



OMAN SELF DRIVE TOURS

اكتشف عمان بسيارتك

Tour "Along the Omani trails"

Hiking 4x4 self-drive tour

14 days / 13 nights



Start your discovery by the Western Hajar mountains and its many hiking options - short and long. Travel, on quiet trails, the Jebel Shams, the Jebel Akhdar, the Wadi bani Awf villages and the valley of Misfat al Abriyeen. Continue by the sands of the Wahiba, the seaside and the Eastern Hajar wadis, where short walks and natural pools await.

Oman Self Drive Tours

اكتشف عمان بسيارتك

PO Box 1178, PC 130, Al Azaiba, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman
Phone : +968 97 04 61 61 – email : contact@omanselfdrivetours.com
Ministry of Commerce CR number 1276308

Understand your travel proposition

Self drive tour

The travelers themselves will drive along all the road transfers detailed in the program as well as along possible additional transfers to reach an activity place (except for transfers with driver or guide).

Program type: "Freedom hiking"

Each day, a number of possible activities - walks and hikes - are proposed. It is up to the travelers, during their trip, to choose which activity they are interested in depending on their wishes and the time available. The times given for each activity and each transfer are intended to give an idea as accurate as possible of what can be done in one day.

Driving level: 4x4

The itinerary includes dirt roads without major difficulty but requiring a 4x4 vehicle. Under normal conditions, anybody can drive on these roads as long as he/she respects the basic safety rules. However, unpredictable events, especially weather-related, can make these dirt roads harder to negotiate.

Possible activity

Activity not requiring prior reservation. The travelers are free to go for them or not. Most of them are free of charge.

Optional / Included activity

Paying activity requiring prior reservation. If it is a guided activity, it may involve transfers. In this case, such transfers will be arranged by the guide or a driver, with their own vehicle.

Variant

Road transfer longer than the reference transfer but of a greater interest in terms of landscape or possible activity.

Accommodation with surcharge

Hotel not included in the standard package, proposed as an upgrade of the accommodation already included that day.

Key

Transfers

-  Road
-  Scenic road
-  Plane
-  Ferry

|30min| Approx. time of transfer

|4x4| Dirt road: 4x4 required

|4x4+| Difficult dirt road: 4x4 and experience required


Landscapes (transfers & activities)

-  Mountain
-  Village/palm grove
-  Wadi
-  Town
-  Sea
-  Desert

Activities

-  Culture
-  Shopping
-  Viewpoint
-  Scenic road
-  Strolling
-  Walking/hiking
-  Canyoning
-  Bathing/swimming
-  Nature
-  Cruise

|1h-2h| Approx. time dedicated to the activity

 **|10min|** Approx. time up to the activity place (one way)

Meals

RO Room only

BB Breakfast

HB Half board

FB Full board

L Lunch (during an activity)

OVERVIEW OF YOUR TOUR


DAY 1 - Muscat

-  Muscat International Airport to the Mutrah district | 30km-30min |
-  Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque (Ghubrah district) | 45min-1h30 |
-    Mutrah District : its corniche, souqs and fort | 1h-4h |
-    Old Muscat District : Sultan's Palace & National Museum | 30min-3h |
-  Royal Opera House (Qurum district) | 20min-30min |
-  Guesthouse (Mutrah district, Muscat) | BB |
-  Aparthotel *** (Ghubrah district, Muscat) | BB |
-  Guesthouse (Azaiba district, Muscat) | BB |






DAY 2 - From Muscat to Misfat al Abriyeen

-  Muscat to Fanja | 50km-45min |
-  Fanja to Jabrin castle | 140km-1h30 |
-  Jabrin castle | 1h-2h |
-  Jabrin to Al Hamra | 30km-40min |
-    Town of Bahla | 1h-3h |
-  Al Hamra to Misfat al Abriyeen | 6km-15min |
-  Private guided visit of the village of Misfat al Abriyeen | 2h30 |
-  Guesthouse (Misfat al Abriyeen) | HB |
-  Guesthouse (Al Hamra) | HB |

DAY 3 - Hiking at the heart of the Western Hajar

-  Misfat al Abriyeen to Al Hamra | 6km-15min |
-  Al Hamra to the Sharaf al Alamain pass | 30km-40min |
-   Sharaf al Alamain pass | 15min-1h |
-   Guided hike between the Wadi bani Awf villages (+600m -550m) | 5h-6h |  13km-1h
-  Sharaf al Alamain to Al Hamra | 30km-40min |
-    Town of Al Hamra | 30min-2h |
-  Al Hamra to Misfat al Abriyeen | 6km-15min |
-  Guesthouse (Misfat al Abriyeen) | HB |
-  Guesthouse (Al Hamra) | HB |









DAY 4 - From Misfat al Abriyeen to the Jebel Shams

-  [Hike around the Wadi Misfat \(+500m -500m 4.5km\) | 3h-4h |](#)
-  [Misfat al Abriyeen to Al Hamra | 6km-15min |](#)
-  [Al Hamra to Al Khitaym : Up the Jebel Shams | 45km-1h15 | 4x4 |](#)
-    [Old village of Ghul & Grand Canyon of Arabia | 30min-1h30 | 4x4 |](#)
-  [Guesthouse \(Jebel Shams Plateau\) | HB |](#)





DAY 5 - The Jebel Shams

-  [Al Khitaym to the Jebel Shams Plateau | 5km-10min | 4x4 |](#)
-  [Hike to the summit of the Jebel Shams | 5h-12h |](#)
-  [Jebel Shams Plateau to Al Khitaym | 5km-10min | 4x4 |](#)
-  [Guesthouse \(Jebel Shams Plateau\) | HB |](#)

DAY 6 - From the Jebel Shams to Nizwa

-   [The Balcony Walk : Hike above the Grand Canyon | 1h-6h |](#)
-  [Al Khitaym to Al Hamra : down the Jebel Shams | 45km-1h15 | 4x4 |](#)
-  [Al Hamra to Nizwa | 50km-45min |](#)
-    [Wadi Tanuf and Wadi Qashah | 1h-2h | 4x4 |](#)
-  [Guesthouse \(Nizwa\) | BB |](#)
-  [Guesthouse \(Nizwa\) | BB |](#)

DAY 7 - From Nizwa to the Jebel Akhdar

-   [Town of Nizwa | 1h-3h |](#)
-  [Nizwa to Birkat al Mouz | 25km-30min |](#)
-    [Village of Birkat al Mouz | 15min-1h30 |](#)
-  [Birkat al Mouz to Saiq : Up the Jebel Akhdar | 40km-50min | 4x4 |](#)
-   [Walk in the upper Wadi Halfayn | 1h-1h30 |](#)  4km-10min
-  [Hotel *** \(Saiq - Jebel Akhdar\) Room Deluxe | BB |](#)
-  [Guesthouse \(Al Aqr - Jebel Akhdar\) | HB |](#)

DAY 8 - Hiking on the Jebel Akhdar

-  [Saiq to Aqbat al Biyut | 25km-45min | 4x4 |](#)
-  [Hiking in the Wadi Kawar \(+650m -650m 10km\) | 5h-6h |](#)

 Aqbat al Biyut to Saiq | 25km-45min | 4x4 |

 Hotel *** (Saiq - Jebel Akhdar) Room Deluxe | BB |

 Guesthouse (Al Aqr - Jebel Akhdar) | HB |

DAY 9 - From the Jebel Akhdar to the Wahiba desert

  The rose villages | 1h-2h |

 Saiq to Birkat al Mouz : Down the Jebel Akhdar | 40km-50min | 4x4 |

 Birkat al Mouz to Bidiyah, at the edge of the Wahiba Sands | 160km-2h10 |

  Town of Manah : Oman Across Ages Museum & restored old town | 1h-4h |  20km-25min

