



Marhaba to Dhofar

Sultanate of Oman

Beauty has an address - Oman



Ministry of Tourism



The Brand Oman image is one which incorporates elements of the nature of Oman into a unique symbol that represents the country. The initial design incorporated representations of a Dhow (top right) , Turtle (bottom) , Mountains (top left) and Frankincense smoke (centre). These images were then developed into the calligraphic Arabic word “Oman” (عمان). Choosing a palette of colours enabled the emphasis on everyday scenes which make Oman unique. Here our range of colours emphasize the leisure that can be enjoyed in Oman, Salalah’s Khareef, Oman’s seas and the purple that envelopes the sky before dawn breaks over the desert.

We are proud of our Brand Oman and hope you will recognise it as you travel through our beautiful and hospitable county.



Contents

Welcome to Dhofar	4
Historical Sites	6
Natural Attractions	14
Frankincense Trail	24
Shopping	26
Accomodation	28
Events	32
Activities	34

Welcome to Dhofar

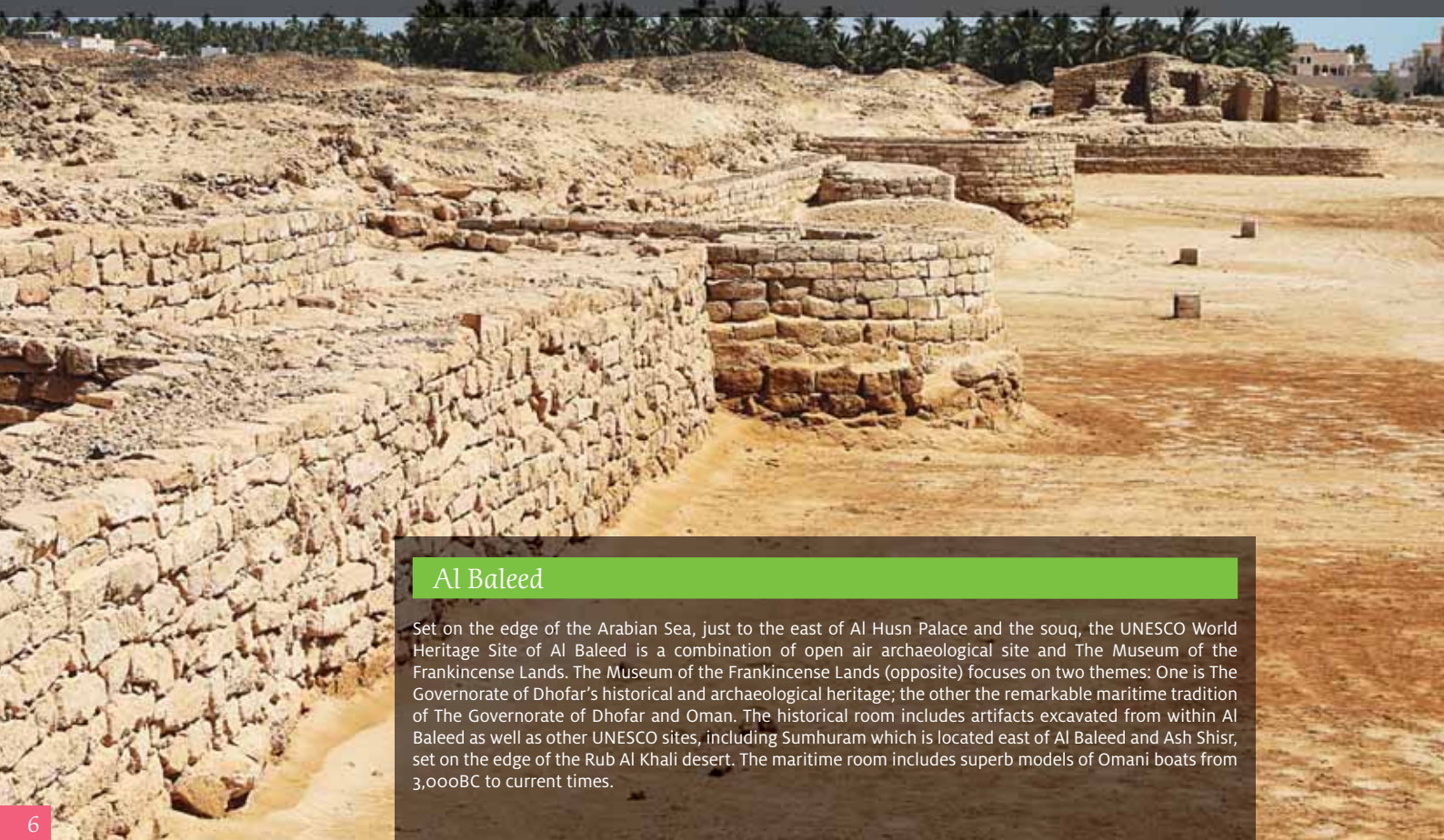


Governorate of Dhofar

Hidden beaches, lapped by the Arabian Sea, abound throughout the Governorate of Dhofar. The city of Salalah is blessed with kilometre after kilometre of soft white sand, the main beaches including those at Dahariz, Al Baleed and Haffa, near Al Husn Palace. West of the city the mountains give way to the beaches of Mugsayl and beyond, creating dramatic backdrops. To the east of Salalah, unspoilt beaches can be discovered all the way to Taqah, interrupted only by a few creeks. Beyond Mirbat, the nature of the coastline changes to one of small coves; some with Dhofar's famous white sand, others of multi-hued granite pebbles worn smooth by the power of Oman's Arabian Sea.



Historical sites



Al Baleed

Set on the edge of the Arabian Sea, just to the east of Al Husn Palace and the souq, the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Al Baleed is a combination of open air archaeological site and The Museum of the Frankincense Lands. The Museum of the Frankincense Lands (opposite) focuses on two themes: One is The Governorate of Dhofar's historical and archaeological heritage; the other the remarkable maritime tradition of The Governorate of Dhofar and Oman. The historical room includes artifacts excavated from within Al Baleed as well as other UNESCO sites, including Sumhram which is located east of Al Baleed and Ash Shisr, set on the edge of the Rub Al Khali desert. The maritime room includes superb models of Omani boats from 3,000BC to current times.

The Museum of the Frankincense Land



متحف أرض اللبان



NOTICE TO VISITORS
