



Marhaba to the Governorate of South of 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.

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Governorate of South Al Batinah

Magnificent fortifications such as Al Hazm and Ar Rustaq await the visitor to South Al Batinah Governorate .

These classic Omani buildings are overlooked by some of Oman's most dramatic mountain scenery, whose gradual descent towards the Sea of Oman results in a series of sandy beaches which tempt those who are looking for that classic combination of sun, sea and sand.

Forts and Castles





Al Hazm Castle

Not only one of Oman's most impressive fortresses, Al Hazm is one of the few built during a single phase. An easy drive of around 23 kilometers north of Ar Rustaq, Al Hazm, which for a short period after 1711 became Oman's capital, is full of secret passages. It also features a Portuguese canons in its northwest tower and British canons in the opposite south east tower. Al Hazm Fort opens Saturday – Thursday 09:00-16:00 and on Friday 08:00-11:00. Admission fees apply.

Ar Rustaq Castle

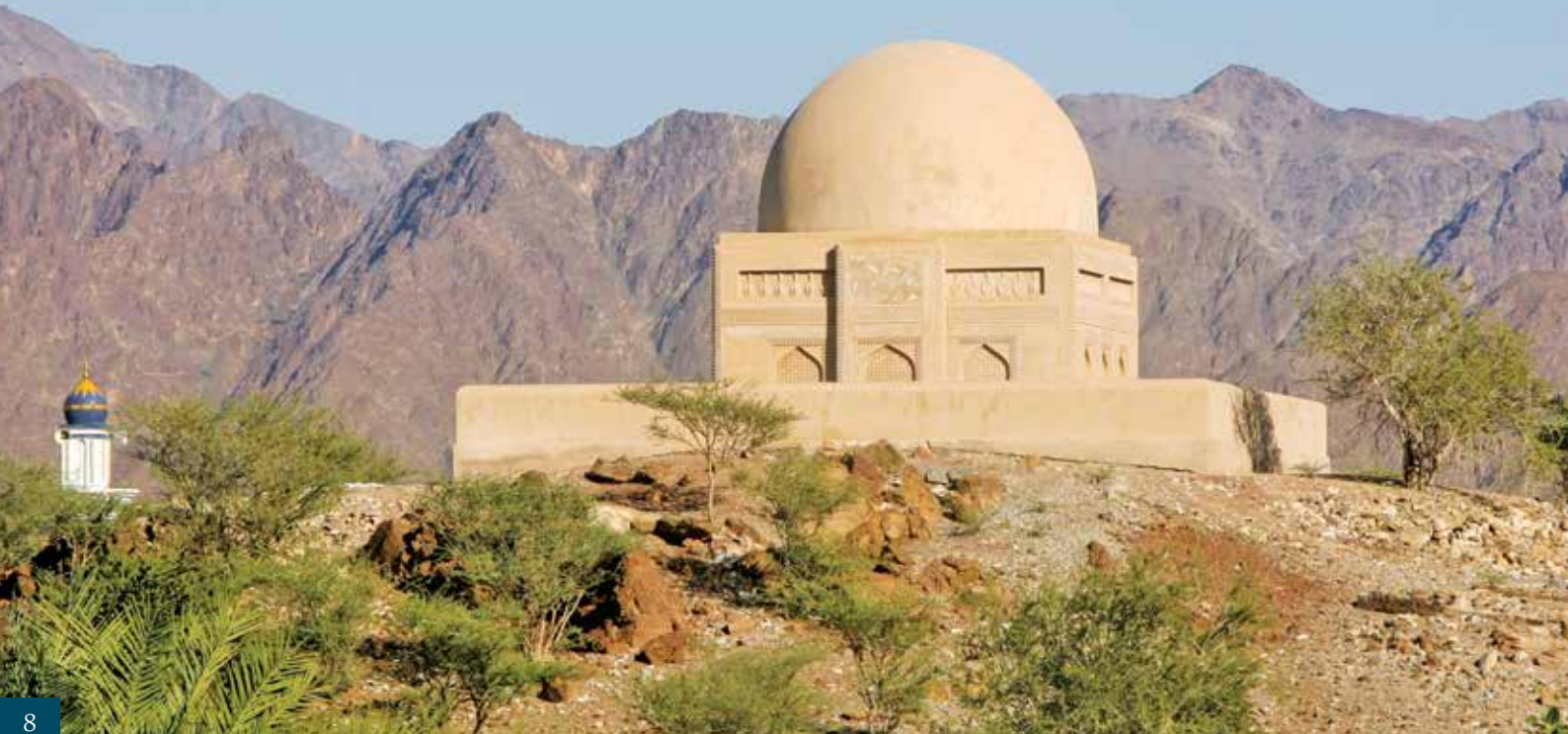
The great fortress of Ar Rustaq is situated in the heart of its eponymous oasis. Built over many centuries, its origin is often ascribed to the Sassanid Persians before 650AD. Its current massive size is a result of the rebuilding undertaken by Oman's ruler the Imam Nasir bin Murshid Al Yarubi in the mid-17th century. Enjoy exploring its various sections, including the large northern canon tower .

Ar Rustaq Fort opens Saturday – Thursday 09:00-16:00 and on Friday 08:00-11:00. Admission fees apply.



Tombs

Less than 300 meters south of Ar Rustaq Fort are the tombs of two of Oman's most important rulers. Ahmad bin Said al-Busaidi 1744–1783, who established Oman's Al Said dynasty, is buried in a tomb on the edge of a peaceful date plantation. On a small hill, just over 100 meters west of this tomb is that of Saif bin Sultan Al Yarubi (1692-1711) who expanded Oman's overseas assets resulting in an inflow of wealth into the country.



Al Mansoor Palace

A drive east for some 20kilometers from the main Ar Rustaq – Al Masannah Road is the small Al Mansoor Palace. This small early 19th century building is a fortified country house which was the centre of a large agricultural estate just south of Jamma. This fort makes a very good place to visit along with Al Hazm Fort. Al Mansoor Palace is open from Sunday – Thursday from: 07:30am – 14:30pm and Admission fees apply.



