



Marhaba to the Governorate of North Al Batinah

Beauty has an address-Oman



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), frankincense smoke (top left) and mountains (centre). These images were then developed into the calligraphic Arabic word “Oman”. Choosing a palette of colours enabled the emphasis of the everyday scenes that make Oman unique. Here our range of colours highlight the leisure that can be enjoyed in Oman; Salalah's khareef, Oman's seas and the purple that envelops 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 country.

Contents

Ministry of Tourism's message	2
Governorate of North Al Batinah	4
Sohar Gate	5
Forts and Castles	6
Natural Places	13
Villages and Parks	21
Souqs	26
Folk Dance	29
Activities	30
Accommodation (Hotels)	30
Contact info	31
Tourism Guidelines	33
Tourism's International Representative Offices	35
North Al Batinah map	37



Governorate of North Al Batinah

North Al Batinah Governorate is a region of surprising contrast with kilometre after kilometre of soft sandy beaches, overlooked in the distance by Oman's great mountain chain as it extends towards the north.

Explore this region and enjoy the peace and quiet as you visit its charming fortifications and open mountain roads.



Sohar Gate

The main road between Saham and Sohar passes through one of Sohar's modern monuments, the Sohar Gate. Built in 2003, this creates a formal entrance into the town from the south. With modern lighting, it is especially attractive when viewed from dusk.

Forts and Castles



Sohar Fort

Sohar Fort is just a few meters from the sea in Sohar's town centre. Though an older fortification may have sat near this site, today's fort is believed to have been built by the Princes of the Kingdom of Hormuz in the late 13th century.

Part of the construction material for the fort is kiln also fired bricks (unusual in Oman) which has been used in Sohar for other buildings. Today's fort, with its 6 towers, is one of Sohar's key historic structures, providing an insight into the town's long history.





Shinas Castle

The most northerly castle on Oman's Batina Coast, Shinas Castle is less than 700 meters southwest of the town's modern ferry port.

Previously, the fort was located directly on the beach and as a result suffer occasional ineffective bombardment by passing naval ships. Today, the 4 round corner towers overlook a more peaceful scene as the ferries make their way north to Musandam.

Shinas Castle is open from Sunday – Thursday from: 07:30am – 14:30pm and Admission fees apply.



Liwa Castle

The spacious, elegant castle at Liwa is just 1,500 meters east of the Liwa roundabout on the main Batina highway.

Despite the elegance of its interiors with polylobate arches and glistening wood doors, this castle is clearly a military stronghold.

Five substantial gun towers and the central citadel would offer any force advancing over the surrounding plain a formidable structure to overcome.

Liwa Castle is open from Sunday – Thursday from: 07:30am – 14:30pm and Admission fees apply.



Fazz Castle

Tucked in the depths of Fazz village, some 13 kilometres by road west of the Liwa Roundabout, Fazz Castle is a surprising elaborate decorated fortified home.

Built in the late 17th century, the 3 floors included storage on the ground floor with reception rooms and living accommodation on the upper 2 floors.

Local legend tells of an 8 kilometre tunnel from the castle to the village of Dabayn in the west.

Fazz Castle is open from Sunday – Thursday from: 07:30am – 14:30pm and Admission fees apply.



Saham Castle

Saham Castle overlooks the Sea of Oman on the north end of the corniche sea road in Saham.

One of the last major castles to be built in Oman, the castle dates from the mid 20th century, having been built by Sayyid Shihab bin Faisal Al Said, the castle is one of the town's classic 'surs', a fortified walled compound to protect a town's inhabitants during periods of unrest.

Saham Castle is open from Sunday – Thursday from: 07:30am – 14:30pm and Admission fees apply.





Al Khabourah Castle

Just 2 kilometres northeast from Al Khabourah roundabout on the main Al Batina highway is Al Khabourah Castle.

The entrance faces the sea, and opens onto a spacious courtyard, with a number of storage rooms to the left and general accommodation to the right.

With its proximity to the sea, a walk along the parapet gives excellent views of both town and sea.

Al Khabourah Castle is open from Sunday – Thursday from: 07:30am – 14:30pm and admission fees apply.

