

Detailed Itinerary

Trip Name: [9 days] People & Landscapes of Oman

GENERAL

Dates: This small-group trip is offered on the following fixed departure dates:

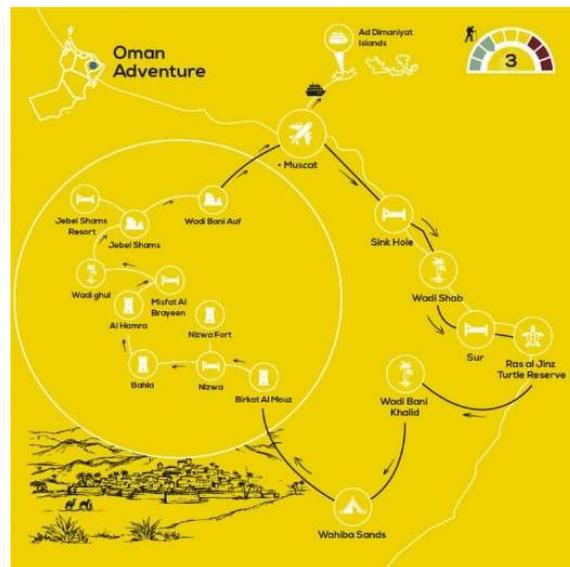
- October 2nd – 10th, 2021
- December 21st – 29th, 2021
- May 14th – 22nd, 2022
- October 1st – 9th, 2022
- December 21st – 29th, 2022

Prefer a privatized tour? Contact Yügen Earthside.

'Tranquility' – no other word better describes the wonderful Omani way of life that continues beneath the shady date palms of the lush wadis, to the sound of trickling water from the falaj irrigation networks. Explore the vast deserts of the Wahiba Sands, discover hidden villages in the Hajar Mountains, swim in the turquoise Arabian Sea, and spend time getting to know the friendliest people in the Gulf.

Main Stops:

Muscat – Wadi Shab – Ras Al Jins – Wadi Bani Khalid – Wahiba Sands – Nizwa – Jebel Shams – Misfat Al Abyreen – Snake Canyon – Bilad Sait – Daymaniyat Islands



About the Tour:

We design travel for the modern-day explorer by planning small-group adventures to exceptional destinations. We offer a mixture of trekking holidays and cultural tours, so you will always find an adventure to suit you. We always use local guides and teams, and never have more than 12 clients in a group. Travelling responsibly and supporting local communities, we are small enough to tread lightly, but big enough to make a difference.

DAY BY DAY ITINERARY**Day 1:** Journey begins in Muscat [Oman] (arrival day)

Following your arrival and settling into your hotel, your adventure begins with a tour of Oman's port capital city, a classic mix of modern living amongst historical architecture, and surrounded by mountains and desert. Enjoy the alleyways of Mutrah Souk and the breathtaking marble clad Grand Mosque with its 50m dome and famous Persian carpet. Bait al Baranda Museum, housed in an attractive seafront 1930s residence, gives us a snapshot of Muscat's history (and pre-history), to frame our adventures to come.

Accommodation: Hotel

Included meals: Lunch, Dinner

Day 2: Wadi Shab & Ras Al Jins

We are headed for Wadi Shab this morning (2hr drive) but it would be remiss not to stop off at Bimmah Sinkhole in Hawiyat Najm Park, popular with Omanis and visitors alike. We

will wait to swim however, till we reach the lush interior or Wadi Shab, with its lush vegetation and enticingly cool fresh water. After a relaxing few hours, we will drive on to the coastal town of Sur (1hr 20), to explore the Dhow boat yard where they still produce the traditional wooden vessels, as they have for centuries. For our May and Oct/Nov departures, we continue to Ras Al Jins this evening, to settle into our hotel and prepare for seeing the green turtles nesting sites in the evening. Our December departure sees us explore Sur in more depth - there is plenty to see and it is a photographer's paradise!

Accommodation: Hotel

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day 3: Wadi Bani Khalid & Wahiba Sands Desert Camp

This morning we leave Ras Al Jins and the coast behind us, heading up and over the mountainous interior to Wadi Bani Khalid (3hr drive). The journey itself is beautiful, but the destination is breathtaking. More green water pools to enjoy, plus we can wander further up the wadi to find our own corner of paradise. The wonders of Wahiba sands await us this evening though so we will want to leave in time to catch the sunset over the desert. The eco lodge has all the amenities we need - and offers us wonderful seclusion from the outside world.

