



## OMAN ITINERARY

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**EXPERIENCE TITLE:** Frankincense & Rosewater Trails + Musandam Optional Extension  
**Body:** So many highlights on this extensive journey including the coastal city of Salalah  
13 days / 12 nights

### Day 1: Arrival

Arrive into Muscat International Airport and transfer to hotel.

Rest of the day at your leisure

Muscat: Overnight at your choice of Muscat Hotel

### Day 2: Muscat City Tour

Half day city tour of Muscat city where your day will start with a visit to the Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque (closed Fridays). Completed in 2001, the Grand Mosque stands proudly over Muscat. It is home to one of the largest Crystal Chandeliers and hand stitched Persian carpets in the world.

Leaving the Grand Mosque, head towards Mutrah and the fascinating fish market. The sights and sounds of the market will have you yearning for more. Accordingly, head to Mutrah Souk, wander around the market with the scent of ancient Frankincense - the perfume of the gods - in the air. Your haggling urges filled, make your way to the Oman Museum, a photo stop at Al Alam Palace flanked by the ancient Forts of Mirani Jalali built by the Portuguese during their reign in Oman.

Muscat: Overnight at your choice of Muscat Hotel

### Day 3: Coastal Drive - Muscat to Sur

From Muscat, head south-east along the coastline through Qalhat to Sur – an important seafaring port since antiquity. In the evening, visit the nearby turtle sanctuary at Ras Al Jinz for an unforgettable, torchlight encounter with nesting sea turtles.

Sur: Overnight at Sur Beach Hotel | Sur Plaza Hotel | Al Ayjah Plaza Hotel | Rass Al Jinz Turtle Reserve | Turtle Beach Hotel.

### Day 4: Sur to Ash Sharqiya Sands (Sharqiya Sands)

Depart Sur and head west into Oman's interior to the famed Sharqiya Sands. On the way, enjoy a refreshing swim in a popular, emerald green waterhole - Wadi Bani Khalid. Continue west and leave the tarmac for the final stretch of the journey on golden sand. Watch as a breath-taking desert sunset washes over you revealing an eternity of sparkling night sky.

Sharqiya Sands: Overnight at Desert Nights Camp | Desert Palm | Arabian Oryx | Safari Camp.

Day 5: Ash Sharqiya Sands to Nizwa

Enjoy a delicious breakfast as the sun warms the dunes around you. Your journey continues to Nizwa – the ancient capital of Oman – via the villages of Ibra, Sinaw, Izki and the oasis town of Birkat Al Mawz. Enjoy the numerous points of interest at each town along the journey including the renowned souk in Ibra - one of the oldest cities in Oman, once a centre of trade, religion, education and art.

Nizwa: Overnight at Golden Tulip Nizwa Hotel | Falaj Daris Hotel Nizwa | Al Diyar Hotel

Day 6: Exploring Nizwa

Rise early to travel to Nizwa's famous weekly goat and cattle market where farmers come from far and wide to trade livestock in a time-honoured tradition. This is one of the liveliest markets in all of Oman.

Recover from the eclectic market experience with lunch at a local restaurant, before continuing your journey to the famed pottery village of Bahla, then on to magical Jabrin Castle. Dating back to 1670, the castle is not only famous for its recently restored beautiful structure, detailed lattice-work, famous curved arches and detailed hand-chiselled doors, but also for its local folklore of magic and wizardry. A glimpse of this side is possible within the castle by stepping into the Sun and Moon Chamber overlooking the valley.

Nizwa: Overnight at Golden Tulip Nizwa Hotel | Falaj Daris Hotel Nizwa | Al Diyar Hotel.

Day 7: Nizwa to Hajar Mountains

Today you head north into the high Hajar mountains where you will explore the rosewater villages of Jebel Akhdar and enjoy the cool air at altitudes above 2000 metres above sea level. Along the way stop at villages like Al Hamra, Misfah, Wadi Ghul and Wadi Nakhr on the way up to the highest point in the region, Jebel Shams (Mountain of the sun)

Jebel Akhdar: Overnight at Sahab Hotel | Alila Jabal Akhdar | Jabal Akhdar Hotel.

Day 8: Jebel Akhdar

Rise early for a walk to the rosewater villages and see how agriculture thrives in this environment. Roses, pomegranates, stone fruit, apples, grapes, walnuts and more are harvested here and transported to markets near and far.