Natural Places





The Fort and wadi of Hibi

Wadi Hibi, just under 80 kilometers south-west of Sohar, is an area of rugged mountains with small date oasis scattered throughout. In the center of the valley is the village of Hibi and its substantial castle. Built around 2 spacious courtyards with 5 canon towers, the castle was the main fortification for the numerous small settlements connected to Wadi Hibi.



Wadi Al Jizzi

Connecting the Al Batina coast with the city of Al Buraimi, Wadi Al Jizzi is one of northern Oman's traditional mountain passes. Famous as a center of Oman's pre-historic copper production, today the valley is well known for its geological formations associated with copper bearing ores. Just under 35 kilometers south-west of the main junction on the Sohar-Buraimi Road is the 'Pillow Lava', outcrop which overlooks the old road just east of the village of Suhaylah. This remarkable rock formation bubbled up deep under the ocean some 95 million years ago; the rare sight of this feature exposed on land, enables viewers to step back in time as they enjoy the unusual scene.

Wadi Al-Hawasnah

Wadi Al-Hawasnah is the principal route between the town of Al-Khabourah on the coast and Ibbri in the western Ad Dhahira Governorate.

The route is full of surprises, from ancient stone built forts to pools of water lined with scattered pink Oleander. Overlooking these are the mountains of Ophiolite rock, whose jagged crests create memorable images.





Mangrove trees

Spreading along the coast for almost 2 kilometers south of Shina port is an area of Mangrove trees.

These trees and the surrounding mud flats are an excellent location for bird watching. Sightings should include lesser crested tern, great stone plover and, if you are very fortunate, a White collared kingfisher.



Wadi Bani Omar

Taking the turn to Furfar, about 35 kilometers south by road from Al Khabourah, will bring you into the rugged landscape of Wadi bani Omar. Many of the small villages and ancient ruins in this area are found by exploring the rough tracks that take you away from the tarmac roads. Look for ancient stone built forts and isolated watchtowers.

Wadi Zeheimi

Travelling by 4WD for some 40 kilometers west of Liwa, past Fazah, will take you into the twisting Wadi A' Zeheimi. Scattered agricultural villages make use of the fertile soil and carefully used water to grow date palms and other valuable crops. Possibly the most unusual tree growing here is a baobab tree which is most usually associated with Africa but here, less than 300 meters north of A' Zeheimi village, is a single tree set just on the edge of the wadi.





Wadi Al Jihawer

Wadi Al-Jihawer and its principal town Al Hailain are set some 50 kilometers south west of Al Suwaiq. The town of Al Hailain, with its tightly packed housing, is a prelude to the wadi just south of the village.

Here, after a walk of just over a kilometer is a string of some of Oman's white water filled pools. Some of these pools are lined with a precipitate of white carbonate, creating a nice contrast with the dark brown rock and blue sky.

