



Oman - Sands and Mountains

Outdoor
special

Tour Overview

Oman is famous for its ancient Aflaj oases irrigation system, terraced orchards (Jebel Akhdar), adobe fortresses, lots of mosques, wadis (stream valleys), dhows (traditional Arabian sailing ships), meteorites, and Al Said, the world's third-largest yacht, owned by the Sultan.

But apart from all that aside, a trip to Oman's desert is definitely a life time experience. Sky, sun, wind and mountains linked to the charming solitude of the desert offer indelible moments.

AND – we have special connections!

Highlights

- Balcony Walk
- Bahla fort (World Heritage Site)
- Ramlet Jadilah
- Wahiba Sands.

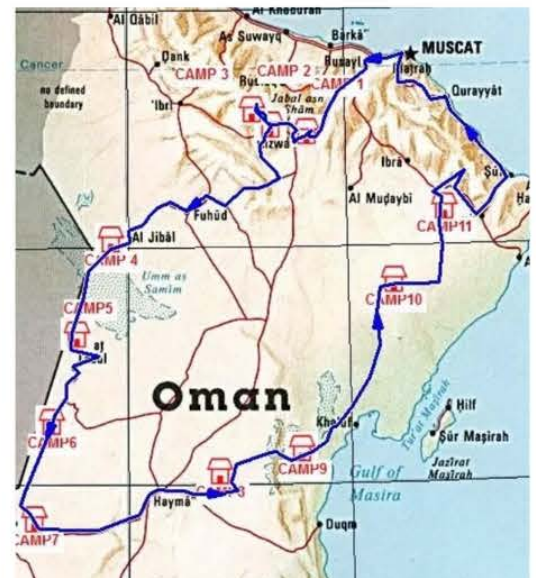
Duration:	15 Days / 14 Nights
Groupe size:	9 - 12 Pax
Trip available:	November - March
Price:	From 4200\$/pp

“But in the desert, in the pure clean atmosphere, in the silence – there you can find yourself.”

– Father Dioscurot

Route summary

Muscat – Wadi Muadin - Hasat Bin Salt - Wadi Nakhur - Wadi Aswad – Um Samim - Ramlat Al Sahmah - Ramlat Muqshin - Jiddat al Harasis - Huqf Depression - Wahiba Sands - Umm Adalian - Muscat



Tour Outline

Day 1: Arrival in Muscat

Arrival in Muscat, meet and assist at the Airport and transfer to your hotel.

Overnight hotel or similar.

Day 2: Muscat Tour

Visiting sultan Qaboos grand mosque early at 8:30 am, afterwards heading to Mutrah Souq : the largest Souq in the country, having lunch there.

In the afternoon explore the National museum .(Museum fees included)

For the dress code of the mosque please bring scarfs and something to cover arms and legs.

Overnight hotel or similar. (B/L)(Oman guide)

Day 3: Muscat - Wadi Muadin

Our outdoor adventure starts! Heading to the Hajar Mountains sitting like a crown on the top of Oman land.

First stop at Izki having a walk through the mud brik ancient settlements and to Birkat Al Mawz walking around Harat As Sibani.

We will have lunch there before continuing to Wadi Muadin where we have our first camp .

Overnight camp (B/L/D)

Day 4: Wadi Muadin - Hasat Bin Salt

The plan is not to take down the camp but to leave one of the crew at camp site, so we can head to the Friday market of Nizwa as early as possible! This is a rare chance to see the Omani people in the market – a special part of everyday life.

Afterwards we visit the castle and around noon will drive back to the camp, where we have lunch. Thereafter we take down the camp and go on to Hasat Bin Salt, a prehistoric, unique and impressive rock carving!

Overnight camp. (B/L/D)

Day 4: Wadi Muadin - Balcony walk - Wadi Nahkur

We head to Jabal Shams, the highest point in Arabia and start the Balcony walk:

The Jebel Shams Balcony Walk is a 4km hike with around 200m



in elevation change. You start at 1,900m at the rim of the Wadi Ghul canyon and go as low as 1,700m.

It's a return hike (in that you go all the way to the end point, and then hike back to the start). The hike takes around 3-4 hours, depending on how many photo and food breaks you take.

It's one of the best things to do in Oman, as well as a must-see on any Oman itinerary. And it is doable for everyone! You will have stunning views into the canyon – just bring a pair of trekking shoes.

Overnight Camp in Wadi Nakhur. (B/L/D)



Day 6: Bahla - Wadi Aswad -

We Visit Bahla fort a UNESCO world heritage site. Bahla was the centre of Ibadism (a branch of Islam), on which the ancient Omani Imamates were based and whose influence can be traced across Arabia, Africa and beyond. The extensive wall (sur) with sentry walk and watchtowers enclosing the labyrinth of mud brick dwellings and cultivatable land has several gateways.

We continue towards Fahud area where we fuel the cars for the 600 km off road crossing from Fahud to Muqshin. and continue to Wadi Aswad, where we camp in the sands of the Empty Quarter.

The Arabic name Rub al Khali means “empty quarter.” The name was given to it because it's a huge stretch of unbroken sand desert that has bested kings, adventurers, and nomads for thousands of years. In a region defined by deserts, the Rub al Khali came to be known for being especially daunting and inhospitable.

But for us and all desert lovers it is an amazing place. “In clear weather, the Empty Quarter is one of the best places on Earth to watch the stars as it's completely free of light pollution”.Alex, Oman Expert.

