



# OMAN SELF DRIVE TOURS

اكتشف عمان بسيارتك

## *Tour "Nizwa and the Sharqiyah"*

*Discovery 4x4 self-drive tour*

*8 days / 7 nights*

*2023 - 2024*



*Discover Nizwa, the ancient capital, and its region, famous for its forts and small villages. Then explore the region of the Sharqiyah - the East - and its 2 fundamental elements: the sand and the water. The sand of the Wahiba desert and the beaches. The water of the crystal-clear pools in the wadis and the water of the sea - Indian Ocean and Gulf of Oman, that you follow up to Muscat, the capital.*

Oman Self Drive Tours

اكتشف عمان بسيارتك

PO Box 1178, PC 130, Al Azaiba, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman  
Phone : +968 97 04 61 61 – email : [contact@omanselfdrivetours.com](mailto:contact@omanselfdrivetours.com)  
Ministry of Commerce CR number 1276308

# *Understand your travel proposition*

## **Self drive tour**

The travelers themselves will drive along all the road transfers detailed in the program as well as along possible additional transfers to reach an activity place (except for transfers with driver or guide).

### **Program type: "Freedom discovery"**

Each day, a number of possible activities - cultural discoveries and strolls - are proposed. It is up to the travelers, during their trip, to choose which activity they are interested in depending on their wishes and the time available. The times given for each activity and each transfer are intended to give an idea as accurate as possible of what can be done in one day.

### **Driving level: 4x4**

The itinerary includes dirt roads without major difficulty but requiring a 4x4 vehicle. Under normal conditions, anybody can drive on these roads as long as he/she respects the basic safety rules. However, unpredictable events, especially weather-related, can make these dirt roads harder to negotiate.

### **Possible activity**

Activity not requiring prior reservation. The travelers are free to go for them or not. Most of them are free of charge.

### **Optional / Included activity**

Paying activity requiring prior reservation. If it is a guided activity, it may involve transfers. In this case, such transfers will be arranged by the guide or a driver, with their own vehicle.

### **Variant**


Road transfer longer than the reference transfer but of a greater interest in terms of landscape or possible activity.

### **Accommodation with surcharge**

Hotel not included in the standard package, proposed as an upgrade of the accommodation already included that day.

## **Key**

### **Transfers**

-  Road
-  Scenic road
-  Plane
-  Ferry

**|30min|** Approx. time of transfer


**|4x4|** Dirt road: 4x4 required

**|4x4+|** Difficult dirt road: 4x4 and experience required

### **Activities**

-  Culture
-  Shopping
-  Viewpoint
-  Scenic road
-  Strolling
-  Walking/hiking
-  Canyoning
-  Bathing/swimming
-  Nature
-  Cruise

**|1h-2h|** Approx. time dedicated to the activity

 **|10min|** Approx. time up to the activity place (one way)

### **Landscapes (transfers & activities)**

-  Mountain
-  Village/palm grove
-  Wadi
-  Town
-  Sea
-  Desert

### **Meals**

**RO** Room only

**BB** Breakfast

**HB** Half board

**FB** Full board








**L** Lunch (during an activity)

# OVERVIEW OF YOUR TOUR

## DAY 1 - From Muscat to Nizwa

-  Muscat International Airport to Fanja | 40km-30min |
-  Fanja to Nizwa : the Samail Gap | 115km-1h20 |
-   Wadi Qurai | 15min-2h |
-  Jabrin castle | 1h-2h |  35km-25min
-   Town of Nizwa | 1h-3h |
-  Guesthouse (Nizwa) | BB |
-  Hotel \*\*\* (Nizwa) | BB |









## DAY 2 - Al Hamra region







-  Nizwa to Al Hamra | 50km-45min |
-    Town of Al Hamra | 30min-2h |
-    Village and palm grove of Misfat al Abriyeen | 30min-2h |  10km-15min
-  Al Hamra to Nizwa | 50km-45min |
-    Town of Bahla | 1h-3h |
-    Wadi Tanuf and Wadi Qashah | 1h-5h | 4x4 |
-  Guesthouse (Nizwa) | BB |
-  Hotel \*\*\* (Nizwa) | BB |

## DAY 3 - From Nizwa to the Wahiba Sands

-  Nizwa to Bidiyah : To the Wahiba desert | 180km-2h25 |
-    Village of Birkat al Mouz | 15min-1h30 |
-   Restored old town of Manah | 45min-1h30 |  20km-20min
-  Bidiyah to your desert camp (with a driver) | 30km-45min | 4x4+ |
-  Walking in the Wahiba desert | 30min-2h |
-  Desert camp \*\*\*\* (Wahiba North) | HB |