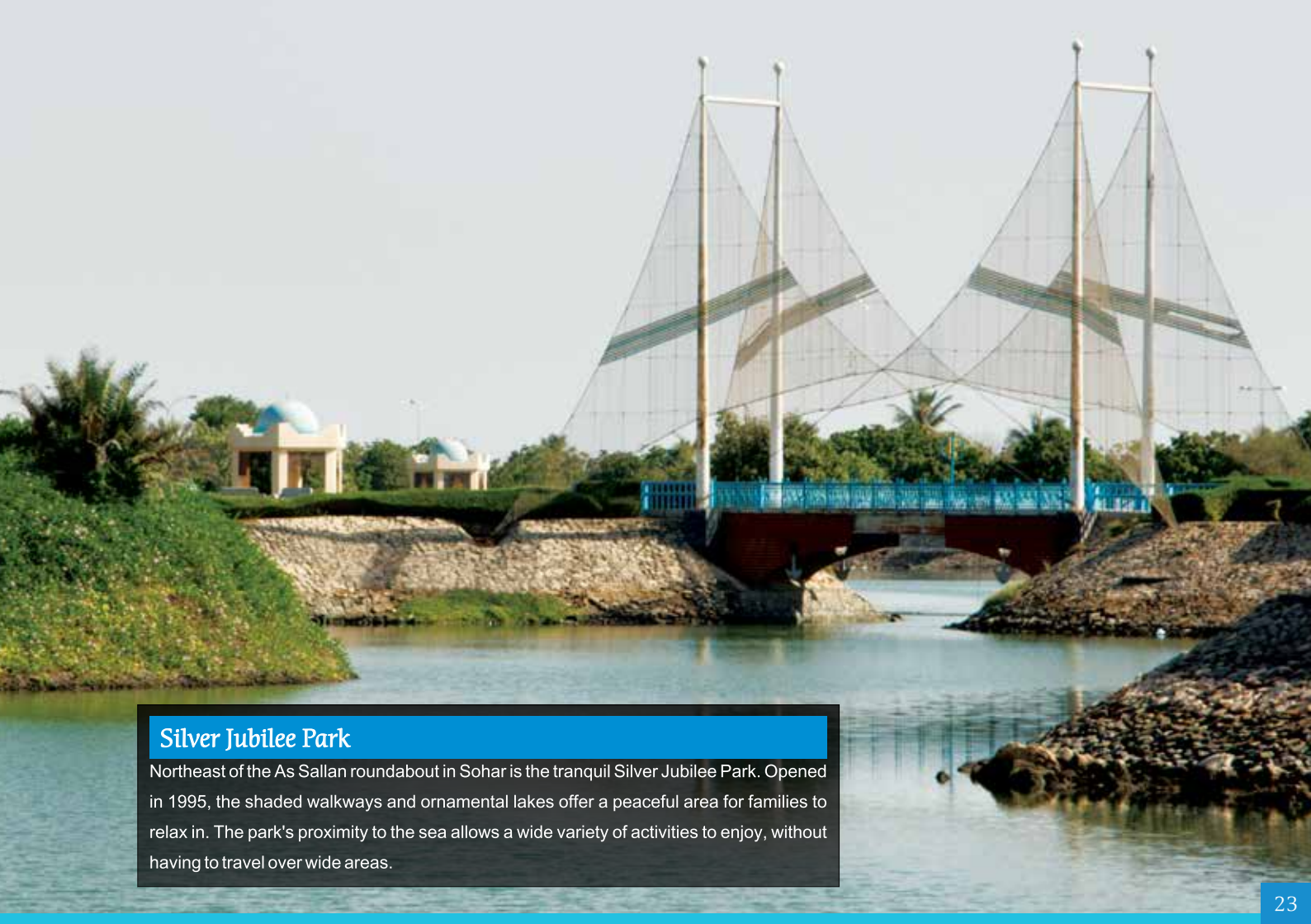
Villages and Parks





Al Gathayfh Village

Just over 50 kilometers southwest of Sohar along the Sohar-YanqI road is the village of Al Gathayfh, set on a loop in Wadi Ahin. The luxuriant date oasis spreads for some 3 kilometers along the west of the wadi, which usually has pools of water and several shaded natural picnic spots to relax in.



Silver Jubilee Park

Northeast of the As Sallan roundabout in Sohar is the tranquil Silver Jubilee Park. Opened in 1995, the shaded walkways and ornamental lakes offer a peaceful area for families to relax in. The park's proximity to the sea allows a wide variety of activities to enjoy, without having to travel over wide areas.



Sohar Park

Between Mashal an Nur Street and Sohar Sports Complex is the delightful combination of Sohar Park and a children's amusement park. With flashing lights and rides for all ages, the amusement park comes alive after dark, with the sound of laughter.

The park however is open at any time and with its quite atmosphere is ideal for families to enjoy the traditional slides or have a picnic.



Al Bahri Road

Between Sohar Fort and the fishing harbour is the Al Bahri Road, which overlooks the glittering waters of the Sea of Oman. This is a very interesting route to walk along, as it is elevated well above ground level. Along its route are views of Sultan Qaboos Mosque, and Sohar Fort. After walking past a residential area with a number of fishing boats drawn up away from the sea, this walk of less than 3 kilometers ends at the fishing harbour and a charming public park.

Souqs

بوابة القلعة



Sohar Souq

Overlooking the Sea of Oman, less than 300 meters north of Sohar Fort, is the newly redeveloped Sohar Souq. With classic arabesque decorative styling and a cool interior, this is a delightful location to visit on any trip to Sohar. A wide variety of retail shops is complimented by coffee shops on both the ground and upper floor.



