

## **EXPLORING OMAN– 7 NIGHTS AND 8 DAYS**

The oldest independent state in the Arab world, Oman is one of the more traditional countries in the Gulf region and was, until the 1970s, one of the most isolated. It has a strategically important position at the mouth of the Gulf. Oman's attractions include a largely-untouched coastline, mountains, deserts and the burgeoning capital Muscat, with its forts, palaces and old walled city.

### **Day 1: Muscat**

On arrival meet the local representative. Check in the hotel. The day is at your leisure. Overnight at the hotel

### **Day 2: Muscat**

Post breakfast; take the tour of Muscat visiting the Natural History Museum to study the flora and fauna of Oman before going to the Omani Museum with its wealth of exhibits on the country's cultural heritage. Continue to Muttrah port to visit the fish market, stroll along the Corniche and visit a local souq noted for its silverware, perfumes and spices. Overnight at the hotel..

### **Day 3: Muscat**

Breakfast at the hotel Today's route takes you along the Batinah plain, the main agricultural area of Oman, to Barka, to visit Bait Na'am, a fortified house where Imams overnighted on journeys to the interior. Then proceed to Rustaq to visit its impressive renovated fort before travelling through picturesque wadi's to the oasis town of Nakhl. Return to Muscat via the hot springs of Thowarah. Overnight at the hotel

### **Day 4: Ras Al Jinz**

After Breakfast, take off on a road trip following the magnificent coastline from Muscat to Sur. Visit Quriyat, famous for beautiful beaches, and a 'sinkhole', stop for a picnic lunch and a swim at White Beach, and visit picturesque Wadi Shaab and wander along the river amid its lush vegetation. Continue to Ras-al-hadd Nature Reserve with one of the largest nesting area for Green Turtle in the Indian Ocean – Ras Al-Jinz. Overnight at Turtle Beach Resort in the reserve giving you the advantage of visiting Ras-al-Jinz, the Turtle Beach, with a guide at midnight to see the turtles come on to the beach searching for nesting ground.

### **Day 5: Desert Camp near Sur**

Tour the ancient seafaring town of Sur and its dhow yard where wooden sailboats are still built in the traditional manner. Then to the mystical desert and rolling dunes of the Wahiba Sands for an exciting drive. After a picnic lunch in the shade you will visit a camel camp for an encounter with local Bedouins. From here you will proceed to your desert camp, where you will have traditional Omani dinner and camp in traditional tents under a huge blanket of stars.

**Day 6: Nizwa**

After breakfast head towards Mudairib village, famous for its many watchtowers, en route to Nizwa where you will visit the beautifully restored 17th century fort of ancient Nizwa and its modern souq.

**Day 7: Muscat**

After breakfast the journey to Bahla with its UNESCO fort and potteries, before reaching Jabreen Castle, a beautiful residential fort with ornate ceiling decorations and impressive architecture. Overnight at the hotel in Muscat

**Day 8: Muscat**

After breakfast leave for the airport to take your flight back home!

**Preferred Hotel**

<b>Destinations</b>	<b>3 star</b>	<b>4 Star</b>	<b>5 star</b>
Muscat	Tulip Inn	Radisson Blu	Grand Hyatt
Nizwa	Golden Tulip		
Ras Al Jinz	Turtle Beach Resort		
Sur	Desert Camp		