## DAY 4 - From the Wahiba desert to the Indian Ocean

-  Your camp to Bidiyah | 30km-45min | 4x4+ |
-  Bidiyah to Al Kamil | 60km-40min |
-   Upper Wadi bani Khalid : Muqal pool | 1h-2h |  30km-40min
-   Lower Wadi bani Khalid : village and palm grove of Al Baatan | 1h-3h |  15km-15min

-  Al Kamil to Ras al Hadd : From desert to Indian Ocean | 135km-2h |
-  Jaalan bani bu Ali fort and Al Hamooda mosque | 30min |  5km-10min
-  Ras al Jinz Turtle Reserve | 1h |  20km-20min
-  Hotel \*\*\* (Ras al Hadd) Room Hamoor | HB |

---

#### DAY 5 - From the Wahiba desert to the Gulf of Oman

-  Ras al Hadd to Sur | 40km-45min |
-    Town of Sur | 1h-3h |
-  Sur to Fins : Along the Gulf of Oman | 60km-55min |
-    Wadi Tiwi | 1h-5h | 4x4 |
-   Fins beach and gazelle reserve | 30min-1h |
-  Homestay (Fins) | HB |








---

#### DAY 6 - From the Eastern Hajar coast to Muscat

-   Wadi Shab | 1h-3h |  15km-15min
-  Fins to Muscat | 160km-1h45 |
-    Wadi al Arbiyeen and Wadi al Hail | 2h-4h | 4x4 |
-  Apartment (Saruj district, Muscat) | RO |
-  Guesthouse (Azaiba district, Muscat) | BB |
-  Hotel \*\*\*\* (Qurum district, Muscat) Room City View | BB |











---

#### DAY 7 - Muscat

-  Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque (Ghubrah district) | 45min-1h30 |
-    Mutrah District : its corniche, souqs and fort | 1h-4h |
-    Old Muscat District : Sultan's Palace & National Museum | 30min-3h |
-  Royal Opera House (Qurum district) | 20min-30min |
-  Apartment (Saruj district, Muscat) | RO |
-  Guesthouse (Azaiba district, Muscat) | BB |
-  Hotel \*\*\*\* (Qurum district, Muscat) Room City View | BB |

---

#### DAY 8 - Relax and departure

-    Snorkelling at the Daymaniyat Islands | 5h30 |  30km-35min
-    Bandar Khiran and the coast south-east of Muscat | 1h-3h |
-    Snorkelling in the Bandar Khiran marine reserve | 2h30 |



Saruj district to Muscat International Airport |20km-25min|

# PROGRAMME OF YOUR TOUR

## DAY 1 - From Muscat to Nizwa

Arrival in Muscat International Airport.

Welcome and briefing with our agent. He hands over the documents and equipment for the tour and assists you with the rental car pick-up.

You leave Muscat with the highway and drive along the Western Hajar mountains, going past the small town of Fanja and the Wadi Qurai. At the south of the range lies the pretty village of Birkat al Mouz and its large palm grove. You arrive at Nizwa, which souq comes to life in the evening.

---

### Transfer



**Muscat International Airport to Fanja |40km-30min|**



From Muscat, the highway goes south and passes between the first low mountains of the Samail Gap.

---

### Transfer



**Fanja to Nizwa : the Samail Gap |115km-1h20|**



The highway runs through valleys separating the two great mountain ranges of northern Oman. Historically used to connect the coast and the inland regions, this passage, called the Samail Gap, features many villages, palm groves and watch towers. It also offers nice views of the steep side of the Western Hajar.





---

### Possible activity along the transfer



#### Wadi Qurai | 15min-2h|



The Wadi Qurai has dug out a deep valley into the abrupt side of the Western Hajar. A small road running between palm groves provides nice views of this wadi from a distance. Walking up the wadi will take you to a few nice small pools of pristine water (but swimming there is not allowed).



---

### Possible activity along the transfer

 35km-25min



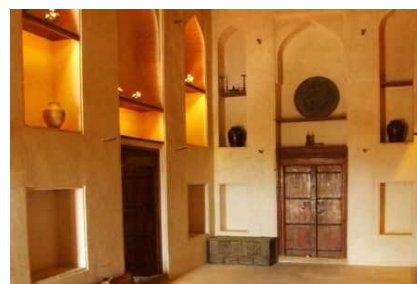
#### Jabrin castle | 1h-2h|



Home of the Yaruba Imams during the 17th and 18th centuries, Jabrin castle stands out among Omani forts by its rooms beautifully decorated and fitted with carpets and ancient furniture.

Audioguides are available for an in-depth discovery.

The castle also offers Omani buffet lunch in a nice traditional setting.



---

### Possible activity



#### Town of Nizwa | 1h-3h|



Nizwa, the biggest town in the region, lies in a strategic position, at the foot of the Jebel Akhdar and on the rim of the desert, at the starting point of the main road connecting the coast and the south of the mountains.