Accommodation: Camp

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 4: Wahiba Sands & Nizwa

Getting up to see the sunrise over the picture-perfect untouched sand dunes, stretching as far as the eye can see, is totally worth it. This morning, after breakfast we can choose to travel over the sand on 2 feet or 4, depending on your desire to take a camel ride! Reluctantly leaving the desert behind, we drive to ancient Nizwa (2hrs), famous for its 17th century fort, which we explore before a relaxing dinner in this beautiful town.

Accommodation: Hotel

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day 5: Nizwa & Jebel Shams

After a leisurely breakfast, and a visit to the traditional Souq and explore of Nizwa's huge and historic fort, we drive up the steep winding roads to Jebel Shams (Mountains of the Sun) to stay at the Jebel Shams Resort (2hr drive). We enjoy some downtime relaxing in the cooler temperatures, and a short walk to the back of the resort often gives fantastic sunsets.

Accommodation: Hotel

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 6: Misfat Al Abryeen

Another relaxed start (you are on holiday after all!) Before a radial walk along the famous 'balcony walk' for magnificent views of the Grand Canyon of Arabia. The distance we cover is flexible but if we head to the abandoned village of Sap Bani Kamese, it will be a total of around 9km. On our return, we drive to the stunning and traditional mountain village of Misfat Al Abryeen (1hr 35m). Set overlooking date plantations, and the everchanging colors of the surrounding mountains, it is the perfect place to enjoy a coffee and dates with the locals, plus to grab a book, find a serene spot and relax. It's all about unwinding in a mind-numbingly beautiful destination today, and we stay the night here, in Misfat Resthouse.

Accommodation: Hotel

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day 7: Snake Canyon & Bilad Sait & Muscat

Our destination by this evening is a return to the capital, but today is far more than a day of travel. Driving to Wadi Bani Auf (2hrs 15m), aka Snake Canyon, takes us via Al Hamra, along one of the most famous off road journeys in the country, known for its spectacular views. We are not going to do any Wadi Bashing but will pause to wander and dip a toe / do some wading if we fancy it. Just an hour's drive takes us from Wadi Bani Auf to another charming and picturesque village, Bilad Sait where we can take a walk and enjoy lunch. Nestled at the base of the Hajar Mountain range, it is like something out of a fairy tale; typical of Arabian settlements in days gone by... We will meet the inhabitants for coffee and dates as well as a visit to a local home. In the late afternoon we encounter

more of the stunning scenery as we head back to Muscat (2.5hr drive) and the hotel we left just 5 days ago. We enjoy a group meal out this evening.

Accommodation: Hotel

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 8: Daymaniyat Islands (Boat tour)

The archipelago of 9 protected Daymaniyat islands lie around 18km off the coast of Muscat. Lying totally within a Nature Reserve, they are home to an incredible abundance of marine and bird life. The crystal-clear waters have ensured the areas popularity with divers and snorkelers, appreciating some of the most beautiful corals and fish that are to be found in the Middle East. After a day tour, we return to Muscat for a final group dinner.

Accommodation: Hotel

Included meals: Breakfast



Day 9: Fly out from Muscat (departure day)

We transfer you to the airport for flights out of Muscat. Leaving the beauty and serenity of Oman is going to feel all wrong but 'normal life' awaits you. Time to plan your next escape!

Included meals: Breakfast



INCLUSIONS

- **Accommodation:**
 - 8 nights twin share accommodation (unless you have paid \$150 extra for a single room).
- **Meals:**
 - 8 breakfasts, 7 lunches, 5 dinners.
 - Vegetarians and vegans can be provided for, but a wide variety might not always be available.
- **Transportation:**
 - All transfers, including airport transfers.
- **Permits, Fees, Guides:**
 - Full guided itinerary with qualified local English-speaking guide.
 - Supporting you on your holiday will be an experienced and knowledgeable local guide This ensures you access to information on the country and culture of Oman, as well as directly supporting local trade and tourism.

EXCLUSIONS

- **Meals:**
 - Meals not mentioned
 - Alcoholic drinks
 - It is illegal to drink alcohol and be drunk in public. Licensed hotels, restaurants and bottle shops do sell alcohol but remember that public intoxication is illegal, and you need to be sure the establishment selling alcohol to you has got a legal license, and to keep your receipt. The

best place to have a drink is in a licensed restaurant, with your meal, or in a licensed hotel bar. In an effort to discourage drinking, alcohol is expensive in Oman.

- **Transportation:**
 - Flights to/from Oman
- **Other:**
 - Visa (around \$14 for 10 days)
 - Insurance
 - Airport taxes
 - Souvenirs
 - Tips (allow approx. \$100 USD for local staff during your adventure)
 - Tipping in Oman is not as widespread as some other areas and is uncommon in very small establishments.
 - Room service and baggage handling: OR1
 - Larger hotels & restaurants: 10% if not included in the bill
 - Taxis: discretionary