

## MAP OF OMAN



## MUSCAT

The Governorate of Muscat is located on the coastline of the Sea of Oman, and is sheltered by the Eastern Hajar Mountains.

This unique location between the sea and mountains gives Muscat spectacular scenery and a diverse landscape. This is complemented by unique architecture that presents Muscat as a modern city with a rich history, combining authentic Omani traditions with a modern interpretation.

## HOW DO YOU REACH MUSCAT?

Muscat can be reached by air, land and sea. The city is served by Muscat International Airport in Al Seeb. It can be reached by car, with numerous exit/entry points from both the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia and is accessible by sea on one of several cruise liners that call into the Sultan Qaboos Port.

## DAY 1

Begin your trip with a visit to one of the most iconic buildings in the Sultanate – the Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque. This is one of the largest mosques in the world and offers incredible architecture and serene gardens.

Next, visit the Royal Opera House Muscat - a modern cultural masterpiece. Ten minutes away from the Opera House is one of the oldest and most beautiful traditional markets in the capital – the Mutrah souq, where you will find antiques, traditional Omani khanjars and the best Dhofari frankincense. At the entrance of the souq is the Muscat Corniche that overlooks the Sea of Oman, and if you are lucky, you might catch a glimpse of the royal yacht 'Al Said', docked at the port.

Following the road down from the Mutrah Corniche, you will eventually reach the distinctive 'Al Alam Palace' of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos. The huge courtyard outside the palace is an ideal place to photograph the building.

## DAY 2

Start your day with a quick visit to the planetarium to learn about the solar system in intriguing new ways. From there, maybe take a picnic and head to Yiti beach for an open-air lunch on the soft, golden sands.

Next, travel to Bandar Khairan where dense trees grow alongside the clear, azure water, then head back to Muscat and stop by at The National Museum that contains a number of cultural displays about Omani heritage and tradition. If you have time, you can also stop by other local museums such as Bait Al Baranda and Bait Al Zubair.

## DAY 3

Start your day early with a visit to the Wadi Dayqah Dam in Qurayat, which has an amazing public park, stunning views and several other facilities. From here, you can take a trip to the park that holds the Bimmah Sinkhole. This water-filled depression is believed to be created by a meteorite, 'Hawaiyat Najm', which translates as 'The Falling Star'.

Bimmah Sinkhole is located in Dibab region, which can be reached via the Qurayat-Sur road, a road trip that showcases some great scenery. You can then visit Wadi Al Arbeieen or the Qurayat Gardens to enjoy the beautiful nature Oman is famous for. Alternatively, try a visit to Finns beach, where you can feel the sand between your toes and paddle in the ocean.

## DAY 4

Sunrise in Shatti Al Qurum is an unforgettable scene you shouldn't miss when in Muscat. See the bright sun appear over the ocean as you walk down the beach. Later in the day, you can also hire a jet ski or organize a diving trip to admire the beautiful coral reefs at the Dimaniyat Islands, or even go for a boat ride to watch the dancing dolphins in the Sea of Oman.

Also don't miss the exceptional sunset, best viewed from the Al Seeb beach, where large flocks of birds congregate. In the evening, you can visit one of the many famous art exhibitions in Muscat and explore the work of Omani and International artists. You could maybe also explore the traditional souqs and buy sweet, delicious Omani Halwa and local honey.

## 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 people when entering private properties without obtaining prior permission.