It has historically been the capital of the interior, and even, occasionally, the official capital of the country. It also was the capital of ibadism and is still today markedly more conservative than its historical rival, Muscat. Which makes it all the more attractive to those searching for "authentic" Arabia! Its famous souq and its 17th century fort, with its unique architecture, attract many visitors.



---

## Accommodation



### Guesthouse (Nizwa) |BB|

The palm grove of Nizwa stretches around the old town centre. Nowadays, this vast area is inhabited and recent houses stand alongside the fields. The guesthouse is made of 2 houses built on a large plot of the palm grove converted into a lush ornamental (and fruit) garden. This peaceful setting is fitted out for relaxing and has 2 small swimming pools and a children playground.

Each house has 5 spacious and comfortable bedrooms with good quality bathrooms, a living rooms and a modern kitchen.

The old town, the souq and the fort lie about 1 km away and accessible by foot. There is a good Turkish restaurant 5 minutes walking away from the guesthouse.



---

## Accommodation with surcharge



### Hotel \*\*\* (Nizwa) |BB|

The best hotel inside the town of Nizwa. It is one of the hotels the closest to the centre - the souq and the fort are a few minutes away by car.

It has a swimming pool, a good restaurant, a bar serving alcohol and a children playground.



## DAY 2 - Al Hamra region

From Nizwa, full day to discover the Al Hamra region.

The most direct route first passes next to the beautiful Wadi Tanuf, which you can drive upstream to a palm grove, and then near the town of Bahla, famous for its majestic fort recognised as a World Heritage site.

From Nizwa, it is also possible to reach Bahla by doing a detour by Jabrin castle, which offers a visit full of informations.

Then you reach the town of Al Hamra and its large palm grove. The picturesque village of Misfat al Abriyeen lies just above.





### Nizwa to Al Hamra |50km-45min|



The road between Nizwa and Al Hamra runs across the narrow plain squeezed between the high Jebel Akhdar range and the much less significant ophiolite reliefs of the Jebel Hallat and passes close to Bahla, renowned for its beautiful fort. It goes past a few large wadis that flow from the mountains and have dug out huge valleys through the limestone slabs.



#### Possible activity



### Town of Al Hamra |30min-2h|



The town of Al Hamra lies at the foot of the Western Hajar, in a small plain around the Wadi Ghul, and offers nice views of the Jebel Shams. It has a large palm grove where it is pleasant to stroll. The adobe ruins of the old town comprise some quite well preserved houses, one of which hosting an interesting little ecomuseum.



#### Possible activity

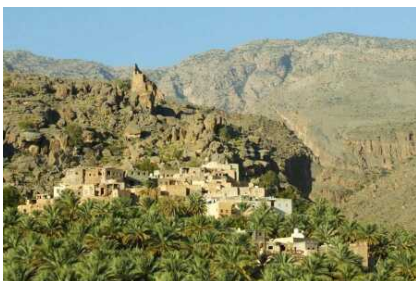
10km-15min



### Village and palm grove of Misfat al Abriyeen |30min-2h|



The old stone village of Misfat al Abriyeen, invisible from the plain, is one of the most photogenic in Oman, with its terraced palm groves on both sides of a narrow valley. Don't miss its superb viewpoint, take a stroll in the village or a walk in the palm grove.





### Al Hamra to Nizwa |50km-45min|



The road between Nizwa and Al Hamra runs across the narrow plain tucked between the high Jebel Akhdar range and the much less significant ophiolite reliefs of the Jebel Hallat and passes close to Bahla, famous for its beautiful fort.



#### Possible activity along the transfer



#### Town of Bahla |1h-3h|



Bahla, the second largest town of the region after Nizwa, is mainly known for its huge fort recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage site. A former capital, it is surrounded by an outer wall now fallen into ruin and has an interesting souq. It is also renowned for its potters, whose traditional workshops you can visit. The long history of Bahla is also shrouded in legends and black magic and the signs thereof are still present nowadays.



#### Possible activity along the transfer



#### Wadi Tanuf and Wadi Qashah |1h-5h|4x4|



The mighty Wadi Tanuf and its tributary the Wadi Qashah flow down from the Jebel Akhdar, cutting deep and beautiful valleys in the mountains. Discover them by car along a short dirt road that leads to a superb palm grove and a small canyon. A donkey path allows experienced hikers to go even further inside the valley.

At the mouth of the wadi, the ruined mudbrick village of Tanuf is a painful reminder of the unknown "Jebel War".





---

## Accommodation



### Guesthouse (Nizwa) |BB|

The palm grove of Nizwa stretches around the old town centre. Nowadays, this vast area is inhabited and recent houses stand alongside the fields. The guesthouse is made of 2 houses built on a large plot of the palm grove converted into a lush ornamental (and fruit) garden. This peaceful setting is fitted out for relaxing and has 2 small swimming pools and a children playground.

Each house has 5 spacious and comfortable bedrooms with good quality bathrooms, a living rooms and a modern kitchen.