Al Qalaa Souq

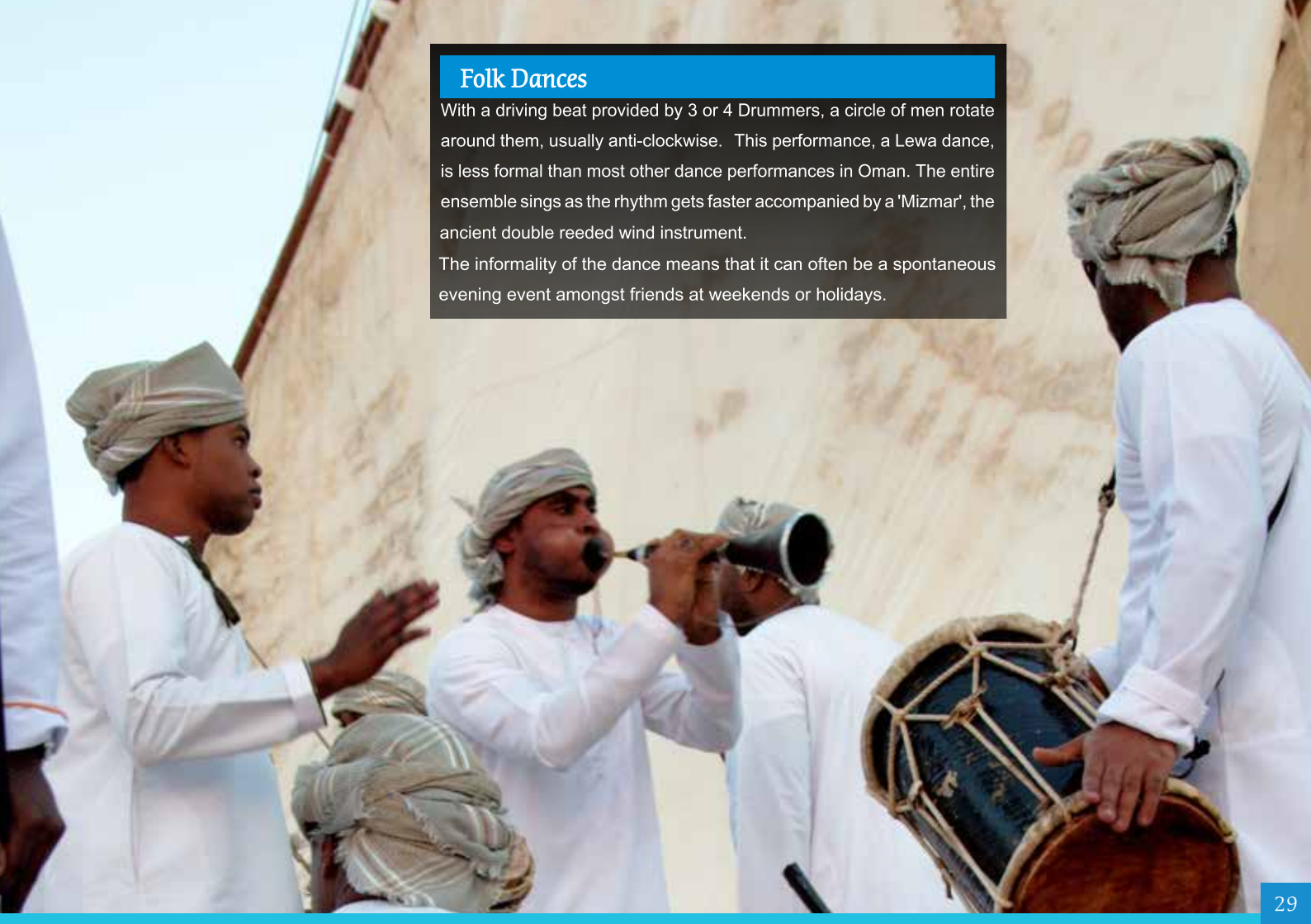
A few hundred meters south west of Sohar Fort is Al Qala'a Market for commercial and traditional handicrafts. Here, the artisans who create some of Oman traditional products can be found, often in the process of hand making a new item. Enjoy the sight of baskets being made from palm leaves and silver being twisted into shape, while still hot, as one of Oman's iconic Khanjars is brought to life.



Folk Dances

With a driving beat provided by 3 or 4 Drummers, a circle of men rotate around them, usually anti-clockwise. This performance, a Lewa dance, is less formal than most other dance performances in Oman. The entire ensemble sings as the rhythm gets faster accompanied by a 'Mizmar', the ancient double reeded wind instrument.

