



مركز الفلحة ش.م.ع

Muzn Al Fala L.L.C

Sultanate of Oman – the real Orient experience



Note: For all mentioned rates of the above listed excursions it is essential: programs and services are subject to change. Programs and mentioned hotels and/or camps are subject to availability concerning the requested booking term. *The rate in EUR if mentioned is quoted on the current exchange rate and is subject to change corresponding to the exchange rates on day of payment. Payment of all optional excursions has to be in cash in OMR direct on the spot upon reservation before starting the tour. Some of the listed excursions are on regular basis, all mentioned excursions can of course be offered on private basis for a supplement. For group excursions (a group is up from 10 persons) the programs and tours will be booked as closed groups. Cancellation until 72 hours prior departure is free of charges, from 72 hours prior departure and no show 100% of the booking amount will be charged. Payment is in cash on OMR before tour starts.

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EXCURSIONS AND PROGRAMS:

FULL DAY MUSCAT TOUR: First stop on your Muscat City Tour is a visit to the Grand Mosque, the largest mosque in Oman. From here you will be taken on a scenic tour taking in the Ministries, Embassies, Qurum Park Beach and on to Muttrah Corniche, with a stop at the recently opened Bait Al Baranda museum. We then continue onto the Fish Souk and Al Dhalam Souk, Oman's largest indoor market. At the Souk, built in traditional style, you will find exquisite silver jewellery, frankincense, intricately hand-made Khanjars (daggers) and other handicrafts. The tour continues east along the Corniche to Muttrah (Old Muscat). Here you will visit the charming Bait al Zubair, a private museum housing traditional Omani items reflecting the country's rich heritage. Nearby is His Majesty Sultan Qaboos's Al Alam Royal Palace protected in the bay by the famous twin forts of Jalali and Mirani, rebuilt by the Portuguese around 1558. Passing through the fishing villages of Sidab and Haramel you are taken along the scenic coastal route towards the Al Bustan Palace Hotel and Shangri La Resort & Spa for coffee (optional).

Price: OMR 115 for 1-4 persons. (Saturday to Thursday)

MORNING MUSCAT TOUR. A morning Muscat tour, which will include a visit to the Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque with its dramatic interiors and exterior. Later visit Muttrah Souq, a bustling market with a mix of every day requirements and holiday souvenirs; Bait Zubair Museum (or other if you prefer) for an excellent overview of Oman's cultural heritage and a walk through 'old' Muscat where Al Alam Palace, the official residence of Sultan Qaboos, is located.

Price: OMR 84 for 1-4 persons (Saturday to Thursday)

DOLPHIN WATCHING IN MUSCAT: Enjoy time with the Dolphins an early morning sea based trip to enjoy the sight of one of the pods of Dolphins in Oman's coast. The coast along Muscat is spectacular and reason enough to take this trip by Arabesque Tours Oman –add in a chance to see Common and Spinner Dolphins (we cannot guarantee a sighting but around 90% of our trips are successful) and this is a 'must take' tour.

Price: OMR 22 per person (daily in the morning)

SUNSET DHOW CRUISE IN MUSCAT: Spare a couple of hours to join our Sunset Dhow cruise in Muscat -a late afternoon leisurely cruise down the coast. Enjoy the dramatic mountains cascading into the sea from a different perspective. Depending on sea conditions, an entry into the harbour in front of Muscat Palace may be made adding additional splendour to gathering twilight.

Price: OMR 20 per person (daily)

EVENING SHOPPING IN MUSCAT. Retail therapy for gifts or purchases for yourself we can introduce you to some unique shops. If you desire perfumes fit for Royalty we can take you to its source; perhaps some stunning Omani Silver, dazzling fabrics or simply to wander and enjoy a more leisurely pace of life. The ideal time is late afternoon or early evening.