The old town, the souq and the fort lie about 1 km away and accessible by foot. There is a good Turkish restaurant 5 minutes walking away from the guesthouse.



---

## Accommodation with surcharge



### Hotel \*\*\* (Nizwa) |BB|

The best hotel inside the town of Nizwa. It is one of the hotels the closest to the centre - the souq and the fort are a few minutes away by car.

It has a swimming pool, a good restaurant, a bar serving alcohol and a children playground.



## DAY 3 - From Nizwa to the Wahiba Sands

After visiting Nizwa, you drive next to the pretty village of Birkat al Mouz and its large palm grove, as well as near the restored old town of Manah. Then the road takes you, across the arid plain, to the south of the Eastern Hajar range. From there, you go into the Wahiba Sands, where you find your accommodation.



### Nizwa to Bidiyah : To the Wahiba desert |180km-2h25|



The road runs along the mountains for a while. Then it veers away from the high summits of the Jebel Akhdar and crosses low rocky relief areas to finally reach a narrow plain between the Eastern Hajar mountains and the dunes of the Wahiba desert.

#### Possible activity along the transfer



#### Village of Birkat al Mouz |15min-1h30|



The big village of Birkat al Mouz, at the outlet of the Wadi Muaydin, has at all times been the entrance to the Jebel Akhdar range, as evidenced by its fort and numerous watchtowers. The ruins of its old village and its large palm grove, irrigated by a falaj recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage site, can be watched from a panoramic viewpoint or during a stroll.



#### Possible activity along the transfer

20km-20min



#### Restored old town of Manah |45min-1h30|



Harat al Bilad, the historic district of Manah, is one of the largest and most ancient towns of Oman. But what makes it an unique site is that, contrary to the other Omani old towns, it was purchased by the Ministry of Heritage and partially restored. The outer wall and about half of the 376 mudbrick houses were indeed renovated. The town has also 4 mosques, some dating back to the 16th century. To feel the atmosphere of the Oman of the past, you can stroll in the alleys and enter the houses with their typical architecture.



## Transfer



### Bidiyah to your desert camp (with a driver) | 30km-45min | 4x4+ |



Leave your car at Bidiyah where a driver from the camp will meet you.

The 20-km drive in the dunes is a first contact with the Wahiba desert. You first proceed along a "valley", between long orange dunes about 50 meters in height, then you climb the one on top of which sits your camp.



## Possible activity



### Walking in the Wahiba desert | 30min-2h |



What a delight to walk out of the camp and climb up the nearby dunes to watch the sun sink behind the horizon! But the grazing light in the early morning over the orange sand undulations is most appealing too...



## Accommodation



### Desert camp \*\*\*\* (Wahiba North) | HB |

Luxury camp of only 2 tents, located about 20 km inside the dunes. Very comfortable, with a neat decoration and an excellent service, this camp is one of the best options to live the Omani desert with comfort and privacy.





## DAY 4 - From the Wahiba desert to the Indian Ocean

When leaving a sand desert, what could be more enjoyable than swimming in a wadi or strolling in the shadow of a lush palm grove? Between the north and the east of the Wahiba, two detours can lead you to different parts of the Wadi bani Khalid.

Note that the Muqal pool is particularly touristic (with visitors and locals).

Then you drive through the towns located at the north-east of the Wahiba. The road then crosses a mineral landscape up to the coast and follows it to eventually arrive at the village of Ras al Hadd, where your accommodation is. The Ras al Jinz turtle reserve lies nearby.

---

### Transfer



#### Your camp to Bidiyah |30km-45min|4x4+|



You go back out of the dunes (on your own if drove in, with a driver if you left your car in Bidiyah).



---

### Transfer



#### Bidiyah to Al Kamil |60km-40min|

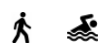


The road follows a narrow plain between the Eastern Hajar mountains and the Wahiba dunes.

---

### Possible activity along the transfer

30km-40min



#### Upper Wadi bani Khalid : Muqal pool |1h-2h|



This large pool, between the Muqal palm grove and the gorge of the wadi, has been developed for tourism and is highly appreciated by locals who come there for picnics at weekends. The setting is magnificent and it is possible to walk along the wadi or go up a donkey path for a bird's eye view of the place.



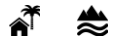
---

### Possible activity along the transfer

 15km-15min



#### Lower Wadi bani Khalid : village and palm grove of Al Baatan |1h-3h|



The small village of Al Baatan has a very beautiful palm grove along the Wadi bani Khalid. The walk, along a falaj winding between palm and mango trees, is very pleasant and gives access to a small natural pool. It is also possible to proceed on a rocky path up to a larger pool.



---

### Transfer



#### Al Kamil to Ras al Hadd : From desert to Indian Ocean |135km-2h|



A road traversing very varied landscapes! Starting between the desert and the mountain, it comes to an end along the beaches and cliffs of the Indian Ocean after passing through typical towns of the region and a few dunes.