Overnight camp (B/L/D)



Day 7: Wadi Aswad - Um al Samim

Today we want to cross the area of Um al Samim in the footsteps of the British explorer Wilfried Thesiger, who wanted to leave behind research about the Bedouins in this part of the world for posterity.



Sir Wilfred Patrick Thesiger KBE, DSO, FRAS, FRSL, FRGS, HonFBA (3 June 1910 – 24 August 2003),[1] also known as Mubarak bin Landan (Arabic: مُبَارَكُ بْنُ لَنْدَنْ, the blessed one of London) was a British military officer, explorer, and writer.

Thesiger's travel books include Arabian Sands (1959), on his foot and camel crossing of the Empty Quarter of the Arabian Peninsula, and The Marsh Arabs (1964), on his time living with the Marsh Arabs of Iraq.

The Umm al Samim (Arabic: أُمُّ السَّمِيمِ) (also known as the Umm as Samim) is a quicksand area on the eastern edge of the Rub al'Khali desert largely within Oman's borders. The waters, such as they are, drain into this brackish low-lying closed basin area off the Omani mountains and the wadis of the Rub al'Khali. The Al Samim (known locally as the 'Mother of Poisons' or the 'Mother of Worries') is a salt marsh with a solid-looking crust, but can be very treacherous when broken through. There is little vegetation.

Sir Wilfred Thesiger was the first European to see the area in the late 1940s after his travels from Salalah in Oman.[

We have to be flexible like always in the desert. If the area is wet because of rain (yes – it is possible!!), we will have to wait or to change the route.

In any case we are in an area with amazing sand dunes, where we will spend the night.

Overnight Camp (B/L/D)

Day 8: Qurun El Fedah - Ramlet Abu Tabul - Ramlet Al Sahmah

A new day begins in the middle of one of the most beautiful deserts in the world.

We continue towards Qurun El Fedah, where the star dunes area is located and to Ramlet Abu Tabul area.

Afterwards we continue south towards Ramlet Al Sahmah , exploring its spectacular dunes formation. You can literary listen to the music of the dunes while they are moving.

Ramlat Jadilah, not only the tallest sand dune. in Oman, but also the highest in the world standing at. 455 m above sea level.

Overnight camping. (B/L/D)

Day 9: Ramlet Al Sahmah - Ramlet Mugshin.

We have long since adapted to the rhythm of the desert, wandering today from Al Sahma area with some white baby



dunes to Ramlet Mugshin.

Every morning and every evening we do a little walk looking for stone tools, arrow heads and any stone age traces.

Take pictures with your camera and your soul of this rarely visited part of the world.

Overnight Camping Ramlet Mugshin. (B/L/D)



Day 10: Hayma - Jiddat al Harasis desert

Today we have to get in touch a bit with civilisation. We drive to the highway towards Al Ghaftayn where we fuel and refresh our supplies.

We continue to Hayma and will have our camping at Jiddat al Harasis desert.

Jiddat al-Harasis is a stony desert in south-central Oman, separating northern Oman from Dhufar. The largest strewn field of meteorites in the country is situated here. Over 160 bird species, including the endangered houbara bustard, are found here, as well as Arabian oryx and Arabian gazelle.

At a short distance outside there is the Wildlife Reserve.

Overnight camping. (B/L/D)



Day 11: Jiddat al Harasis desert - Al Haqf Depression

We will visit the reserve in the morning, where some fair number of Oryx and Gazelles can be seen.

Next, we continue descending to the Al Haqf depression.

Overnight camping. (B/L/D)

Day 12: Al Haqf Depression - Wahiba Sands

We are heading towards Wahiba sands to start our dune crossing adventure while exploring the beautiful dunes.

The Wahiba Sands desert is a highlight of any trip to Oman. The impressive orange sand dunes offer a unique experience, especially at sunrise and sunset.

Entering from the western edge following an old local track will enable us to see more different parts of the sands .

Overnight camping. (B/L/D)



Day 13: Wahiba Sands - Umm Adalian

We are crossing the enormous linear dunes which extends up to 50 km in length towards Umm Adalian and continue through the central part of the Sands.

Now our way brings us North on the rarely visited track away



from the crowded permanent campsites.

Camping in a short distance close to the main road. One last night in the infinity before urban life has us again.

Overnight last camping. (B/L/D)

Day 14: Umm Adalian - Wadi Bani Khaled - Muscat

Oman is not only desert!

We will visit Wadi Bani Khaled enjoying swimming at the lovely natural pools in cold refreshing water and having lunch there.

Finally we are heading back to Muscat.

Check in hotel or similar. (B/L)

Day 15: Muscat - Airport

The circle has closed – back home again.

Transfer to Muscat international Airport. (B)

NOTE: (Transfer not included)



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Trip includes

- Private Tour
- Accommodation 3 Hotels
- Accommodation 11 camps.
- Meals 14 B/ 14 L/ 12 D
- 4x4 cars like in program
- Transfers mentioned
- All camping equipments : (tent, mattresses,)
- All entrance fees
- Oman guide
- Program as mentioned

Trip excludes

- International flights
- Visa fees
- Travel insurance and all kind of insurances.
- No transfer Muscat - airport
- Meals not mentioned.
- Tips for the guide and staff.
- Anything that is not mentioned in the program.

Note

The program is given as an indication, it depends on the local conditions of the moment, governmental regulations or any force majeure related to the weather. The order of the visits can be modified but the entirety of the program will be respected.

This is a long distance camping based expedition requiring the following :

- The ability to camp without toilet facilities :11 nights camping in total .
- Understanding and following the precautions for traveling in hot countries.
- Understanding and following the precautions for being safe and responsible in the desert environment .

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