Barka Castle

In the centre of Barka, just south of its beach, is Barka Castle. Probably built during the 18th century the castle formed part of a more extensive defensive system for the town. The interior is built on several different levels, rising towards a large octagonal tower. As in the past, this military fortress looks down over the every day scenes at Barka's small coastal souq.

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





Nakhl Fort

A picture perfect fort set in the centre of Nakhl town. Any visit to Nakhl Fort will provide superb views and classic images. The origins of the fort may be Sassanid Persian with several periods of additional building in the 9th, 14th, 16th and 19th centuries. All the occupants of the fort must have valued its secure and strategic location set on a small hill, overlooking several routes in the area. Though the walk to the heights of the fort may be steep, the resulting panoramic views will be well worth the effort.

Nakhl Fort opens Saturday – Thursday 09:00-16:00 and on Friday 08:00-11:00. Admission fees apply.

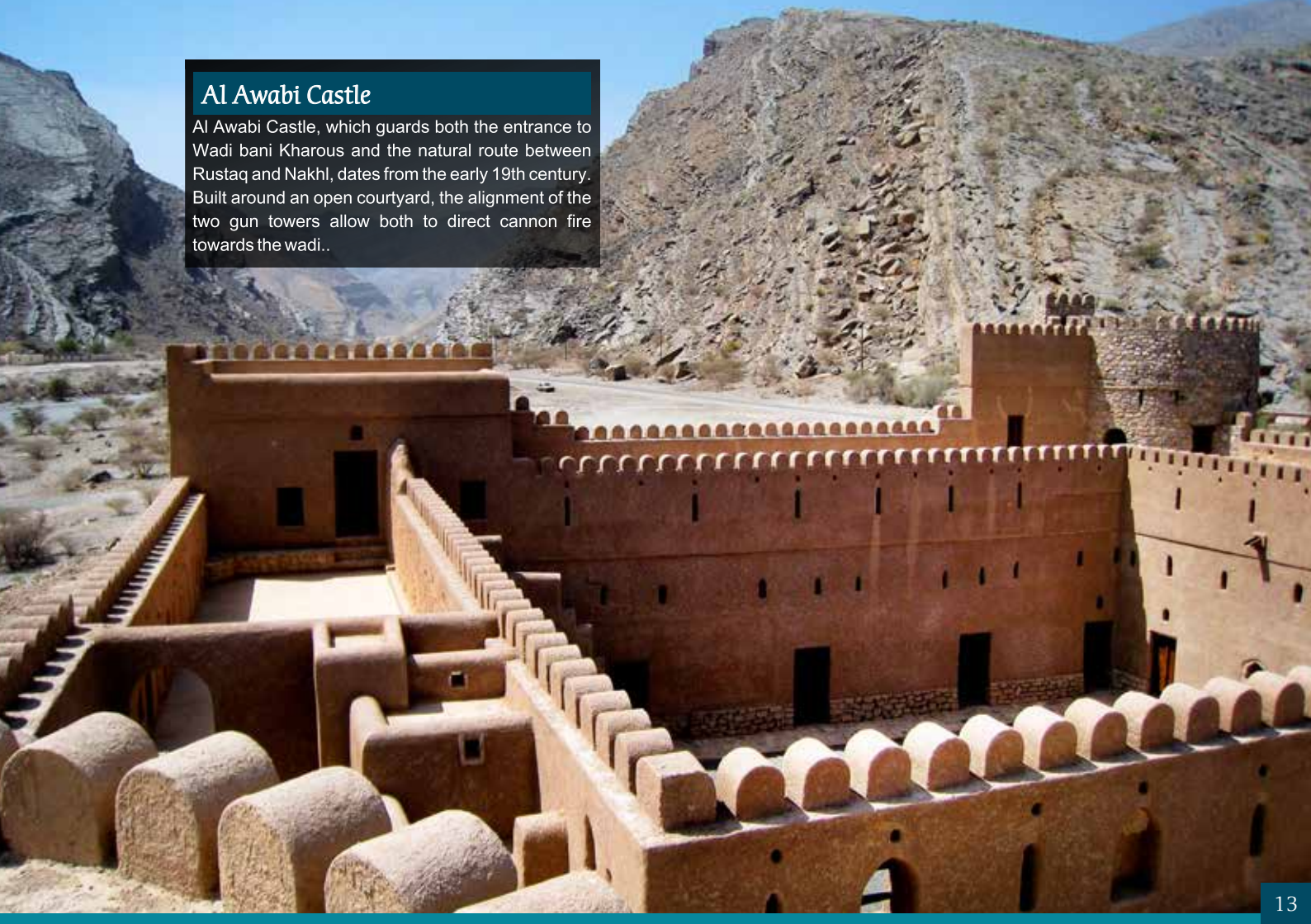


Al Musanaah Castle

Overlooking the sea in central Al Musanaah, the town's castle is one of the more unusual fortifications in the Al Batina region as it is made from stone. Built during the latter 18th century, the main building, with its diagonally opposed gun towers, has its defenses enhanced by a fortified wall which encloses additional buildings. Al Musanaah Castle is open from Sunday – Thursday from: 07:30am – 14:30pm. Admission fees apply.

Al Awabi Castle

Al Awabi Castle, which guards both the entrance to Wadi bani Kharous and the natural route between Rustaq and Nakhl, dates from the early 19th century. Built around an open courtyard, the alignment of the two gun towers allow both to direct cannon fire towards the wadi..





Bait An Naaman

Hidden in the date plantations, just 3 kilometers north of the Barka is the fortified mansion of Bait An Naaman. Built in the final decade of the 17th century, this was the centre of an extensive agricultural estate. Today, a magnificent old Tamarind tree shades the entrance to the building. Inside are beautifully decorated rooms and narrow stairs which allow visitors to access the roof. From this height views over the date palm canopy extends to islands in the sea and the distant mountains.



