

TRANQUIL COUNTRY ON THE TIP OF THE ARABIAN PENINSULA

LOCATED ON THE ARABIAN PENINSULA, THE SULTANATE OF OMAN IS A BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY WITH BREATHTAKING LAND-SCAPES BOASTING OF A HERITAGE SPANNING ALMOST 5000 YEARS.

MOUNTAIN VILLAGES CLUTCHED AGAINST CANYON WALLS, CLUSTERS OF DATES WEIGHING HEAVY IN THE PLANTATION OASES, A RIBBON OF SAND BLOWN ACROSS THE DUNES, A LONE CAMEL PADDING ACROSS THE LIMITLESS INTERIOR - THESE ARE THE KINDS OF IMAGES AFFORDED BY THE BEAUTIFUL AND ENIGMATIC COUNTRY OF OMAN.

SURROUNDED BY AN EXTENSIVE COASTLINE AND RUGGED MOUNTAINS OMAN OFFERS THE MOST VARIED LANDSCAPES WITH THE FJORDS OF THE MUSANDAM PENINSULA, WAHIBA SANDS DESERTS, THE GREENERY OF THE DHOFAR REGION, THE MAJESTIC HAJAR MOUNTAINS OR THE BEAUTIFUL COAST OF BATINAH.

THE CAPITAL CITY OF MUSCAT SHOWS YOU EXACTLY HOW YOU CAN MAINTAIN OLD TRADITIONS AND CULTURE AGAINST MODERN INFRASTRUCTURE. MUSCAT HAS BEEN A PORT HUB FOR MANY YEARS, AND TODAY IS THE ARRIVAL POINT FOR EVERYTHING FROM GOODS TO CRUISE SHIPS.

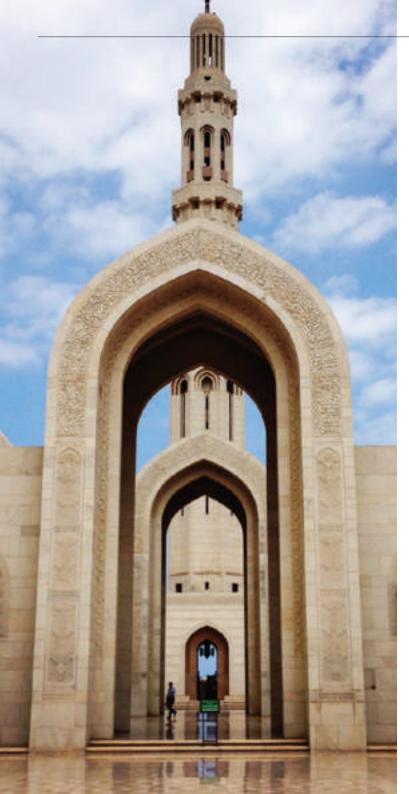
THE WARMTH OF THE OMANI PEOPLE IS EVIDENT AS SOON AS YOU LAND AT THE MUSCAT INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, WHERE EVERY GUEST IS WELCOMED WITH A SMILE. AS YOU EXPLORE OMAN, YOU WILL COME ACROSS LOCALS OFFERING A HOT CUP OF OMANI KAWA (COFFEE) OR DATES PLUCKED FROM THEIR ORCHARDS AND ENTERTAIN YOU WITH ONE OR TWO INTERESTING STORIES FROM THE PAST.

SO IF YOU ARE LOOKING AT PRISTINE NATURAL BEAUTY, THRILL-ING ADVENTURE, LEISURELY STARGAZING, SANDY BEACHES, CAMPING OR HIGH ADRENALINE OFF-ROAD DRIVING THEN OMAN IS THE DESTINATION YOU MUST ARRIVE AT.

AS ANY LOCAL OMANI WOULD TELL YOU ON ARRIVAL "AHLAN WA SALAN!" WELCOME TO OMAN.







HIGHLIGHTS OF OMAN 10 DAYS

THIS 10 DAY ITINERARY IS THE BEST WAY TO DISCOVER OMAN AND ALL IT'S MAJOR ATTRACTIONS. IT COVERS THE HISTORY AND HERITAGE OF THE COUNTRY, SHOWCASES THE NATURAL LANDSCAPES AND OFFERS A GLIMPSE TO EVERYDAY LOCAL LIFE.

- SULTAN QABOOS MOSQUE, BAIT AL ZUBAIR MUSEUM,
- STROLL ALONG THE BEAUTIFUL CORNICHE AND MUTTRAH SOUK
- PHOTOSTOPS AT AL ALAM PALACE WHICH IS THE FORMAL RESIDENCE OF HIS MAJESTY SULTAN QABOOS
- VISIT NIZWA OMAN'S CULTURAL CAPITAL
- VISIT THE JABRIN CASTLE BUILT IN THE 17TH CENTURY & BAHLA THE OLDEST TOWN
- BUY POTTERY IN BAHLA
- DRIVE TO JABAL AKHDAR -THE GREEN MOUNTAINS
- VISIT A PRIVATE TERRACE OF ROSE PLANTATIONS
- TAKE A REFRESHING SIP IN THE OASIS OF WADI BANI KHALID
- DUNE BASHING & DESERT CAMPING IN WAHIBA SANDS
- OVERNIGHT AT THE COASTAL TOWN OF SUR
- VISIT THE TURTLE SANCTUARY AT RAS AL JINX TO SEE THE GIGANTIC GREEN TURTLES
- STOP AT WADI TIWI FAMOUS FOR ITS DATE AND LIME PLANTATIONS
- VISIT THE FISHING TOWN OF QURIYAT AND BIMAH SINKHOLE
- FLY FROM MUSCAT TO SALALLAH
- VISIT THE OLD FISHING VILLAGE OF TAQAH AND THE TAQAH CASTLE
- VISIT KHORI RORI TO SEE THE FRANKINCENSE TRADE
- ENJOY THE NATURAL SPRING OF AYAN RAZAT
- VISIT THE ANCIENT TOMB OF JOB AND MUGHSAIL BEACH
- EXPERIENCE THE FRANKINCENSE IN ITS NATURAL HABITAT



MUSCAT & NAKHAL 4 DAYS

CAPTURING THE HISTORY OF THE COUNTRY, THE ITINERARY IS DESIGNED TO COVER THE HERITAGE IN AND AROUND MUSCAT CITY.