 Bidiyah to your desert camp (with a driver) | 20km-30min | 4x4+ |

 Walking in the Wahiba desert | 30min-2h |

 Desert camp ** (Wahiba North) | HB |

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DAY 10 - From the Wahiba Sands to the Gulf of Oman

 Your camp to Bidiyah | 20km-30min | 4x4+ |

 Bidiyah to Sur : from the desert to the Gulf of Oman | 110km-1h25 |

  Short aquatic hike in the Wadi bani Khalid (Bidah) | 2h-3h |  25km-35min

  Lower Wadi bani Khalid : village and palm grove of Al Baatan | 1h-3h |  15km-15min

   Town of Sur | 1h-3h |

 Sur to Tiwi : Along the Gulf of Oman | 50km-45min |

 Guesthouse (Tiwi) | BB |

 Homestay (Fins) | HB |

DAY 11 - Tiwi and its wadis

  Wadi Shab | 1h-3h |

   Wadi Tiwi | 1h-5h | 4x4 |

 Guesthouse (Tiwi) | BB |

 Homestay (Fins) | HB |

DAY 12 - From the Eastern Hajar coast to Muscat


 Tiwi to Muscat | 155km-1h45 |

  Fins beach, coastal road and gazelle reserve | 30min-1h |  10km-15min

   Wadi al Arbiyeen and Wadi al Hail | 2h-4h | 4x4 |

   **Wadi Dayqah |2h-3h|4x4|**

 **Apartment (Saruj district, Muscat) |RO|**

 **House (Qantab) |RO|**

 **Beach camp (Sifah) |BB|**


DAY 13 - Day to relax

   **Bandar Khiran and the coast south-east of Muscat |1h-3h|**

   **Snorkelling in the Bandar Khiran marine reserve |2h30|**

  **Kayak and snorkelling in the Bandar Khiran marine reserve**

 **Apartment (Saruj district, Muscat) |RO|**

 **House (Qantab) |RO|**

 **Beach camp (Sifah) |BB|**

DAY 14 - Relax and departure

 **Saruj district to Muscat International Airport |20km-25min|**

PROGRAMME OF YOUR TOUR

DAY 1 - Muscat

Arrival in Muscat International Airport.

Welcome and briefing with our agent. He hands over the documents and equipment for the tour and assists you with the rental car pick-up.

Full day to visit Muscat and its surroundings.

Transfer



Muscat International Airport to the Mutrah district | 30km-30min |



For your first drive in Oman, you take the main highway crossing Muscat, the Sultan Qaboos Street, up to the Mutrah district. On the way, you pass by the Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque and the Royal Opera House.



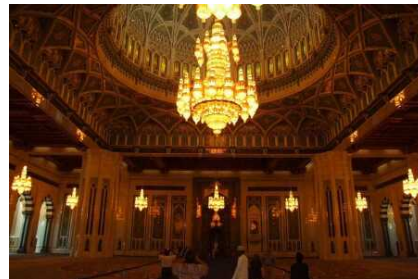
Possible activity



Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque (Ghubrah district) | 45min-1h30 |

A magnificent mosque, the largest of the country and the only one allowed to non-muslim visitors. The main praying hall, famous for its huge chandelier, is truly spectacular.

Audioguides are available for an in-depth discovery (2 OMR per person).



Possible activity



Mutrah District : its corniche, souqs and fort | 1h-4h |



This historic district is the most interesting in the capital for tourists, with its beautiful sea-front (the so-called Corniche), its famous souq, its fish and vegetable market and even a short trekking path.



Possible activity

Old Muscat District : Sultan's Palace & National Museum |30min-3h|



A few kilometres from Mutrah, with its numerous mosques and government buildings, this small district is the actual capital of Oman, from which extended the whole city. You can enjoy this quiet place by a short stroll around the Sultan Palace.

This is also where the National Museum is located. Open to the public since the end of 2016, it displays rich collections describing Oman history. The artefacts, on show in bright rooms, are arranged according to the period they belong to, from prehistory to nowadays, or sorted by theme as in the Maritime Gallery.



Possible activity

Royal Opera House (Qurum district) |20min-30min|



Guided visit of the magnificent Royal Opera House Muscat.

Officially opened in 2011, it was the only opera house in the Arabian peninsula until 2016, opening year of those of Dubai and Kuwait City. It owes its existence to music-loving Sultan Qaboos. An ultra-modern building with an Oriental style, it hosts concerts, ballets or operas performed by European as well as Arab artists.

For more informations on the performances scheduled during your stay, you can visit www.rohmuscat.org.om/en/performance/calendar.



Accommodation



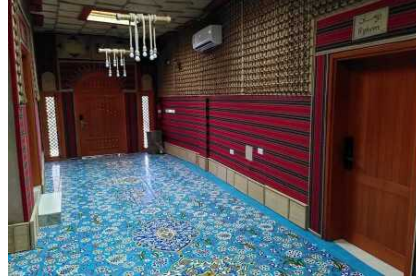
Guesthouse (Mutrah district, Muscat) |BB|

Small and comfortable guesthouse opened since the beginning of 2021. It is by far the best located one to visit the historic district of Mutrah: sitting just behind the fort, it is 250 m away from the Corniche and 600 m away from the souq main entrance.

The neighbourhood is made of old typical houses which are still inhabited. One of them was restored and converted into this guesthouse, which reconciles comfort and modern equipment with the traditional materials used for decoration.

The guesthouse has 7 rooms. Local breakfasts are served on the roof terrace, which offers a view onto the fort and the sea further down. For the other meals, you can find restaurants along the Corniche.

Please note that there is no reception: you will be given a code for self check-in (from 1 pm). The manager is nevertheless reachable by phone and an employee can come in case of problem.



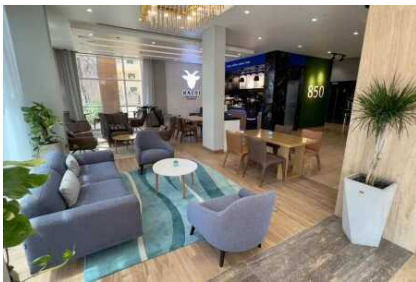
Accommodation



Aparthotel *** (Ghubrah district, Muscat) |BB|

Hotel with a good comfort opened in 2020 and located in the middle of the city of Muscat. It is one of the best-situated accommodations to visit the Grand Mosque, which lies only 1 km away and is reachable by foot. The historic districts and the airport are less than 20 minutes drive away.

The hotel has a rooftop swimming pool, a restaurant and a fruit juice bar. The neighbouring area has many restaurants and shops accessible by foot.



Accommodation with surcharge



Guesthouse (Azaiba district, Muscat) | BB |

Two big villas converted into a guesthouse with 10 comfortable and tastefully-decorated rooms.

Located in a posh neighbourhood, it is only a 5-min walk to the Azaiba beach, where swimming wearing swimsuit is possible. Right next to it lies a small park with playgrounds as well as a café with sea view and food trucks where young Omanis sell grilled food in the evening.

It is only a 10-min drive to the airport, 15 min to the Grand Mosque and about half an hour to the historic districts (Mutrah, Old Muscat).

The guesthouse has a 22-m long swimming pool and 2 living rooms. Breakfast can be eaten al fresco close to the pool.



DAY 2 - From Muscat to Misfat al Abriyeen

You drive along the Western Hajar mountains, going past the small town of Fanja and the Wadi Qurai.