The Museum of the Frankincense Land is a public institution established by the Government of the State of Qatar. It is dedicated to the preservation and promotion of the cultural heritage of the State of Qatar, with a special focus on the history and culture of the Frankincense trade. The Museum is open to all visitors and is a must-visit destination for anyone interested in the rich history and culture of the State of Qatar.

معلومات للزوار
متحف أرض اللبان هو مؤسسة عامة تأسست من قبل حكومة دولة قطر، مخصصة للحفاظ وتعزيز التراث الثقافي لدولة قطر، مع التركيز بشكل خاص على تاريخ وثقافة تجارة البخور. المتحف مفتوح لجميع الزوار وهو وجهة لا بد من زيارتها لأي شخص مهتم بالتاريخ والثقافة الغنية لدولة قطر.

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Ancient Travellers

Ancient travellers such as Ibn Battuta and Marco Polo knew the trading town and its port as Dhofar / Zafar, the name now used for the entire southern region of Oman. The impressive southern sea walls of Al Baleed (previous page) form part of the fortifications of the town. Protected by the walls were the citadel and grand mosque. Both of these impressive buildings were originally approached by a bridge over the surrounding lagoon.

Standard opening hours are: 08:00 - 20:00 with a modest entrance charge per car (please check for timings before you visit).



Mirbat

Situated between the extraordinary escarpment of Jebel Samhan and the Arabian Sea, Mirbat is a charming coastal town. Historically it traded in horses and frankincense, more recently in abalone and from its fishing harbour, fish. Overlooking the harbour entrance is Mirbat Fort which, in origin, is an early 19th century fortification. Separated from Mirbat Fort by a small hill is the whitewashed tomb of Mohammed bin Ali, a respected religious leader who died in 556H (1161AD). Beyond Mirbat the coastline becomes more rugged as the road winds through outcrops of granite rock on its way to Sadh, with its small fort, and Hasik, set on a vast sweeping bay.



Town of Taqah

The town of Taqah's charming coastal setting to the east of Salalah makes it an attractive town to visit or stay in. To the west of the town is Khor Taqah, a lagoon edged with natural reeds and a section landscaped to enjoy the views. From the lagoon, a long walk or drive along the beachfront will take you past coconut plantations towards the older part of town. Here is the Sheikh Afif Mosque, which is located next to Taqah Fort. The fort is built around an open courtyard offering its residents privacy and security and, from its upper storey, allows visitors views of the town, mountains and sea. From the fort it's possible to take a short walk through the back streets of the town, where visitors will see several old buildings in traditional Dhofar Governorate style.



