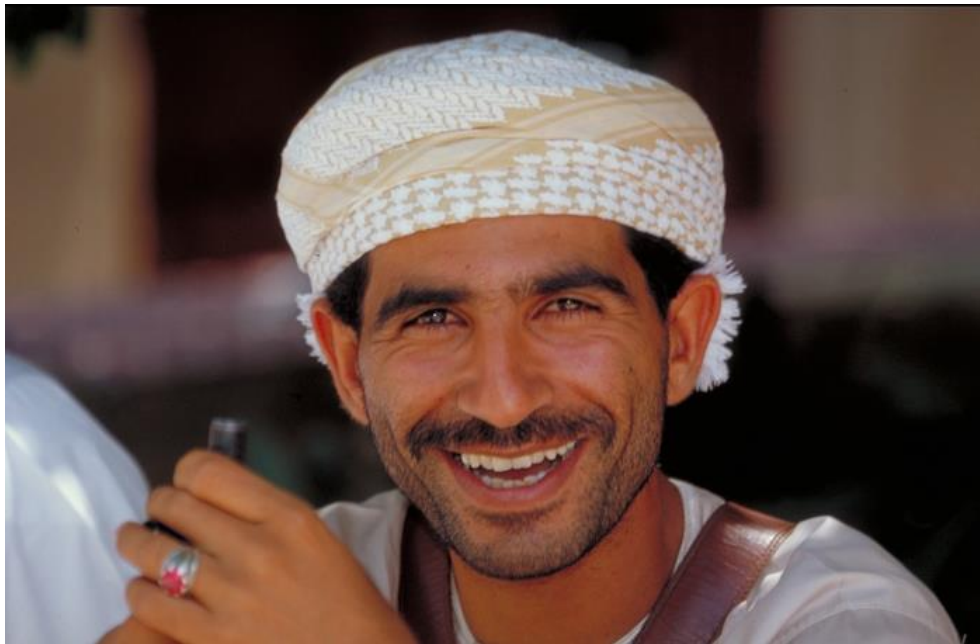




TAILOR-MADE DESTINATIONS

MOUNTAINS AND DESERTS OF OMAN

This comprehensive guided tour of Oman visits the old capital of Muscat, the remote mountain village of Misfah, historic Nizwa, coastal Sur, and the famous Wahiba Sands, where you spend two nights camping under the stars. It's a flexible programme that can be extended to include mountain and desert trekking, or adapted to fit families with children.



Day 1	Arrive Muscat	1 night Ruwi Hotel, Muscat	BB
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On arrival at **Muscat** you will be met and transferred to Ruwi Hotel, where you stay for one night. Depending on your arrival time there are some suggestions below for your first night in Muscat.



Your Financial Protection

All monies paid by you for the air holiday package shown [or flights if appropriate] are ATOL protected by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is ATOL 3145.

For more information see our booking terms and conditions.

Muscat can be easily explored independently. However, Gane and Marshall can also organise a guided city tour if preferred. The sights worth seeing if you have time include Jalali/Mirani forts, Zubair Museum, and the Sultan's Palace. It's also a pleasure to walk along the old corniche and to visit the Mutrah 'souk', or market, before returning to your hotel in the evening.

Day 2 Nakhl Fort, Bilad Sayt and Wadi Bani Awf – Omani House B, L, D

You will be collected from the hotel after breakfast by your trekking guide and driver and being the drive by 4x4 vehicle to **Barka** and then on to **Nakhl** (*about one hour from Muscat*), situated in the South of the **Batinah** region. A historic town, its most outstanding archeological feature is its pre-Islamic fort, which is located on a craggy hill about 200ft high. Another feature of this town is the "Ain Thura" springs, which comes from the **Jebel Salad**.



Our journey takes us over the north side of the impressive Jebel Akdhar, a beautiful mountain, then dropping down to to **Bilad Sayt** and **Wadi Bani Awf**, where we can walk into the wadi (canyon) and have a picnic lunch in a shady spot. This is an exceptionally beautiful wadi and it is worth walking away from the main picnic spots and along the wadi (do be prepared for temperatures over 35c and take plenty of sun protection).

NB Your trekking guide will plan the coming days' treks according to the abilities of the walking party.

This evening continue by car to **Misfah Village**, and then proceed on foot to the Omani House. Please keep your luggage for this night in a small pack that you can carry through the ancient cobbled streets of the village. Dinner and overnight in the **Omani House**. NB Omani house does not serve alcohol.

Day 3 Bilad Sayt – Walking to the mountain villages – Omani House B, L, D

After breakfast we proceed to **Bilad Sayt**. This is an idyllic oasis hamlet situated in the **Wilayat al Hamra**. Believed to date back over 3,000 years, its earthen homes, terraced

gardens, and 'aflaj' irrigation system offer a stunning example of a traditional Omani oasis settlement.