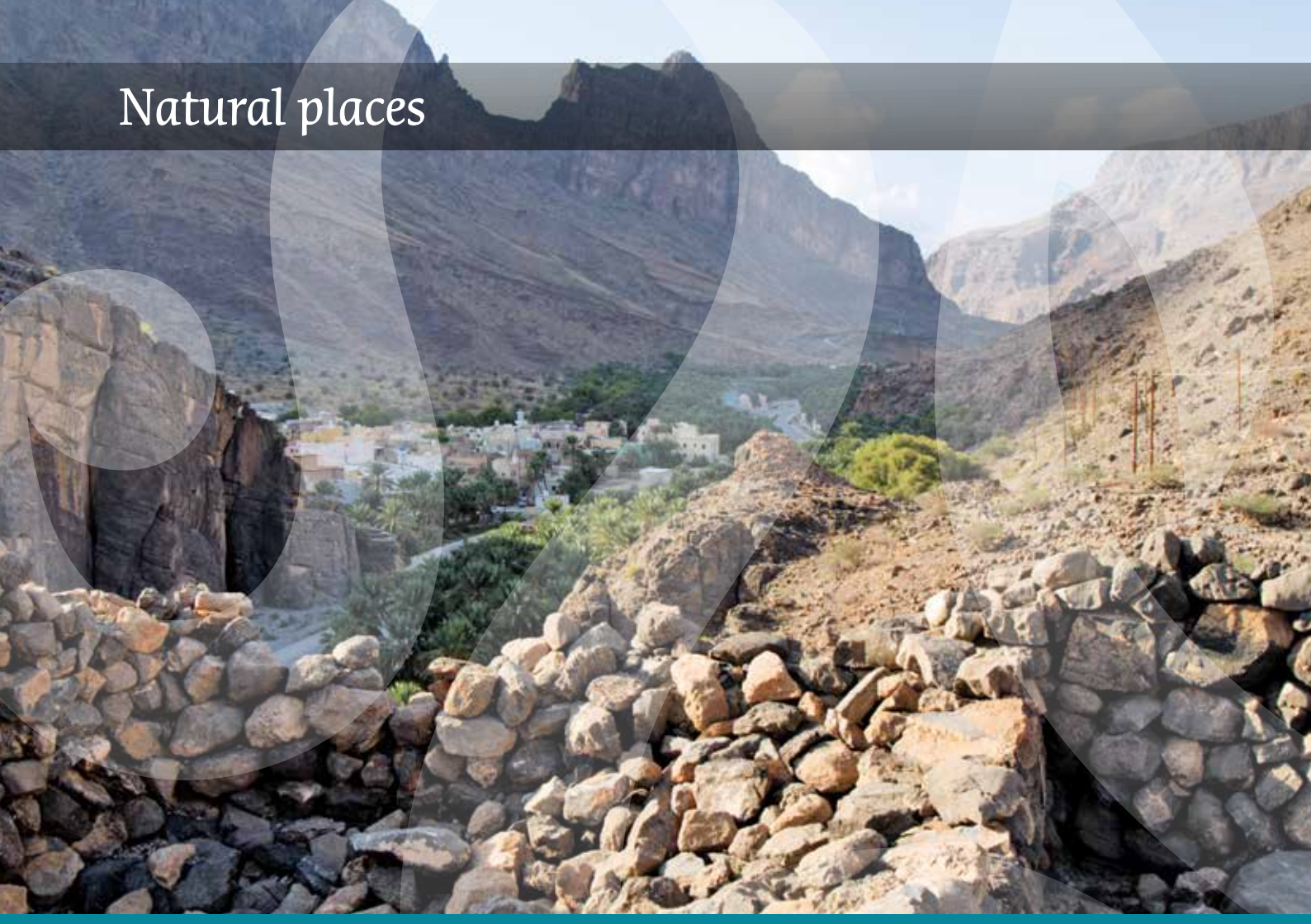
Suwaiq Castle

The location of As Suwaiq Castle next to the market is an excellent reminder that the town's name means little souq.

With 5 towers, 2 of which are square, the castle overlooks the fishing harbour with its constant activity as small boats move in and out. As Suwaiq Castle has a history of fierce defence during the 19th century, most notably in 1836 when the wife of the governor withstood an attack on the castle whilst her husband was in Muscat.

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

Natural places





Wadi bani Kharous

Opening out onto the historic town of Al Awabi, Wadi bani Kharous has been a seat of culture and agriculture in Oman for hundreds of years. The high mountains on either side are formed of limestones that range from around 90 million years old at the wadi entrance to over 600million years old in the far parts of the wadi. Look around to see how the powerful movement of the earth's mantle has deformed the rocks.

Wadi As Sahtan

Wadi As Sahtan is one of the most impressive valleys in Oman. Its entrance by road, some 20 kilometers south west of Rustaq, gives a sense of awaiting drama . The initial stages of the valley are narrow with impressive sedimentary rocks soaring overhead. Passing the hot spring in Al Khadrah village, the wadi eventually opens out into a large 'bowl' several kilometers across, offering grand vistas towards Jabal Shams high overhead to the west. A 4 WD trail southeast of Ayn Umq will take you on a dramatic route to Wadi bani Awf.





Wadi bani Aouf

South of the road from Rustaq to Nakhl, Wadi bani Awf is just under 12 kilometers south east of Rustaq on the road to Nakhl. This extraordinary wadi of deep canyons, twists and turns for some 15 kilometers until reaching a natural junction towards Wadi As Sahtan to the northwest. South from this junction the route, though travelling through less dramatic scenery, becomes more rugged as it continues towards Snake Canyon, Bilad Sait and up to the magnificent panoramic view of your journey at Sharfat Al Alamayn. Here from the west you will see Jabal Shams overlooking Wadi As Satan, Wadi bani Awf and Wadi bani Kharus to the east.