The informality of the dance means that it can often be a spontaneous evening event amongst friends at weekends or holidays.





(Hotels)Accommodation

Stay in North Al Batinah Governorate for more time to explore the local attractions. Small comfortable hotels located in the center of the city encourage you to walk and explore.

If you wish to relax, then larger hotels either in the city or in rural surroundings will give you a chance to enjoy their landscaped gardens.



North of Al Batinah Contacts Info

(ROP) Royal Oman Police

North of Al Batinah	Al Batinah Police Headquarters	+968 26840096
North of Al Batinah	Al Aswad Police Post Shinas	+968 26849599
North of Al Batinah	Al Khaburah Police Station	+968 24805099
North of Al Batinah	Al Wajajah Police Station	+968 26849911
North of Al Batinah	Khatmat Milaha Police Station	+968 26849413
North of Al Batinah	Majan Police Post	+968 25669417
North of Al Batinah	Saham Police Station	+968 26854099
North of Al Batinah	Shinas Coast Guard Post	+968 26847141
North of Al Batinah	Sohar Police Station	+968 26840099

Hospitals and Medical Centrters

North of Al Batinah	Abu Baqara	Abu Baqara Health Centre	+968 26724056	Sohar	Al Amal Medical & Health Centre	+968 99027300
North of Al Batinah	Al Khaburah	Al Khaburah Polyclinic	+968 26805799	Sohar	Al Hayat Hospital	+968 22004000
North of Al Batinah	Al Khaburah	Muscat Pharmacy	+968 26802356	Sohar	Al Hayat Polyclinic	+968 26845104
North of Al Batinah	Al Khadhra	Al Khadhra Health Centre	+968 26713009	Sohar	Al Raffah Hospital	+968 26704639
North of Al Batinah	Al Multaqa	Al Multaqa Health Centre	+968 26866051	Sohar	Al Wafi Medical Clinic	+968 26842465
North of Al Batinah	Al Suwaiq	Al Suwaiq Polyclinic	+968 26860055	Sohar	Badr Al Sama Polyclinic	+968 26846660
North of Al Batinah	Al Uwainat	Al Uwainat Health Centre	+968 26721362	Sohar	Hatat Polyclinic Sohar	+968 26853306
North of Al Batinah	Hafeet	Hafeet Health Centre	+968 26817903	Sohar	Lama Polyclinic	+968 26751128
North of Al Batinah	Liwa	Al Rafa Medical Centre	+968 26762283	Sohar	Muscat Pharmacy	+968 26840211/24hours
North of Al Batinah	Liwa	Muscat Pharmacy	+968 26762622	Sohar	Scientific Pharmacy	+968 26841174
North of Al Batinah	Liwa	Liwa Health Centre	+968 26762055	Sohar	Scientific Pharmacy	+968 26845798
North of Al Batinah	Saham	Al Rafa Medical Centre	+968 92333032	Sohar	Sohar Hospital	+968 26840399
North of Al Batinah	Saham	Muscat Pharmacy	+968 26854158	Sohar	Badr Al Samaa Hospitals Sohar Branch	+968 26848767
North of Al Batinah	Saham	Saham Hospital	+968 26855148	Sohar	Hatat Polyclinic	+968 26853007
North of Al Batinah	Saham	Scientific Pharmacy	+968 26854302	Wadi Ahin	Wadi Ahin Health Centre	+968 92109320
North of Al Batinah	Saham	Saham Polyclinic	+968 26854427	Wadi Al Jihawer	Wadi Al Jihawer Health Centre	+968 26890055
North of Al Batinah	Shinas	Al Rafa Medical Centre	+968 26704300	Wadi Bani Omar	Wadi Bani Omar Health Centre	+968 26791222
North of Al Batinah	Shinas	Shinas Polyclinic	+968 26747055	Wadi Hibi	Wadi Hibi Hospital	+968 26848818