At the south of the range, the most direct route first passes next to the beautiful Wadi Tanuf, which you can drive upstream to a palm grove, and then near the town of Bahla, famous for its majestic fort recognised as a World Heritage site.

It is also possible to reach Bahla by doing a detour by Jabrin castle, which offers a visit full of informations.

Then you reach the town of Al Hamra and its large palm grove. The picturesque village of Misfat al Abriyeen lies just above.

Transfer



Muscat to Fanja | 50km-45min |



From Muscat, the highway goes south and passes between the first low mountains of the Samail Gap.

Transfer



Fanja to Jabrin castle | 140km-1h30 |



The highway runs through valleys separating the two great mountain ranges of northern Oman. Historically used to connect the coast and the inland regions, this passage, called the Samail Gap, features many villages, palm groves and watch towers. It also offers nice views of the steep side of the Western Hajar. Then the road goes around the mountains and runs westward at the edge of the desert plain.



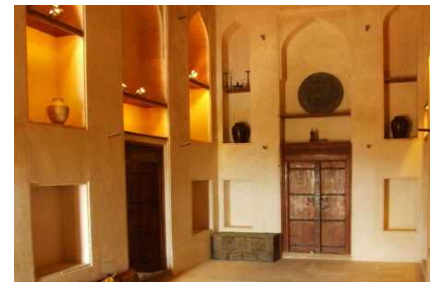
Possible activity



Jabrin castle | 1h-2h |



Home of the Yaruba Imams during the 17th and 18th centuries, Jabrin castle stands out among Omani forts by its rooms beautifully decorated and fitted with carpets and ancient furniture. Audioguides are available for an in-depth discovery. The castle also offers Omani buffet lunch in a nice traditional setting.



Transfer



Jabrin to Al Hamra | 30km-40min |

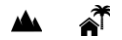


You drive first through the town of Bahla, lying between two low rocky massifs and renowned for its beautiful fort. Then you reach the foot of the high Western Hajar range and the town of Al Hamra.



Possible activity along the transfer

Town of Bahla |1h-3h|



Bahla, the second largest town of the region after Nizwa, is mainly known for its huge fort recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage site. A former capital, it is surrounded by an outer wall now fallen into ruin and has an interesting souq. It is also renowned for its potters, whose traditional workshops you can visit. The long history of Bahla is also shrouded in legends and black magic and the signs thereof are still present nowadays.



Transfer

Al Hamra to Misfat al Abriyeen |6km-15min|



The village of Misfat al Abriyeen lies just above Al Hamra, on the south side of the Western Hajar mountains. On the way you will enjoy nice views of the town.



Included activity

Private guided visit of the village of Misfat al Abriyeen |2h30|



Discover with a local guide the way of life and the traditions of the inhabitants of this old village, one of the most beautiful in Oman. You especially learn how the irrigation system of the palm grove works.



Accommodation



Guesthouse (Misfat al Abriyeen) |HB|

Standing at the heart of the old village of Misfat al Abriyeen, this 400-year-old stone house was restored and converted into a guesthouse in 2022. Despite the authentic atmosphere, the 10 rooms have comfortable beds and private bathrooms (even if the latter, given the old architecture, are small and quite basic).

Meals are served on a rooftop terrace offering a wonderful view over the palm grove and the old village.

Please note that you have to walk a few minutes between the parking and the guesthouse.



Accommodation



Guesthouse (Al Hamra) |HB|

Large single-storey house converted in 2023 into a comfortable guesthouse with 6 rooms. Built in 1980 (beginning of the development of the country), it was inhabited by the extended family of the present owner. Located on a low ridge, just outside the adobe old town, it offers views on the latter, on the large palm grove of Al Hamra and on the Jebel Shams massif. The centre of Al Hamra is 1.5 km away.

The guesthouse has 2 "majlis" (Arab-style sitting areas), a courtyard and a rooftop terrace.



DAY 3 - Hiking at the heart of the Western Hajar

From your accommodation, you first drive up to the Sharaf al Alamain pass, where you leave your car and meet your guide. He takes you by 4x4 for a discovery of the spectacular Wadi bani Awf. At the bottom of the valley, you hike with him up to the famous village of Balad Sayt. Then he drives you back to your car and you return towards Al Hamra.

Transfer



Misfat al Abriyeen to Al Hamra | 6km-15min |



Return to Al Hamra.



Transfer



Al Hamra to the Sharaf al Alamain pass | 30km-40min |



Cross Al Hamra and its palm grove with prosperous-looking houses before taking the road that goes uphill up to the pass. It offers nice views, in clear days, of the piedmont and the towns in the plain.

The Sharaf al Alamain pass, at an altitude of 2000 m, discloses the spectacular panorama of the Wadi bani Awf valley.

Possible activity



Sharaf al Alamain pass | 15min-1h |



The Sharaf al Alamain pass, at an altitude of some 2000 m, affords breathtaking sights, in clear days, to the south over the foothills of the Western Hajar and the towns in the plain, to the north over the heart of the mountains, cut through by deep wadis.

The scenery is already exceptional from the road, but a short walk along the crest offers superb views down onto the villages of Hat and Balad Sayt, from the top of cliffs more than 800 m high!

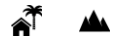


Included activity

🚗 13km-1h



Guided hike between the Wadi bani Awf villages (+600m -550m) |5h-6h|



From the Sharaf al Alamain pass, your guide takes you in 4x4 on a spectacular dirt road down to the Wadi bani Awf refuge, at the heart of the Western Hajar.

From the refuge, the hike will lead you to an abandoned hamlet and its nice palm grove, before ascending to a small pass that offers the first bird's eye views of Balad Sayt. You head down to this superb village and finish off traversing a little gorge that reconnects with the road.

Your guide then takes you back to your car, at the Sharaf al Alamain pass.



Transfer



Sharaf al Alamain to Al Hamra |30km-40min|

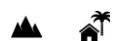


From the Sharaf al Alamain pass, the road zigzags down to the foot of the mountains, offering pretty views, on clear days, of the piedmont and the towns in the plain south of the Western Hajar.

Possible activity



Town of Al Hamra |30min-2h|



The town of Al Hamra lies at the foot of the Western Hajar, in a small plain around the Wadi Ghul, and offers nice views of the Jebel Shams. It has a large palm grove where it is pleasant to stroll. The adobe ruins of the old town comprise some quite well preserved houses, one of which hosting an interesting little ecomuseum.



Transfer



Al Hamra to Misfat al Abriyeen |6km-15min|



Drive back to Misfat al Abriyeen.



Accommodation



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The guesthouse has 2 "majlis" (Arab-style sitting areas), a courtyard and a rooftop terrace.



DAY 4 - From Misfat al Abriyeen to the Jebel Shams

From Al Hamra, you leave towards the Jebel Shams massif. At the foot of the mountain lies the old village of Ghul, from which you can explore the bottom of the "Grand Canyon of Arabia", driving upstream along the bed of the Wadi Nakhr. Then you drive up to the plateau, about 2000 m above sea level, where await superb viewpoints from the edge of the canyon, as well as hiking paths such as the famous Balcony Walk.

Possible activity



Hike around the Wadi Misfat (+500m -500m 4.5km) |3h-4h|



Loop hike around the Misfat al Abriyeen wadi. From the old village, you cross the wadi and climb along ledges on the opposite side, which offers very beautiful bird's eye views upon the palm grove. This part is not paint-marked but the path is easy to follow with the map and the GPS. The way down is on a good paint-marked path ending along the palm grove.

The first part of the way up is quite exposed and persons afraid of heights will not like it. This said, it is also possible - though less interesting - to go for a return walk along the marked path.