Enjoy the rest of the day at leisure, enjoying the cool climate in this remarkable high mountain environment.

Jebel Akhdar: Overnight at Sahab Hotel | Alila Jabal Akhdar | Jabal Akhdar Hotel

Day 9: Descend the northern side of Hajar Mountains towards Muscat  
Head off-road today for one of Oman's great mountain drives along the dramatic landscape of the Mountain Route by the iconic village of Bilad Sayt and the rugged Wadi Bani Awf to the popular coastal city of Barka before returning to Muscat to prepare for an early morning flight south to Salalah tomorrow.

Muscat: Overnight at your choice of Muscat Hotel.

Day 10: Muscat to Salalah

Morning transfer to the airport to meet your flight to Salalah in the Dhofar region in the south of Oman.

Rest of the day at leisure. In the evening visit Al Husn Souk located in the middle of Salalah's fascinating old town.

Salalah: Overnight at Juweira Hotel | Rotana Hotel | Crowne Plaza | Hilton Salalah | Salalah Marriott

Day 11: Touring East Salalah

Today you'll explore the capital of Dhofar, starting with the Museum of the Land of the Frankincense Trail then into East Salalah. Drive past the Royal Farm and the Mamura Palace to arrive at Taqa. The village is known for its sardines and here you will see the Taqa Castle before proceeding to Samhuram with the famed port from where the frankincense trade used to take place. You will also see the ruins of the Queen of Sheba's Palace on top of a small hill overlooking the Khor Rawri.

Continue by the coastal road to the old city of Mirbat famous for its the Arabian Horses. A walk around the town reveals Mirbat Castle overlooking the sea and some old and beautiful old merchant houses with their carved doors and windows.

Salalah: Overnight at Juweira Hotel | Rotana Hotel | Crowne Plaza | Hilton Salalah | Salalah Marriott

Day 12: Touring Salalah: West Salalah. Return to Muscat.

After breakfast meet your guide at the lobby & set for your tour to West Salalah visiting Job's tomb marking the place where the remains of the Moslem Prophet known as Job in the Old Testament can be found. Continue to Mughsail beach which stretches for several kilometers with high cliffs on either side. This area also has an abundance of bird life such as flamingos, pelicans and stork. The tour ends with a visit to see frankincense trees, which produce the incense for which this region is famous. Enjoy a lunch of Madhabi – meat cooked on stones, served with rice & sauce.

Later drop off at the airport for your flight back to Muscat.

Muscat: Overnight at your choice of Muscat Hotel.

Day 13: Depart Muscat

Check out of your hotel, and commence your onward journey home or depart Muscat to Khasab by air for the added ultimate itinerary

For the ultimate itinerary that covers the whole country:

#### Day 14: Muscat to Musandam

Up early for a morning flight to Khasab in Oman's northernmost enclave of Musandam. On arrival, meet your driver/guide and transfer to your hotel. Musandam is home to some of Oman's most spectacular scenery. The stunning peaks of the Fjords of Arabia plunge up to 2000m into the blue sea waters, where tropical reefs provide shelter for an abundance of colourful fish.

Dolphins also make regular appearances, following the local fishermen as they go in search of tuna and other local species. Enjoy a Dhow cruise through the fjords here in the evening. Return to hotel for dinner.

Khasab: Overnight at Atana Khasab | Atana Musandam | Esra Apartments.

#### Day 15: Musandam

After breakfast, enjoy a morning mountain safari around Khasab and environs. Whilst the waterways of Musandam are the main attraction here, the mountainous interior runs them a close second. Here you'll find some of the wildest and most spectacular landscapes in Oman, comprising a string of great limestone peaks and massifs.

Drive to Jebel Harim (2087 meters), the highest mountain in the region and enjoy the fantastic scenery of Musandams' mountains, speckled with fossils dating back several million years.

Return to your hotel for lunch, stay an additional night or alternatively, freshen up and check out. Commence your vehicle transfer to Abu Dhabi (4 hour drive) or Dubai (3 hour drive) or fly back to Muscat for your onward journey.

END OF TOUR

Itinerary Includes:

- Airport transfers
- All in-destination transport/touring
- Local, English-speaking driver/guide
- 12 nights accommodation
- Breakfasts daily and meals as specified by the tour operator upon enquiry
- Domestic flights