

**Oman in Luxury
9 days – 8 nights
Muscat, Nizwa, Jebel Akhdar, Wahiba, Salalah, Taqah, Samharam, Mirbat
Relaxation, Discovery, Culture, History**

**This program may be operated for individual or for groups
This is a suggested itinerary – Please call us to customize**

Welcome to Oman! A Hidden treasure with a History dating right back to 3,000 BC, Oman's pristine land could tell a thousand tales. It was the birthplace of the Queen of Sheba, the last resting place of Prophet Job and the home and port of the famous adventurer, Sinbad the Sailor. It is no wonder that the Sultanate has such an abundance of hidden treasure. From the grand forts, exquisite palaces and mystical souks of the capital Muscat, to the undulating dunes, fresh water wadis and miles upon miles of unspoiled sandy beaches, Oman is just waiting to be discovered.

Day 1: Muscat

Upon arrival at Muscat International Airport you'll be met by our representative and assisted through immigration and customs. Then, our guide to The Chedi Muscat Hotel in a luxury car. We have you booked, early afternoon, for a relaxing Spa treatment. Later we'll drive you to Marina Bandar to board the dhow for a leisurely cruise along the coast. See Muscat's coast through the eyes of ancient seafarers who plied this route for centuries. Have a brief stop at a natural cove and photograph the spectacular Al Bustan Palace Hotel before we return back to the Marina. Disembark the dhow and proceed for dinner at the Beach Pavilion at Al Bustan Palace Hotel. After dinner, return to your hotel for overnight. [D]

Day 2: Muscat

Muscat, meaning "Anchorage", and its natural harbor lie in a volcanic bowl and offers the visitor a unique opportunity to witness a modern commercial center existing in harmony with its traditional culture. This morning we leave the Chedi Muscat and proceed to visit the Grand Mosque, highlight of the city. Completed in 2001, the Grand Mosque is a beautiful modern building but shows that modern craftsmen have retained the necessary skills to create a wonderful traditional environment. The handmade carpets, chandeliers and ceiling of the great dome, in the main prayer room, are absolute 'must sees'. Lecture on Islamic history by an Omani Scholar at the Mosque. On the outskirts of Muscat, we visit the House of Amouage (closed on Friday and Saturday). Now, in its 28th year, the House of Amouage creates some of the most expensive perfumes in the world for both men and women. In recent years, some Amouage scents have been blended for western tastes to appeal to a larger audience and are available in select stores internationally. Drive along the waterfront Corniche visiting the bustling Muttrah Souq. Visit of Bait Al Zubair Museum is a brief introduction tracing Oman's history and development. Enjoy a coffee with the Curator at the Museum. Then, we proceed for a photo stop at the magnificent Al Alam Palace, the Sultan's official residence, flanked by the 16th century Portuguese forts Mirani and Jalali. Return to the hotel in the evening. Lunch at Shangri-La and return to hotel for an afternoon at your leisure. Later drive to the Royal Opera House. The construction of this iconic and majestic building with stunning handmade ornaments, including the sophistication of its rich interior, is in many ways an embodiment of such complexity and multiplicity of references witnessed in Omani architecture. Enjoy a performance at the Opera House (depending on the calendar) and return to the hotel for overnight. [B/L/D]

Note: Ladies must be fully covered and carry a head scarf and men must wear trousers.

Day 3: Muscat (On-board Al Wasmi II)

Have breakfast at the hotel before a short drive to the Wave Marina to board the luxury yacht Al Wasmi II and head towards Damaniyat Island, which is a paradise for bird watching, snorkeling etc. Enjoy a delicious lunch on the island. Al Wasmy II provides the ultimate platform for exploring Oman's fascinating coastline. Berthed at Al Mouj Marina, this GulfCraf Majesty 61 seamlessly combines luxurious decor with state-of-the-art technology and facilities for your complete comfort. Traveling on this floating oasis of

luxury opens up a unique and exclusive way of life. Aboard Al Wasmy II, it's easy to escape the stresses of on-shore life in your own undisturbed piece of privacy. Amenities such as a lounge with satellite TV, open-plan bar with gallery, air conditioning and deck barbecue will help you feel at home whilst on your voyage. With plenty of living space and natural light in the main 'majlis' style saloon, the split-level main deck has been designed to provide you with all the luxury and comfort you would expect from a five-star hotel room. For overnight trips, the Al Wasmy II, has three en-suite bedrooms and one additional single bedroom with separate bathroom. Exploring Oman's timeless coastline from the comfort of this vessel is the ultimate way to rediscover your sense of wonder, unwind and relax from the stresses of daily life. Dinner and overnight stay on board the yacht. [B/L/D]

Day 4: Muscat, Nizwa, Jebel Akhdar

After breakfast, we sail back to the Marina to meet with your guide and drive to Nizwa to visit the famous Round Tower Fort, built in the 17th century, and the Souk renowned for its Friday cattle auction, and displays of intricately hand-carved "Khanjars" (daggers) and ornamental silver jewelry. After having enjoyed your time at the Souk, we proceed to Jebel Akhdar to check in at Alila Resort. Dinner and overnight at the resort. [B/L/D]