South of Al Batinah Contacts Info

Hotels and Tour Operator`s

North of Al Batinah	Al Khabourah	Al Khaborah Hotel	+968 26802800
North of Al Batinah	Al Suwaiq	As Suwaiq Guest House	+968 26862241
North of Al Batinah	Al Suwaiq	Muscat Hotel Apartment	+968 26860032
North of Al Batinah	Liwa	Al Anas Hotel Apartment	+968 26762717
North of Al Batinah	Sohar	Crown Plaza Hotel	+968 26850850
North of Al Batinah	Sohar	Al Mawasim Hotel Apartment	+968 26750933
North of Al Batinah	Sohar	Al Thuraya Hotel Apartment	+968 26750116
North of Al Batinah	Sohar	Al Wadi Hotel	+968 26840058
North of Al Batinah	Sohar	Al-Multaqa Hotel	+968 22009478
North of Al Batinah	Sohar	Atlas Hotel Apartment	+968 26853009
North of Al Batinah	Sohar	Butterfly Apartment	+968 26844531
North of Al Batinah	Sohar	Green Oasis Hotel	+968 26846442
North of Al Batinah	Sohar	Mabahij Ghernatah Apartment	+968 26844540
North of Al Batinah	Sohar	Manam Sohar Hotel Apartment	+968 94054333
North of Al Batinah	Sohar	Royal Garden Hotel	+968 26755888
North of Al Batinah	Sohar	Sadaf Hotel Apartment	+968 26841416
North of Al Batinah	Sohar	Sohar Beach Hotel	+968 26841111
North of Al Batinah	Sohar	Traveller Oasis hotel Apartment	+968 26751788
North of Al Batinah	Sohar	Sohar Tour	+968 25362541
North of Al Batinah	Barka	Al Sawadi Euro Divers	+968 95057317
North of Al Batinah	Musanah	Golden Oryx Millenium Hotel	+968 26871555

Dear Visitor:

In order to make your visit to Oman a perfect and unforgettable experience, we kindly ask that you observe the following guidelines closely.

General Guidelines

- Please observe the social customs of the Omani society and dress decently.
- Do not make any noise and keep music volume to a minimum when passing through the popular neighborhoods or residential areas.
- Do not photograph people when entering private properties without obtaining prior permission.
- Keep your environment clean. Dispose of litter or garbage in the designated dustbins.
- Make sure that your tour guide holds a valid license from the Ministry of Tourism.

When you visit any village, please:

- Protect the flora and fauna. Don't pick any fruits or vegetables as they are private property and a source of income for the locals.
- The Falaj system is the main source for drinking and irrigation water. Do not pollute it in any way.
- Stick to the specified trails at any tourist destination that you visit.
- Don't park or stop your vehicle in any place other than the designated parking space.

Cruises:

- Deal only with tourist boats licensed to do so, as they are equipped with the safety equipments prescribed by the law.

Visiting the Desert:

- Use a specialized tour guide. It's preferable to make the journey in more than one vehicle and to have GPS devices, along with the necessary safety means and equipments.
- Visiting hours for forts are subject to change.

Off-Road Travel:

- Use only 4WD vehicles and make sure you have adequate water, food, fuel and spare tyres. Check your 4WD system for proper functioning. Inform a close friend of your destination and the expected date of your return.
- Don't camp in the Wadi beds. Flash floods can occur occasionally.

Trekking:






- When trekking in the mountain trails, choose suitable shoes and make sure you have enough food and water. Don't trek alone, and make sure you know about the roughness and length of such tracks beforehand.

General Instructions to visitors of handicrafts showrooms:

- 1- Don't touch or move any of the artifacts on display to avoid any damage.
- 2- Photography is allowed but without touching the exhibited items.
- 3- Don't leave children unattended and make sure they don't touch or move the displayed potteries so as not to be broken.
- 4- Do not dispose of litter or garbage inside the exhibited items.
- 5- The site is equipped with surveillance system to ensure the safety of the collection and to prevent theft.
- 6- Don't write, draw or put any stickers on the exhibited items.
- 7- While roaming, be careful not to hit any of the artifacts on display.
- 8- Use the proper shoes when you visit any archeological sites and avoid any wooden or tapered heel shoes that may cause erosion or damage to such sites.
- 9- Don't touch or take away any stones from the archeological sites.