Wadi Al Hawqain

Wadi Al Hawqain, only 20 kilometers northwest of Rustaq, is easily accessible from all four points of the compass; the most straight forward routes are from either the Al Batina highway at Suwaiq or the Al Musannah Road just under 20 kilometers north of Ar Rustaq. Centered on the town of Al Hawqain with its old impressive Al Hawqain Castle, the wadi cuts through Oman's rugged ophiolite mountains. Continually flowing water enables a luxuriant date oasis to flourish with water stored in a small dam, whose frequent discharge has created a number of pools of water to its north.



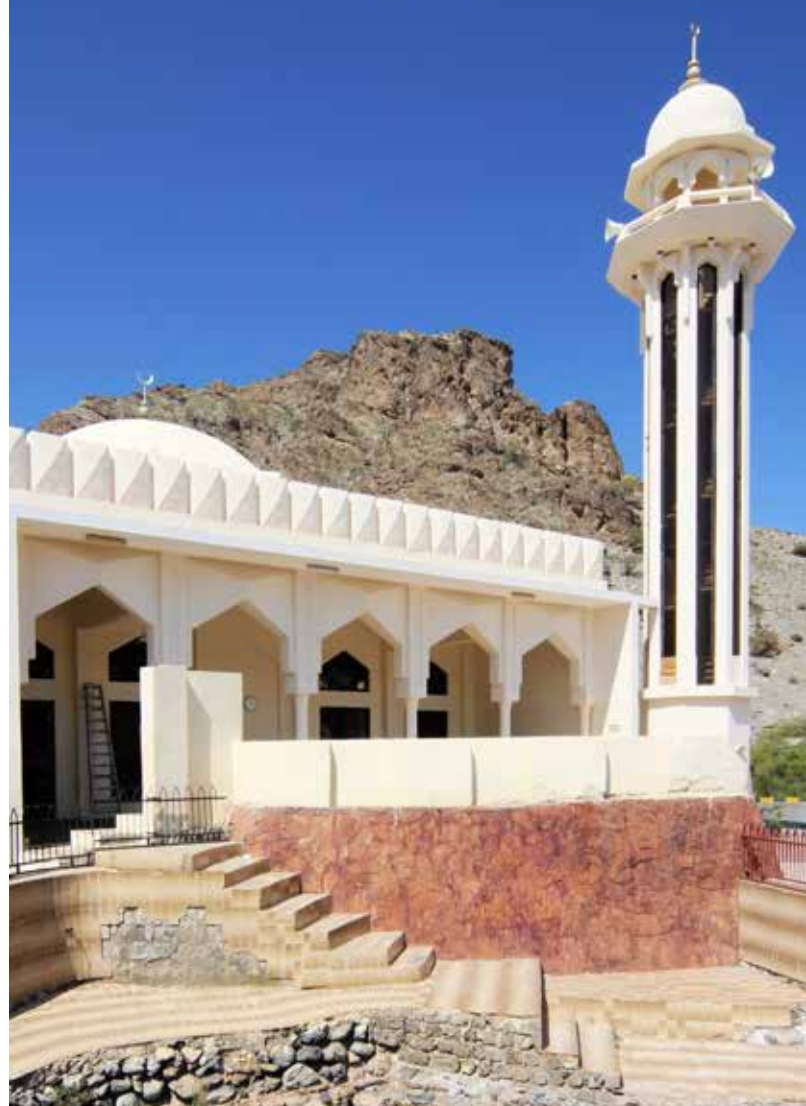
Wadi Al Hemlai

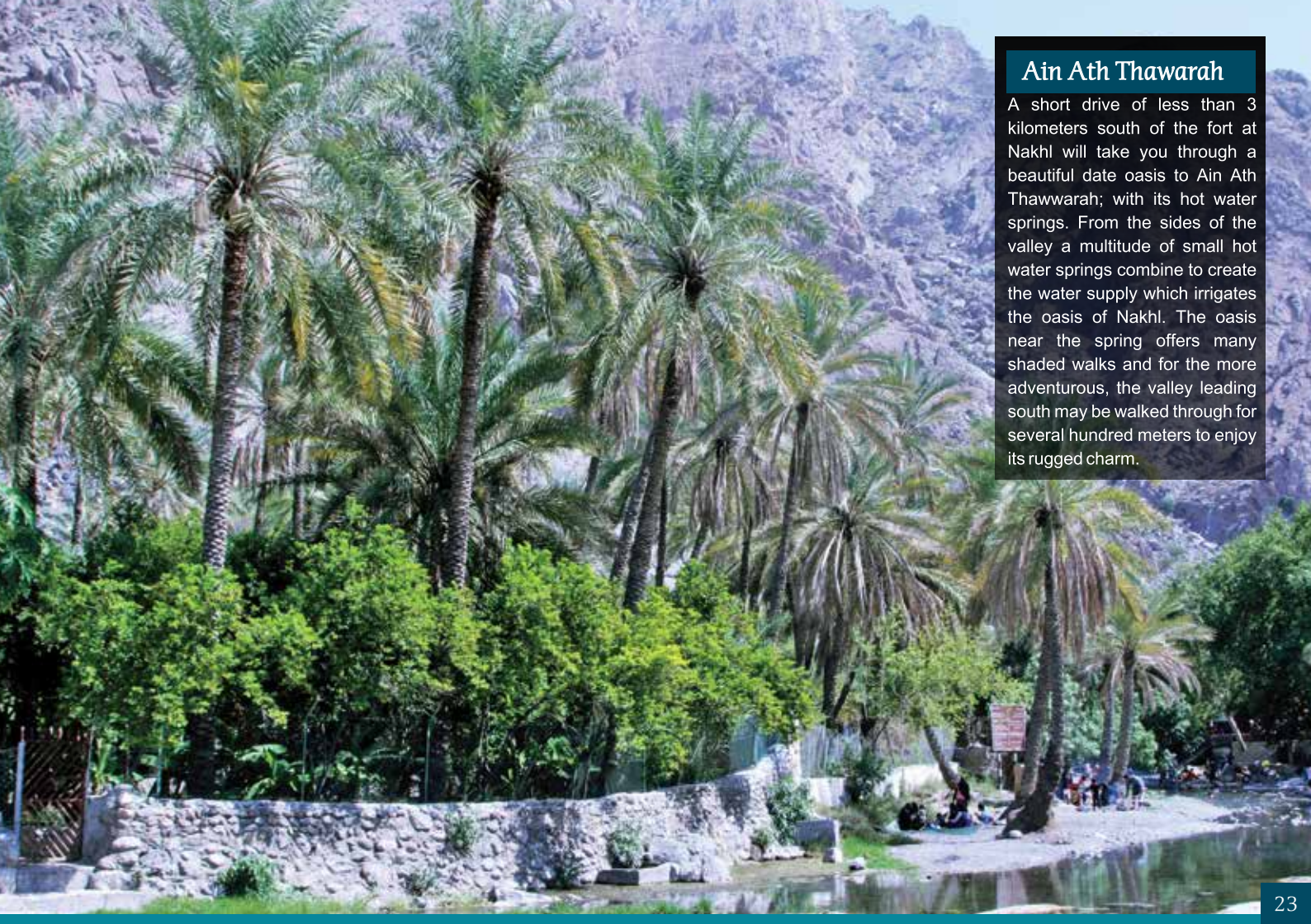
Wadi Al Hemlai, one of Oman's most interesting wadi geologically, is reached from a junction off the Batina highway less than 2 kilometers west of the Al Suwaiq roundabout. Much of the rock sequence which forms Oman's well known Ophiolite is well represented here, including moho, gabbro and dykes. These striking rocks form the backdrop to a collection of settlements whose farms benefit from the mineral rich soils.