HIGHLIGHTS

- SULTAN QABOOS MOSQUE, BAIT AL ZUBAIR MUSEUM,
- STROLL ALONG THE BEAUTIFUL CORNICHE AND MUTTRAH SOUK
- PHOTOSTOPS AT AL ALAM PALACE WHICH IS THE FORMAL RESIDENCE OF HIS MAJESTY SULTAN QABOOS
- EVENING DHOW CRUISE AND DINNER VISIT NIZWA OMAN'S CULTURAL CAPITAL
- VISIT THE JABRIN CASTLE BUILT IN THE 17TH CENTURY & BAHLA THE OLDEST TOWN
- BUY POTTERY IN BAHLA
- DRIVE TO NAKHAL TO SEE A 350 YEAR OLD FORT

OMAN SHORT BREAK 4 DAYS

PERFECT FOR AN EXTENDED WEEKEND STOPOVER, THE 4 DAY BREAK COVERS THE MAIN HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CITY AND OFFERS A NIGHT OUT CAMPING IN THE DESERT.

- SULTAN QABOOS MOSQUE, BAIT AL ZUBAIR MUSEUM,
- STROLL ALONG THE BEAUTIFUL CORNICHE AND MUTTRAH SOUK
- PHOTOSTOPS AT AL ALAM PALACE WHICH IS THE FORMAL RESIDENCE OF HIS MAJESTY SULTAN OABOOS
- TAKE A REFRESHING SIP IN THE OASIS OF WADI BANI KHALID
- DUNE BASHING & DESERT CAMPING IN WAHIBA SANDS
- DOLPHIN WATCHING ALONG MUSCAT'S COASTLINE



MUSANDAM & KHASAB EXPLORER 4 DAYS

KHASAB IS A PORT CITY ON NORTHERN OMAN'S MUSANDAM PENINSULA. IN THIS ITINERARY WE TAKE YOU AWAY FROM THE CITY TO EXPLORE KHASAB THE SMALL BUT FAR FROM SLEEPY TOWN IN MUSANDAM.

- SCENIC DRIVE ALONG THE MUSANDAM PENINSULA
- EXPLORE KHAB FORT AND THE VILLAGE OF QADAH
- DRIVE TO BUKHA AND STOP AT BUKHA FORT
- DRIVE TO JEBEL HARIM OR " MOUNTAIN OF WOMEN "
- STOP AT THE BEDOUIN VILLAGE OF SAYAH WITH ITS FARMS AND PALM GROVES
- SPEND A DAY ON A DHOW CRUISE EXPLORING THE FJORDS OF OMAN
- STOP AT TELEGRAPH ISLAND
- SPEND TIME SNORKELING ,SWIMMING & WATCHING DOLPHINS IN THE WARM CLEAR WATERS

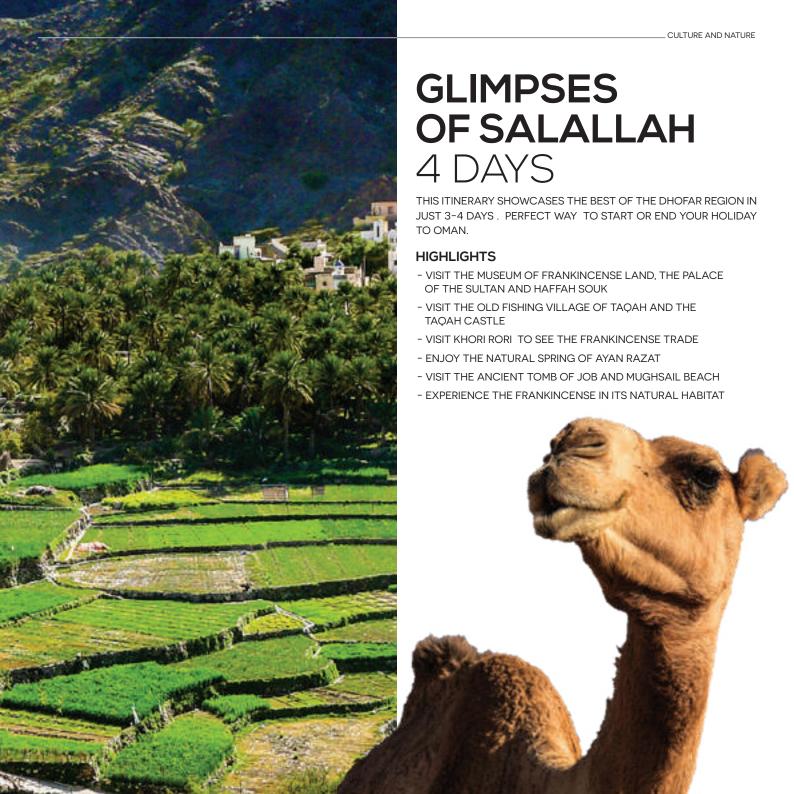
SIMPLY NATURAL 5 DAYS

ENJOY THE BEACHES, THE MOUNTAINS AND THE DESERT DURING THIS SHORT BREAK

- SULTAN QABOOS MOSQUE, BAIT AL ZUBAIR MUSEUM,
- STROLL ALONG THE BEAUTIFUL CORNICHE AND MUTTRAH SOUK
- PHOTOSTOPS AT AL ALAM PALACE WHICH IS THE FORMAL RESIDENCE OF HIS MAJESTY SULTAN OABOOS
- BUY POTTERY IN BAHLA
- DRIVE TO JABAL AKHDAR THE GREEN MOUNTAINS
- VISIT A PRIVATE TERRACE OF ROSE PLANTATIONS
- TAKE A REFRESHING SIP IN THE OASIS OF WADI BANI KHALID
- DUNE BASHING & DESERT CAMPING IN WAHIBA SANDS
- OVERNIGHT AT THE COASTAL TOWN OF SUR
- VISIT THE TURTLE SANCTUARY AT RAS AL JINX TO SEE THE GIGANTIC GREEN TURTLES
- STOP AT WADI TIWI FAMOUS FOR ITS DATE AND LIME PLANTATIONS
- VISIT THE FISHING TOWN OF OURIYAT AND BIMAH SINKHOLE.













THE SHANGRI LA BARR AL JISSAH RESORT & SPA MUSCAT

LOCATED JUST 20 MINUTES OUT OF CENTRAL MUSCAT, THE PROPERTY REPRESENTS LUXURY WITH A TOUCH OF ARABIA. MORE THAN A RESORT, THE PROPERTY OFFERS WORLD CLASS HOSPITALITY WITH THE MOST INCREDIBLE OMANI BACKDROP. IT OFFERS ACRES OF OASIS SURROUNDED BY THE AL HAJAR MOUNTAINS WITH ACCESS TO A PRIVATE BEACH. COMPRISING OF THREE PROPERTIES WITHIN THE RESORT.

YOU WILL FIND UTTER SECLUSION AND HIGH END FACILITIES WITH PLENTY OF OPTIONS FOR FUN ACTIVITIES WITH CHILDREN.