Transfer



Misfat al Abriyeen to Al Hamra |6km-15min|



Return to Al Hamra.



Transfer



Al Hamra to Al Khitaym : Up the Jebel Shams |45km-1h15|4x4|



From Al Hamra, the Jebel Shams road first follows the Wadi Ghul, passing through a few villages. It continues past the entrance of the Wadi Nakhr, the "Grand Canyon of Arabia", guarded by an old village clinging to the side of the mountain. Then the ascent on the steep slopes of the massif offers ever more plunging views over the surrounding mountains and wadis. The dirt road comes to an end, at an altitude greater than 1800 m, on the rim of the spectacular Grand Canyon.



Possible activity along the transfer



Old village of Ghul & Grand Canyon of Arabia |30min-1h30|4x4|



The Wadi Nakhr has cut an incredible valley in the heart of the Jebel Shams, the "Grand Canyon of Arabia". Make a photo stop in front of the old stone village of Ghul, clinging to the base of the mountain, discover the ruins by foot up to a fine viewpoint or follow the wadi by car between the spectacular cliffs.



Accommodation

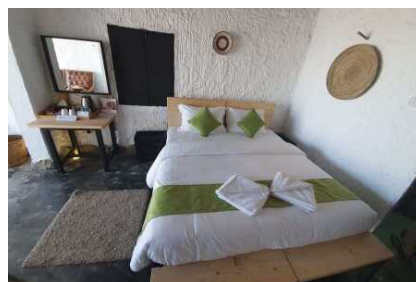


Guesthouse (Jebel Shams Plateau) |HB|

Small charming guesthouse, opened since 2021 and including 7 rooms. Set in old houses of the hamlet of Al Khitaym, it is the best located accommodation of the Jebel Shams Plateau: at almost 1900 m above sea level, it sits right on the edge of the Grand Canyon of Arabia and offers breathtaking views. The start of the famous Balcony Walk path is only a few metres away from the guesthouse.

The restaurant has large bay windows and a terrace to make the most of the setting.

The bedrooms and the bathrooms are narrow but comfortable and tastefully decorated in a traditional Omani style and using noble materials - stone and wood.



DAY 5 - The Jebel Shams

Full day to discover the Jebel Shams, with its hiking paths and its superb viewpoints over the Grand Canyon of Arabia .

Transfer



Al Khitaym to the Jebel Shams Plateau |5km-10min|4x4|



Short transfer along the Grand Canyon.



Possible activity



Hike to the summit of the Jebel Shams |5h-12h|



Hiking to the highest point of the country is not for the occasional hiker: 10 to 12 walking hours, nearly 25 km back and forth, 1500 m of elevation gain and as much in vertical drop.

However, there is no obligation to reach the summit and two shorter itineraries along the same route can be contemplated. They are appreciably more difficult than the popular "Balcony Walk", but can be inviting alternatives for hiking enthusiasts.

Whatever the option, sceneries are stunning, on the first portion with sights of the Grand Canyon and the neighboring mountains (Jebels Misht, Misfah, Khawr, Waalah), and at the end with superb views of the prodigious Sahtan Bowl and the whole Western Hajar range.



Transfer



Jebel Shams Plateau to Al Khitaym |5km-10min|4x4|



The dirt road runs along the Grand Canyon up to the hamlet of Al Khitaym.



Accommodation

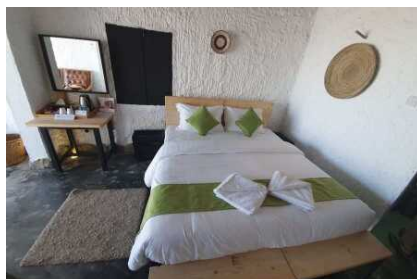


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The bedrooms and the bathrooms are narrow but comfortable and tastefully decorated in a traditional Omani style and using noble materials - stone and wood.



DAY 6 - From the Jebel Shams to Nizwa

After discovering the Grand Canyon of Arabia from the Jebel Shams Plateau, you drive back down the massif by the only access road. From the village of Ghul, you can explore the bottom of the canyon, driving upstream along the bed of the Wadi Nakhr.

You reach the town of Al Hamra and its large palm grove. The most direct route between Al Hamra and Nizwa first passes near the town of Bahla, famous for its majestic fort recognised as a World Heritage site, and then next to the beautiful Wadi Tanuf, which you can drive upstream to a palm grove.

Beyond Bahla lies Jabrin castle, which offers a visit full of informations. From there, another road can take you to Nizwa directly.

Possible activity



The Balcony Walk : Hike above the Grand Canyon |1h-6h|



The classic but nevertheless superb hike along an old donkey track to an abandoned hamlet. This balcony path follows the Wadi Nakhr several hundred meters above the bottom and provides breathtaking views of the "Grand Canyon of Arabia". This well marked path, with a few rocky stretches, gently slopes down to the hamlet nested at mid-height of immense cliffs. It is a return walk with a total of +300m, -300m and 7.5km but you can turn back at any time.

To further enrich your experience and get off the beaten track, we propose an extension to this hike which offers even more spectacular views.



Transfer



Al Khitaym to Al Hamra : down the Jebel Shams |45km-1h15|4x4|



The Jebel Shams road being a dead end, return by the same way you came up, admiring the spectacular panorama again.



Transfer



Al Hamra to Nizwa |50km-45min|



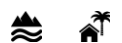
The road between Nizwa and Al Hamra runs across the narrow plain tucked between the high Jebel Akhdar range and the much less significant ophiolite reliefs of the Jebel Hallat and passes close to Bahla, famous for its beautiful fort.



Possible activity along the transfer



Wadi Tanuf and Wadi Qashah |1h-2h|4x4|



The mighty Wadi Tanuf and its tributary the Wadi Qashah flow down from the Jebel Akhdar, cutting deep and beautiful valleys in the mountains. Discover them by car along a short dirt road that leads to a superb palm grove and a small canyon.

At the mouth of the wadi, the ruined mudbrick village of Tanuf is a painful reminder of the unknown "Jebel War".



Accommodation

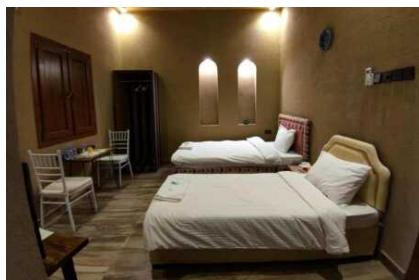


Guesthouse (Nizwa) |BB|

Guesthouse opened in 2018 and located in the old town of Nizwa, right next to the souq and 150 m away from the fort. Contrary to most of the accommodations of the old town, it does not open directly onto the very lively main street and therefore it is quieter. Furthermore, it has a shaded courtyard with tables and chairs, which is a luxury in this very dense urban area.

The bedrooms are not very big but comfortable and decorated in a style both sober and local. The bathrooms are small and simple yet more spacious than in most of the other guesthouses of the old town.

The guesthouse has its own restaurant. Meals are served inside or in the courtyard. The roof-terrace offers a view upon the town and the mountains.



Accommodation



Guesthouse (Nizwa) |BB|

The palm grove of Nizwa stretches around the old town centre. Nowadays, this vast area is inhabited and recent houses stand alongside the fields. The guesthouse is made of 2 houses built on a large plot of the palm grove converted into a lush ornamental (and fruit) garden. This peaceful setting is fitted out for relaxing and has 2 small swimming pools and a children playground.

Each house has 5 spacious and comfortable bedrooms with good quality bathrooms, a living room and a modern kitchen.