Our day unfolds with walking tours such as the Three Villages Walk in and around Misfah region. Picnic lunch will be provided.

In the afternoon/evening return to the **Omani House**. There is an interesting walk out of the village along the ancient falaj system which follows a valley up into the higher mountains.

Day 4	Jebel Shams Canyon Walk, Nizwa, Falaj Daris	B, L, D
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After breakfast proceed by car up to the base of **Jebel Shams**, Oman's highest mountain, via a rugged region that is sometimes referred to as the Grand Canyon of Oman (where you will be walking today).



Today's trek is along the Canyon Trail with great scenery en-route and, at the endpoint of your trek, the opportunity to explore the remains of an ancient village and a nearby spring pool. It is possible to swim in the pool. Allow 3 to 5 hours for this trek. It is on mostly level

terrain. NB Those not wishing to complete the full trek to the deserted village may undertake a short viewpoint walk a small way along the Canyon.

This afternoon transfer to Nizwa and the Falaj Daris Hotel for dinner (to your own account) and overnight. There is a swimming pool here, bar and internet connections.

Day 5 Nizwa to Wahiba Sands – Safari Desert Camp or wild camp* B, L, D



After breakfast we explore **Nizwa**, before proceeding to **Jebel Akhdar** for a short trek.

Formerly the capital of Oman, Nizwa is one of the country's oldest cities. The centre of the city is home to Nizwa Fort, one of Oman's most popular tourist sites, and Nizwa Souk, the largest market in the country besides that of Muscat.

Also of note is the Daris Falaj. This is the largest falaj (traditional water irrigation system) in Oman, and a recognised World Heritage Site.

We then drive to **Wahiba Sands**. Overnight stay at the Safari Desert Camp with desert walks planned.

*NB wild camping and a two day desert trek with Bedouin and camels along the route taken by Wilfred Thesiger is also possible, but there will be a supplementary charge. Please contact Gane and Marshall to arrange this unique desert experience.

Day 6 Explore the Wahiba Sands by 4WD and on foot B, L, D

Today is spent exploring the Wahiba Sands on foot and by 4WD with your guide. Desert boots or light weight mountain boots or trekking sandals will be fine. Excellent protection against the sun is essential. Either have a picnic lunch or lunch in camp. Wild camping you will have the opportunity to venture further into the desert. Overnight at the Safari Desert Camp or wild camp.



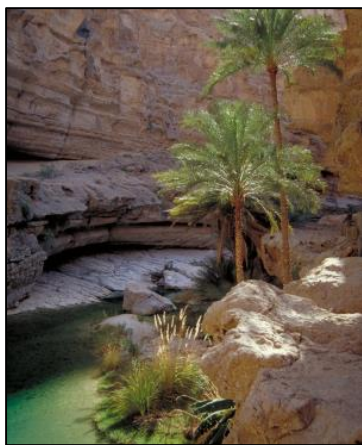
Day 7 Wahiba Sands – Turtle Beach HB

After breakfast depart the Wahiba Sands for the coastal town of Sur, where you check into the Turtle Beach Resort for one night. Lunch en route to your own account.

After an early dinner (to your own account) you will have time to visit the turtle sanctuary at **Ras Al Jinz**, before returning to the hotel.



Day 8 Wadi Shab & Wadi Tiwi – Muscat B



After breakfast return back to **Muscat** via **Wadi Shab & Wadi Tiwi**. These beautiful wadis and oases are well known for their date and lemon plantations.

Time allowing, you may also stop at the Limestone sinkhole at **Bimah**.

Lunch en route to your own account.

On arrival in Muscat you will be transferred to the Ruwi hotel for one night (B&B basis) before your airport transfer and flight home the next day.

End of tour.

Price Guide:

*The cost of this itinerary is from **£1,655 per person** in a group of two (children from **£1,195**) This is based on twin/double accommodation. To convert the Wahiba Sands sector to wild camping and trek with a Bedouin guide and camel, add £340 per person. This is more expensive because of the logistics (transport, portable camp with loo etc.) and the extra support team required.*

For more information, or if you would like to enquire about a tailor-made Oman holiday combining part or all of the above itinerary, please [contact us](#).

Includes:

- Experienced trekking guide throughout
- Private 4WD transportation throughout
- All entrance fees
- Activities mentioned in itinerary
- Accommodation as described
- Picnic lunches on days 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6
- Dinners on days 2, 3, 5 and 6
- All transfers as described

Excludes:

- International flights – please ask us for a quote
- Visas
- Personal travel insurance
- Personal expenses and tips
- Meals not included in the itinerary

Please contact us for extensions: beach hotel, and also tours to Mussandam and Salalah