Ain Al Kasfah

Ain Al Kasfah, some 1500 meters west of the fort in Ar Rustaq, is the water source for much of the western oasis in Ar Rustaq. This spring has the greatest volume of any water spring in northern Oman at over 81 liters a second. Like many water springs at the base of Oman's northern mountains, Ain As Kasfah is a hot spring formed from contact with the underlying igneous rock. The water flow also provides washing facilities for the congregation of the Al Kasfah Mosque.





Ain Ath Thawarah

A short drive of less than 3 kilometers south of the fort at Nakhl will take you through a beautiful date oasis to Ain Ath Thawwarah; with its hot water springs. From the sides of the valley a multitude of small hot water springs combine to create the water supply which irrigates the oasis of Nakhl. The oasis near the spring offers many shaded walks and for the more adventurous, the valley leading south may be walked through for several hundred meters to enjoy its rugged charm.

Falaj Al Muyassar

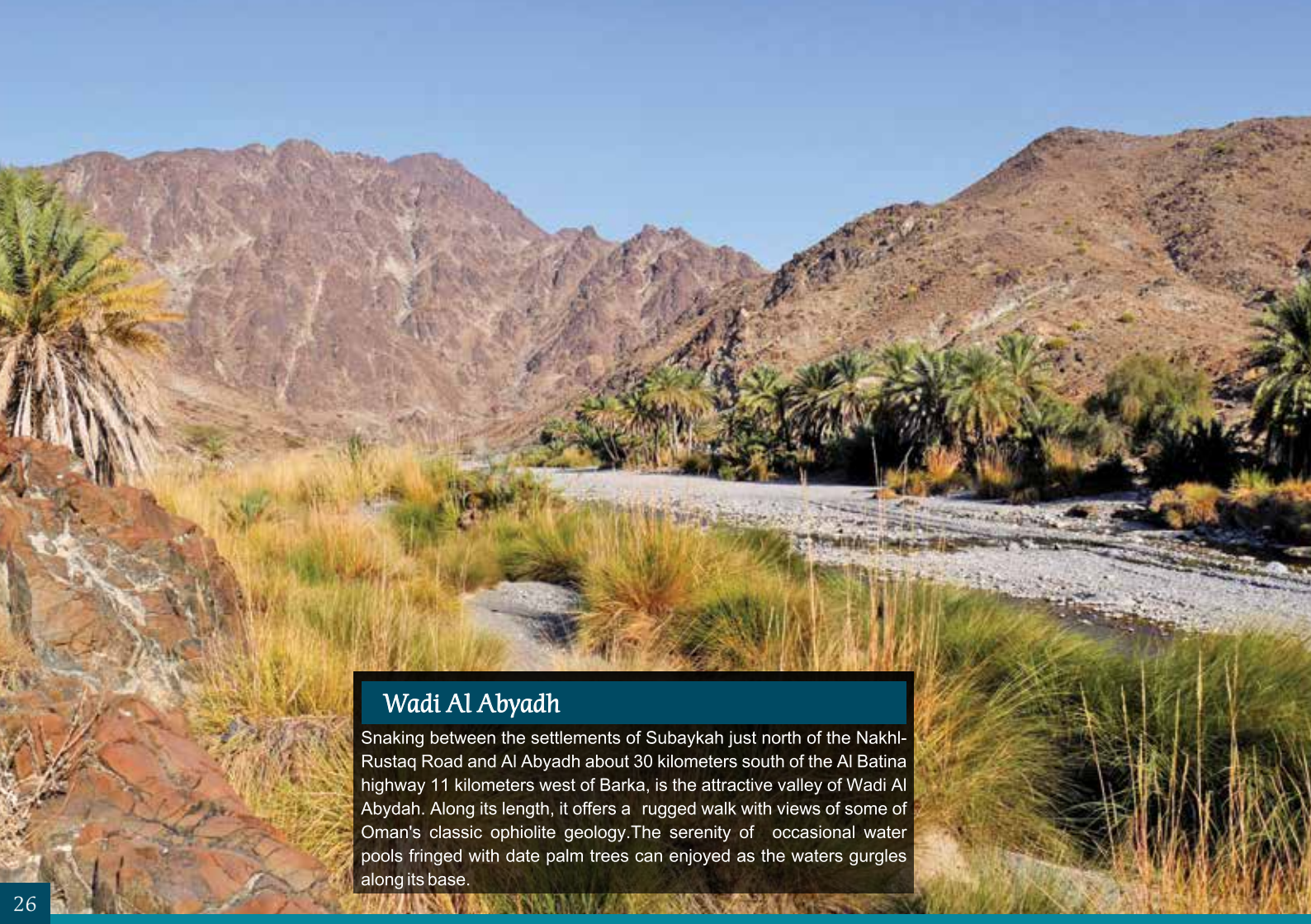
The spring for Falaj Al Muyassar, one of Oman's UNESCO World Heritage Sites, surfaces in the south-eastern section of the Ar Rustaq oasis near the prominent tower Burj Al Mazouri, less than 400 meters west of the Ar Rustaq – Nakhl road. This is an interesting falaj to walk beside; it is easy to follow, as it meanders through residential areas and agricultural fields towards the great fortress of Ar Rustaq.