---

### Possible activity along the transfer

 5km-10min



#### Jaalan bani bu Ali fort and Al Hamooda mosque |30min|



One of the largest non-restored forts in Oman, Jaalan bani bu Ali fort is really impressive. Part of the structure collapsed but there still are important remains, including the central keep. Very close to the fort lies a surprising old mosque with 52 small domes.





### Ras al Jinz Turtle Reserve | 1h |



Guided visit organised by the reserve, which protects 40 km of coastline and the turtles that come there to lay eggs. On the beach, watch the females that crawl out of the water, at night, to dig out their nests and lay some one hundred eggs before heading back to the high sea.



## Accommodation



### Hotel \*\*\* (Ras al Hadd) Room Hamoor | HB |

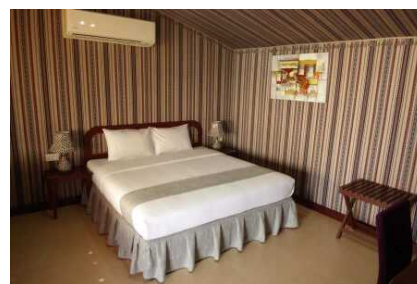
Hotel opened in the end of 2017. For the sea view and the beach, it is the best located hotel in the Ras al Hadd/Ras al Jinz region. Built on a small rocky tip between the Gulf of Oman and the Ras al Hadd lagoon, it is surrounded on 3 sides by the sea.

There is a direct access to the long and beautiful Ras al Hadd beach, which ends at the foot of the hotel. Even if it is used by the village fishermen, it is possible to swim next to the hotel. The hotel also has a swimming pool, a bar and a children playground.

The rocks in front of the hotel are a good snorkelling spot. If you don't have your own equipment, you can rent some for 5 OMR at Arabian Sea Adventures, located on the beach 300 m away from the hotel. They also rent kayaks (from 5 OMR) and organise boat trips.

The village of Ras al Hadd is a few minutes away by car and the centre from which is organised the turtle watching is 20 minutes away.

The Hamoor rooms are comfortable and decorated in an Omani style. Each has a terrace with table and chairs.



## DAY 5 - From the Wahiba desert to the Gulf of Oman

Day along the Omani north-eastern coast.

You first go past the town of Sur, famous for its dhow factory (traditional Arab boats). Do not miss the viewpoint over this town with such a distinctive geography.

Then, at the village of Tiwi, two wadis close to each other await: Tiwi and Shab. The Wadi Shab, the most famous, is ideal for swimming, but may be very crowded by mid-morning, especially at weekends (if possible, better go early the next morning). The Wadi Tiwi, less accessible and a little less touristic, is surely wilder and more spectacular.

A little further along the coast lie the fishermen's village of Fins and your accommodation.



## Transfer



### Ras al Hadd to Sur |40km-45min|



From the Indian Ocean to the Oman Gulf, the road runs along the Khawr Grama laguna and across a plateau before reaching the beach of Sur.



## Possible activity



### Town of Sur |1h-3h|



A lovely seaside city, Sur is one of the few Omani towns that is worth a visit. Its strategic position – a peninsula between the sea and a laguna – and its old white houses with beautiful doors add up to bring about a real touch of charm. The last traditional dhow building yard is located here – a must visit! As a fishing town, its fish souq is worth a look. Finally, a watchtower perched on a hill provides a superb view of the area.



## Transfer



### Sur to Fins : Along the Gulf of Oman |60km-55min|



The highway runs along the coastline, squeezed between the Gulf of Oman and the Eastern Hajar, providing very nice views of the sea and the mountains.



---

### Possible activity along the transfer

#### **Wadi Tiwi | 1h-5h | 4x4 |**



Discover this fantastic wadi first by car. The road, sometimes at the bottom of the valley, sometimes on the heights, offers spectacular views over the palm-fringed wadi bed and its natural pools nestled among huge boulders fallen down from the high cliffs on each side.

Thanks to several paths, including a marked trail, you can discover at a slower pace the four villages of the wadi and their palm groves.



---

### Possible activity

#### **Fins beach and gazelle reserve | 30min-1h |**



Close to the fishermen's village of Fins is a superb white pebble beach with turquoise waters as well as a protected area hosting some gazelles.



---

### Accommodation

#### **Homestay (Fins) | HB |**

Sophie and Hussain, a Franco-Omani couple, welcome you to their home! Their modern house, located in a recent neighbourhood of the fishermen's village of Fins, is comfortable and tastefully decorated. The house has 5 guest bedrooms, 3 of which open onto a balcony offering a view on the sea, which lies 200 m away. You will also have access to a small sitting area, a "majlis" (Arab sitting room), a dining room and the courtyard, where you will find 2 "areesh" (outdoor sitting areas traditionally covered by palm leaves).