Day 5: Jebel Akhdar

A few hours at leisure. Late in the morning meet your chef in Jebel Akhdar for a cooking class in an open area overlooking the majestic valley. (Tents, table, chairs etc. will be arranged for guests' comfort) After lunch enjoy a walk through spectacular high-altitude fields and terraces, bright green with new springtime crops. Dinner and overnight at the resort. [B/L/D]

Day 6: Jebel Akhdar, Wahiba

Free morning in Jebel Akhdar, before proceeding south via Izki and Mudhaybi to reach the Wahiba Sands, a vast mass of undulating red and white to reach sea of sand and dunes rising up to 655 feet that are host to a variety of flora and fauna. Once you reach the dunes you'll see constantly changing sand patterns that are a photographer's delight. After lunch at Desert Nights camp continue to visit a Bedouin house in this wilderness. Check in at the Starwatching Private Luxury camp. We offer personalized luxury camping in the magnificent desert of Oman. Based on personal preferences, we setup private retreats amongst the most stunning landscapes. Dinner and overnight at the camp. [B/D]

Day 7: Wahiba, Muscat, Salalah (Taqah, Samharam, Mirbat)

After breakfast, head to Muscat to board your flight to Salalah. Arrival at Salalah Airport and transfer to Al Baleed Salalah hotel. In the afternoon visit the fishing village of Taqah, an old town with an interesting castle surrounded by watchtowers and stone houses. Continue to Khor Rori Creek, the site of the ruined city of Samharam*, capital of ancient Arabia's frankincense trade. Excavations have produced evidence of an ancient city with trade links by sea to Greece and even distant Far Eastern destinations. Mirbat, the ancient capital of Dhofar, was an important town as early as the 9th century for its trade in frankincense, horses and slaves. See some of the old houses famous for its woodcarvings. Some days you may see boatloads of fish arriving into the harbor. One of Dhofar's best-known historic sites is Bin Ali's Tomb. The twin domed structure, the resting place of Mohamed bin Ali who died in 1135 AD is a fine example of Middle-Eastern medieval architecture. Return via Ayn Razat, (Thursdays and Fridays only) manicured gardens fed by natural underground springs. Return to the hotel for overnight. [B]

** Samharam is closed on Thursdays and Fridays*

Day 8: Salalah

Salalah, the "garden city" of the south, is a tropical paradise. After breakfast we visit a garden farm, which has groves of coconut, banana, papaya and vegetables. Then, visit ruins of local old houses. Photo stop at the beautiful Shanfari Mosque with its exquisite artwork and stained tiles. Visit the site of Prophet Saleh's Sacred Camel Footprint that shows clearly on the rock. Visit Al Husn Souk where frankincense crystals of Dhofar and typical Dhofari frankincense burners are sold. Witness the sale of cattle and guns in the market. Walk along the city's promenade (waterfront corniche) where one-storey houses are dwarfed by

tall, swaying palms. Al Husn Palace, summer residence of the Sultan, stands at one end of the promenade. Then visit the Al Baleed Museum, (Frankincense Museum), famous for the collection of frankincense. In the afternoon visit the Biblical “Nabi Ayoub”, Prophet Job’s Tomb, perched high up on the “Jebels” (mountains). On the way are spectacular views of the plains, mountain landscape and emerald green pastureland. Proceed to Mughsail Beach where “Blow-holes” spit sea water gushes during high tide. Experience 10 miles of hairpin bend roads that lead you to a wadi with breathtaking views from this very high vintage viewpoint. At the nearby bird sanctuary, one may see seasonal birds and, on the way, notice the stark shape of leafless Frankincense trees that dot the landscape. Once traded as a commodity more precious than gold, frankincense harvested in Dhofar is rated the best in the world. Return to the hotel for overnight. [B]

Day 9: Salalah, Muscat, USA

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before your transfer to Salalah International Airport to board yojur connecting flight to the USA via Muscat. [B]

[B] = Breakfast | [B’L/D] = Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner | [B/P/D] = Breakfast, Picnic Lunch and Dinner

Your Tour includes:

- Arrival and departure transfers
- 10 nights’ accommodation:
 - Muscat – 2 nights
 - On board Al Wasmi yacht– 1 night
 - Jebel Akhdar – 2 nights
 - Wahiba – 1 night
 - Salalah - 2 nights
- Meals:
 - Breakfast daily
 - 3 lunches
 - 6 dinners
- Sightseeing of Muscat
- Explore Muscat’s coast by yacht
- Visit the Round Tower Fort in Mizwa
- Cooking lesson in Jebel Akhdar
- Dune bashing at Wahiba Desert Sands
- Visit a Bedouin’s house
- Visit the Taqah castle
- Tour Samahram, the ancient frankincense capital
- Tour Mirbat and Mohamed bin Ali’s tomb
- Discover Salalah it’s palaces and Souk
- Visit Mughsail Beach
- Explore Dhofar and the Frankincense road