Price: OMR 72 for 1-4 persons (Saturday to Thursday)

FULL DAY OMAN WADI AND FORT: With a picnic for lunch, this full day tour Oman combines a classic Omani fort and a drive into one of the most interesting valleys (wadis) in Oman. From Muscat (using 4WD vehicle) drive along the coast and after a brief stop at a beach fish market make a stop in Nakhal. The fort here sits commandingly on a small hill with a view over the surrounding Oasis and countryside. Later enter the Wadi and drive along much of its lower reaches with its combination of small villages and straggling classic Omani date oasis. Picnic lunch is enjoyed in a setting of your choice.

Price: OMR 144 for 1-4 persons (Saturday to Thursday)





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FULL DAY TOUR NIZWA: This is a classic full day tour from Muscat. The route journeys through dramatic Omani mountain ranges, which are such a feature of northern Oman. Nizwa with its goat souq and fort is a fascinating town. The view from the main tower in Nizwa fort is worth the climb. Further along the route lies Jabrin Fort with its rustic painted ceiling decoration and tomb of its builder, a former ruler of Oman. Lunch taken in a simple local restaurant is followed by a visit to one of the attractive villages that lie at the base of the Jebel Akhdar mountain chain.

Price: OMR 144 for 1-4 persons (daily)



**FULL DAY TOUR SCENIC MOUNTAINS AND OMANS' GRAND CANYON:
Al Hootah Cave, Jebel Shams Mountain & Grand Canyon**

Leaving Muscat in direction to the Hajar mountain chain directly to the Al Hootah Cave, a 2,7 km long stalactite cave, which is leading through huge chambers and a lake where a certain kind of blind fishes are living. The interior of the cave is shimmering in all imaginable nuances of yellow color. After the visit of the cave continue to the idyllic village of Misfat Al Abriyn, which is located within green terraces and date palms surrounded by mountains and rocks with old mud buildings and ruins of defense towers. Passing by Al Hamra continue up the winding mountain road to the Jebel Shams „mountain of the sun“ and highest peak (3010 meters) of Oman and the whole Arabic peninsula. At the Jebel Shams Resort lunch will be served and afterwards you can risk the breathtaking view down the so called „Grand Canyon“ of Oman. On the descend from the Jebel Shams you will enjoy the amazing sunset upon Al Hamra as a perfect end of this impressionable day in the mountains before driving back to Muscat.

Price: OMR 156 for 1-4 persons, (daily). The price includes: 4WD cars (max. 4 persons per car), English speaking driver guide, hotel pick-up, entrance fee Al Hootah Cave, lunch at the Jebel Shams Resort and soft drinks.



OMAN FULL DAY DESERT EXPERIENCE - WAHIBA SANDS:

The Wahiba (Sharqiyah) Sand desert was the subject of intense study by Britain's Royal Geographical Society in the late 1980s. Today a visit to the Wahiba sands needs no scientific excuse as even a layman can appreciate their beauty and interest. Engaging four-wheel drive, enter the Wahiba sands, hopefully meeting some of the hospital Bedouin inhabitants of this area and having a chance to see camels in a classic setting. Dune Bashing and lunch in the desert camp. Visit of a Bedouin family in a typical tent and ride through the dunes. For additional charge you can try a camel ride. After you have watched the atmospheric sunset from the top of a dune travel back to Muscat.

Price: OMR 156 for 1-4 persons, (daily)

The price includes: 4WD car (max. 4 persons per car), English speaking driver guide, hotel pick-up, lunch und soft drinks.





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2 - DAYS EXCURSIONS WITH OVERNIGHT STAY

Desert Safari: Wahiba Sands & Wadi Bani Khalid with overnight in the desert camp



Day 1: The Wahiba (Sharqiyah) Sand desert was the subject of intense study by Britain's Royal Geographical Society in the late 1980s. Today a visit to the Wahiba sands needs no scientific excuse as even a layman can appreciate their beauty and interest. Engaging four-wheel drive, enter the Wahiba sands, hopefully meeting some of the hospital Bedouin inhabitants of this area and having a chance to see camels in a classic setting. Dune Bashing and lunch in the desert camp. Visit of a Bedouin family in a typical tent and ride through the dunes. For additional charge you can try a camel ride. After you have watched the atmospheric sunset from the top of a dune you will enjoy a traditional dinner in the camp and overnight in the desert camp.