The old town, the souq and the fort lie about 1 km away and are accessible by foot. There is a good Turkish restaurant 5 minutes walking away from the guesthouse.



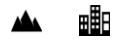
DAY 7 - From Nizwa to the Jebel Akhdar

After visiting Nizwa, departure for the high massif of the Jebel Akhdar. At the foot of the mountain lies the pretty village of Birkat al Mouz and its large palm grove. Then you drive up to the plateau, 2000 m above sea level, where await small villages, beautiful viewpoints and hikes. Some sites are quite touristic (the rose villages, Wadi bani Habib), others are off the beaten path (Wadi Halfayn, Wadi Qashah).

Possible activity



Town of Nizwa |1h-3h|



Nizwa, the biggest town in the region, lies in a strategic position, at the foot of the Jebel Akhdar and on the rim of the desert, at the starting point of the main road connecting the coast and the south of the mountains. It has historically been the capital of the interior, and even, occasionally, the official capital of the country. It also was the capital of ibadism and is still today markedly more conservative than its historical rival, Muscat. Which makes it all the more attractive to those searching for "authentic" Arabia! Its famous souq and its 17th century fort, with its unique architecture, attract many visitors.



Transfer



Nizwa to Birkat al Mouz |25km-30min|

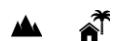


The road runs eastwards along the southern slope of the high Jebel Akhdar massif.

Possible activity



Village of Birkat al Mouz |15min-1h30|



The big village of Birkat al Mouz, at the outlet of the Wadi Muaydin, has at all times been the entrance to the Jebel Akhdar range, as evidenced by its fort and numerous watchtowers. The ruins of its old village and its large palm grove, irrigated by a falaj recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage site, can be watched from a panoramic viewpoint or during a stroll.



Transfer



Birkat al Mouz to Saiq : Up the Jebel Akhdar |40km-50min|4x4|



The road enters the mountains by the Wadi Muaydin and then climbs up for 1500 m to the Saiq Plateau, where Saiq Katenah, the only (small) town of the massif is located.



Possible activity along the transfer

4km-10min



Walk in the upper Wadi Halfayn |1h-1h30|



Short hike up to a breathtaking viewpoint overlooking the whole valley of the Wadi Halfayn, going down from the Jebel Akhdar to the plain, more than 1000 m below.



Accommodation



Hotel *** (Saiq - Jebel Akhdar) Room Deluxe |BB|

Hotel opened in April 2018. It is comfortable and very well located on the edge of the Saiq plateau, 2000 m high. The terrace, where lie the (heated) swimming pool, the jacuzzi and the children playground, offers superb views over the valley and the famous Rose Villages, only a few hundreds of metres away. It has two restaurants with outdoor seating (international cuisine and barbecue).

The Deluxe rooms are divided between the 3 floors of the main building, half on the valley side and half on the town side. We obviously request the first ones whenever possible.



Accommodation with surcharge



Guesthouse (Al Aqr - Jebel Akhdar) |HB|

Very beautiful guesthouse in ancient stone houses of the village of Al Aqr, one of the three "rose villages" built on the edge of the Jebel Akhdar Plateau. The hiking path linking these villages starts right next to the guesthouse. The 12 rooms are not very spacious due to the ancient architecture but they are comfortable. They are split in 3 houses several hundreds of years old, which were renovated with respect for the original architecture. Each house offers superb views upon the valley and the other villages.

The guesthouse supports the community: all the staff is from the Jebel Akhdar and the meals are prepared by local families. The waste water of the guesthouse is recycled and reused for crops irrigation.



DAY 8 - Hiking on the Jebel Akhdar

Superb day hike from the plateau to the gardens of Masirat al Jawamid, hidden at the bottom of the Wadi Kawar. The access dirt road offers spectacular views over the Wadi Qashah canyon.

Transfer



Saiq to Aqbat al Biyut |25km-45min|4x4|



From the Sayq Plateau, you climb a little more, passing near the hanging village of Soqrah. Then a dirt road takes you along the deep Wadi Qashah and offers nice views down to the plain, 1500 m below. It ends at the small remote village of Aqbat al Biyut, sitting on the edge of Wadi Hijri.



Possible activity



Hiking in the Wadi Kawar (+650m -650m 10km) |5h-6h|



This great walk takes you down from the plateau into the deep valley of Wadi Kawar. There awaits the abandoned village of Masirat al Jawamid and its hidden palm grove : a real jewel surrounded by arid cliffs.

The path, still used by villagers going to look after their gardens with their donkeys, is good. It was marked for hikers in 2016.



Transfer



Aqbat al Biyut to Saiq |25km-45min|4x4|



Drive back to the Saiq Plateau.



Accommodation



Hotel *** (Saiq - Jebel Akhdar) Room Deluxe |BB|

Hotel opened in April 2018. It is comfortable and very well located on the edge of the Saiq plateau, 2000 m high. The terrace, where lie the (heated) swimming pool, the jacuzzi and the children playground, offers superb views over the valley and the famous Rose Villages, only a few hundreds of metres away.

It has two restaurants with outdoor seating (international cuisine and barbecue).

The Deluxe rooms are divided between the 3 floors of the main building, half on the valley side and half on the town side. We obviously request the first ones whenever possible.



Accommodation with surcharge



Guesthouse (Al Aqr - Jebel Akhdar) |HB|

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The guesthouse supports the community: all the staff is from the Jebel Akhdar and the meals are prepared by local families. The waste water of the guesthouse is recycled and reused for crops irrigation.



DAY 9 - From the Jebel Akhdar to the Wahiba desert

From the Jebel Akhdar Plateau, you drive back down to Birkat al Mouz. Then the road takes you, across the arid plain, to the south of the Eastern Hajar range. From there, you go into the Wahiba Sands, where you find your accommodation.

Possible activity



The rose villages |1h-2h|



The Jebel Akhdar is known for its pomegranate and rose water production. The fruits and roses are especially grown on the terraces of three villages, linked by a marked path. Along the edge of the plateau, the way overlooks the Wadi Salut.

The best time to go for this walk is April, when the roses are blooming, but it is possible to do it year-round.



Transfer



Saiq to Birkat al Mouz : Down the Jebel Akhdar |40km-50min|4x4|



The Jebel Akhdar road being a dead end, return by the same way you came up, enjoying the plunging views down to the plain again.



Transfer



Birkat al Mouz to Bidiyah, at the edge of the Wahiba Sands |160km-2h10|



The road goes away from the high summits of the Jebel Akhdar and crosses low rocky relief areas to finally reach a narrow plain between the Eastern Hajar mountains and the dunes of the Wahiba desert.

Possible activity along the transfer

20km-25min



Town of Manah : Oman Across Ages Museum & restored old town |1h-4h|



Harat al Bilad, the historic district of Manah, is one of the largest and most ancient towns of Oman. But what makes it a unique site is that, contrary to the other Omani old towns, it was purchased by the Ministry of Heritage and partially restored. The outer wall and about half of the 376 mudbrick houses were indeed renovated. The town has also 4 mosques, some dating back to the 16th century. To feel the atmosphere of the Oman of the past, you can stroll in the alleys and enter the houses with their typical architecture.

Since March 2023, Manah has another remarkable site: the Oman Across Ages Museum, a museum of the country history. Housed in a building with a spectacular architecture, a high-tech exhibition takes you from the prehistory to nowadays.



Transfer



Bidiyah to your desert camp (with a driver) | 20km-30min | 4x4+ |



Leave your car at Bidiyah where a driver from the camp will meet you.