Prophet Job

The tomb known within the region as that of Prophet Job (Nabi Ayoub (PBUH)) has a magnificent location set high in the mountains overlooking the sea and coastal plain around Salalah. The drive from Salalah is full of interest as it passes close to Ain Jarziz, the water spring, and then rises steeply upwards with valleys appearing to the right and left. Picnic places allow families to enjoy the atmosphere and enjoy the views around.

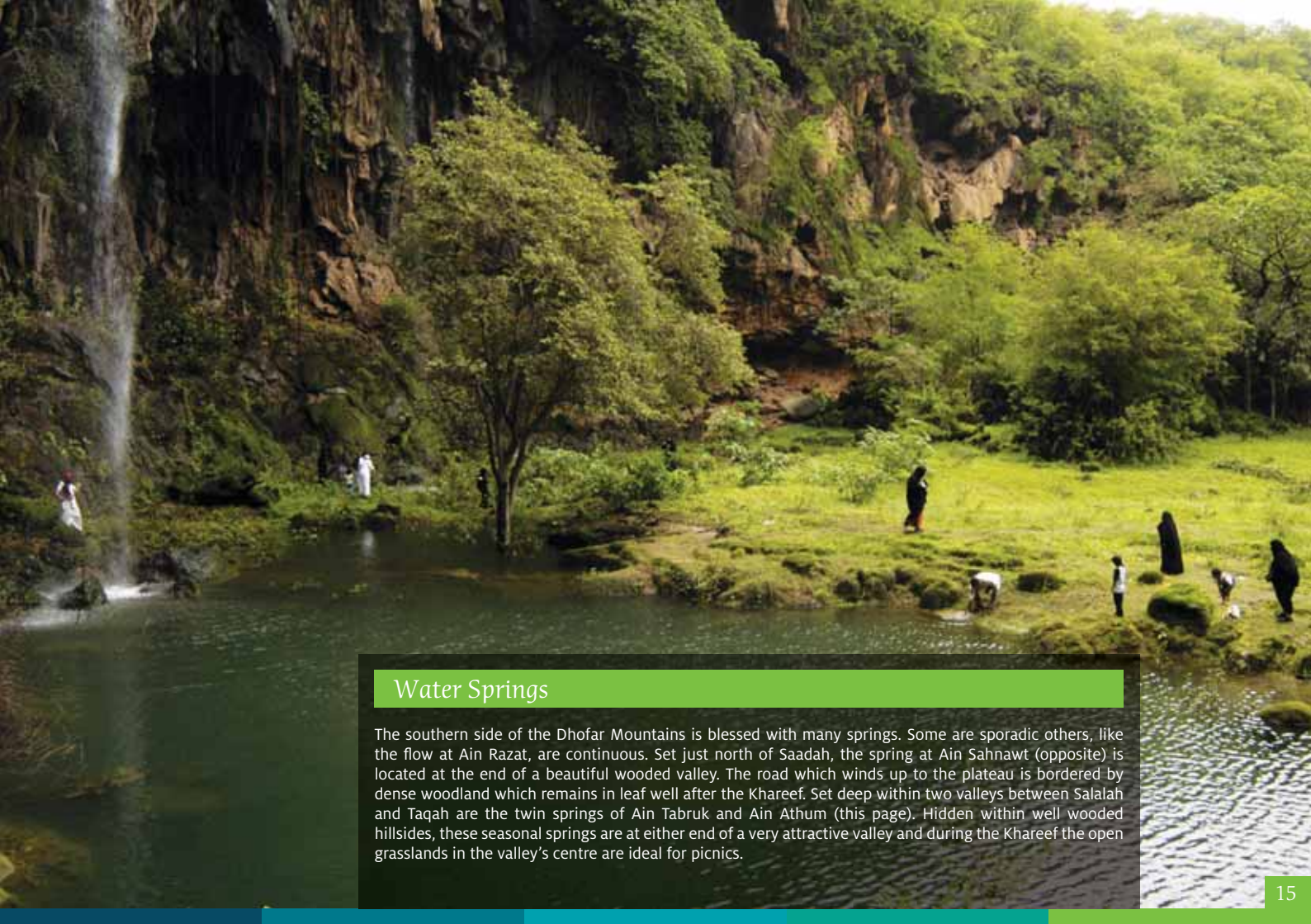


Prophet Imran

Just south of Salalah Airport is the extremely long tomb believed to be that of Prophet Imran (PBUH), set within a small garden with ornamental plants. Close to this location is the site of the Prophet Saleh's [PBUH] camel's footprint and beyond that is a charming drive through coconut plantations. The Governorate of Dhofar has a number of tombs, thought by many people to be those of other respected religious leaders including Prophet Hood's (PBUH) tomb near Zayk and Prophet Saleh's (PBUH) tomb before Hasik.