As Sawadi Beach

The peninsula of As Sawadi, with its beach covered in small pink shells and archipelago of islands, is one of the more varied coastal locations in Oman. Halfway between Al Musannah and Barka, the soft sands are a superb location for family picnics. The main island offshore can be accessed by local boats, or at low tide you may see people walking through the water. The climb to a lookout perched over 50 meters above the waves, gives a great view of the coast and other small islands.

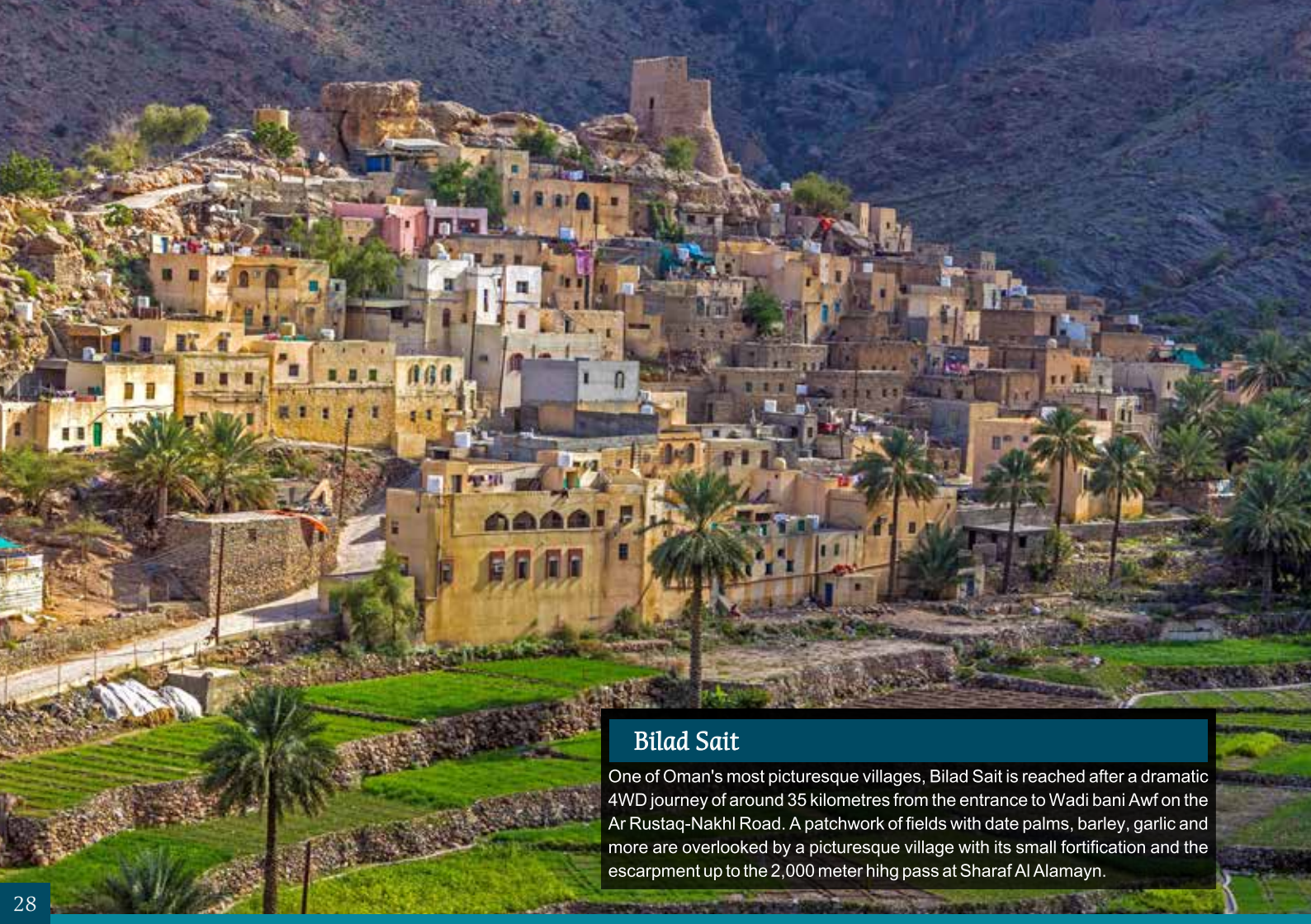


Wadi Al Abyadh

Snaking between the settlements of Subaykah just north of the Nakhl-Rustaq Road and Al Abyadh about 30 kilometers south of the Al Batina highway 11 kilometers west of Barka, is the attractive valley of Wadi Al Abydah. Along its length, it offers a rugged walk with views of some of Oman's classic ophiolite geology. The serenity of occasional water pools fringed with date palm trees can be enjoyed as the waters gurgle along its base.