THE CHEDI MUSCAT

THE CHEDI IS A LUXURIOUS BEACH PROPERTY LOCATED VERY CENTRALLY IN THE CAPITAL CITY OF MUSCAT. THE ARCHITECTURE OF THE HOTEL VARIES FROM OTHER LUXURY RESORTS AND IS REMINISCENT OF AN ASIAN LAYOUT INFLUENCED BY OMANI TRADITIONS .PERFECT FOR LEISURE AS WELL AS BUSINESS TRAVELERS, THE 5 STAR HOTEL OFFERS A TOTAL OF 158 GUESTROOMS AND VILLAS.





THE AL BUSTAN PALACE MUSCAT

THE NEWLY RENOVATED AL BUSTAN PALACE, PART OF THE RITZ CARLTON GROUP IS A PALACE CONVERTED TO A HOTEL. THIS LUXURIOUS HOTEL SHOWCASES THE OMANI CULTURE AND HOSPITALITY THROUGHOUT. LOCATED ON A 1 KM PRIVATE BEACH, THE LONGEST IN OMAN, THE PROPERTY OFFERS 250 NEWLY RENOVATED ROOMS.

SIX SENSES ZIGHY BAY

THE SIX SENSES ZIGHY BAY IS A DIFFERENT WORLD BY ITSELF!! SIX SENSES ZIGHY BAY RESORT IS LOCATED ON THE NORTHERN MUSANDAM PENINSULA IN THE SULTANATE OF OMAN. IT IS CRADLED BY MOUNTAINS AND SURROUNDED BY THE BLUE WATERS OF THE MUSANDAM FJORDS. ET ON 1.6KM OF PRIVATE BEACH THIS RESORT OFFERS LUXURY VILLAS WITH PRIVATE POOLS AND THE SIX SENSES SPA.

YOU CAN REACH THE RESORT BY ROAD OR BY SPEEDBOAT AND IS THE PERFECT GETAWAY FOR HONEYMOONERS.





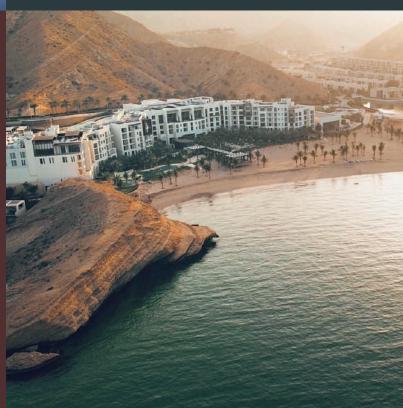
ANANTARA BALEED RESORT SALALAH

THE ANANTARA BALEED RESORT IS THE FIRST AND ONLY LUXURY POOL VILLA RESORT IN SALALLAH. NESTLED BETWEEN A FRESHWATER LAGOON AND A PRIVATE BEACH THE HOTEL OFFERS 136 ROOMS AND PRIVATE VILLAS. ACCOMMODATION IS SPACIOUS AND GUESTS CAN CHOSE BETWEEN A 53 M2 GUEST ROOM, A 176 M2 VILLA OR A VILLA WITH A PRIVATE PLUNGE POOL.

OFFERING MANY ACTIVITIES WITHIN AND ABOUT THE PROPERTY, THIS IS A PERFECT GETAWAY FOR COUPLES AS WELL AS FAMILIES.

JUMEIRAH MUSCAT BAY

NESTLED BETWEEN MOUNTAINS AND SEA, JUMEIRAH MUSCAT BAY OFFERS TRUE TRANQUILITY AND A GREAT SENSE OF ESCAPING THE EVERYDAY. A SUBLIME PLACE TO DISCONNECT AND INDULGE IN RELAXING DAYS ON THE BEACH, ADVENTUROUS HIKES IN THE MOUNTAINS OR BLISSFUL MOMENTS DIVING IN THE ARABIAN SEA.



HERITAGE HOMES

TURTLE BEACH RESORT

THE PLACE WHERE THE SUN RISES FIRST IN THE ARAB PENINSULA

MISFAH OLD HOUSE

MISFAH OLD HOUSE IS LOCATED IN THE MIDDLE OF THE OLD VILLAGE OF MISFAT AL ABRYEEN IN SULTANAT. OFFERS TRADITIONAL ACCOMMODATIONS AND SERVES OMANI CUISINE COOKED BY LOCAL FAMILIES.

THE MOUNTAINS OF OMAN

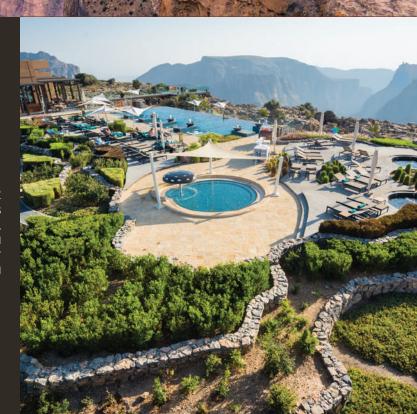
JABAL SHAMS: STANDING 3,000 METRES HIGH, THE COOL WEATHER AND RUGGED, DRY ATMOSPHERE MAKES IT A UNIQUE PLACE FOR CAMPING, CLIMBING, AND ROAD TRIPPING.

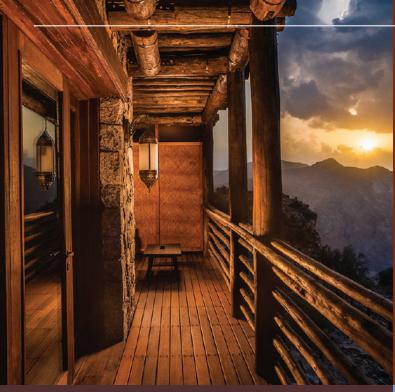
JABAL AKHDAR: ALSO KNOWN AS THE GREEN MOUNTAIN IS OMAN'S MOST SCENIC. THE RANGE IS BEAUTIFUL WITH COOL WEATHER ALL YEAR ROUND AND IS SURROUNDED BY OLD VILLAGES AND LUSH GREENS AREAS.



ANANTARAJABAL AKHDAR

ANANTARA IS RATED AS THE HIGHEST FIVE STAR RESORT IN THE MIDDLE EAST ON THE CURVING RIM OF A GREAT CANYON. IT IS A SECLUDED HAVEN 21KM FROM THE CULTURAL CAPITAL, NIZWA. 115 VILLAS OR LUXURY ROOMS OVERLOOK THE CANYON OR THE GARDENS. EACH VILLA OFFERS A PRIVATE INFINITY POOL THAT IS EITHER OVERLOOKING THE CLIFF OR HIDDEN IN THE GARDEN.





ALILA JABAL AKHDAR

PERCHED 2000 FEET ABOVE SEA LEVEL THE ALILA JABAL AKHDAR IS INSPIRED BY ANCIENT OMANI ARCHITECTURE AND TECHNIQUES. THE ENTIRE RESORT HAS BEEN CONSTRUCTED USING LOCAL STONES WITH CONTEMPORARY ARCHITECTURE TO GIVE IT A UNIQUE LOOK LIKE NO OTHER IN OMAN.

