

Oman

THE BEST OF THE MIDDLE EAST - WHERE EAST MEETS WEST

SAMPLE ITINERARY :: AUTHENTIC ASIA



A journey through Oman offers a glimpse into a country where the desert evokes images of Arabia as told in the fabled stories of One Thousand and One Nights, where the unspoiled beaches stretch for hundreds of miles and where the mountains disappear into the far distance providing a home for the elusive Arabian wolves.

Throughout this trip you will explore the capital city of Muscat, the desert camps and mountaintops, the bustling Bedouin markets, the vibrant souks, and the old frankincense trading routes in the lush and fertile Dhofar region of Southern Oman.

Day 1 | Muscat

Upon arrival in Muscat you will be met and transferred to the hotel.

Accommodations: Chedi Hotel

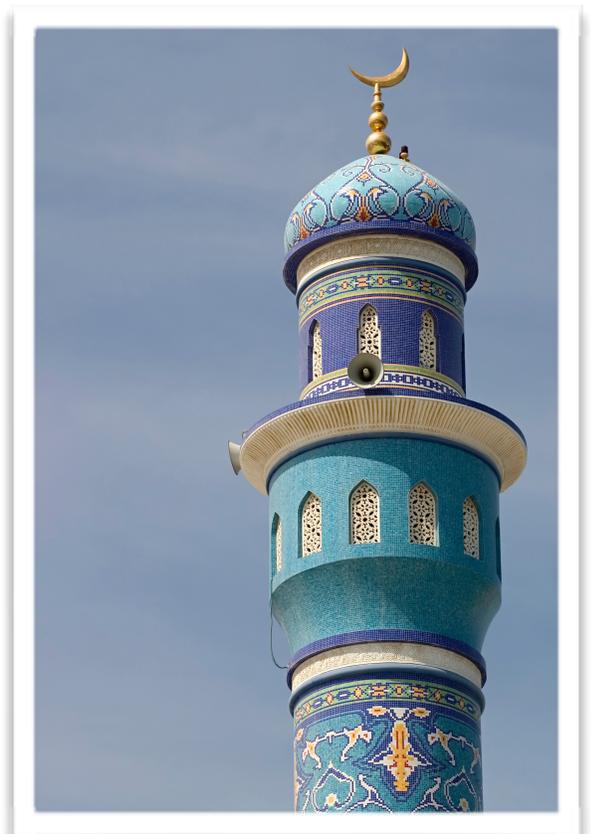
Day 2 | Muscat

Oman's capital is a city where traditional culture thrives alongside the commercial hustle and bustle of a modern city. A full day of sightseeing begins with a visit to the Grand Mosque (please note that women need to be dressed properly when visiting the mosque – legs and arms need to be covered and a head scarf must be worn). The Grand Mosque is a religious landmark that represents the splendor of unique Islamic architecture. If you would like to learn more about Islam, you are free to visit the nearby Islamic Center as well.

Next stop will be the Muttray Souq, famous for its gold and silver shops. In the souq you can also find spices, coffee, and many of the daily goods that the locals living in the region of Muttrah shop for. Here you will also come across the Empress Maria Theresa Thalers – the Austrian coinage that was used as a currency in Oman until 1970.

This afternoon walk around the grounds of the Palace of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos and the twin Portuguese Forts Mirani and Jalali (access to the interior is not allowed). The final visit for the day will be Bait al Zubair a small private museum that focuses on the social culture of Oman.

Accommodations: Chedi Hotel.



Day 3 | Jebel Akhdar Mountains

Depart Muscat early this morning to visit the Sinaw Bedouin market followed by a drive to Birkal al Moz, a beautiful old oasis town perched against the mountains. Continue on your drive towards the mountains stopping en route at the town of Lizq, famous for its “falaj” system. The falaj is an irrigation system designed to tap water originating from wells near the mountain bases through man made deep and long channels. The water is then carried through the falaj to the local villages. According to UNESCO, these systems date to before the Iron Age and some 3,000 falaj are still in use in Oman today.

