the Dhow building yard (though in



recent times, unfortunately, the amount of dhows built here is very few! We are therefore unable to guarantee any activity during the visit)

Not far away is a picturesque wadi- **Wadi Tiwi**. A walk through the narrow roads leads you to lush plantations and pools with clear water.

Continue to **Wadi Shab**. Wadi Shab is one of Oman's most scenic wadis. It is a canyon type valley with flowing water throughout the year. Fresh water cascading from top of the mountains meet the briny sea water on its banks, creating an environmental diversity unique to this wadi. A long walk past the green grass, banana and mango trees along the narrow winding, old rock paths will bring you to a series of streams and pools (Recommended for those interested in a Wadi hike, **walking time is around 1 hour one way**)



This hike fast-tracks you through the beautiful palm-lined Wadi Shab to the hidden cave at its heart, where you'll find a waterfall and a stunning turquoise blue pool. The hidden cave can only be reached by swimming through a small gap in some boulders. There's plenty of wildlife – birds, fish, crabs, lizards, dragonflies and butterflies – to spot along the way and lots of opportunities to hurl yourself into the refreshing water from various heights.

(Note: This hike is optional, involves moderate walk through wadi with pebbles and stones, climb over boulders, walk along a slippery and narrow canyon wall as well as swimming in 2 to 3 pools to reach the end of the wadi. Walking time is around 1 hour each way. Guests should wear walking shoes and carry swimming clothes in case they wish to do this hike. Guide may not accompany the guests for this hike).

Stop at the Bimah **Sinkhole**, a spectacular limestone crater with blue green water at the bottom.

Drive to Muscat.

Drop off at **Musta Hotel**.

Overnight Stay in	MUSCAT	Meals	B	-	-
Hotel	As per choice	Website			



DAY 06: DOLPHINS & BON VOYAGE
(Dolphin Watching & Departure)

Pick up from hotel between 07.00 Hrs to 07.30 Hrs (exact time depending on the hotel of stay and distance from Marina).



Morning you proceed for Dolphin Watching trip (Shared boat trip for 2 hours)

The coast of Oman is blessed with a variety of Dolphins & Whales. About 21 different species of Whales & Dolphins have been identified along the coast of Oman, including the Blue Whale which is seldom seen anywhere else in the world.

You would be transferred from your hotel to the jetty. While it is not guaranteed that you would spot dolphins on every trip, it would be an enjoyable experience in the sea and captain onboard (well, that really depends on the captain! and your luck!) might enlighten you with a lot of information about these interesting marine mammals.

Return to hotel. Check out at 12.00 Hrs.

Transfer to Muscat Aiport for your departure flight.

Meals	B	-	-
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End of service. Bon Voyage!!

Abbreviations: B- Breakfast, L- Lunch (lunch at local restaurant or Packed Lunch), D- Dinner

Remarks: -

- Forts in Oman are open from 8.00 am to 4.00 pm on all days except Friday. On Fridays, Forts are open from 8.00 am to 11.00 am only.
- All Forts & Museums are closed on Public Holidays