THE PROPERTY OFFERS SPACIOUS SUITES AND VILLAS OVER-LOOKING THE MESMERIZING MOUNTAINS AND CLIFFS OF THE AL HAJAR RANGE.

THE VIEW CAMP

SITUATED AWAY FROM THE HUSTLE BUSTLE OF THE CITY ON THE ROAD BETWEEN AL HAMRA TO HAIL AL SHAS LIES THE VIEW OMAN. THIS LUXURY ECO-RESORT TUCKED AWAY IN A SCENIC VALLEY OFFERS AN EXCLUSIVE VACATION EXPERIENCE. ONE REQUIRES A 4-WHEEL DRIVE VEHICLE TO COVER THE LAST STRETCH OF 7.5 KM OF WINDING MOUNTAINOUS PATHS LEADING UP TO THE RESORT; AND ON REACHING THERE YOU ARE GREETED WITH STUNNING PANORAMAS OF THE SURROUNDING VALLEY, THAT IS SURE TO TAKE YOUR BREATH AWAY.

THE VIEW COMBINES SPECTACULAR VIEWS OF NATURE AND EXCELLENT AMENITIES WITH UNPARALLELED HOSPITALITY MAKING IT ONE OF THE BEST LUXURY RESORTS IN OMAN.





THE DESERT

OMAN IS DISTINGUISHED WITH SOME OF THE MOST UNIQUE DESERTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST, LIKE AL RUB' AL KHALI (THE EMPTY QUARTER) IN THE SOUTH AND AL WAHIBA SANDS IN THE EAST. THESE DESERTS ARE STRONGLY CONNECTED TO THE BEDOUIN LIFESTYLE AND AUTHENTIC OLD TRADITIONS AND CULTURES.

DESERT NIGHTS CAMP

LOCATED JUST TWO HOURS AWAY FROM MUSCAT AT WAHIBA SANDS, "DESERT NIGHTS CAMP" IS THE ONLY LUXURY CAMP IN OMAN. THE CAMP IS SECLUDED IN THE MIDDLE OF THE VAST OMANI DESERT AND IS SPREAD OVER 10 KM OF SMOOTH GOLDEN RED SAND.

GUESTS CAN CHOOSE BETWEEN 39 LUXURIOUS BEDOUIN STYLE CAMPS AND CHOOSE FROM AN ARRAY OF ACTIVITIES LIKE DUNE BASHING OR DUNE BIKE RIDING OR A CAMEL RIDE INTO THE SUNSET.





DAMANIYAT ISLANDS BY CATAMARAN

OMAN IS THE PERFECT DESTINATION FOR AN ISLAND GETAWAY ON YOUR OWN PRIVATE BOAT.

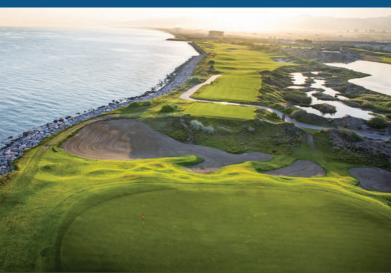
FROM THE AL MOUJ MARINA SET SAIL TO THE NATURAL RESERVE, DAMANIYAT ISLANDS .SAILING TIME IS 3 HOURS .

SPEND THE DAY SWIMMING, SNORKELING AND EXPLORING THE UNTOUCHED SET OF ISLANDS OFFERING VARIED MARINE LIFE AQUA AND FAUNA. WE CAN ARRANGE FOR BBQ LUNCHES OR EVEN AN OVERNIGHT STAY ON ANY OF THE ISLANDS.

GOLF

OMAN HAS 4 OUTSTANDING GOLF COURSES. THE AL MOUJ GOLF CLUB WITH 18 HOLES, THE MUSCAT HILLS GOLF CLUB, THE GHALA GOLF CLUB AND JEBEL SIFAH GOLF CLUB.

FOR THOSE WHO WANT TO LEARN THE GAME, EACH COURSE HAS AN ACADEMY WITH QUALIFIED GOLF INSTRUCTORS WHO WOULD BE HAPPY TO GUIDE. COURSES CAN BE ARRANGED ON ONE TO ONE BASIS OR IN GROUPS.





EQUESTRIAN

THE ROYAL CAVALRY SET UP IN 2010 HAS 25-30 HORSES AND IS THE MOST SOUGHT AFTER PLACE FOR HORSE RELATED ACTIVITIES IN THE COUNTRY . WE OFFER TOURS OF THE STABLE TO ENJOY SOME TIME WITH THESE MAJESTIC ANIMALS AND AN EXPERT WILL SHOW THE TRAINING FACILITIES AND TEHCNIOUES.

WE CAN ALSO ARRANGE FOR CHILDREN TO SEE SHOW JUMPING BY AN EXPERT.





SNAKE CANYON HIKING AND CANOEING

THIS IS A FANTASTIC ENTRY-LEVEL ADVENTURE FOR THOSE LOOKING TO GET A GOOD ADRENALINE RUSH AND TRY OUT SOME ROPE WORK.

THE CHALLENGES START RIGHT FROM THE START WITH A 6M ABSEIL OR A JUMP FOR MORE COURAGEOUS (DELETE THESE THREE WORDS) RIGHT AT THE CANYON ENTRANCE AND WILL NOT END UNTIL WE START OUR HIKE TO EXIT THE CANYON.

KEEP FOLLOWING THE CANYON DOWN, GET READY FOR A 30M ABSEIL, MULTIPLE SLIDES, JUMPS AND SCRAMBLES. EVERY TURN HAS GOT A NEW OBSTACLE TO BE FIGURED OUT.

TAKE A QUICK BREAK TO WARM UP IN THE SUN AS WE REACH THE FORK WHERE THE TWO SIDES MEET AND HEAD TOWARDS THE CAVE. TRAVERSE THROUGH THE POOLS IN THE DARK AND COME OUT TO FACE MORE SLIDES, SWIMS AND A FEW BIG JUMPS. IF YOU ARE READY, AS WE MAKE OUR WAY TOWARDS THE EXIT, OUR LAST CHALLENGE IS A 40-MINUTE HIKE OUT OF THE CANYON BEFORE WE TAKE OUR WELL-DESERVED REST UNDER THE SHADE OF THE PALM TREES

WHERE?

ONE OF THE MOST FAMOUS CANYONS IN OMAN, SNAKE CANYON, LOCALLY KNOWN AS WADI BIMMAH IS A TWO-HOUR DRIVE FROM MUSCAT.