Villages





Bilad Sait

One of Oman's most picturesque villages, Bilad Sait is reached after a dramatic 4WD journey of around 35 kilometres from the entrance to Wadi bani Awf on the Ar Rustaq-Nakhl Road. A patchwork of fields with date palms, barley, garlic and more are overlooked by a picturesque village with its small fortification and the escarpment up to the 2,000 meter high pass at Sharaf Al Alamayn.



Wakkan Village

Turning east off the Nakhl-Ar Rustaq road some 16 kilometers southwest of Nakhl will take you on the route through Wadi Mistal into the Ghubrah Bowl. Here, perched high above the valley floor, is the beautiful village of Wakkan. Apricot, grape vines and date palms create a bucolic vision, as the terraces on which they are planted climb from some 1400 meters towards the mountain crest almost 900 meters above. The walk through this scenery is accompanied by the tinkling sound, of the water from the falaj as it rushes downhill; while in the skies honeybees search out flowers to enjoy their nectar.

Al Hajar Village

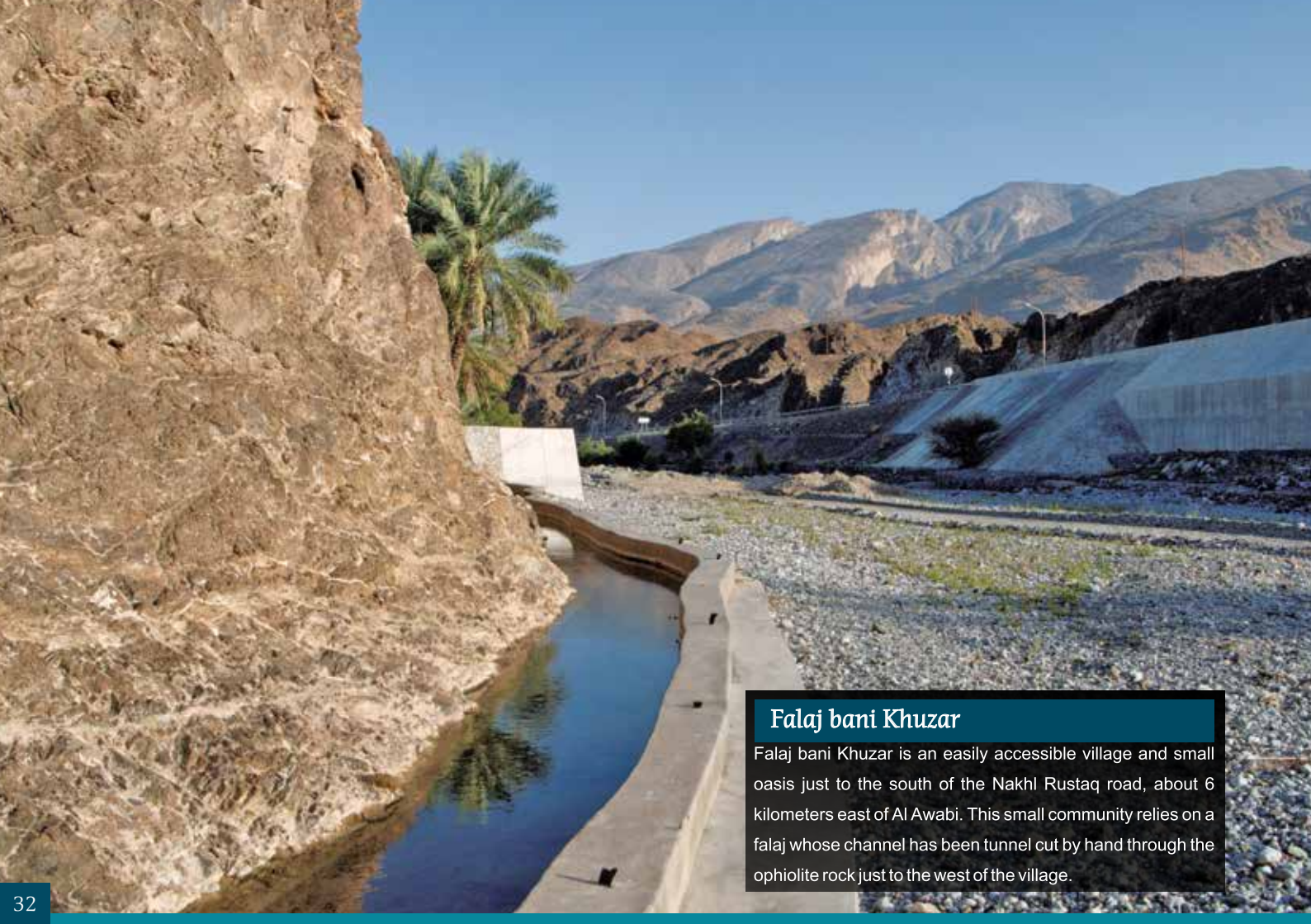
Just 15 kilometers from Awabi's centre is one of the most charming villages of Bani Kharous, Al Hajeer. Easily reached by Wadi Bani Kharous road, starting from Al Awabi Fort through the main interchange that leads to the village. Overlooked by impressive mountain range, it is located between the village of Stal at Wadi Bani Kharous to the east, and Wadi Bani Awf at Rustaq to the west. The village has a falaj that originates in the foothills of the mountain and flows for around 1.5 kilometers and, at the middle of its course, there is an old fort with adjoining rooms built with stones, which can be accessed through one entrance only. The village has another tourist site called Al Ajmah, known for its small falaj, as well as the rock formations that create trails and caves, in addition to the inscriptions on the rocks.





Sital village

Less than 12 kilometers from the Awabi's centre, amidst the villages of Wadi Bani Kharus is Stal, the biggest and most beautiful village in the Wilayat of Awabi. Split by the wadi into two banks, the atmospheric views at both sides invite leisurely exploration of its many tourist attractions and sites, such as Burj Al Nujur, the Mosque of Al Sallout in addition to some ancient dwellings. Al Awabi has many more villages, such as Al Hajjar, Misfat Al Shariqiyyin and Thaqab, some 16 kilometers from the center of the Wilayat.