Natural Attractions





Water Springs

The southern side of the Dhofar Mountains is blessed with many springs. Some are sporadic others, like the flow at Ain Razat, are continuous. Set just north of Saadah, the spring at Ain Sahnawt (opposite) is located at the end of a beautiful wooded valley. The road which winds up to the plateau is bordered by dense woodland which remains in leaf well after the Khareef. Set deep within two valleys between Salalah and Taqah are the twin springs of Ain Tabruk and Ain Athum (this page). Hidden within well wooded hillsides, these seasonal springs are at either end of a very attractive valley and during the Khareef the open grasslands in the valley's centre are ideal for picnics.

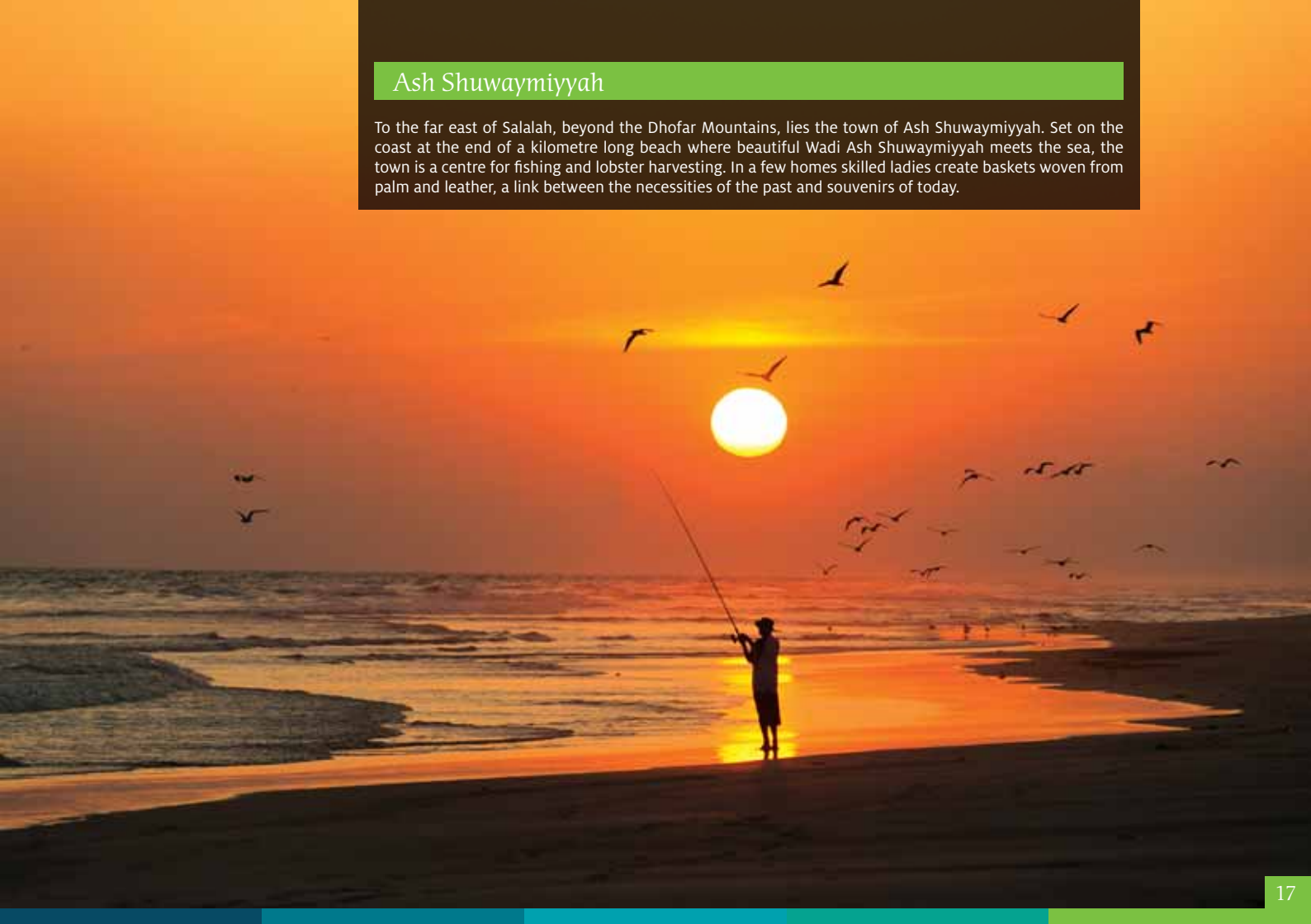


Wadi Darbat

The most unexpected site in Dhofar is Wadi Darbat. The wadi is secreted in the mountains overlooking the site of Khor Rori, just after Taqah on the coast. At its southern end a natural Tufa dam described by mid 19th century travellers as 'one of the most stupendous natural phenomena we have ever seen' allows views over wide areas of the coast. Within the wadi are a ribbon of small lakes overlooked by undulating hillsides. During the Khareef the water is replenished and some may remain throughout the year. The grasslands formed during the Khareef offer grazing for camels, cows, goats and donkeys, as well as a spacious picnic area for visitors.

Ash Shuwaymiyyah

To the far east of Salalah, beyond the Dhofar Mountains, lies the town of Ash Shuwaymiyyah. Set on the coast at the end of a kilometre long beach where beautiful Wadi Ash Shuwaymiyyah meets the sea, the town is a centre for fishing and lobster harvesting. In a few homes skilled ladies create baskets woven from palm and leather, a link between the necessities of the past and souvenirs of today.





Birds in The Governorate of Dhofar

Though usually associated with the Afrotropic region The Governorate of Dhofar's avifauna receives migrants from the Palearctic and an increasing number from the Indomalaya region. To the north of the Dhofar Mountains isolated areas of vegetation provide critical places of recuperation for migrants like Hume's Leaf Warbler, while the more fertile mountains and valleys host not only migrants such as White Stork but permanent residents including the Rüppell's Weaver and Grey-headed Kingfisher. The coast line has innumerable seabirds and waders, including Socotra Cormorant and Greater Flamingo.





Governorate of Dhofar land mammals