TIWI HIKING & SWIMMING

EXPLORE THE MOST BEAUTIFUL CANYON IN OMAN!

THIS IS AN ENTRY-LEVEL ACTIVITY WITH LOTS OF SWIMMING, EXPLORING THE LOCAL CULTURE AND A FEW ADRENALINE-FILLED ABSEILS.

UNLIKE THE OTHER CANYONS, THIS WADI IS FULL OF GREENERY, WITH THE TERRACED PALM TREE GARDENS STRETCHED ALONG THE EDGES OF THE CANYON AND BIZARRE CALCITE FORMATIONS YOU CAN SPOT ALONG THE WAY. THE WATER IN WADI TIWI IS SOMETHING SPECIAL, THANKS TO THE PALE LIMESTONE ROCK, IT'S CLEAR WATERS TURN SKY-BLUE, AN "OUT OF THIS WORLD" VIEW. JUMP IN THE DEEP POOLS OF THE WADI AND ABSEIL OFF AN ACTIVE WATERFALL, AS WE MAKE OUR WAY DOWN TOWARDS THE VILLAGE OF TIWI.

ENJOY A FILLING LUNCH AT A LOCAL RESTAURANT IN THE VILLAGE AND MAKE OUR WAY TO THE LAST STOP OF THE DAY - BIMMAH SINKHOLE.

THIS SINKHOLE IS QUITE A SPECTACLE WITH GOLDEN COLOUR ROCK FRAMING A BOLD TURQUOISE POOL. BRACKISH WATER IN THE SINKHOLE IS WHAT GIVES IT ITS COLOUR. WE HIKE DOWN FOR A SWIM AND HEAD BACK TO MUSCAT



THE CAVE EXPLORER

A SHORT HIKE DOWN THE WADIS AND A 6M ABSEIL LATER, WE ARE AT THE BOTTOM, STANDING NEXT TO A DARK HOLE IN THE GROUND WHICH IS THE NATURAL ENTRANCE INTO THE CAVE. A 10-METER ROPED ABSEIL GETS YOU DOWN INTO TOTAL DARKNESS, LIKE VERY FEW OTHER PLACES ON EARTH.

WE START EXPEDITION THROUGH THE CAVE'S ENORMOUS CHAMBERS AND NARROW PASSAGES, SCALING HUGE BOULDERS THE SIZE OF CARS AND COLUMNS OF CALCITE THAT DWARF THE FEW SPECTATORS WHO COME TO VISIT.

FOLLOWING THE WATER COURSE, WE REACH THE FIRST LAKE WHICH IS HOME TO THE RARE AND PROTECTED BLIND CAVE FISH. OUR EXIT ROUTE FOLLOWS THE OLD PASSAGEWAY AS IT WINDS BACK UP THROUGH SOME IMPRESSIVELY LARGE CHAMBERS AND WELL-DECORATED SECTIONS TOWARDS OUR 10M-ENTRANCE PITCH AND THE FIRST GLIMPSE OF DAYLIGHT.

WHERE?

A LARGELY UNEXPLORED AL HOOTA CAVE SYSTEM IN THE WEST-ERN HAJAR IS A GREAT INTRODUCTION TO THE CAVING WORLD.

THE LOWER SECTION OF THIS CAVE HAS BEEN OPENED UP AS A SHOW CAVE, CONTAINING CONCRETE WALKWAYS AND LIGHTING RIGS GIVING EASY ACCESS TO THE MOST TIMID. THANKFULLY THE TOP OF THE CAVE WAS NEVER TOUCHED, MAKING IT A PERFECT SPOT FOR UNDERGROUND EXPLORATION.

AL HAYER FALLS SWIMMING

THIS IS A FANTASTIC DAY OUT SWIMMING IN TURQUOISE POOLS OF THE AL HAYER SECTION OF WADI BANI KHALID. AWAY FROM TOURISTIC POOLS, THIS CANYON IS A GREAT ADVENTURE FOR EVERYONE WHO ENJOYS WATER FUN. WITH MULTIPLE LONG SWIMS, IMPRESSIVE JUMPS AND PLENTY OF GOOD ROUTE FINDING, THIS IS A FUN AND LESS TRAVELLED ROUTE IN OMAN.

THE CANYON BOASTS AN IMPRESSIVE WATERFALL WITH GREAT JUMPING POINTS FROM THE TIMID METER HIGH TO THE REALLY BIG STUFF. THE LENGTH OF THIS CANYON MEANS THAT YOU CERTAINLY WON'T BE LEFT WANTING MORE OUT OF THE DAY! THIS IS A GREAT ADVENTURE FOR THE NOVICE AND LESS EXPERIENCED CANYONERS OUT THERE.

WHERE?

THIS ADVENTURE TAKES PLACE IN THE EASTERN HAJAR MOUNTAINS IN THE VILLAGE OF AL BIDAH. THIS IS A RARELY EXPLORED AND MOST EXCITING SECTION OF FAMOUS WADI BANI KHALID.

ONCE OUT OF THE CANYON WE ENJOY OUR LUNCH AND HEAD BACK TO ARRIVE TO THE CAPITAL IN THE EVENING.



MOUNTAIN CLIMBING VIA FERRATA

CLIMB THE TOP 200M CLIFFS OF OMAN'S HIGHEST MOUNTAIN, JEBEL SHAMS. THIS ADVENTURE IS NOT FOR THE FAINT HEARTED! OUR ADVENTURE COMMENCES WITH A HIKE ALONG THE EDGE OF THE CANYON, THE FAMOUS BALCONY WALK, TO THE RECENTLY ABANDONED VILLAGE OF SAP BANI KHAMIS WHERE WE HAVE A OUICK STOP FOR PHOTOS AND A LOOK AT A LAKE ABOVE.

WE THEN CONTINUE CLIMBING UP TO THE START OF THE VILLAGERS' OLD STICKS STAIRWAY, NOW THE VIA FERRATA. THE ROUTE IS PROTECTED WITH A STEEL CABLE THAT REACHES ALL THE WAY UP THE 200M CLIFFS, PROVIDING ASSISTED CLIMBING FOR THE ADVENTURER WITH LITTLE EXPERIENCE. WITH THE 2,000M DEEP CANYON JUST OVER YOUR SHOULDER, THE VIEWS ARE EXCEPTIONAL AND A HEAD FOR HEIGHTS IS MOST DEFINITELY REQUIRED.

WHERE?

UP ON JEBEL SHAMS IN THE WESTERN HAJAR, THIS IS THE HIGHEST MOUNTAIN IN OMAN WITH A SUMMIT JUST OVER 3000M. THE CLIMATE IS COOLER AND THE VIEWS OVER THE EDGE OF OMAN'S OWN GRAND CANYON ARE EXCEPTIONAL.