The 9-km drive in the dunes is a first contact with the Wahiba desert. You first proceed along "valleys", between long orange dunes about 50 meters in height, then you climb the one on top of which sits your camp.



Possible activity



Walking in the Wahiba desert | 30min-2h |



What a delight to walk out of the camp and climb up the nearby dunes to watch the sun sink behind the horizon! But the grazing light in the early morning over the orange sand undulations is most appealing too...



Accommodation



Desert camp ** (Wahiba North) | HB |

Small camp of only 2 tents with an authentic atmosphere, 8 km inside the sands. It is located in an unspoiled part of the desert, away from the tourist areas where most camps are. From the heights of one of the great dunes giving to the Wahiba its distinctive topography, it offers very beautiful views upon the desert as well as, on clear days, the Eastern Hajar mountains.

The large Bedouin-style tents have comfortable beds and are nicely decorated. The camp has a shared bathroom, two "majlis" (Arab-style sitting areas) – meals are served in the covered one – and a campfire space.

The power of the camp is provided by solar panels so there is no hot water.



Accommodation with surcharge



Desert camp ** (Wahiba North) |HB|

Camp of only 2 large Bedouin-style tents and 2 rooms, located about 20 km inside the sand, far away from the main tourist area. The tents/rooms have comfortable beds, are nicely decorated and have private bathrooms. The power of the camp is provided by solar panels so there is no hot water.



DAY 10 - From the Wahiba Sands to the Gulf of Oman

When leaving a sand desert, what could be more enjoyable than swimming in a wadi or strolling in the shadow of a lush palm grove? On your way to the sea, two detours can lead you to different parts of the Wadi bani Khalid. Note that the Muqal pool is particularly touristic (with visitors and locals).

On the coast lies the town of Sur, famous for its dhow factory (traditional Arab boats). Do not miss the viewpoint over this town with such a distinctive geography.

From Sur, you drive along the coast. In close proximity to your accommodation, two wadis close to each other await: Tiwi and Shab. The Wadi Shab, the most famous, is ideal for swimming, but may be very crowded by mid-morning, especially at weekends (if possible, better go early the next morning). The Wadi Tiwi, less accessible and a little less touristic, is surely wilder and more spectacular.

Transfer



Your camp to Badiyah |20km-30min|4x4+|

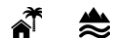


You go back out of the dunes (on your own if drove in, with a driver if you left your car in Badiyah).



**Bidiyah to Sur : from the desert to the Gulf of Oman |110km-1h25|**

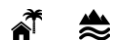
Starting between the desert and the mountains, the road becomes winding while going down along a large valley. It ends at Sur, the main coastal town of the region.

Possible activity along the transfer**🚗 25km-35min****Short aquatic hike in the Wadi bani Khalid (Bidah) |2h-3h|**

Walk down a little-visited part of the Wadi bani Khalid.

You first walk through a beautiful palm grove. Then, you enter a large canyon and reach a section equipped with chains thanks to which you climb a few metres. You keep walking on the wadi bed, on pebbles and boulders, sometimes using your hands to scramble on the rocks. You wade and, depending on the last rains, you swim through pristine pools.

You eventually arrive to a big and beautiful natural pool with a waterfall, where you take some time to swim. The way back is the same.

**Possible activity along the transfer****🚗 15km-15min****Lower Wadi bani Khalid : village and palm grove of Al Baatan |1h-3h|**

The small village of Al Baatan has a very beautiful palm grove along the Wadi bani Khalid. The walk, along a falaj winding between palm and mango trees, is very pleasant and gives access to a small natural pool.

It is also possible to proceed on a rocky path up to a larger pool.



Possible activity

Town of Sur |1h-3h|



A lovely seaside city, Sur is one of the few Omani towns that is worth a visit. Its strategic position – a peninsula between the sea and a lagoon – and its old white houses with beautiful doors add up to bring about a real touch of charm. The last traditional dhow building yard is located here – a must visit! As a fishing town, its fish souq is worth a look. Finally, a watchtower perched on a hill provides a superb view of the area.



Transfer

Sur to Tiwi : Along the Gulf of Oman |50km-45min|



The highway runs along the coastline, squeezed between the Gulf of Oman and the Eastern Hajar, providing very nice views of the sea and the mountains.



Accommodation

Guesthouse (Tiwi) |BB|

New house, located outside the village of Tiwi and right next to a long pebble beach. It is made of 6 spacious and comfortable rooms, of which 2 have a view to the sea (we book these first) and it has a small swimming pool.

It is possible to swim with swimsuit in front of the guesthouse or a little further, depending on the presence of local visitors on the beach. If you have your own snorkelling equipment, the rocks at the end of the beach host many fishes.

The house is ideally situated to visit the Wadis Shab and Tiwi, only a few minutes away by car.

For dinner, you can use the shared kitchen or go and eat in one of the local restaurants in the village (the closest ones are 1.5 km away, near the Wadi Shab).



Accommodation with surcharge



Homestay (Fins) |HB|

Sophie and Hussain, a Franco-Omani couple, welcome you to their home! Their modern house, located in a recent neighbourhood of the fishermen's village of Fins, is comfortable and tastefully decorated. The house has 5 guest bedrooms, 3 of which open onto a balcony offering a view on the sea, which lies 200 m away. You will also have access to a small sitting area, a "majlis" (Arab sitting room), a dining room and the courtyard, where you will find 2 "areesh" (outdoor sitting areas traditionally covered by palm leaves).

The meals served by your hosts will be the opportunity to exchange with them. However, note that, from September 2024, Sophie and Hussain will share their time between Muscat and Fins. So they will not necessarily be present during your stay at their home (in which case the meals will be prepared by friends from the village).

Here the coast is rocky but beaches are reachable in a few minutes by car. The wadis Shab and Tiwi are a 15-minute drive away.



DAY 11 - Tiwi and its wadis

In close proximity to your accommodation, two wadis close to each other await: Tiwi and Shab. The Wadi Shab, the most famous, is ideal for swimming, but may be very crowded by mid-morning, especially at weekends (if possible, better go early the next morning). The Wadi Tiwi, less accessible and a little less touristic, is surely wilder and more spectacular.

Possible activity



Wadi Shab |1h-3h|



The most famous wadi in Oman ! Leave your car right under the highway and start walking upstream on the mostly dry river bed. Marvel at this deep canyon and reach the first pools. Continue further along the base of the cliff and between the small boulders until you cannot avoid swimming... up to an incredible small pool with a waterfall hidden under some huge rocks !



Possible activity

   **Wadi Tiwi |1h-5h|4x4|**



Discover this fantastic wadi first by car. The road, sometimes at the bottom of the valley, sometimes on the heights, offers spectacular views over the palm-fringed wadi bed and its natural pools nestled among huge boulders fallen down from the high cliffs on each side.

Thanks to several paths, including a marked trail, you can discover at a slower pace the four villages of the wadi and their palm groves.



Accommodation

 **Guesthouse (Tiwi) |BB|**

New house, located outside the village of Tiwi and right next to a long pebble beach. It is made of 6 spacious and comfortable rooms, of which 2 have a view to the sea (we book these first) and it has a small swimming pool.

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Accommodation with surcharge



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Here the coast is rocky but beaches are reachable in a few minutes by car. The wadis Shab and Tiwi are a 15-minute drive away.



DAY 12 - From the Eastern Hajar coast to Muscat

Day dedicated to the discovery of the Eastern Hajar coast.

On the mountain side, apart from the Wadis Tiwi and Shab, you can make detours, on the way to Muscat, on nice dirt roads to discover the Wadis al Arbiyeen and Dayqah. The former is a spectacular valley with pools to swim in. The latter has the largest dam lake of Oman, an unexpected vision in this mineral landscape.