Day: 2 Wadi Bani Khalid

After the breakfast in the desert camp drive from the desert over the mountains and enter one of Oman's most attractive Wadis the 'Wadi Bani Khalid'. Here water pools reflect the blue sky and green date trees. You may of course try a bath in the fresh water pools and enjoy the pick-nick lunch in the shadows of the palms. After recreating in the pools travel back to Muscat.

Departure: daily in 4WD cars, duration 2 days, 1 overnight

Price: OMR 99 per person on a min. of 4 persons (daily departure). Single supplement OMR 30.000 per person.

The price includes: 4WD car (max. 4 persons per car), English speaking driver guide. Hotel pick-up, soft drinks & meals during the tour (2 x lunch, 1 x dinner, 1 x breakfast), overnight in the desert camp.

Tipp: For a supplement you can choose the overnight in a luxury desert camp, the Desert Nights Camp.

Desert Nights Camp:



Desert Nights Camp is an Oasis in the golden sands and the untamed spectacular open spaces. Surrender to the spirit of the Wahiba sands, and enjoy the ultimate in personalized service and an adventure that caters to your whims and fancies. The camp is only a two hour drive away from Muscat, the capital of the Sultanate of Oman. The camp is sprawled across 10-acres of silken sands, secluded 11km within the vast isolation of the Omani desert. 30 luxurious Bedouin style tents await those who seek the ultimate desert adventure vacation. We usher you into a world of unparalleled luxury and comfort. When you arrive, refresh yourself with cold towels, relax in the Omani styled majlis, and enjoy fresh Omani dates and "khawa", traditional Arabic coffee. Then make your way to your luxury abode in the Desert. Deluxe Double Tented Unit: Deluxe Double Tented Unit accommodates two adults. Facilities: 02 room suite with bed room and living room, Queen sized bed under a cloth canopy and suffused light, luxurious fully supplied en suite bathroom with shower, hot and cold water on tap, bathrobes and bathroom slippers, individually controlled air conditioning, Tea/coffee making facilities, mini bar, complimentary mineral water, cozy sit out with a panoramic view of the Wahiba Desert, 110 V plug point for electric shavers, 220-240 V square pin plug points. .

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Scenic mountain experience - Jebel Shams – “sun mountain” – Oman’s Grand Canyon



Day 1: Wadi Bani Awf & Jebel Shams

Leaving Muscat with 4WD cars in northwestern direction passing via Barka, Nakhal with a short stop at the hot springs of Ain Thowarra before starting with the drive up the winding and steep mountain road through the wild romantic Wadi Bani Awf. The route through the Wadi Bani Awf is one of the most exciting drives on a mountain tracks and leads towards a fascinating landscape. During a short photo stop you will be astonished by the idyllic location of the picturesque green terrace village Balad Sayd within a plantation of data palms surrounded by mountains. Pick nick lunch on the way. Continue to the Harif Al Amain Pass (2.000 m) and descend to Al Hamra with the visit of the Bait Al Safah a heritage house located in an old mud building where you will get an insight into Omani handicraft production. After this short trip into Omani culture continue the travel up the mountain again to the Jebel Shams, the ‘sun mountain’ and highest peak of Oman and the Arabic peninsula 3010 meter high. After the arrival at the Jebel Shams mountain resort dinner and overnight within the dramatic mountain scenery of the Jebel Shams in the comfortable rooms, chalets or Arabic tents of the camp.

Day 2: Al Hootah Cave, Bahla & Jabrin Fort

After the breakfast at the Jebel Shams Resort you will have the chance to take a breathtaking view over the so called Grand Canyon of Oman, an unforgettable impression. Descend to the Al Hootah cave, a 2,7 km long stalactite cave, which is leading through huge chambers and a lake where a certain kind of blind fishes are living. The interior of the cave is shimmering in all imaginable nuances of yellow color. After the visit of the cave continue to Bahla, well known for its pottery. Bahla, with its old 12 km long city wall has well bewared its traditional character. You will visit the famous pottery centre and the Bahla Fort, one of the oldest buildings in Oman and part of the UNESCO Heritage. After the visit of Bahla continue to the Jabrin Castle which was built in the 17th century. The Jabrin Fort impresses with its ceilings and its rich interior, a remarkable blend of defensive architecture and sophisticated artistry. After this journey into the history of Oman travel back to Muscat.