Throughout the Governorate of Dhofar land mammals inhabit the mountains and coastal plains, where they enjoy protection from hunting under Oman's law. The most iconic is the Arabian Leopard, one of the smallest Leopard species and these mountains are critical to its survival. The Arabian Gazelle can most readily be seen in the valleys either side of the main mountain ranges. In these valleys Rock Hyrax are also found, while in remoter areas Striped Hyaena, Nubian Ibex and Arabian Wolf live.

Dhofar mountains

The Dhofar Mountains are by far the major natural feature in the Governorate of Dhofar. They extend from the farthest west of the region near Dalkut to Ash Shuwaymiyyah in the east. Each of the three main ranges has a unique appearance, which helps create added interest for those visitors who wish to explore them. The thousand meter high cliffs of Jabal Al Qamar (The Moon Mountains), which face the Arabian Sea in the west, catch the moisture from clouds formed during the Khareef (Monsoon) season from June to September, creating the 'cloud forest', which develops a green blanket of vegetation on those slopes which drop towards the sea.

The central arc of the Dhofar Mountains is known as Jabal Al Qara. The slopes of these undulating hills are covered by the 'cloud forest', while the plateau is an extensive seasonal grassland. Between the Arabian Sea and these mountains the coastal plain enables animal pastoralists to bring their animals away from the cloud during the Khareef season. The wadis throughout Jebel Qara offer walks to enjoy the splendid scenery and nature. Extending east beyond Mirbat is Jebel Samhan (these pages) whose kilometer high escarpment overlooks the rugged coastal plain below.







Mugsayl Beach

Probably the most famous attraction of The Governorate of Dhofar are the 'blow holes' at Mugsayl to the west of Salalah. Small holes in the rock just above the sea allow a forceful fountain of sea water to explode into the air during times when the sea is slightly rough. The sound as the air and sea water rush upwards is almost as if an angry sea monster would appear rather than a dramatic cascade of water. Overlooking the blow holes, Al Marnif Cave provides a sheltered place to relax and enjoy the views and sea breeze. Mugsayl Beach's soft white sand stretches for six uninterrupted kilometres and its small picturesque shelters allow families to picnic and relax overlooking the sea. The Mugsayl area also has some of the most accessible frankincense trees of the region and when they flower honeybees produce frankincense honey.