- Transportation by A/C vehicles
- Entrance fees where required
- Technical assistance for hiking and bicycle rides
- English-speaking guide
- All local taxes

Optional Inclusions:

- International or Domestic airfares
- Any taxes and surcharges relating to airfares
- Lunches and dinners
- Travel insurance
- Wi-Fi at hotels

Tour does not Include:

- Optional tours and activities
- All alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks
- Other meals not mentioned in the itinerary
- Visa
- Extras and gratuities
- Early check-in, late check-out (Most hotels begin check-in around 2:00pm).
- Expenses of personal nature
- Any service not specifically listed under “included”

Recommended hotels on your Tour:

City	Hotel Name	Tripadvisor
Muscat	The Chedi Muscat	4.5
Yachty	Al Wasmi II	4.5
Jebel Akhdar	Alila Resort	5
Wahiba	Starwatching Desert Camp	5
Salalah	Baleed Salalah	5

Hotels will be confirmed at time of booking.

Tour Prices:

These programs can be customized for individuals and groups. Changes to this program may be requested by phone (1855-55-TOURS) or using the web FIT Quote Request

- Airfare
We also be glad to add the necessary airfare from your gateway so you take advantage of our special discounted leisure fares

- Program
You may add or remove;
 - Trip days
 - Cities and sites
 - Meals

- Other options
 - The program was designed with private services, however, we may substitute shared sightseeing where available
 - If you prefer deluxe services we may operate this program including private driver, private guide and concierge service.

- Quotation
Once we have designed the program the way you want we'll give you a quote within 2 business days.

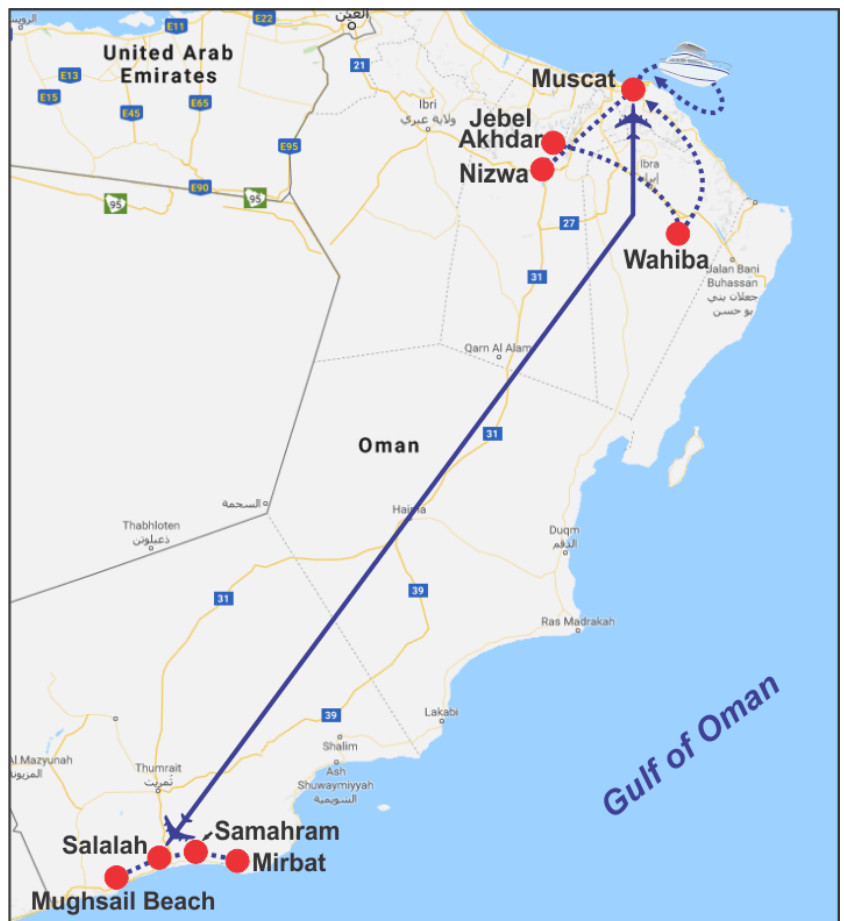
Tour Code: BY02MSK20VT

Options:

- Lunches and dinners can be arranged for individuals, families and groups at top restaurants or any restaurant requested by you.
- We can revise the itinerary to spend more time and provide more depth in those areas that you are interested on.
- Any other changes to the itinerary will be accommodated depending on the facilities available in the area.

Group Quotations

- If you wish to use these programs for your group or as the basis for a customized journey please either call us (1-855-55-TOURS) or use the web Group Quote Request.
- In either case our specialists will work with to refine all the details and



they will get you a quote with 2 business days. Quotes may be obtained for the air and land portions of just for the land journey.

- Booking both air and land with us will represent savings for you because of our buying power and longtime relationship with the airlines.
- We will also may have the choice between regular fares and special leisure fares not available to the public.