Departure: daily, with 4WD cars, duration: 2 days, 1 overnight

Price:

OMR 99 per person upon a minimum of 4 persons. Single supplement OMR 30 per person.

Price includes: 4WD cars (max. 4 persons per car), English speaking driver guide, hotel pick-up, entrance fees, soft drinks & meals during the tour (2 x lunch, 1 x dinner, 1 x breakfast), overnight stay at the Jebel Shams Mountain Resort.



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Spectacular peninsula of Musandam – the “Norway of Arabia”



Day 1: Muscat – Musandam/Khasab – Dhow Cruise

In the morning transfer to the airport and one way flight with Oman Air to Khasab/Musandam. Arrival after a one hour flight in Khasab and Transfer to the port, where the original Arabic Dhow is ready for a full day Dhow cruise. Cruising towards the fjords you will pass by the Telegraph Island and during the stops on some bays you can take a refreshing bath. With a probability of 90% you can watch some Dolphins. On board you will be served with soft drinks and a lunch. After the Dhow cruise in the late afternoon transfer to the ESRA Apartment Hotel, 3* in Khasab, dinner and overnight.

Day 2: Khasab – Muscat

After the breakfast at the ESRA Apartment Hotel transfer to the port in Khasab and check-in for the ferry to Muscat. The catamaran ferry is one of the fastest ferries worldwide and reaches a speed of around 100 km/h. The ferry leaves Khasab first in direction to the street of Hormuz and than in south direction to Muscat. After approx. 5 hours you will arrive in Muscat. On board of the ferry you will be served with soft drinks and a meal. In the afternoon arrival in Muscat and transfer back to the hotel.

Departures: Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday. Duration: 2 days, 1 night. Program and times are subject to change due to changes of flight or ferry schedules. In case of bad weather or sea conditions in order to safety reasons the tour may vary or be cancelled.

Price:

OMR 174 per person in double, single supplement OMR 30 per person. Supplement for overnight at the Golden Tulip Resort 4* in Khasab OMR 35 per person in double, single supplement OMR 50 per person.

Price includes: Return transfers hotel – port in Muscat and Khasab, one way ticket Oman Air Muscat – Khasab, full day Dhow cruise (on regular basis) incl. lunch and soft drinks. Dinner (excl. drinks) and overnight at ESRA Apartment Hotel Khasab 3*, one way ticket tourist class for the ferry Khasab – Muscat incl. soft drinks and meal.



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Musandam - the „Norway of Arabia“ on board of the Sindbad luxury Dhow



Day 1: Muscat – Musandam/Khasab – overnight Dhow cruise on board of the Sindbad

In the morning transfer to the airport and one way flight with Oman Air to Khasab/Musandam. After a one hour flight arrival in Khasab and transfer to the port, where the luxury Dhow Sindbad is ready for boarding. On Board of the Sindbad you will spend a full day and a night cruising around the striking scenery along the fjords of the Musandam peninsula. Enjoy overnight amidst the fjords on board of the Sindbad with a double deck, 8 cabins, 16 beds and attached bathrooms and with central controlled air-condition. The chief on board will provide you with meals and soft drinks during the whole cruise are inclusive. Cruising towards the fjords your will pass by the Telegraph Island and during the stops on some bays you can take a refreshing bath. With a probability of 90% you can watch some Dolphins.

Day 2: Khasab – Muscat

After the breakfast on board the Sindbad you will check-in for the ferry back to Muscat. The catamaran ferry is one of the fastest ferries worldwide and reaches a speed of around 100 km/h. The ferry leaves Khasab first in direction to the street of Hormuz and than in south direction to Muscat. After approx. 5 hours you will arrive in Muscat. On board of the ferry you will be served with soft drinks and a meal. In the afternoon arrival in Muscat at the Sultan Qaboos port and transfer back to the hotel.