BALCONY WALK HIKING

WITH PANORAMIC VIEW OF OMAN'S 'GRAND CANYON', THIS IS AN INCREDIBLE ADVENTURE FOR ALL.

THE HIKE IS NOT EXTREMELY DIFFICULT AND THE VIEWS ARE BREATH TAKING. WE FOLLOW THE OLD ROUTE AROUND THE INSIDE OF OMAN'S OWN GRAND CANYON TOWARDS THE RECENT-LY ABANDONED VILLAGE OF SAP BANI KHAMIS. ABOVE THE VILLAGE IS A SPRING FED LAKE WHERE WE CAN HAVE A REFRESHING DIP IF YOU WISH, OR JUST SIT IN THE SHADE PROVIDED BY THE CAVE BEHIND AND ENJOY THE VIEWS OVER LUNCH.

THE ROUTE BACK IS THE REVERSE ROUTE SO NOW WE GET THOSE SPECTACULAR VIEWS FROM ANOTHER ANGLE. THE GENTLE DESCENT WE ENJOYED IN THE MORNING MAKES US WORK A LITTLE HARDER ON THE WAY BACK

WHERE?

UP ON JEBEL SHAMS IN THE WESTERN HAJAR, THIS IS THE HIGHEST MOUNTAIN IN OMAN WITH A SUMMIT JUST OVER 3000M.



WAKAN VILLAGE

TREK

GRAPE PLANTATIONS IN OMAN? - WHY NOT! AMAZING SCENERY ALONG WITH SOME STEEP INCLINES, DECLINES AND DELICATE MANEUVERS WILL KEEP EVERYBODY INTERESTED.

THE LOWER PASS BETWEEN THE VILLAGES OF WAKAN AND HADASH, IS A SOLID DAY WALKING. THE ROUTE IS QUITE STEEP, GETTING YOU TO WORK HARDER ON THE ASCENTS, AND THE VIEWS OF LOCAL VILLAGES NESTLED IN THE CLIFFS ARE SPECTACULAR. AS WE COME CLOSER, WALK THROUGH THE GRAPE PLANTATIONS, EXPLORE ANCIENT IRRIGATION SYSTEM, FALAJ AND OBSERVE LOCAL LIFESTYLE.

THIS TREK IS AN ABSOLUTE GEM FULL OF AMAZING VIEWS, LOCAL SPIRIT AND FRESH AIR.

WHERE?

FAMOUS VILLAGES OF HADASH AND WAKAN NESTED IN THE GHUBRAH BOWL AT AN ALTITUDE OF APPROXIMATELY 1000M. THE VIEWS ARE SIMPLY STUNNING.

DIVING TRIPS

THE BOAT RIDE IS BETWEEN 10 TO 60 MINUTES SO WE HAVE PLENTY OF TIME TO EXPLORE THE COAST OF OMAN. GET THE CHANCE TO SEE A WIDE ARRAY OF MARINE CREATURES THROUGH 2 DIFFERENT DIVE SITES LIKE THE MORAY EEL, LION FISH, SCORPION FISH, PARROT FISH, BUTTERFLY FISH, FLUTE FISH, CORNET FISH, TURTLES, RAYS AND MANY MORE.

WE DIVE IN SMALL GROUPS AND EACH GROUP HAS THEIR OWN DIVE INSTRUCTOR.

INCLUDED ON BOARD

- PROFESSIONAL DIVE MASTER AND INSTRUCTORS.
- TANKS AND WEIGHTS.
- DIVING PERMIT.
- SOFT DRINKS, WATER AND SNACKS ARE OPEN.
- SOUND SYSTEM.
- TOILET.





COASTAL ADVENTURES

LEAVE MUSCAT AND TRAVEL THROUGH THE COAST FROM MUSCAT TO QURIYAT AND VISIT BIMAH SINKHOLE. NEXT DRIVE TO FINNS BEACH WHICH IS KNOWN AS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL BEACH IN OMAN. SETTLE FOR A PICNIC LUNCH, A SWIM AND RELAX A WHILE. NEXT DRIVE TO WADI SHAB.

ENJOY A WALK THROUGH THE WADI (WALKING SHOES ARE STRONGLY RECOMMENDED). GOING UP THE WADI YOU WILL SEE MANY POOLS WHERE YOU CAN ENJOY A REFRESHING SWIM. WE WILL RETURN TO MUSCAT IN THE EVENING.

DOLPHIN WATCHING

EMBARK ON A FIBER BOAT FOR A 03 HOUR CRUISE THROUGH THE MUSCAT COAST TO WATCH WILD DOLPHINS. WATCHING WILD DOLPHINS IS A THRILLING WAY TO START THE DAY AND THE LUCKY MAY EVEN COME ACROSS ONE OF THE MANY SPECIES OF WHALES THAT CAN BE FOUND JUST A FEW KILOMETERS FROM MUSCAT'S RUGGED COAST.





FISHING

IN THE WATERS OFF OMAN'S COASTS ONE CAN FIND THE MOST PRODUCTIVE MARINE ENVIRONMENTS IN THE WORLD, WHICH OFFER BOTH NOVICE AND EXPERIENCED BIG GAME FISHING ENTHUSIASTS A VARIETY OF EXCELLENT YEAR-ROUND GAME FISHING OPPORTUNITIES. SPECIES FOUND IN ABUNDANCE RANGE FROM YELLOWFIN TUNA AND ALL THE SMALLER SPECIES OF TUNA TO SAILFISH, HUGE GIANT TREVALLY AND ALSO MARLIN.

RACING AHEAD OF THE FEEDING DOLPHINS AND LIVE-BAITING FOR YELLOWFIN OR LONG-TAIL TUNA IS THE SPECTACULAR, 'OMANI' WAY TO FISH, TURNING A FISHING TRIP INTO AN EXHILARATING WILDLIFE EXPERIENCE.

DHOW CRUISE

THIS TRIP IS LAUNCHED FROM THE MARINA BANDAR. AFTER BEING TREATED TO A GLORIOUS SUNSET AND A FABULOUS VIEW OF THE MAJESTIC COASTLINE ON YOUR WAY TO THE SULTAN QABOOS PORT, YOU WILL PASS THE YACHT CLUB OF MUSCAT, FOLLOWED BY THE PICTURESQUE FISHING VILLAGE OF SIDAB. A TOUCH OF HISTORY COMES TO FORE, AS YOU PERCEIVE THE OLD GRAVES OF THE BRITISH SAILORS.

