

CLASSIC OMAN

HIGHLIGHTS

- LUSH SALALAH ON THE FRANKINCENSE ROUTE
- TRADITIONAL NIZWA SOUK
- LOCAL DELICACIES OF THE COASTAL MARKET TOWNS

Oman is characterised by its ancient coastal cities, centres of trade, education, art and Islamic learning. On your journey through this ancient land experience Salalah, birthplace of the Sultan and lined with trees of luxurious frankincense; Muscat, with its harbours and the towering Al Hajar Mountains forming the backdrop, and the Wahiba Sands desert, home of the Wahiba tribe. Accompanied by your expert private driver-guide, highly educated and well-versed in all aspects of the culture, this eight day journey in Oman will leave you with a deep understanding and appreciation of its ancient culture and traditions.



DAY 1

London/Muscat

Your journey begins with a British Airways flight to Muscat, situated on the easternmost tip of the Arabian Peninsula. Once the centre of the ancient frankincense trade, Oman offers a unique travel experience where modern life meets deep-rooted local traditions, served up with genuine

hospitality. Here you will check into The Chedi, overlooking the azure waters of the Gulf of Oman.

DAY 2

Muscat

Savour the sights of this enchanting port city with the 16th century Portuguese forts of Jalali and Mirani guarding the impenetrable harbour. Sample the



delights at the gourmet Bateel date store with an impressive variety of date products. Here you have an opportunity to indulge in what was once, and not too long ago, the only staple in the diet along with camel's milk. Chocolate dates and sparkling date juice are specialties not to be missed.

DAY 3

Muscat

Today explore the city, the magnificent splendour of the Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque and the Bait Al Zubair

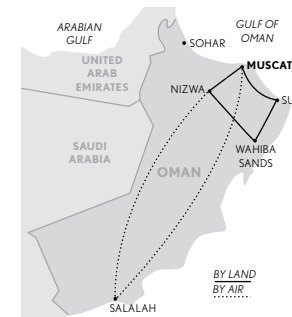
museum, which showcases an incredible display of Omani antiques. Tantalise your senses with a visit to the House of Amouage, which creates some of the most expensive perfumes in the world using the finest ingredients, including frankincense and myrrh found only in Oman and Yemen.

DAY 4

Muscat/Nizwa/Wahiba Sands

Through the rugged interior, drive to the historic village of Nizwa and explore the spectacular fort which boasts the largest

round tower in Oman. Admire the old crafts in the souq workshops created by men stooped over anvils, clanking away, amidst an array of other antiques and handicrafts. A pocket of red dunes await in The Wahiba Sands, made famous by the exploits of the late Wilfred Thesiger. Travelling off-road, deep in the heart of the sands, you reach a traditional Bedouin encampment tucked in at the foot of a large sand dune, surrounded by hardy desert acacia trees. Your home this evening will be traditional black goat-hair tents, with wooden beds and adjacent bathrooms. This will be a night to remember, with a sumptuous ►



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dinner eaten whilst seated on Bedouin carpets on the sands and under star-studded skies.

DAY 5

Wahiba Sands/Sur

Stop for a cup of traditional Arabic coffee, the welcome drink of the Middle East, en route to Sur, a coastal town where Arabian ocean dhows are still built in the traditional manner. This evening you can choose to visit the nearby turtle nesting area to see 400 lb female turtles return to the beach where they were born to lay up to 100 eggs in carefully concealed nests. Omani

hospitality awaits at the Ras Al Jinz Scientific Centre.

DAY 6

Sur/Muscat/Salalah

Admire the beautiful coast dotted with white beaches and coves of turquoise waters; you may like to take a dip in the Arabian Sea. After a picnic lunch continue to Muscat for your evening flight to Salalah, Oman's southernmost city which exhibits a subtle African flavour. The surrounding countryside is seasonally very lush and green, thanks to the Khareef, the annual summer monsoon. Enjoy the



laid back atmosphere of the Hilton Salalah surrounded by papaya and banana plantations.

DAY 7

Salalah

Tour into the Qara mountains west of Salalah, where you will visit Job's Tomb and enjoy a unique panoramic view over the Al Garbib plain and Salalah. Pass groves of frankincense trees as the aroma of the ancient incense follows you to the open-air souq, an excellent place to purchase frankincense brought down from the nearby mountains and sold by Omani women in traditional dress.

DAY 8

Salalah/Muscat/London

This morning visit the Al Balid museum in the outskirts of the city before continuing to the picturesque fishing town of Taqah, with a beautiful sand beach and restored 19th century fort. Enjoy a picnic lunch before a visit to Khor Ruri, a major port for the ancient frankincense trade and the site of one of the palaces of the legendary Queen of Sheba. Return to Muscat later for your flight home – or you may like to consider adding a few days to experience the Fjords of Arabia.



With A&K all journeys are individually tailored to suit your requirements and timescale. As a guide, this eight day journey in Oman will cost from £2,395 per person based on two adults sharing with flights from the UK and subject to availability. *Please bear in mind this is not a prescriptive itinerary but a suggestion to give you a taste of what is possible with the very highest level of comfort, service and convenience. Accordingly, we aim to quote to a standard as opposed to a price.*

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