The meals cooked by your hosts will be the opportunity to exchange with them.

Here the coast is rocky but beaches are reachable in a few minutes by car. The wadis Shab and Tiwi are a 15-minute drive away.





## DAY 6 - From the Eastern Hajar coast to Muscat

Day dedicated to the discovery of the Eastern Hajar coast.

On the mountain side, apart from the Wadis Tiwi and Shab, you can make detours, on the way to Muscat, on nice dirt roads to discover the Wadis al Arbiyeen and Dayqah. The former is a spectacular valley with pools to swim in. The latter has the largest dam lake of Oman, an unexpected vision in this mineral landscape.

On the sea side, a pretty road follows the coast between the beaches of Fins and Dhabab, crossing a small gazelle reserve.

---

### Possible activity

 15km-15min



#### Wadi Shab | 1h-3h |



The most famous wadi in Oman ! Leave your car right under the highway and start walking upstream on the mostly dry river bed. Marvel at this deep canyon and reach the first pools. Continue further along the base of the cliff and between the small boulders until you cannot avoid swimming... up to an incredible small pool with a waterfall hidden under some huge rocks !



---

### Transfer



#### Fins to Muscat | 160km-1h45 |



Beautiful road along the seaside, offering also views on the northern slopes of the Eastern Hajar mountains. It goes past the entrance of the Wadi al Arbiyeen, then veers inland to find a way around the Jebel abu Daud massif before reaching Muscat.

### Possible activity along the transfer

#### **Wadi al Arbiyeen and Wadi al Hail |2h-4h|4x4|**



From the seaside, drive inside the mountains on the dirt road running along the bed of this spectacular wadi, dotted with some villages and palm groves. Next to the village of As Suwayh, a very large pool with a waterfall awaits you to swim. A nice walk along the wadi is also possible from there. The way back to the coast is by another road.



### Accommodation

#### **Apartment (Saruj district, Muscat) |RO|**

Nice and modern apartment extremely well located, 150 m away from Saruj beach, probably the most beautiful beach of Muscat, and less than 5-min walking away from the many cafés and restaurants of Al Muntazah street, one of the trendiest areas of Muscat since the opening of the Waterfront in 2019. Here the seaside is nicely landscaped, with a promenade lined with lawn and trees running along the beach for 1.3 km. To the west, the beach continues in front of the embassies for 2 km. To the east, cross a (dry) wadi and you reach Shati al Qurum beach, 1.5-km long and nicely landscaped too. It is possible to swim wearing swimsuit on these beaches but, as they are popular with locals, it is recommended to cover up once out of the water.

The apartment has 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, a living/dining room and a kitchen. It is in the middle of the city of Muscat, halfway between the airport and the historical district of Mutrah (both 20 min away). The Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque lies 15-min away by car.



---

### Accommodation with surcharge



#### Guesthouse (Azaiba district, Muscat) |BB|

Two big villas converted into a guesthouse with 10 comfortable and tastefully-decorated rooms.

Located in a posh neighbourhood, it is only a 5-min walk to the Azaiba beach, where swimming wearing swimsuit is possible. Right next to it lies a small park with playgrounds as well as a café with sea view and food trucks where young Omanis sell grilled food in the evening.

It is only a 10-min drive to the airport, 15 min to the Grand Mosque and about half an hour to the historic districts (Mutrah, Old Muscat).

The guesthouse has a 22-m long swimming pool and 2 living rooms. Breakfast can be eaten al fresco close to the pool.



---

### Accommodation with surcharge



#### Hotel \*\*\*\* (Qurum district, Muscat) Room City View |BB|

Perched on a rocky cape in the central district of Qurum, this very nice hotel offers a great view on the town and the sea – probably the best view of Muscat. Within the capital, it is the only hotel with a (small) private beach, accessed by a staircase. Renovated in 2018, it also has a beautiful swimming pool, a bar and 4 restaurants (international, Iranian, Italian) with outdoor seating.

The historic districts of Muscat and the Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque are a 15/20-minute drive away and the airport at half-an-hour.

A few-minute drive away, you can also find several good restaurants, including an Omani, a Turkish and a Thai.



## DAY 7 - Muscat

Full day to visit Muscat and its surroundings.



### Possible activity



#### Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque (Ghubrah district) |45min-1h30|

A magnificent mosque, the largest of the country and the only one allowed to non-muslim visitors. The main praying hall, famous for its huge chandelier, is truly spectacular.

Audioguides are available for an in-depth discovery (2 OMR per person).



### Possible activity



#### Mutrah District : its corniche, souqs and fort |1h-4h|



This historic district is the most interesting in the capital for tourists, with its beautiful sea-front (the so-called Corniche), its famous souq, its fish and vegetable market and even a short trekking path.