AMIDST SHRILL CRIES OF THE SEAGULLS, FLYING GRACEFULLY AROUND THE CLIFF AT THE ENTRANCE OF THE OLD HISTORIC MUSCAT HARBOR, YOU WILL NOTICE THE LEGENDS OF SHIPS THAT HAD VISITED THIS HARBOUR, PAINTED ON THE CLIFFS. FURTHER YOU WILL SAIL BY THE 16TH CENTURY FORTS NAMED AS JALALI AND MIRANI STANDING SENTINELS TO THE MAGNIFICENT AL ALAM PALACE, THE OFFICIAL RESIDENCE OF HIS MAJESTY SULTAN OABOOS BIN SAID.

THE PALACE WAS BUILT DURING 1970-1974. AFTER THE DHOW NEGOTIATES A DETOUR AT THE GLITTERING CORNICHE, IT GLIDES PAST THE MOST EXCLUSIVE HOTEL OF OMAN, THE RITZ CARLTON AL BUSTAN PALACE HOTEL. SOFT DRINKS AND WATER WILL BE SERVED ON BOARD.





DESERT EXPERIENCE

MORNING, BOARD THE 4WD AND DRIVE SOUTHWARDS, AS WE CROSS THE HAJAR MOUNTAINS THE SCENERY ALL ALONG THE WAY IS NOT ONLY BEAUTIFUL BUT ALSO SPECTACULAR. YOU REACH WADI BANI KHALID A BEAUTIFUL OASIS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE BARREN AND DRY MOUNTAINS.

THE TURQUOISE BLUE POOLS OF FRESH WATER ARE IN STARK CONTRAST TO THE SURROUNDING MOUNTAINS. LATER DRIVE TO WAHIBA SANDS, A VAST MASS OF UNDULATING RED & WHITE SEA OF SAND DUNES IS ALSO HOST TO A VARIETY OF FLORA AND FAUNA. ON ARRIVAL, WE WILL RIDE THE SAND DUNES IN OUR LAND CRUISER, AS WILL GO DEEP INTO THE SANDS OF WAHIBA. LATER IN THE AFTERNOON WE START OUR JOURNEY BACK TO MUSCAT.

WADIS & MOUNTAINS

WE LEAVE MUSCAT TO PROCEED TO NAKHAL TO VISIT THE 17TH CENTURY FORT. WE THEN BEGIN OUR DRIVE TOWARDS THE STUNNING WADI BANI AWF, WHICH IS ONE OF THE MOST FANTASTIC TOURIST LOCATIONS IN OMAN. WADI BANI AWF IS BY FAR THE MOST DIVERSE AND CHALLENGING WADI.. SETTLE FOR A PICNIC LUNCH. AFTER LUNCH YOU WILL VISIT BILAD SAYT. ENJOY THE ALPINE SCENERY OF BILAD SAYT. RETURN TO MUSCAT IN THE EVENING.





WADI THRILLS

PROCEED TOWARDS THE FISHING TOWN OF QURIYAT THROUGH THE STARK MOUNTAIN TERRAIN. DRIVE THROUGH THIS FISHING VILLAGE VISITING THE 400 YEAR OLD QURIYAT FORT BEFORE HEADING TO THE FISH SOUK WHERE A VARIETY OF FISH IS TRADED FOR LOCAL CONSUMPTION AS WELL AS EXPORT. DRIVE ALONG THE PICTURESQUE WATERFRONT. THERE IS GOOD CHANCE OF SPOTTING FLAMINGOS AND EAGLES AT AN INLAND STREAM. FROM HERE WE PROCEED TOWARDS THE COAST AND VISIT THE VILLAGE OF HAIL AL GHAF WHICH IS KNOWN FOR ITS FRUIT PLANTATIONS.

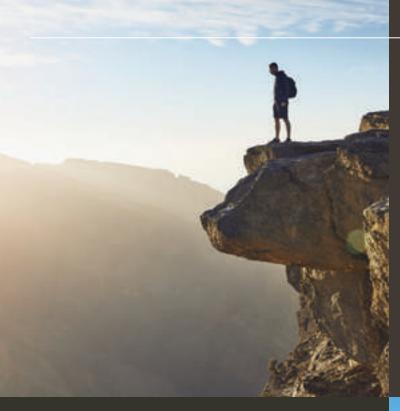
WE THEN START ON AN ADVENTUROUS ROUTE CUTTING THROUGH THE MOUNTAINS. AT THE END OF THE DRIVE, WADI ARBAYEEN AWAITS WITH ITS DEEP POOLS OF WATER SET AMONG THE DATE PALMS. ENJOY A PICNIC LUNCH HERE AND DRIVE BACK TO MUSCAT VIA WADI MAZARA.

WADIBASHING

AFTER BEING PICKED UP FROM MUSCAT YOU HEAD NORTH TO BARKA. THEN ON TO THE OLD VILLAGE OF ABYAD. AFTER NAVIGATING YOUR WAY THROUGH THE NARROW STREETS OF THE VILLAGE THE LANDSCAPE OPENS UP TO REVEAL A SMALL EXPANSE OF DESERT DUNES. HERE YOU WILL GET TO EXPERIENCE SOME DUNE BASHING WITH YOUR EXPERIENCED OFF-ROAD DRIVER. AFTER THIS THRILLING DRIVE, YOU GO BACK THROUGH THE VILLAGE TO WADI ABYAD. THE WADI IS THOUGHT TO GET ITS NAME FROM THE WHITE CALCITE POOLS THAT ARE LOCATED WITHIN IT.

SOMETIMES AFTER THE RAINS THERE ARE POOLS DEEP ENOUGH TO SWIM IN. NEXT PROCEED TO HAVE A PICNIC LUNCH AFTER WHICH WE HEAD BACK TO MUSCAT.





GRAND CANYON TOUR

MORNING DRIVE TO THE HISTORIC TOWN OF NIZWA, OMAN'S CULTURAL CAPITAL. HERE YOU WILL VISIT THE POWERFUL NIZWA FORT, WITH ITS MASSIVE CIRCULAR CANNON TOWER. THIS IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPRESSIVE FORTS IN OMAN>YOU WILL VISIT THE TRADITIONAL SOUQ NEXT.

DRIVE TO THE VILLAGE OF AL HAMRA TO SEE OLD HOUSES AND THE FALAJ SYSTEM. THE TRADITIONAL MUD HOUSES DATING BACK FROM 400 YEARS ARE STILL OCCUPIED.

YOU WILL ALSO STOP AT WADI GHUL, THE FARMING VILLAGE IN THE MOUNTAINS BEFORE WE REACH JABAL SHAMS, THE GREAT CANYON OF OMAN. ENJOY THE BREATHTAKING VIEW OF THE GREAT CANYON.

NAKHAL & RUSHTAQ

MORNING WE WILL DRIVE TO NAKHAL. YOU REACH NAKHAL TO BEHOLD, A 350 YEARS OLD MAGNIFICENT FORT WHICH IS DRAMATICALLY LOCATED AT THE TOP OF ROCKY MOUNTAIN CLIFF. THE AREA IS SURROUNDED WITH DATE PLANTATIONS.

