



MAP OF OMAN



DHOFAR

Dhofar is a spectacular all-year-round destination, with warm, sunny winters that attract people from all over the world. During the summer months Dhofar is visited by the annual monsoon (known locally as “Khareef”) which transforms the scenery into a lush green wonderland. Mist blankets the mountains, waterfalls appear overnight and overflowing wadis attract migratory birds, caravans of camels and more. It’s the ideal escape from the sweltering heat of the rest of Oman and the GCC.

HOW DO YOU REACH DHOFAR?

As Oman’s southern-most governate, the most popular way to reach Dhofar is by flying to the capital, Salalah. There are multiple daily flights from Muscat, as well as International flights, especially during Khareef. Salalah Port welcomes many cruise ships that visit regularly throughout the year, or it is also possible to drive or catch an intercity bus.

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Beauty has an address

DAY 1

Begin your tour with a trip to the Land of Frankincense Museum and Al Baleed Ruins. Here you will learn the rich history of Dhofar, and the ruins are an active archeological site that help explain why two thousand years ago Pliny the Elder described this place as one of the richest cities in the world.

Then drive back towards the city and stop for a snack at the numerous roadside shacks selling refreshing coconuts, bananas and sugar cane. Next, explore the bustling al Hafah Souq, which offers a wide range of local goods, from spices to incense, to gold, silver and more.

DAY 2

Spend the day touring the rugged western regions of Dhofar. Winding roads climb steep mountains and eventually lead to spectacular beaches. Start with the pristine Mughsail Beach, where you will find Marneef Cave and the famous blowholes at the western end of the beach.

From there, continue along the main road, where you will enjoy some of the world’s greatest driving scenery, until you get to Rakhut. Here you will discover small fishing villages and some great spots for a picnic. Take your time returning to Salalah and stop to say hello to the camels.

DAY 3

Drive to Taqah and visit the historic Taqah Castle, where you can learn about the history of the region. Stop for a coffee in Taqah town and then head to Wadi Darbat where you can find lush reserves and waterfalls. Explore the wadi itself and drive up the nearby mountains, which offer panoramic views of Dhofar.

From here head back down to the coast and discover the Khor Rori ruins, where you can wander freely amongst the ruins and even watch archeologists at work.

DAY 4

Drive North from Salalah, up into the mountains, and find your way to Wadi Dawkah where you can see and touch Frankincense trees - from tiny saplings to gnarled old trees. Enjoy the incredible scenery on your way back and then head to the Salalah Garden’s Mall where you can find authentic Omani handicrafts, which make amazing gifts and also help support local artists and craftspeople.

IMPORTANT TO KNOW

- Please observe Omani customs and dress modestly.
- Use an appropriate SUV on mountain routes and ensure proper operation of the vehicle’s 4wd systems before undertaking any such trips.
- Ensure you have adequate water, food, and fuel.
- Always inform a family member, friend, or acquaintance of your destination and expected date of your return.
- Deal only with licensed tourist boats, as they will be properly equipped with the required safety equipment as per the law.
- Do not camp in wadi beds; flash floods can be a common occurrence.
- Do not photograph private properties without obtaining prior permission from the owner.

This itinerary can be shortened or extended depending on the time you have to explore the governorate.