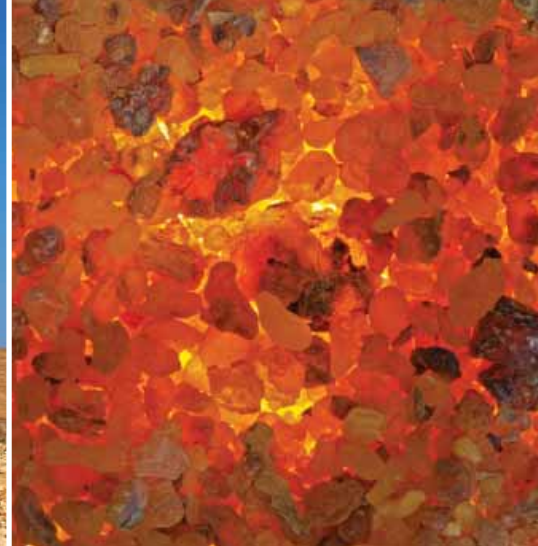
Frankincense Trail



Frankincense

Legendary yet familiar; for thousands of years Frankincense has played a part in the culture not only of Oman but in areas as far apart as ancient Rome and China. A skillful cut takes a sliver of bark away from the branch of a Frankincense tree and the white sap flows to become sought after pearls of Frankincense resin. The sight of Frankincense resin heating on smouldering charcoal as its pale grey smoke curls into the air leaving a trail of perfume wherever it reaches is a daily sight in households throughout Oman.

Frankincense adds its tell-tale scent to the products of the Omani perfume house Amouage, enabling a wider audience to enjoy its fragrance. For those who wish to treat themselves to a unique taste of history, it is possible to purchase Frankincense ice cream and Frankincense honey from the souqs of Salalah.



Shopping



Shopping

Enjoy a mix of international shopping style with the unexpected discovery of local specialities during your stay in Salalah. Next to Al Husn Palace, the souq often called the 'perfume souq' for good reason, has a vast offering of Frankincense and the powdered incense called Bakhoor that is available in an extraordinary range of fragrances. North from here, just next to As Salam Street, is the Gold Souq, where you can not only buy gold but also traditional silver. If you have a few days in Salalah why not ask the craftsmen to create your own unique jewellery. As Salam Street stretches for four kilometres through Salalah city centre. To the west of An Nahdha Street, are numerous unique shops catering to ladies, while to the east the selection is more general. Ar Rubat Street, which is to the south of Salalah Airport, has shopping malls that include familiar names the world over, like Body Shop, McDonalds and Carrefour, as well as major Gulf stores such as Lulu Hypermarket and Babyshop.



Accomodation



Accommodation

Salalah, the principal city of the Governorate of Dhofar, has accommodation to suit most visitor requirements. Along the coast, like a string of pearls, are a number of fine beach front 5-star hotels. For families who prefer larger accommodation several specialised companies can offer furnished villas and apartments to suit most requirements. Restaurants include international style dining in the major hotels, while most areas of Salalah offer a range of cuisine including Omani, Chinese and Turkish. The Governorate of Dhofar's other towns offer a simpler choice, ideal for those exploring this region and small road side cafes offer freshly cooked meat meals made in the local style. For visitors looking for more familiar brands visit Salalah's main shopping areas and malls.





Hotels

Salalah's fine beach front hotels are well spaced along the coastline to allow guests to enjoy their superb facilities including the soft white sand beaches. They include international brands and Omani luxury boutique hotels. The restaurants in the beach front hotels welcome people who only wish to enjoy dining the hotel. Enjoy fine food and welcoming service when you visit Salalah.



Events



Salalah Tourism Festival

The Governorate of Dhofar hosts activities in its various towns throughout the year, from camel racing in Thumrait to a family fair in Taqah. However by far the largest event is the Salalah Tourism Festival which takes place during the Khareef and usually has its peak during August. With a tremendous variety of activities spread throughout the city, the festival makes it difficult not to be caught up in the event. Cultural and folklore shows take place in several locations in Salalah featuring Omani and foreign artists, allowing even those casually interested to enjoy special performances from around the world. Shopping events draw into Salalah traders from a large number of countries offering produces not usually available in Salalah. For book lovers there is usually at least one major book fair which offers a vast variety of books both factual and academic and fiction. The key location for the Salalah Tourism Festival is the Al Murooj Amphitheatre set on the road to Atin, just south of the Salalah bypass. Events as diverse as Arabic poetry reading and concerts by major international Arab singers are the highlight of each year's festival.