THE NARROW ROAD THROUGH THE TOWN WINDS UP TO THE AIN TOWARAH HOT SPRINGS, WHICH IS A POPULAR PICNIC SPOT. AFTER SPENDING SOME TIME AT NAKHAL WE WILL TRAVEL AHEAD TO RUSTAQ WHICH WAS ONCE THE CAPITAL OF THIS AREA AND A MAJOR TRADING CENTER OF OMAN. LATER WE WILL DRIVE BACK TO MUSCAT VIA AL HAZAM (PHOTO STOP AS IT IS CLOSED FOR RENOVATIONS).





JABEL AKDHAR & NIZWA

START EARLY WITH A DRIVE TO JABAL AKDHAR. WE DRIVE ON TO THE PRETTY VILLAGE OF BIRKAT AL MAUZ AND ENJOY A WALK THROUGH THE LUSH GREEN DATE PLANTATIONS. ENJOY THE COOL CLIMATE UP IN THE MOUNTAINS AND SEE AL JEBEL AL AKHDAR WHICH IS FAMOUS FOR FRUIT ORCHARDS TYPICALLY LAID ONLY IN TERRACES ALONG THE MOUNTAIN SLOPES AND IRRIGATED BY 'FALAJ'. TRADITIONAL WATER SYSTEMS.

A WIDE VARIETY OF FRUITS INCLUDING PEACHES, POMEGRANATES, APRICOTS, FIGS, GRAPES, APPLES, PLUMS AND PEARS ARE CULTIVATED HERE FROM JULY TO SEPTEMBER. AND ALMONDS AND WALNUTS ARE ALSO INCLUDED IN THE CROP. THE VILLAGES OF SAIQ, WADI BANI HABIB (A VILLAGE OF OLD HOUSES) AND AL AIN DOT THE LANDSCAPE AND OVERLOOK A SPECTACULAR LANDSCAPE 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. IN THE AFTERNOON, WE WILL DRIVE TO THE HISTORIC TOWN OF NIZWA, OMAN'S CULTURAL CAPITAL. WE WILL VISIT NIZWA FORT WITH ITS MASSIVE CIRCULAR CANNON TOWER, ONE OF THE MOST IMPRESSIVE FORTS IN OMAN AND THEN THE TRADITIONAL SOUQ. LATER WE WILL DRIVE BACK TO MUSCAT.

NIZWA FORT IS OPEN SATURDAY-THURSDAY: 0900 - 1600 & FRIDAY: 0800 -1100

NIZWA FORT & JABRIN CASTLE

MORNING, DRIVE TO THE HISTORIC TOWN OF NIZWA, OMAN'S CULTURAL CAPITAL. YOU WILL VISIT THE NIZWA FORT WITH ITS MASSIVE CIRCULAR CANNON TOWER, ONE OF THE MOST IMPRESSIVE FORTS IN OMAN AND THE TRADITIONAL SOUQ. THEN YOU WILL PROCEED TO JABRIN CASTLE BUILT IN 17TH CENTURY WHICH IS ONE OF THE FINEST OF ITS KIND.

ITS MAGNIFICENT PLASTERWORK, THE CARVED DOORS AND THE PAINTED WOODEN BEAMS OF THE CEILING, MAKES THIS CASTLE AMAZINGLY DIFFERENT. THEREAFTER CONTINUE TO BAHLA, ONE OF THE OLDEST SMALL TOWNS OF OMAN, WHICH IN THE 12TH CENTURY WAS THE CAPITAL OF THE TRIBALS LIVING IN THE REGION. AS THE MONUMENTAL FORT IS CLOSED FOR RENOVATION ONLY A PHOTO STOP IS PLANNED.

BAHLA IS ALSO FAMOUS FOR ITS POTTERY. ENROUTE MUSCAT, VISIT THE PRETTY VILLAGE OF BIRKAT AL MAUZ SITUATED AT THE FOOTHILLS OF JEBEL AKHDAR (GREEN MOUNTAIN). ENJOY A WALK THROUGH ITS OASIS AND DENSE DATE PLANTATIONS.



KEY FACTS

LOCATION: MIDDLE EAST, SOUTHEASTERN TIP OF ARABIAN PENINSULA.

TIME: GMT + 4

CURRENCY: RIYAL OMANI

AREA: 309,500 SQ KM (119,500 SQ MILES)

CAPITAL: MUSCAT

LANGUAGE SPOKEN: ARABIC, ENGLISH, BALUCHI, URDU, INDIAN DIALECTS
GEOGRAPHY: THE SULTANATE OF OMAN OCCUPIES THE EASTERN EDGE OF THE
ARABIAN PENINSULA WITH ALMOST 1,700KM (1,062 MILES) OF COASTLINE
STRETCHING ALONG THE INDIAN OCEAN AND THE ARABIAN GULF. IT IS BORDERED
BY THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA TO THE WEST AND THE REPUBLIC OF YEMEN TO
THE SOUTH. THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES LIES TO THE NORTHWEST OF OMAN AND
TO THE EAST LIES THE ARABIAN SEA AND THE GULF OF OMAN.

RELIGION

ISLAM IS THE MAJOR RELIGION IN OMAN. THE COUNTRY IS LIBERAL TOWARDS THE OTHER RELIGIONS AS WELL.

SOCIAL CONVENTIONS

SHAKING HANDS IS THE USUAL FORM OF GREETING. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WOMEN DRESS MODESTLY BEYOND THE HOTEL GROUNDS, IE LONG SKIRTS OR DRESSES (BELOW THE KNEE) WITH COVERED SHOULDERS: AND MEN SHOULD WEAR TROUSERS AND SHIRTS WITH SLEEVES. COLLECTING SEASHELLS, ABALONE, CORALS, CRAYFISH AND TURTLE EGGS IS PROHIBITED. DUMPING LITTER IS FORBIDDEN. IT IS POLITE NOT TO SMOKE IN PUBLIC, BUT GENERALLY 'NO SMOKING' SIGNS ARE POSTED WHERE APPROPRIATE.

OMAN VISAS

VISAS ARE REQUIRED (EXCEPT FOR GCC NATIONALS) UPON ENTRY . VISAS CAN BE PROCESSED ONLINE THROUGH THE WEBSITE GIVEN BELOW

HTTPS://EVISA.ROP.GOV.OM/

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- ALL VISITORS MUST HOLD ONWARD OR RETURN AIR TICKETS
- NO ISRAELI VISA STAMP ON THE PASSPORT
- VISA PROCESSING TIME IS NORMALLY 3 DAYS HOWEVER URGENT VISAS CAN BE PROCESSED IN 1 DAYS TIME.



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