On the sea side, a pretty road follows the coast between the beaches of Fins and Dhabab, crossing a small gazelle reserve.

Transfer



Tiwi to Muscat |155km-1h45|



The highway, first running between the sea and the mountains, goes past the entrance of the Wadi al Arbiyeen, then veers inland to find a way around the Jebel abu Daud massif before reaching Muscat.



Possible activity along the transfer

 10km-15min



Fins beach, coastal road and gazelle reserve |30min-1h|



Close to the fishermen's village of Fins is a superb white pebble beach with turquoise waters. The road that goes along the coast between Fins and the Wadi al Arbiyeen is worth the detour for its nice views upon the sea. It also passes through a protected area hosting some gazelles.



Possible activity along the transfer



Wadi al Arbiyeen and Wadi al Hail |2h-4h|4x4|



From the seaside, drive inside the mountains on the dirt road running along the bed of this spectacular wadi, dotted with some villages and palm groves. Next to the village of As Suwayh, a very large pool with a waterfall awaits you to swim. A nice walk along the wadi is also possible from there. The way back to the coast is by another road.



Possible activity along the transfer



Wadi Dayqah |2h-3h|4x4|



A scenic dirt road going through a very arid landscape leads you to the Wadi Dayqah. Discover its large palm groves and its huge dam lake, an astonishing contrast with the surrounding bare mountains. An easy walk along the wadi bed takes you to a pool.



Accommodation



Apartment (Saruj district, Muscat) |RO|

Nice and modern apartment extremely well located, 150 m away from Saruj beach, probably the most beautiful beach of Muscat, and less than 5-min walking away from the many cafés and restaurants of Al Muntazah street, one of the trendiest areas of Muscat since the opening of the Water-Front in 2019. Here the seaside is nicely landscaped, with a promenade lined with lawn and trees running along the beach for 1.3 km. To the west, the beach continues in front of the embassies for 2 km. To the east, cross a (dry) wadi and you reach Shati al Qurum beach, 1.5-km long and nicely landscaped too. It is possible to swim wearing swimsuit on these beaches but, as they are popular with locals, it is recommended to cover up once out of the water.

From the first floor of a small building, the apartment offers a view on the Gulf of Oman. It has 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, a living/dining room and a kitchen. It is in the middle of the city of Muscat, halfway between the airport and the historical district of Mutrah (both 20 min away). The Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque lies 15-min away by car.



Accommodation with surcharge



House (Qantab) |RO|

Small private house located in the fishermen's village of Qantab, only 50 m away from a beautiful beach. It is an old Omani house, beautifully restored, made very comfortable and decorated in a local style.

The house has 2 bedrooms, a living/dining room, a kitchen and 2 bathrooms. The manager, a European lady who has lived in Oman for many years, stays next door. A beautiful shared courtyard has an outdoor sitting area and offers a nice view upon the sea.

No meals are served at the house: you can prepare your own meals in the well-equipped kitchen, order at the coffeeshop (very basic restaurant) of the village (700 m away from the house) or go to one of the restaurants in the nearby hotels, in the village of Sidab or in Muscat (respectively 10, 15 and 20 min driving).

The main beach is used by the fishermen but it is possible to swim wearing a swimsuit (please cover up when out of the water). There is a second smaller beach, only 250 m away from the house, where you can have greater privacy (though it is quite rocky). Another option is to ask to a fisherman to drop you on one of the small beaches found in the coves to the east of the village (10-15 OMR).



Accommodation with surcharge



Beach camp (Sifah) |BB|

Simple tented camp located on the long and very beautiful Sifah beach, surrounded by the Gulf of Oman on one side and by the Jebel Abu Daud mountains on the other. The beach lies one-hour drive at the south-east of Muscat, at the very end of the winding road passing by the Bandar Khiran marine reserve. The camp is 200 m north of the village of Sifah and it is possible to swim wearing swimsuit in front of the tents. The beach continues for more than one km northwards up to some cliffs and for 2 km southwards, passing in front of the village. Further, the coast becomes rockier and you arrive at the Jebel Sifah complex with its marina, hotel, apartments and fancy restaurants.

The camp is made up of 7 large tents, all overlooking the sea. Each tent has beds, armchairs, fridge, fan and air-conditioner, as well as a shaded terrace with table, chairs and barbecue (wood/charcoal not provided). Behind each tent is a simple bathroom. Kitchen areas with gas cookers are at disposal.

You will find in your tent food for breakfast. For the other meals, you can cook yourself or go to one of the few coffeeshops of the village: the nearest is a 700-m walk from the camp and there is a nicer option 5 min away by car (Ertewa Café). Just a little further, the marina offers Turkish, Japanese and seafood restaurants as well as a bakery/sandwich shop. If you plan to cook, a small food shop lies 700 m away from the camp but, for meat, better do some shopping before driving to Sifah.

Sifah is a popular weekend/public holiday destination for people living in Muscat. Then the beach north of the camp can be crowded with campers and groups coming to party or picnic. The area is much quieter during the week, in other words from Saturday evening to Thursday afternoon.



DAY 13 - Day to relax

Full day to enjoy your accommodation and the area.

Possible activity



Bandar Khiran and the coast south-east of Muscat |1h-3h|



Discover by car and by foot this surprising coast, meeting of the mountains and the sea, with its small coves and islands, occasionally fringed with mangrove or beaches (some from where swimming and snorkelling is possible). Bandar Khiran, the jewel of this coast, offers some very beautiful viewpoints. Sifah, at the very end of the road, has a very beautiful beach.

Note that these sites get very crowded with inhabitants of Muscat during the weekends (Fridays-Saturdays).



Optional activity

Snorkelling in the Bandar Khiran marine reserve |2h30|



From one of the marinas of Muscat, follow the coast onboard a small boat. You reach the Bandar Khiran marine reserve, maybe the most beautiful part of this rocky coast. In one of the many coves, you can swim and watch the plentiful multi coloured fishes (fins, masks and snorkels provided).

Beware, the trip can be cancelled in case of rough sea.



Optional activity

Kayak and snorkelling in the Bandar Khiran marine reserve



The Bandar Khiran reserve may be the most beautiful part of the coast south of Muscat. It is the meeting point of the mountains and the ocean, that formed many islands and coves with small mangroves and beaches.

Rental of (single or double) kayaks to discover this bay well protected from the swell of the open sea (starting from 5 OMR). You can stop on beaches, swim and watch the tropical fishes (you can also rent masks and snorkels).



Accommodation



Apartment (Saruj district, Muscat) |RO|

Nice and modern apartment extremely well located, 150 m away from Saruj beach, probably the most beautiful beach of Muscat, and less than 5-min walking away from the many cafés and restaurants of Al Muntazah street, one of the trendiest areas of Muscat since the opening of the Water-Front in 2019. Here the seaside is nicely landscaped, with a promenade lined with lawn and trees running along the beach for 1.3 km. To the west, the beach continues in front of the embassies for 2 km. To the east, cross a (dry) wadi and you reach Shati al Qurum beach, 1.5-km long and nicely landscaped too. It is possible to swim wearing swimsuit on these beaches but, as they are popular with locals, it is recommended to cover up once out of the water.

From the first floor of a small building, the apartment offers a view on the Gulf of Oman. It has 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, a living/dining room and a kitchen. It is in the middle of the city of Muscat, halfway between the airport and the historical district of Mutrah (both 20 min away). The Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque lies 15-min away by car.