Departures: Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday. Duration: 2 days, 1 night. Program and times are subject to change due to changes of flight or ferry schedules. In case of bad weather or sea conditions in order to safety reasons the tour may vary or be cancelled.

Price:

OMR 234 per person on a minimum of 8 persons (max. 16 – 20 persons)

Price includes: return transfers hotel – port in Muscat and Khasab, one way ticket Oman Air Muscat – Khasab, full day Dhow Charter Sindbad with overnight on board incl. lunch, dinner, breakfast and soft drinks, one way ticket tourist class for the ferry from Khasab to Muscat incl. soft drinks and a meal on board of the ferry.



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Turtle Beach & Wadi Bani Khalid



Day 1: Turtle Beach Resort

Starting from Muscat and travelling inland through the Eastern Hajar Mountains you head south east to the fishing port of Quriyat, which lies on the east coast at the end of a sandy plain. Like other ports it suffered under Portuguese supremacy during the 16th century. An island with a watchtower just offshore can be reached on foot during low tide. Along the beach is an inlet lined with dense mangrove forest - home to marine and bird life. Near Dibab is a huge sinkhole known as Bait Al Afreet - "house of the demon" - with its clear green water. Concrete steps lead down the sides making swimming possible. Along the coastline, passing Bimah and Fins, with many tiny coves tucked beneath the cliffs and stretches of white sandy beaches lapped by an incredible turquoise sea.

Next stop is Wadi Shab, which means, "gorge between the cliffs". The wadi is entered via a small ferry and it has cool pools of water all year round. Further into the enchanting wadi is a deep pool ideal for swimming. The ravine is lush with trees, grasses and date palms. A single beach dotted with fishing boats at the mouth of the wadi completes the picturesque view. The route proceeds and passes through the village of Tiwi continuing along the coast to Qalhat - one of the oldest towns and seaports of Oman. Built by the Persians, it was a major and prosperous city during the 13th century and the main port of trade with the Interior, famous for its exports to and imports of spices from India. Stop at the enigmatic Bibi Mariam Tomb standing high on the cliff top.

You continue the journey to Sur, an ancient port and seafaring town which once played a major part in the trade between Oman, East Africa and India. It started its trading activities with the African coast as early as the 6th century. A walk through its labyrinth of streets reveals many fine old houses with carved doors and arabesque windows. The fishing dhows in the harbour make a splendid sight. Separated from Sur by the bay is the village of Al Ayja, well fortified by watchtowers and forts. On the sheltered lagoon is the traditional Dhow Building Yard - today, craftsmen still build dhows following traditional designs without the aid of drawings.

Your final destination for the evening is Ras al Jinz located on the edge of the Arabian Sea. Here you will spend your first night at the Carapace Hotel in the Ras al Jinz Scientific Visitors Centre. In the late evening after dinner you will experience a guided walk along the sand where you can see giant green turtles laying or hatching under the light of the moon.

Day 2: Wadi Bani Khalid

Breakfast in the Carapace Hotel and from here you will travel to Wadi Bani Khalid for an easy walk along the riverbed with ample time to cool down in the crystal clear waters of the rock pools. Wadi Bani Khalid is one of the largest wadis in Oman. Nestled deep in the mountains, it is a true oasis. Water cascades down the gorge forming cool blue-green pools, fed by underground streams flowing from within the surrounding limestone hills. Perennial flowing streams of spring water carried in aflaj (man-made channels) cling precariously to the rugged terrain and supports villages in the area. Return to Muscat.

Departures: daily; duration: 2 days / 1 night

Price: OMR 165 per person (min. of 4 persons is required), single supplement OMR 65 pp.

Included: 4WD private car, English speaking guide or English speaking driver guide, soft drinks & all meals (2 x lunch, 1 x dinner), guided Turtle watching night visit at the Ras al Jinz Scientific and Visitors centre, overnight with HB in double room at Ras al Jinz Carapace Hotel and Scientific Visitors Centre.



