

## MAP OF OMAN



## AD DAKHILIYAH

Rich history and diverse geography awaits you in the Ad Dakhiliyah Governorate of Oman. From Nizwa, the old capital of Oman, to Bahla, the city of myths, and from under the ground at Al Hoota cave, to the highest peaks of the Hajar Mountain Range, you can see history as you have never seen it before.

In Ad Dakhiliyah, you can visit the remains of ancient Omani forts and castles to discover for yourself how these architectural icons were built, while wandering around the old streets of restored mud villages to go back in history. You can even leave the city behind and head into the mountains to enjoy the unforgettable view of agricultural plains and palm oases. The Ad Dakhiliyah governorate on its own is a testament to the rich history and diverse geography that make Oman a truly unique country.

## HOW DO YOU REACH AD DAKHILIYAH?

The regional center of the Ad Dakhiliyah governorate is the Wilayat of Nizwa, which was the original capital of Oman. You can reach Nizwa via a 170 km long highway that links directly to Muscat; passing through Bidbid, Samail and Izki. For those coming from Sohar, Nizwa can also be reached by the road that passes through Yanqul and Ibri.

## DAY 1



To enjoy a truly Omani experience, you can start your day with an early visit to Wadi Fanja to catch the sunrise breaking through the palm trees along the beautiful wadi. From here you can make your way towards Wadi Samail. However, do not forget to visit the traditional souq of Fanja before you leave. It is here that you will be able to find traditional crafts, gifts, and souvenirs. Along the way it is also worth taking a short detour to visit the castle of Bidbid; where you can get some insight into Oman's history and some of the wars and battles it has fought in the past.

Wadi Samail is a great place to take a break and have a meal at one of the several local restaurants located in the shadow of the palm trees on the banks of the wadi. You can end your day with a visit to the tall and imposing Samail castle, the old Al Midhmar Mosque, and the tomb of Mazin bin Ghadhoba, who was a companion of the Prophet and the first person to convert to Islam in the Sultanate of Oman in year six of the Islamic calendar (628 A.D.).

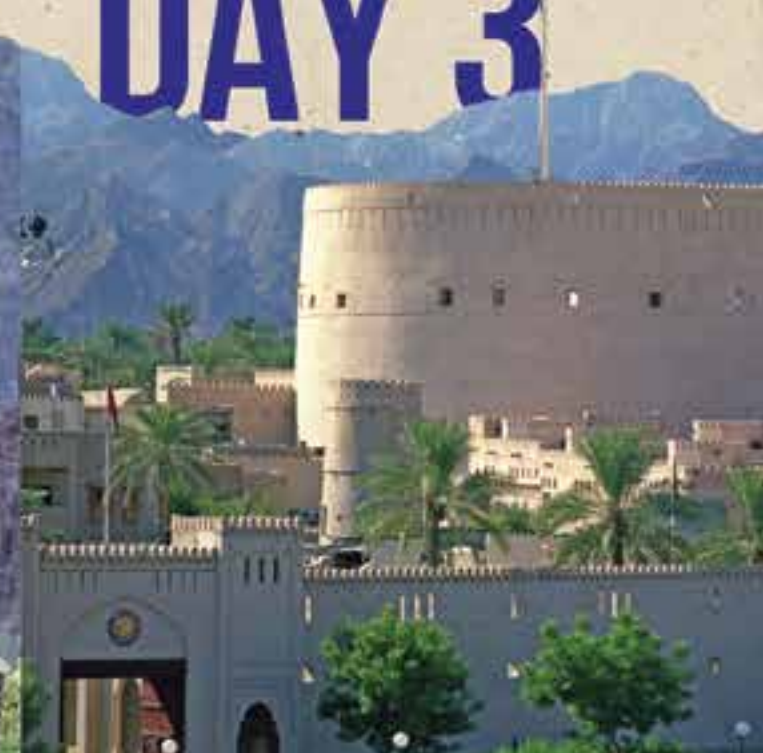
## DAY 2



A visit to the village of Birkat Al Mawz will introduce you to Omani Falaj systems; an intricate engineering system for irrigation that dates back hundreds of years. Falaj Al Khatmeen is amongst the most popular of these systems in the area and is well worth a visit. From here you can also visit the rocky watch tower of Harat As Saibani, before you start your trip up to the top of quite possibly the most beautiful mountain in Oman - Al Jabal Al Akhdar.

At 2,300 meters above sea level, the mountain offers breath-taking views of the valley below. You will feel like you are standing atop your own private balcony taking in some of the most beautiful sights in the country. There isn't a better place to spend the night than camping under a marvelous umbrella of shining stars atop the mountain.

## DAY 3



Your next stop is the heart of Wilayat Nizwa and its most popular attraction - the Nizwa fort and the many ancient tales that it has to tell. It's open seven days a week, however if you happen to be visiting the souq on a Friday morning you will witness one of the most popular auctions for local products and livestock in the country.

After that adventure enthusiasts can take a crack at crossing Wadi Tanuf in an SUV and nature enthusiasts can instead visit the Misfat Al Abriyeen village in Wilayat Al Hamra where houses start from atop the mountain and end down at the wadi. You can also take a drive up to the top of Jabal Shams which is 3,000 meters high; where you can try climbing to the very top of the mountain and engraving your name into one of the stones. However, doing so will require the assistance of a specialized guide.

## DAY 4



One of the most stunning geological wonders of Ad Dakhiliyah is the Al Hoota caves. Estimated to be over 2 million years old and standing at around 4.5km long, it is one of the largest underground cave systems in the world. It contains huge stone structures and an underground lake with fish that, over the years, have lost their ability to see. When you get back up above ground, you can head south to the Bahla fort and see firsthand its huge walls; both of which are listed as UNESCO world heritage sites.

It is also worth visiting the clay factory to see one of the oldest traditional crafts in Oman and the traditional souq of Bahla, one of the oldest in the country. Your final stop in the Ad Dakhiliyah governorate will be the Jibreen castle; where you will see some truly beautiful designs and wooden ceilings with ancient stories intricately engraved into them by the skilled Omani architects of the past.

## 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.
- Do not camp in wadi beds; flash floods are a common occurrence.
- When entering private property, please ask for permission before taking any photographs or eating fruits from any nearby farms.
- Keep your environment clean by disposing of litter in the designated dustbins.

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

DISCOVER  
AD DAKHILIYAH



Beauty has an address