Tourism`s International Representative Offices

Oman Tourism Office India Ms. Lubaina Sheerazi Blue Square Consultants

 4A, Readymoney Terrace, 3rd Floor, 167 Dr. Annie Besant Road, Worli, Mumbai 400 018. India.
 Tel:+91 2229256965
 Fax:+91 22 66151122
 @ lubaina.sheerazi@bluesquareconsultants.com info@tourismoman.co.in
 www.omantourism.gov.om






Oman Tourism Office GCC Countries Mr. Awadh Al Ketbi, Mr. Gamal Sadek Al Ketbi consultancy

 P.o.box 73477, Dubai UAE
 Tel:+ 971 4 446 7509
 Fax:+ 971 4 427 9731
 @ gamal@alketbigroup.com_info@alketbigroup.com
 www.alketbigroup.com





Oman Tourism Office France & Swiss Romande Embassy of Oman – France Rania KHODR Office de Tourisme du Sultanat d'Oman Ambassade du Sultanat d'Oman – France

 90 rue de Courcelles 75008 Paris – France
 Tel :+ 33 1 47 20 56 06
 Fax :+ 33 1 47 20 55 80
 @ r.khodr@omantourisme.com info@omantourisme.com
 www.omantourisme.com




Oman Tourism Office Benelux – Belgium / Luxemburg Birgit Defoort, Beatrice Mondelaers, Glenaki

 Geerwijnstraat 12, 8000 Brugge, Belgium
 Tel:+32 50 61 42 00
 Fax:+32 50 61 42 12
 @ birgit@glenaki.com-beatrice@glenaki.com
 www.glenaki.be

Oman Tourism PR Agency – Italy Paola Cerri | Account Director | AIGO | Milan - Prague

 tel +39 02669927.210 | fax +39 026692648
 www.aigo.eu
 Piazza Caiazzo 3 | 20124 Milan | Italy
 @ Email : p.cerri@aigo.it

Massimo Tochetti

 tel +39 02669927.204 | fax +39 0266926481
 @ Email: m.tocchetti@aigo.it
 Piazza Caiazzo 3 | 20124 Milan | Italy

Oman Tourism Office German Speaking Countries Karin Zwiers, Ralf Schepers, Interface International GmbH






 Karl-Marx-Allee 91a, 10243 Berlin, Germany
 Te:+49 (0)30 42088012
 Fax:+49 (0)30 4225 6286
 @ k.zwiers@interface-net.de r.schepers@interface-net.de
info@omantourism.de
 www.omantourism.de; www.sultanetoman.com

Oman Tourism Office Benelux – Netherlands Karin Visser Aviareps Tourism

 Beechavenue 104, 1119 PP Schiphol-Rijk, Netherlands
 Tel:+31 20 654 15 65
 Fax:+31 20 623 01 51
 @ MLeeuwen@aviareps.com
KVisser@aviareps.com infonl@aviareps.com
 www.aviarepstourism.nl

Tourism`s International Representative Offices





Oman Tourism Office- Australia and New Zeland Jacqui Walshe and Mona Tannous The Walshe Group

 Level 6, 117 York Street Sydney NSW 2000 Australia
 Tel:+61 2 9286 8930
 Fax:+61 2 9266 0815
 mona@tourismoman.com.au jacqui.walshe@southerntravel.com.au
info@tourismoman.com.au
 www.tourismoman.com.au






Mohamed Elganzoury Country Manager - Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Sultanate of Oman Ministry of Tourism

 P.O BOX 226545 Riyadh 11324 ,Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
 M: +966531197126
 T: +966 1 4665064
 F: +966 1 4660569
 ganzoury@alketbigroup.com
 www.omantourism.gov.om

Oman Tourism Office UK & Ireland Alison Cryer - Managing Director Representation Plus UK Ltd

 Representation House 11 blades Court 121 Deorder Road London SW15 2NU UK
 Direct line: + 44 208 877 4505
 Mobile: + 44 7788 917 077
 alison@representationplus.co.uk

Oman Tourism Office Scandinavia Countries Karin Zwiers, Janina Günther Interface International GmbH

 Karl-Marx-Allee 91a, 10243 Berlin, Germany
 Te:+49 (0)30 42088012
 Fax:+49 (0)30 4225 6286
 k.zwiers@interface-net.de scandinavia@oman.travel finland@oman.travel
 www.omantourism.de; www.omantourism.dk; www.omantourism.se





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SULTANATE OF
oman

Ministry of Tourism

P.O Box200,Muscat,Postal Code115,MSQ,Sultanate of Oman

Tel: +96822088000,Fax: +96822088483

Email:info@omantourism.gov.om, Visit us at: www.omantourism.gov.om

Tourism call center 80077799



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