### Possible activity



#### Old Muscat District : Sultan's Palace & National Museum |30min-3h|



A few kilometres from Mutrah, with its numerous mosques and government buildings, this small district is the actual capital of Oman, from which extended the whole city. You can enjoy this quiet place by a short stroll around the Sultan Palace.

This is also where the National Museum is located. Open to the public since the end of 2016, it displays rich collections describing Oman history. The artefacts, on show in bright rooms, are arranged according to the period they belong to, from prehistory to nowadays, or sorted by theme as in the Maritime Gallery.





### Royal Opera House (Qurum district) | 20min-30min |



Guided visit of the magnificent Royal Opera House Muscat.

Officially opened in 2011, it was the only opera house in the Arabian peninsula until 2016, opening year of those of Dubai and Kuwait City. It owes its existence to music-loving Sultan Qaboos. An ultra-modern building with an Oriental style, it hosts concerts, ballets or operas performed by European as well as Arab artists.

For more informations on the performances scheduled during your stay, you can visit [www.rohmuscat.org.om/en/performance/calendar](http://www.rohmuscat.org.om/en/performance/calendar).



---

### Accommodation



### Apartment (Saruj district, Muscat) | RO |

Nice and modern apartment extremely well located, 150 m away from Saruj beach, probably the most beautiful beach of Muscat, and less than 5-min walking away from the many cafés and restaurants of Al Muntazah street, one of the trendiest areas of Muscat since the opening of the Waterfront in 2019. Here the seaside is nicely landscaped, with a promenade lined with lawn and trees running along the beach for 1.3 km. To the west, the beach continues in front of the embassies for 2 km. To the east, cross a (dry) wadi and you reach Shati al Qurum beach, 1.5-km long and nicely landscaped too. It is possible to swim wearing swimsuit on these beaches but, as they are popular with locals, it is recommended to cover up once out of the water.

The apartment has 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, a living/dining room and a kitchen. It is in the middle of the city of Muscat, halfway between the airport and the historical district of Mutrah (both 20 min away). The Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque lies 15-min away by car.





---

### Accommodation with surcharge



#### Guesthouse (Azaiba district, Muscat) |BB|

Two big villas converted into a guesthouse with 10 comfortable and tastefully-decorated rooms.

Located in a posh neighbourhood, it is only a 5-min walk to the Azaiba beach, where swimming wearing swimsuit is possible. Right next to it lies a small park with playgrounds as well as a café with sea view and food trucks where young Omanis sell grilled food in the evening.

It is only a 10-min drive to the airport, 15 min to the Grand Mosque and about half an hour to the historic districts (Mutrah, Old Muscat).

The guesthouse has a 22-m long swimming pool and 2 living rooms. Breakfast can be eaten al fresco close to the pool.



---

### Accommodation with surcharge



#### Hotel \*\*\*\* (Qurum district, Muscat) Room City View |BB|

Perched on a rocky cape in the central district of Qurum, this very nice hotel offers a great view on the town and the sea – probably the best view of Muscat. Within the capital, it is the only hotel with a (small) private beach, accessed by a staircase. Renovated in 2018, it also has a beautiful swimming pool, a bar and 4 restaurants (international, Iranian, Italian) with outdoor seating.

The historic districts of Muscat and the Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque are a 15/20-minute drive away and the airport at half-an-hour.

A few-minute drive away, you can also find several good restaurants, including an Omani, a Turkish and a Thai.



## DAY 8 - Relax and departure

Day to enjoy your accommodation and the area.

Then transfer to the airport and departure.

---

### Optional activity

 30km-35min

#### **Snorkelling at the Daymaniyat Islands |5h30|**



From the marina with the best location in the capital, half-an-hour boat crossing to the pretty Daymaniyat Islands. Protected as a natural reserve, they have the best snorkelling and diving sites of the Muscat region. Swimming and snorkelling with the plentiful multi coloured fishes (fins, masks and snorkels provided). From November to April (out of turtle nesting season), it is also possible to go on the islands. Transfer back in the early afternoon.

Beware, the trip can be cancelled in case of rough sea.



---

### Possible activity

#### **Bandar Khiran and the coast south-east of Muscat |1h-3h|**



Discover by car and by foot this surprising coast, meeting of the mountains and the sea, with its small coves and islands, occasionally fringed with mangrove or beaches (some from where swimming and snorkelling is possible). Bandar Khiran, the jewel of this coast, offers some very beautiful viewpoints.



---

### Optional activity

#### **Snorkelling in the Bandar Khiran marine reserve |2h30|**



From one of the marinas of Muscat, follow the coast onboard a small boat. You reach the Bandar Khiran marine reserve, maybe the most beautiful part of this rocky coast. In one of the many coves, you can swim and watch the plentiful multi coloured fishes (fins, masks and snorkels provided).

Beware, the trip can be cancelled in case of rough sea.



---

## Transfer



**Saruj district to Muscat International Airport | 20km-25min |**



Return to the airport and rental car drop-off.