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3- DAYS EXCURSIONS WITH OVERNIGHT STAY

Hot Spots in Oman – Grand Canyon, desert safari, coast and beaches



Day 1: Wadi Bani Awf & Jebel Shams

Leaving Muscat with 4WD cars in northwestern direction passing via Barka, Nakhal with a short stop at the hot springs of Ain Thowarra before starting with the drive up the winding and steep mountain road through the wild romantic Wadi Bani Awf. The route through the Wadi Bani Awf is one of the most exciting drives on a mountain tracks and leads towards a fascinating landscape. During a short photo stop you will be astonished by the idyllic location of the picturesque green terrace village Balad Sayd within a plantation of date palms surrounded by mountains. Pick nick lunch on the way. Continue to the Harif Al Amain Pass (2.000 m) and descend to Al Hamra with the visit of the Bait Al Safah a heritage house located in an old mud building where you will get an insight into Omani handicraft production. After this short trip into Omani culture continue the travel up the mountain again to the Jebel Shams, the 'sun mountain' and highest peak of Oman and the Arabic peninsula 3010 meter high. After the arrival at the Jebel Shams Mountain Resort dinner and overnight within the dramatic mountain scenery of the Jebel Shams in the comfortable rooms, chalets or Arabic tents of the camp.

Day 2: Wadi Bani Khalid and Wahiba Sands

After the breakfast at Jabal Shams Mountain Resort drive along scenic mountain roads and enter one of Oman's most attractive Wadis the 'Wadi Bani Khalid'. Here water pools reflect the blue sky and green date trees. You may of course try a bath in the fresh water pools and enjoy the shadows of the palms. After recreating in the pools leaving the Wadi Bani Khalid in direction to Bediyah and lunch at a local restaurant. After lunch continue the travel to the desert Wahiba Sands. The Wahiba (Sharqiyah) Sand desert was the subject of intense study by Britain's Royal Geographical Society in the late 1980s. Today a visit to the Wahiba sands needs no scientific excuse as even a layman can appreciate their beauty and interest. Engaging four-wheel drive, enter the Wahiba sands, hopefully meeting some of the hospital Bedouin inhabitants of this area and having a chance to see camels in a classic setting. Visit of a Bedouin family in a typical tent and ride through the dunes. For additional charge you can try a camel ride. After you have watched the atmospheric sunset from the top of a dune you will enjoy a traditional dinner in the camp and overnight in the desert camp.

Day 3: Al Ashkara Beach – Sur – Muscat

After breakfast in the desert camp departure from the desert in direction to the coast and to Al Ashkhara Beach, where you can take an enjoyable walk along the beautiful beach or swim in the sea. After spending some time on the beach continue the travel along the coastal road to Sur and lunch in a local restaurant in Sur. Sur an ancient port and seafaring town which once played a major part in the trade between Oman, East Africa and India. It started its trading activities with the African coast as early as the 6th century. A walk through its labyrinth of streets reveals many fine old houses with carved doors and arabesque windows. The fishing dhows in the harbour make a splendid sight. Separated from Sur by the bay is the village of **Al Ayja**, well fortified by watchtowers and forts. On the sheltered lagoon is the traditional **Dhow Building Yard** - today, craftsmen still build dhows following traditional designs without the aid of drawings. The journey continues along the coast to **Qalhat**, one of the oldest towns and seaports of Oman. Built by the Persians, it was a major and prosperous city during the 13th century and the main port of trade with the Interior, famous for its exports to and imports of spices from India. Stop at the enigmatic **Bibi Mariam Tomb** standing high on the cliff top. Travel back to Muscat along the coast passing Tiwi, Fins, Bimah, Dibad and Quriyat and in the evening arrival in Muscat.

Departures: daily; duration: 3 days / 2 nights

Price: OMR 165 per person (min. of 4 persons is required), single supplement OMR 65 pp.

Included: 4WD private car, English speaking guide or English speaking driver guide, entrance fee Bait Al Safah in Al Hamra, overnight with HB at the Jabal Shams Mountain Resort and the desert camp, 1 x pick-nick lunch and 2 x lunch at a local restaurant incl. soft drinks.

