

# **ADVENTURE OMAN**

(10 NIGHTS / 11 DAYS)

DAY 1, Arrival at Muscat International Airport (No Meals )

Arrive at Muscat International Airport by your flight. Upon arrival pass through the immigration and customs.

Meet our driver at the main arrival hall and transfer to Park Inn hotel

Arrive and check in at hotel (standard check in time 1400 hrs)

Overnight at Park Inn hotel

DAY 2, Muscat City Tour ( Meals: B)

Breakfast at hotel

This morning we are off to a wonderful tour of Muscat. We will start our tour with a visit to Grand Mosque the most exquisite Mosque in Oman. The developed part of the site, Grand Mosque Including the fully consolidated areas and landscaping, covers 416,000 square metres. The Mosque complex (covering 40,000 square metres) is constructed



on a raised podium in keeping with the tradition of Omani mosques that were built elevated from street level.

It can accommodate up to 20,000 worshippers and consists of a main prayer hall, ladies prayer hall, covered passageways, a meeting hall, and library which will eventually contain up to 20,000 books.

A major feature of the main prayer hall is the hand-made Persian carpet consisting of 1,700 million knots,

Weighing 21 tones and made in a single piece measuring 70  $\times$  60 metres. From design stage it took 4 years complete and 600 female weavers from province of Khurasan in Iran were involved.

Notes:

Grand Mosque is open from Saturday to Thursday from 0800 – 1100 hrs only.

Ladies visiting the 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 are also to be full covered. Slip on shoes recommended.

Later visit Bait Al Zubair Museum. It consists of a concise collection reflecting the splendid Omani Heritage. The collection includes traditional Omani Weapons such as swords, daggers, rifles & their accessories, along with jewellery, cosmetics & costumes from various regions of Oman.

We drive towards Muttrah Souq – one of the most popular souqs in the Middle East. Take a walk in its labyrinthine alleyways beckoning with a myriad of merchandise, from imported fabrics to exotic Oriental spices, perfumes and richly handcrafted artifacts. A visit to this frenetic, pulsating hub of Muscat's old quarter makes for a delightful



experience. Here, scents of exotic Arabian perfumes and spices float through the air. Other shops specialize in famous Omani khanjars (daggers), antiques, traditional silver jewellery, and handicrafts in copper, camel bone, wood, leather and hand-made Omani costumes.

After shopping at Muttrah Souq we visit to the magnificent Al Alam Palace, the official residence of His Majesty Sultan Haitham Bin Tariq the ruler of Oman. The palace is an architectural marvel for both its design and its location between the twin Portuguese forts Mirani and Jalali (A brief photograph stop from outside only).

Drive back to your hotel





## Overnight at Park Inn hotel

DAY 3, Muscat— Barkha — Bilad Sait (Meals: B, L, D)

#### Breakfast at hotel

Today you will start your fascinating Round trip. Your first stop will be at Barkha Fish Market. Watch the local fishermen bring in their early morning catch to the shores then have a stroll through this seaside market to explore the vareity of fish from the Omani seas and other vegetables and fruits produced nearby.





Later we continue our drive to Wadi Bani Auf. The route down Wadi Bani Auf is one of the Arabia's great 4WD adventures and includes a visit to the village of Bilad Sait, a remote fortress village in the heart of the mountain range.

Check in at Bait Bimah Guest house

Dinner at Guest house

Overnight at Bait Bimah Guest House

DAY 4, Bilad Sait – Jebel Shams (Meals: B,L,D)

## Breakfast at Guest house

Later drive to Snake Canyon, Oman's largest natural water park, for some Canyoning adventure. Journey through the cracks between two mountains, where gushing water has cut right through, leaving behind smooth, colorful rocks with plenty of water pools. It will take 4 to 5 hours to do this activity.

After Canyoning return to the guest house and have lunch. Check out and depart to Jebel Shams, the highest mountain in the GCC.

Arrive and check in at Sama Heights Resort Dinner at Resort

Overnight at Sama Heights Resort



DAY 5, Jebel Shams (Meals: B)

## Breakfast at Resort

Spend your day in Jebel Shams, which is commonly called the 'Grand Canyon' of Oman.

We start the day with the famous Balcony Walk, a 4km hike through the rim of the Wadi Ghul canyon. Although generally classified as 'moderate' in intensity, the drops can be sheer so hikers should be comfortable with heights.







For those willing to challenge themselves, there is an option to do a thrilling 150m abseil down one of the canyon walls and/or a Via Feratta climbing up that same distance.