Accommodation with surcharge



House (Qantab) |RO|

Small private house located in the fishermen's village of Qantab, only 50 m away from a beautiful beach. It is an old Omani house, beautifully restored, made very comfortable and decorated in a local style.

The house has 2 bedrooms, a living/dining room, a kitchen and 2 bathrooms. The manager, a European lady who has lived in Oman for many years, stays next door. A beautiful shared courtyard has an outdoor sitting area and offers a nice view upon the sea.

No meals are served at the house: you can prepare your own meals in the well-equipped kitchen, order at the coffeeshop (very basic restaurant) of the village (700 m away from the house) or go to one of the restaurants in the nearby hotels, in the village of Sidab or in Muscat (respectively 10, 15 and 20 min driving).

The main beach is used by the fishermen but it is possible to swim wearing a swimsuit (please cover up when out of the water). There is a second smaller beach, only 250 m away from the house, where you can have greater privacy (though it is quite rocky). Another option is to ask to a fisherman to drop you on one of the small beaches found in the coves to the east of the village (10-15 OMR).



Accommodation with surcharge



Beach camp (Sifah) |BB|

Simple tented camp located on the long and very beautiful Sifah beach, surrounded by the Gulf of Oman on one side and by the Jebel Abu Daud mountains on the other. The beach lies one-hour drive at the south-east of Muscat, at the very end of the winding road passing by the Bandar Khiran marine reserve. The camp is 200 m north of the village of Sifah and it is possible to swim wearing swimsuit in front of the tents. The beach continues for more than one km northwards up to some cliffs and for 2 km southwards, passing in front of the village. Further, the coast becomes rockier and you arrive at the Jebel Sifah complex with its marina, hotel, apartments and fancy restaurants.

The camp is made up of 7 large tents, all overlooking the sea. Each tent has beds, armchairs, fridge, fan and air-conditioner, as well as a shaded terrace with table, chairs and barbecue (wood/charcoal not provided). Behind each tent is a simple bathroom. Kitchen areas with gas cookers are at disposal.

You will find in your tent food for breakfast. For the other meals, you can cook yourself or go to one of the few coffeeshops of the village: the nearest is a 700-m walk from the camp and there is a nicer option 5 min away by car (Ertewa Café). Just a little further, the marina offers Turkish, Japanese and seafood restaurants as well as a bakery/sandwich shop. If you plan to cook, a small food shop lies 700 m away from the camp but, for meat, better do some shopping before driving to Sifah.

Sifah is a popular weekend/public holiday destination for people living in Muscat. Then the beach north of the camp can be crowded with campers and groups coming to party or picnic. The area is much quieter during the week, in other words from Saturday evening to Thursday afternoon.



DAY 14 - Relax and departure

Day to enjoy your accommodation and the area.
Then transfer to the airport and departure.

Transfer



Saruj district to Muscat International Airport |20km-25min|



Return to the airport and rental car drop-off.

PRICES / TERMS AND CONDITIONS

01/10/2024 - 30/04/2025

Number of people	2	4
Price per person in double room (in OMR)	875	650
Kia Sportage or similar (14 days)	1	1

Options and extras (prices per person)	
Accommodation upgrade on day 1 Guesthouse (Azaiba district, Muscat) BB 	5 OMR
Accommodation upgrade on day 7 (2 nights) Guesthouse (Al Aqr - Jebel Akhdar) HB 	20 OMR
Accommodation upgrade on day 9 Desert camp** (Wahiba North) HB 	from 5 OMR
Accommodation upgrade on day 10 Maison d'hôtes (Fins) HB 	15 OMR
Accommodation upgrade on day 11 Maison d'hôtes (Fins) HB 	15 OMR
Accommodation upgrade on day 12 (2 nights) Maison (Qantab) RO 	5 OMR
Accommodation upgrade on day 12 (2 nights) Beach camp (Sifah) BB 	from 5 OMR
Snorkelling in the Bandar Khiran marine reserve on day 13	20 OMR

Prices valid at the dates and for the types of room mentioned above.

These prices are given in Omani rials (OMR).

For conversion into another currency, you can use www.xe.com. Note that these conversions do not include bank fees and transfer charges.

Note that this document is an quote and that no reservation has been made to this day.

Prices are therefore subject to changes in accordance with the availability of accommodations, vehicles and guides at the time of the reservation. Insofar as possible, we offer alternatives of equivalent quality and cost in the event of unavailability.

Proposed vehicle (non contractual photo)



Kia Sportage

SUV 4x4 2.4L automatic



Toyota Fortuner

SUV 4x4 2.7L automatic



The price of the tour includes:

- The VAT
- Meet and greet service and rental car pick up assistance
- Your travel documents (including your roadbook)
- A cultural guidebook
- The whole self drive tour recorded in a GPS application
- An Oman road map (and a Muscat road map if required by the programme)
- A mobile phone with credit for 1 hour of local calls
- Phone assistance by our local agency throughout your trip
- Accommodations as mentioned in the programme

- Meals at the accommodations as mentioned in the programme along with each accommodation (cf. key)
 - Lunches on guided days
 - Bottled water in hotels
 - A small cool box
 - If the programme includes wild camping on your own, the camping equipment including:
 - Tent, thick mattresses, small table, stools, large mat for a traditional set-up, lamp
 - Gas stove, cooking and eating utensils, barbecue grill and utensils (if requested)
 - Basins, water jerrycans, dishwashing liquid
 - Some basic food: rice, pasta, tea, coffee, sugar, salt, pepper, spices, oil
 - Included activities as mentioned in the programme
 - For each included guided activity:
 - The guide
 - The car(s) and driver(s) if required for this activity
 - Safety and camping equipment (tents, mattresses, kitchenware) if required for this activity
 - Included transfers with driver or guide as mentioned in the program
 - The rental of the above-mentioned vehicle(s), for the above-mentioned period of time, with:
 - 2 possible drivers
 - Unlimited kilometres
 - Comprehensive insurance (excluding tyres and glass): zero excess in case of damage (provided you get a police report)

Caution: Damages occurred when driving off roads or off trails clearly marked on the terrain are not covered by the insurance (particularly when driving on sand).
 - Carbon offsetting for the mileage driven during your tour
- On completion of your trip, we grant our specialist partner a certain amount in order to offset the CO2 emitted during your drives. To go further, you can also offset your flight emissions through www.myclimate.org.*

The price of the tour does not include:

- International flights
 - Tourist visa fees: as at 01/09/2021 and for most nationalities, free for 14 days or visa 26B for 30 days at 20 OMR (per person)
- Check visa issuing formalities on <https://evisa.rop.gov.om/en/visa-eligibility>.*
- Passports must be valid at least 6 months after the return date.*
- Meals not included in the program (from 1.5 OMR per person in small restaurants or 5 OMR at hotels)
 - Beverages
 - Sleeping bags and personal camping equipment (headlight) if required
 - If the programme includes wild camping on your own, a 50 OMR deposit to be left cash at reception of the camping equipment, refundable at restitution
 - Entrance fees, if any, of the “possible activities” mentioned in the program (forts and museums: 1 to 5 OMR pp)
 - Tips to guides and drivers, if any
 - Personal expenses
 - Fuel for your self-driven car(s) (approx. 30 to 50 OMR per car and per week of tour)
 - The rental car refundable deposit: the amount of 125 OMR per vehicle is blocked on your credit card but not debited
 - Fines for driving offenses (speed cameras notably)
 - Tyre repair or replacement fees in case of puncture ; broken glass repair or replacement
 - The cost of repairing damages suffered by the rental cars if not justified by a police report
 - Your personal repatriation insurance
 - Your medical insurance