Activities



Activities

From simply relaxing on your favourite beach to enjoying the exhilarating thrill of game fishing, the Governorate of Dhofar offers a wide range of activities. With such superb mountains there are many attractive walks available. Hidden valleys offer delightful areas to explore while the escarpments and slopes provide panoramic views of the Arabian Sea. Game fishing in the Arabian sea is an exhilarating sport, the fish are large and energetic. Enjoy a more relaxing way to enjoy the fish, below the waters, while scuba diving during the winter months.



True Exploring Style

Close to the centre of the city of Salalah are horse stables where you can enjoy a ride in either a simple paddock or along an extensive beach. If you want to ride a Camel, head out with a guide and try your hand piloting the 'ship of the desert' in true exploring style. There are tour operators who can organize 4X4 excursions into the Rub Al Khali either during a single day or as a chance to camp under the stars.

Enjoy your stay.

Hotels & Restaurants

Hilton Salah Hotel
 Crown Plaza Salah Hotel
 Marriot Resort - Salah Beach
 Haffa House Hotel
 Hamdan Plaza Hotel
 Juweira Hotel
 Samahrem Village for Hotel Apartment
 Dhofar Hotel
 Salah Hotel
 Al Hana Hotel
 AL Jabal Hotel
 Youth Hostel - Areen Sahnoot
 Darbat Hotel
 Abraj Hotel Apartment
 Al Nasir Hotel
 Al Hana Hotel Ateen
 Al Mazyuna Hotel
 Bamseer Hotel
 Thamrit Hotel
 As Saada Hotel Apartment
 Beach Resort for Hotel Apartment
 Qatbit Guest House
 Dar As Saada Hotel Apartment
 Nile Hotel
 Bait Al hana for Hotel Apartment
 Gulf Complex hostel
 As Saada Plaza Hotel Apartment

Main Restaurants

Kebab & Curry Restaurant
 Chinese Restaurant
 Chinese Restaurant
 Waterfall Chinese Restaurant
 Silver Jewel Restaurant
 Mazaya of Salah Restaurant
 Hassan bin Thabit Restaurant
 Park and Beach Restaurant

	Tel
+968	23211234
+968	23238000
+968	23268245
+968	23295444
+968	23211025
+968	23239600
+968	23211420
+968	23290484
+968	23295626
+968	23290274
+968	23210611
+968	23234810
+968	23295877
+968	23295009
+968	23294815
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+968	23291005
+968	23292686
+968	23225451
+968	23201350
+968	23291400
+968	23225133
+968	23289844
+968	23294401
+968	92180323
+968	23291010
+968	23236288

Ba'Albek Lebanese Restaurant
 Waterfall Restaurant
 Sham Palace Restaurant and Cafe
 Topaz Restaurant
 Turkish Land Restaurant
 Expert Shami Restaurant
 Irani Radhwan Restaurant
 Jerash Restaurant
 (Yemeni food) Mukalla Creek Restaurant

Omani Food Restaurants

Bin Ateeq Restaurant
 Bin Ateeq Restaurant
 Bin Ateeq Restaurant
 Bin Ateeq Restaurant
 Al-Sahala Restaurant
Restaurants / Snack Food
 Lebanese House Restaurant
 Chicking Chicken
 Penguin Restaurant
 Italian Pizza
 Abu Zachary Restaurant
 Abu Zachary Restaurant
 Abu Zachary Restaurant
 Lilac Flower Restaurant

Coffee Shops

Brownies Coffee House
 Paris Cafe
 Sport Cafe
 Maestro Cafe
 Ateena Cafe
 Venice Cafe
 Moon Cafe
 Cinnamon Cafe
 Cave Ateen cafe
 Bon Cafe

	Tel
+968	23298834
+968	23288233
+968	23211222
+968	23297100
+968	23227288
+968	22028004
+968	23288836
+968	92400620
+968	99589392
+968	23292384
+968	23225652
+968	23290232
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+968	23299118
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+968	23299972
+968	23291666
+968	23295330
+968	23236264
+968	23225434
+968	23210506
+968	23225105
+968	23297575
+968	23202293
+968	94001515
+968	96660007
+968	98141067
+968	99088407
+968	23201169
+968	23290030
+968	98186065
+968	23050393