Dinner at Resort

Overnight at Sama Heights Resort

DAY 6, Jebel Shams (Meals: B)

Breakfast at Resort

Check out from the resort and drive to Nizwa

Visit Nizwa souq. The impressive New Souq complex has been sensitively designed using Omani fort architecture and elegant Islamic arches. The air-conditioned halls of this souq are full of fresh fruit and vegetables, herbs and spices, huge stacks of dates and freshly caught fish. This is still the best place to buy traditional silver "Khanjars" (hand- carved Omani daggers) and Bedouin jewellery, where silver is still sold by weight.

Then you visit **Nizwa Fort** with its massive Circular Cannon Tower, making it one of the most impressive



forts in Oman Built on a solid base of rock, the huge tower was designed to withstand the vibrations of 24 cannons. From the top, a superb panoramic view gives visitors a bird's eye view all around Nizwa and the surrounding plains – a sure delight for all avid photographers!

Later drive to Jebel Akhder

Overnight at hotel in Jebel Akhder

DAY 7 Jebel Akhder (Meals: B)

Breakfast at hotel

Explore the mountain villages of Jebel Akhder In Arabic Jabel Akdhar means green mountains. Jabel Akdher is famous for gardens, farms and terrace plantations.

Take the Three villages walk. Follow your guide as they take you through the terrace gardens to view this intriguing location. The villages of Sayq & Al Ain dot the landscape. The









Overnight at your hotel in Jebel Akhder

villages overlook a spectacular landscape of dramatic peaks, gorges and wadis. The roses of Jabal Al Akhdar fill the air with fragrance when in full bloom (March / April). Rose water is distilled in the homes of the villagers. Pause for lunch at a local home before returning to hotel

Evening get ready to witness the stunning views of Jabal Akhdhar from a different angle, hanging off a cliff! You will be transferred to the village of AlShuraijah to do the Via Ferrata (Italian for 'iron path'). Following a short safety briefing, get into your harness and headgear and start the climb sideways along the mountain face.

DAY 8, Jebel Akhder – Wahiba Sands (Meals : B, D)

#### Breakfast at hotel

After breakfast check out from the hotel and drive to Wahiba Sands. Visit Wadi Bani Khalid, this is considered one of the most beautiful wadi's in Oman. The drive to Wadi Bani Khalid is through the Eastern Hajar Mountains, which offers a panoramic view of landscape below. We pass many pretty villages embedded in the mountains. Here the road winds down to the wadi along side a large, shallow pool fringed with vegetation and ends at a villag e. We park our vehicles at this point and continue on a short trek to the deep blue pools of the wadi. Enjoy a swim in this glorious grace of nature.



(Please note it is aprox 500 meter walk from the parking area to the pool.)

As per the recent guidelines form Ministry of Heritage & Tourism, ladies who wish to swim in the wadi have to wear shorts and t shirt to cover their body. Swimming in bikinis is not permitted. This is to respect the local culture of the villagers.

After relaxing time at Wadi, drive to the Desert. Check in at your camp Dinner at Camp

Overnight at your Camp

DAY 9, Wahiba Sands (Meals : B, D)

Breakfast at leisure

A range of activities are available at your desert camp including desert trekking, camel safari, quad biking, dune bashing, and sand boarding.





After all the fun activities, enjoy lunch at a Bedouin House (Desert Tribes). Anybody who chooses to live in the environment of Wahiba Sands must be hardy and resilient to tolerate its potentially harsh climate — and bedu are just that. There are over 3000 Bedu of varying tribal origins who live here amongst the woodland on the fringes of the sands.

Overnight at your Camp.



DAY 10 Wahiba - Muscat (Meals: B)



There is an **optional adventure** to abseil down the waterfalls of Mibam village and have a chance to see some spectacular views of the wadi below.

Next is to stop at the unique Bimah Sinkhole, a limestone crater with inviting cool blue-green waters. Created by erosion, or perhaps even a meteorite, this sinkhole is thought to be one of the most beautiful sinkholes on the planet. Drive to Muscat

Arrive in Muscat and check in at your hotel

Overnight at Park Inn hotel

Breakfast at camp

Check out and drive to Sur, a city which a long history in trading and maritime and renowned for its dhow shipyards.

We then stop at Wadi Tiwi, another spectacularly deep and narrow gorge carved out of the mountains, running between towering cliffs right down to the sea. It compensates with its old traditional villages, surrounded by lush plantations of date and banana, and crisscrossed with a network of gurgling aflaj.

After around 5km you'll reach the picturesque village of Harat Bidah, where the road narrows dramatically, squeezing its way between old houses and high stone walls. Stop here to capture some stunning pictures of the Wadi.







DAY 11, Departure\_ (B)

Breakfast at leisure

Morning at Leisure

Later check out from the hotel (standard Check out time 1200 hrs) and transfer to Muscat International Airport to board your flight back home

END OF THE TOUR / SERVICES

