

OMAN DISCOVERY 9 days



Itinerary:

Day 1 : Arrive Muscat

After arrival at Muscat international airport transfer to hotel and time to relax from the flight.

Lodging: City Season Hotel

Day 2 : Muscat - City Tour (B)

After breakfast start your Muscat city tour with a visit to the Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque. Afterwards drive along the picturesque corniche and visit the Bait Al Zubair Museum, a private collection exhibiting the wealth of Oman's history. Next is a photo stop at the residence of his Majesty Sultan Qaboos, the Al Alam Palace, which is flanked by the 16th century Portuguese forts Mirani and Jalali. Afterwards enjoy some time at the colorful Muttrah Souq.

Meals: Breakfast **Lodging:** City Season Hotel

Day 3 : Muscat- Sur (B / L)

After breakfast at the hotel depart by 4WD to Sur via the scenic and rugged coastal route. This tour offers breathtaking glimpses of the blue waters of the Gulf of Oman offset by pristine white beaches. Pass the fishing village of Quriyat before the first stop at the Bimah sinkhole, a spectacular limestone crater with blue green water at the bottom. Next see the fins beach, one of the beautiful white sands beaches. The drive continues to Wadi Tiwi. The sight is remarkable with its lush green plantations with water flowing all year around. Picnic lunch is served before reaching Sur and tonight a expedition to see Giant Turtles awaits.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch **Lodging:** Sur Plaza Hotel

Day 4 : Sur - Wahiba - Nizwa (B)

After breakfast today embark on a full day tour to Wadi Bani Khalid, an oasis in the middle of the mountains and Wahiba, the great Arabian desert with sightseeing en route. Visit a Bedouin house, enjoy a camel ride and a sand dune drive at Wahiba before leaving for Nizwa, the cultural capital of Oman.

Meals: Breakfast **Lodging:** Golden Tulip Hotel

Day 5 : Nizwa - City Tour (B)

After breakfast depart on a full day trip to the historical and heritage capital of Oman. Start with a visit to the Nizwa souq where potteries, gold and silver wares are sold. Then see the famous round tower fort. Continue to Al Hamra, one of the oldest villages where up to 400 years old mud houses are still occupied. Later proceed to Bahla, the mystical village, known for Arabian potteries. Onwards to visit the Jabrin castle built in 17th century, it has magnificent plasterwork, wooden carvings and painted ceilings.

Meals: Breakfast **Lodging:** Golden Tulip Hotel

Day 6 : Nizwa - Muscat - Salalah (B)

Today after breakfast depart to Seeb Airport to connect the flight to Salalah. Upon arrival transfer to the hotel and time at leisure.

Meals: Breakfast **Lodging:** Crown Plaza Hotel

Day 7 : Salalah (B)

Today explore Salalah. Start with a visit to a museum showing the rich history of Oman dating back 5000 years. Then drive through the old town of Taqa before you arrive at the bay of Sumhurum believed to be the home of Queen Sheeba, where trading of Frankincense took place. The ruins are spectacular and give a great insight into former living conditions. Continue on the coastal road and visit a 2 onion-domed mosque with an old cemetery. Walk through the old village of Mirbat, which displays traditional ancient Omani architecture. Return to Salalah city for lunch before you make your way to the ruins of Al Balid. En route to Mughsail beach you pass through Frankincense trees where you can smell and experience the product. Later visit the spectacular blow holes at Mughsail beach and the tomb of Prohpet Job in the mountains.

Meals: Breakfast **Lodging:** Crown Plaza Hotel

Day 8 : Salalah - Muscat (B / D)

After breakfast begin your Salalah city tour. Visit the garden farms which have groves of coconut, banana, papaya and vegetables. Next is a photo stop of the beautiful Shanfari Mosque with its exquisite artwork and stained tiles. Visit the Al Husn Souq where frankincense crystals of Dhofar and typical Dhofari frankincense burners are sold. Pass at the Al Husn Palace, summer residence of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos. Last is the Al Balid museum, famous for the Dhofari costumes in the south. In the evening transfer to airport for domestic flight to Muscat. Enjoy a farewell Dhow dinner cruise on you last night in magical Oman.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner **Lodging:** City Season Hotel

Day 9 : Muscat Departure (B)

After breakfast transfer to the airport for your international return flight.

Meals: Breakfast