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Oman at it's best – Wahiba Sands, Wadi Bani Khalid, Turtle Beach and scenic coastal drive



Day 1: Wahiba Sands

Your scenic tour begins through the mountains passing through Sumail Gap and across the desert plains through the townships of Bidbid, Al Qabil and Ibra - gateway to the Sharqiya Region. Not far away is Al Mudayrib, where the surrounding hills are dotted with watchtowers. The journey continues to the Wahiba Sands, a romantic desert with rolling sand dunes, varying from deep red to a rich honey colour, stretching as far as the eye can see. This is the traditional home of the Bedouin, hardy spirited people who know how to survive in these harsh desert conditions. Following pick-nick lunch in the desert, you are invited to meet with a Bedouin family, providing an intimate insight into their traditional lifestyle. Experience an exciting dune drive and witness the amazing desert sunset from the top of a dune. Dinner and overnight at the Desert Camp.

Day 2: Wadi Bani Khalid & Turtle Beach Resort

Following the breakfast at the Desert Camp your journey continues to Wadi Bani Khalid nestled deep in the mountains and one of the largest and most picturesque wadis in Oman. Water cascades down the gorge forming cool blue-green pools, fed by underground streams flowing from within the surrounding limestone hills. Enjoy a gentle walk along the riverbed and cool down in the crystal clear waters of the rock pools. Pick-nick lunch.

Continue to the coastal village of Asylan and along the scenic rocky coastline to Ras Al Jinz, a marvellous bay with golden sands, honey-coloured cliffs and beaches famous for their turtle nesting sites. These are some of the world's few remaining undisturbed concentrations of green turtles and one of the largest nesting populations in the Indian Ocean. Overnight at the Carapace Hotel in the Ras al Jinz Scientific and Visitors centre. After dinner in the Carapace Hotel guided Turtle Watching – Night Visit where you will be guided to the turtle nesting grounds to watch turtles hatching or laying eggs.

Day 3: Wadi Shab & Scenic Coastal Drive

Following the breakfast, we travel to Sur, an ancient port and seafaring town which once played a major part in the trade between Oman, East Africa and India. It started its trading activities with the African coast as early as the 6th century. A walk through its labyrinth of streets reveals many fine old houses with carved doors and arabesque windows. The fishing dhows in the harbour make a splendid sight. Separated from Sur by the bay is the village of Al Ayja, well fortified by watchtowers and forts. On the sheltered lagoon is the traditional Dhow Building Yard - today, craftsmen still build dhows following traditional designs without the aid of drawings. Lunch in a local restaurant in Sur. The journey continues along the coast to Qalhat, one of the oldest towns and seaports of Oman. Built by the Persians, it was a major and prosperous city during the 13th century and the main port of trade with the Interior, famous for its exports to and imports of spices from India. Stop at the enigmatic Bibi Mariam Tomb standing high on the cliff top. Along the coast and through the coastal village of Tiwi to Wadi Shab, which means, "gorge between the cliffs". The wadi is entered via a small ferry and it has cool pools of water all year round. Further into the enchanting wadi is a deep pool ideal for swimming. Along the coastline passing Fins and Bimah and near Dibab is a huge sinkhole known as Bait Al Afreet - "house of the demon" - with its clear green water. Concrete steps lead down the sides making swimming possible. Inland for a while and then head for Quriyat, which lies on the east coast at the end of a sandy plain overlooked by the Eastern Hajar Mountains. Like other ports it suffered under Portuguese supremacy during the 16th century. An island with a watchtower just offshore can be reached on foot during low tide. Return to Muscat.

Departure: daily, duration 3 days / 2 nights

Price: OMR 175 per person (min. of 4 persons is required), single supplement OMR 65 pp.

Included: 4WD private car, English speaking guide or English speaking driver guide, guided Turtle Watching night visit in Ras al Jinz, overnight with HB in the desert camp and the Carapace Hotel in Ras al Jinz, 2 x pick-nick lunch and 1 x lunch at a local restaurant incl. soft drinks.

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