Tour Operator's

	Tel
Majan Intl Travel Agency & Tourism	+968 23292184
Fahad Express Travel & Tourism	+968 23291467
United Travels	+968 23297948
Mezoon Intl Travel & Tourism	+968 23297846
Zahara Travels	+968 23213290
Majan Wings Travels	+968 23292183
Universal Travel Agencies	+968 23299350
Al Madina Travels	+968 23299615
NTT Travels & Tourism	+968 23295016
Haditha Travels & Tourism	+968 23296246
House of Travel	+968 23297796
Dubai Travels	+968 23289299
Thabit Travel & Tourism	+968 23290990
Sur Travels	+968 99494269
Akbar Travels	+968 23202527
Al Majal Travel & Tourism	+968 23297838
Al Manal Travel & Tourism	+968 23294991
Hamdan Travel & Tourism	+968 23295011
AlHaq Travels	+968 23292722
Rool Wataniya Travel & Tourism	+968 23297312
Tilal International Travel	+968 23291325
Al Fawaz Travel	+968 23294324
Saba Travel & Tourism	+968 23289353
Arab beach Travel & Tourism	+968 23298072
International Travel & Tourism	+968 23299244
Qasim Travel & Tourism	+968 23297984
Dream Adventour Travel	+968 95036232
Silk Route Tourism	+968 23288798
Hormoz Travel & Tourism	+968 23298153
Mark Tours	+968 23210499
Tour Oman/Travel City/Travel Point	+968 23299615

Royal Oman Police (ROP)

	Tel
Dhofar Governorate Police, HQ	+968 23234599
Salalah Police Division	+968 23290099
Taqah Police Station	+968 23258199
Mirbat Police Station	+968 23268099
Sadah Police Station	+968 23277099
Wadi Hareet Police Station	+968 99489941
Tawi Ateer Police Station	+968 99489940
Ghado Police Station	+968 99489942
Raysut Police Station	+968 23219199
Arzat Police Station	+968 23235025
Thamrait Police Division	+968 23277099
Marmoul Police Station	+968 24386222
Al-Mazyona Police Station	+968 23263877
Sarfait Police Station	+968 23264045
Passports & Residence, Al Mazyona	+968 23263875
Civil Defence, Salalah	+968 23290077
Civil Defence, Taqah	+968 23258077
Salalah Airport Security	+968 23204272
Customs Department, Salalah Port	+968 23219045
Customs Department, Salalah Airport	+968 23204278
Sarfait Police Station	+968 23264006
Directorate of Traffic, Dhofar	+968 23211900

Hospitals and Medical Centres

Salalah Region

Sultan Qaboos Hospital	+968 23216100
Salalah Health Center	+968 23216721
New Salalah Health Center	+968 23291747
Awqad Health Center	+968 23211685
Saada Health Center	+968 23225613
Dahreez Health Center	+968 23236145
North Salalah Health Center	+968 23289139
Qiroon Hirti Health Center	+968 23255022
Titam Health Center	+968 23281505
Hajeef Health Center	+968 23282202

Taqah Region

Taqah Hospital	+968 23258041
Madinah Haq Hospital	+968 23282442
Jbhat Health Center	+968 23283344

Mirbat Region

Mirbat Hospital	+968 23268095
Tiwi Ateer Hospital	+968 23283773

Sadah Region

Sadah Hospital	+968 23277016
Hasik Health Center	+968 23284947
Hadbin Health Center	+968 23284647
Soob Health Center	+968 23284244

Thumrait Region

Thumrait Health Center	+968 23279266
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Shaleem Region

Shaleem Health Center	+968 23200233
Cherbthat Health Center	+968 23200933
Shuwaymiya Health Center	+968 23200533

Mazyuna Region

Mazyuna Health Center	+968 23271345
Rakhut Hospital	+968 23200006
Shahab Asib Health Center	+968 23287227

Dhalkut Region

Dhalkut Health Center	+968 23286006
Khadrafi Health Center	+968 23286677

محافظة ظفار Governorate of Dhofar

هذا الرسم التخطيطي ليس حسب مقياس الرسم
This diagram is not to scale

- التيه أبويب Prophet Jab (Al-Nah Ayub)
- البلد Al Balad
- خور روري Khor Rori
- وادي دواكح Wadi Dawkha
- ميناء صلالة Salalah Port
- مطار صلالة Salalah Airport

هذا الرسم التخطيطي ليس
مخططاً على الحدود الدولية
This diagram is not an authority
on international borders





Ministry of Tourism

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