Then make your way up the Jebel Akhdar Mountain range. At 8,200 feet above sea level, you will find the terraced villages of Bani, Habib and Sharijah. Here, away from the heat of the desert, Omani farmers grow vines, limes, pomegranates, onions, and other vegetables for the nearby markets in Nizwa and Muscat.

Note: Overnight in the Jebel Akhdar Mountains will depend on weather conditions.

Accommodations: Sahab Hotel



Day 4 | Desert Camp

Leave the mountains behind and drive to Nizwa just in time to witness the weekly cattle auction where Bedouins and locals gather to sell and trade sheep and goats. It is a colorful and exciting scene!

As you make your way towards the desert, stop at the immense ruined Bahla Fort with its mud-brick walls and towers built on huge stone foundations. The fort and settlement, a mud-walled oasis in the Omani desert, owed its prosperity to the Banu Nebhan tribe who dominated the central Omani region and made Bahla their capital from the 12th to the 15th centuries.

Arrive in the desert mid-afternoon where your “1001 Nights Camp” awaits. Set among the Cineraria trees at Wahiba Sands, the camp boasts an unbeatable setting in the silky dunes of the Omani desert. There will be time for an early evening desert walk, as the sun sets and the sand takes on its eternal golden hue. A traditional Bedouin dinner is served this evening.

Accommodations: Tented Desert Camp

*“The world is a book and those who do not travel
read only one page.”*

Day 5 | Salalah

Return to Muscat in time for the flight to Salalah, located in Southern Oman. Salalah is a colorful, subtropical city that owes much of its character to Oman’s former territories in East Africa also known as the “Garden City”.

- St. Augustine

It is the capital of the Omani province of Dhofar and is the traditional home of the Sultan of Oman. The Dhofar region offers an amazing diversity as the coast of the Arabian sea blends with the southern Green Mountains with their lush fertile ground. This harmonious blend of the coastal area, the mountains and the desert makes the province of Dhofar the most scenic areas in Oman.

Accommodations: Juweira Boutique Hotel

Day 6 | Salalah

The day begins with a tour of the Al Balid Museum displaying much of the history of Oman including its maritime heritage. From here continue on to the coconut plantations and then to Haffa Souq famous for the local frankincense. After a picnic lunch the day takes you to Mugsayl Beach and from there to the Wadi of the Frankincense Trees. Continue up the road toward the Yemen border until you reach the high sea cliffs for amazing views of the area.

En route back to Salalah stop at the tomb of the Prophet Imran, whom local people believe to have been the father of Mary, Mother of Jesus.

Accommodations: Juweira Boutique Hotel.

Day 7 | Salalah

Another full day starts with a morning trip up to the mountains for a visit to the village of Tawi Ataiz. The drive continues to Mirbat, once a capital city dating back to the 9th century. It was known throughout Arabia for its trade in frankincense, horses and even slaves. The last site on this morning's itinerary is Bin Ali's Tomb. This twin domed structure dating back to the 10th century A.D. is a perfect example of medieval Omani architecture.

In the afternoon take some time to walk along the city's promenade (waterfront cornice) that takes you past traditional single storied houses, dwarfed by tall, swaying palms. You will pass Al Husn Palace, the summer residence of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos and time permitting you can also include a short excursion to the town of Taqah for a view of the tomb of the sultan's mother.

Accommodations: Juweira Boutique Hotel

*"We travel not to escape life, but for life
not to escape us."*

Day 8 | Departure

Return to Muscat for your departure flight or fly from Salalah to Dubai.

- Anonymous

End of services.

The above is a sample itinerary which covers the highlights and also takes you off the beaten path. We would be happy to discuss your individual travel preferences and amend the itinerary accordingly.

Pricing is dependent on your choice of accommodations, time of the year that you will be traveling, the final itinerary, and the number of people in your group.

Should you wish to discuss your individual travel plans to Oman please do feel free to reach to us via e-mail at info@authenticasia.net or by phone at 1. 888.586.9958.



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