## PRICES / TERMS AND CONDITIONS

**01/10/2023 - 30/04/2024**

Number of people	2	4
Price per person in double room (in OMR)	555	425
<b>Kia Sportage</b> or similar (8 days)	1	1

Options and extras (prices per person)	
Accommodation upgrade on day 1 (2 nights) <b>Hotel*** (Nizwa)  BB </b>	<b>15 OMR</b>
<b>Ras al Jinz Turtle Reserve</b> on day 4	<b>8 OMR</b>
Accommodation upgrade on day 6 (2 nights) <b>Guesthouse (Azaiba district, Muscat)  BB </b>	<b>5 OMR</b>
Accommodation upgrade on day 6 (2 nights) <b>Hotel**** (Qurum district, Muscat) Room City View  BB </b>	<b>50 OMR</b>
<b>Snorkelling at the Daymaniyat Islands</b> on day 8	<b>30 OMR</b>
<b>Snorkelling in the Bandar Khiran marine reserve</b> on day 8	<b>20 OMR</b>

*Prices valid at the dates and for the types of room mentioned above.*

*These prices are given in Omani rials (OMR).*

*For conversion into another currency, you can use [www.xe.com](http://www.xe.com). Note that these conversions do not include bank fees and transfer charges.*

**Note that this document is an quote and that no reservation has been made to this day.**

*Prices are therefore subject to changes in accordance with the availability of accommodations, vehicles and guides at the time of the reservation. Insofar as possible, we offer alternatives of equivalent quality and cost in the event of unavailability.*

### Proposed vehicle (non contractual photo)



Kia Sportage

SUV 4x4 2.4L automatic



Toyota Fortuner

SUV 4x4 2.7L automatic



### The price of the tour includes:

- The VAT
- Meet and greet service and rental car pick up assistance
- Your travel documents (including your roadbook)
- A cultural guidebook
- The whole self drive tour recorded in a GPS application
- An Oman road map (and a Muscat road map if required by the programme)
- A mobile phone with credit for 1 hour of local calls
- Phone assistance by our local agency throughout your trip
- Accommodations as mentioned in the programme
- Meals at the accommodations as mentioned in the programme along with each accommodation (cf. key)
- Lunches on guided days
- Bottled water in hotels
- A small cool box
- If the programme includes wild camping on your own, the camping equipment including:
  - Tent, thick mattresses, small table, stools, large mat for a traditional set-up, lamp
  - Gas stove, cooking and eating utensils, barbecue grill and utensils (if requested)

- Basins, water jerrycans, dishwashing liquid
  - Some basic food: rice, pasta, tea, coffee, sugar, salt, pepper, spices, oil
  - Included activities as mentioned in the programme
  - For each included guided activity:
    - The guide
    - The car(s) and driver(s) if required for this activity
    - Safety and camping equipment (tents, mattresses, kitchenware) if required for this activity
  - Included transfers with driver or guide as mentioned in the program
  - The rental of the above-mentioned vehicle(s), for the above-mentioned period of time, with:
    - 2 possible drivers
    - Unlimited kilometres
    - Comprehensive insurance: zero excess in case of damage (provided you get a police report)

*Caution: Damages occurred when driving off roads or off trails clearly marked on the terrain are not covered by the insurance (particularly when driving on sand).*
  - Carbon offsetting for the mileage driven during your tour
- On completion of your trip, we grant our specialist partner a certain amount in order to offset the CO2 emitted during your drives. To go further, you can also offset your flight emissions through [www.myclimate.org](http://www.myclimate.org).*

## **The price of the tour does not include:**

- International flights
  - Tourist visa fees: as at 01/09/2021 and for most nationalities, free for 14 days or visa 26B for 30 days at 20 OMR (per person)
- Check visa issuing formalities on <https://evisa.rop.gov.om/en/visa-eligibility>.*
- Passports must be valid at least 6 months after the return date.*
- Meals not included in the program (from 1.5 OMR per person in small restaurants or 5 OMR at hotels)
  - Beverages
  - Sleeping bags and personal camping equipment (headlight) if required
  - If the programme includes wild camping on your own, a 50 OMR deposit to be left cash at reception of the camping equipment, refundable at restitution
  - Entrance fees, if any, of the “possible activities” mentioned in the program (forts and museums: 1 to 5 OMR pp)
  - Tips to guides and drivers, if any
  - Personal expenses
  - Fuel for your self-driven car(s) (approx. 30 to 50 OMR per car and per week of tour)
  - The rental car refundable deposit: the amount of 125 OMR per vehicle is blocked on your credit card but not debited
  - Fines for driving offenses (speed cameras notably)
  - Tyre repair or replacement fees in case of puncture
  - The cost of repairing damages suffered by the rental cars if not justified by a police report
  - Your personal repatriation insurance
  - Your medical insurance