Falaj bani Khuzar

Falaj bani Khuzar is an easily accessible village and small oasis just to the south of the Nakhl Rustaq road, about 6 kilometers east of Al Awabi. This small community relies on a falaj whose channel has been tunnel cut by hand through the ophiolite rock just to the west of the village.



An Nasim Park

An Nasim Park, some 18kilometers east by road from Barka is one of Oman's most popular parks. With ornamental trees and activities for children, this park is an idea area for families to relax in the cool of an evening or at weekends.



Souqs

Bright fresh fruit from Oman and overseas, and pure Omani goats add to the interest of any visit to a town in Oman's Al Batinah. For many, market day is on Friday morning and, as in Nakhal or Ar Rustaq, the souq is traditionally held within sight of the town's fortress. Along the coast, the focus is on the sale of fish and the sellers of these as well those for fruit and vegetables jostle for space close to the high water mark.



Folk Dance

Often lead by a man playing a Burgham horn, the drummers and performers of Al Razha Dance are a popular sight at celebrations in northern Oman. The horn, perhaps made from a Buffalo's horn, has a small hole near its narrow tip and, with its single note, is not used for melody, but as a key part of the performance rhythm. Look for the Al Razha Dance during Eids in northern Oman.

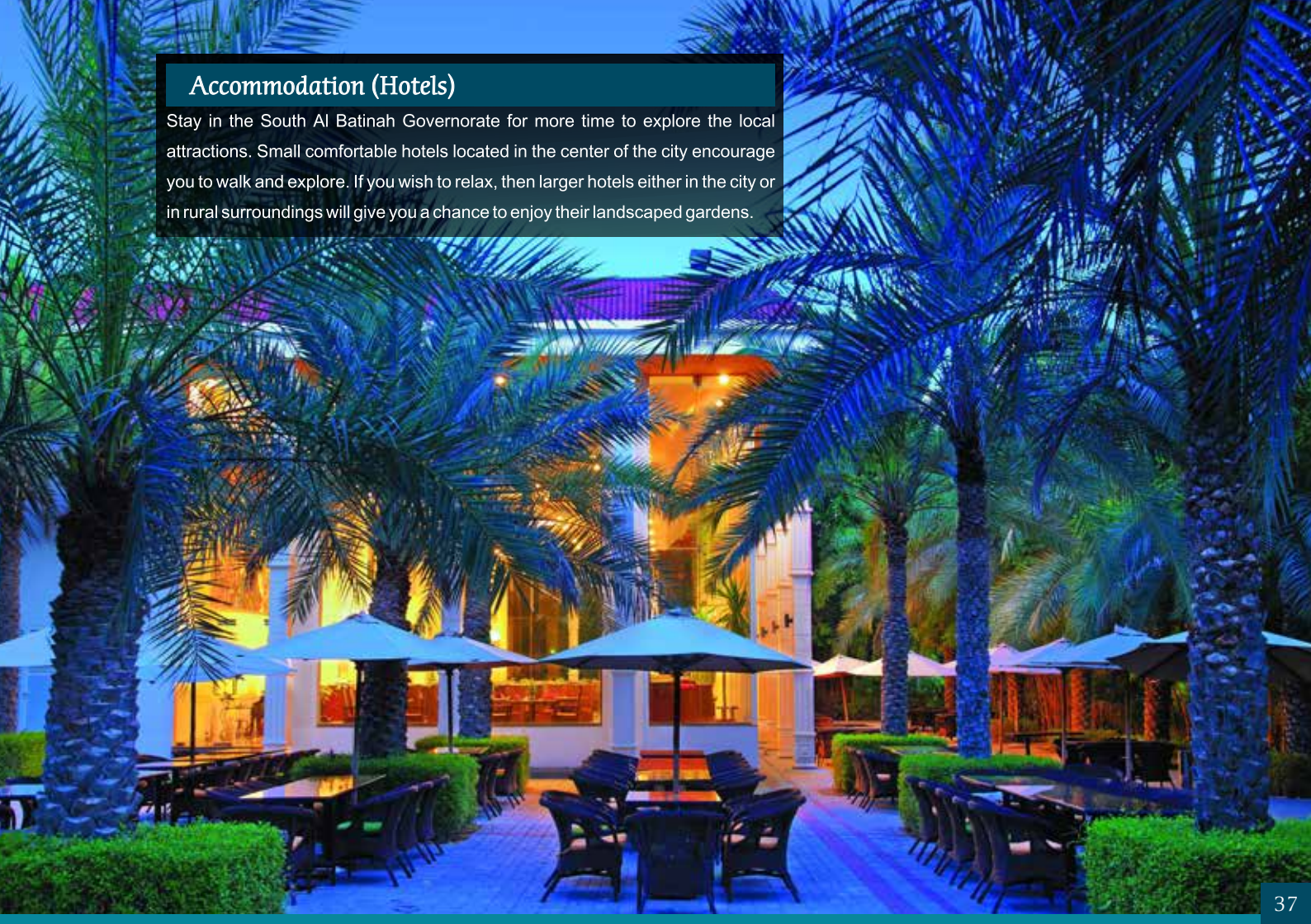


Al Musanaah Sport City

The purpose-designed Al Musanaah Sports City is on the coast to the west of Al Musanaah town. Built to host the 2010 Asian Beach Games, its superb marina offers an excellent base to set out onto the Sea of Oman, or to learn how to sail under the expert tuition of Oman Sail.

Accommodation (Hotels)

Stay in the South 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.



South of Al Batinah Contacts Info

(ROP) Royal Oman Police

South of Al Batinah	Al Musanna Police Station	+968 26868150
South of Al Batinah	Al Rustaq Police Division	+968 26875099
South of Al Batinah	Al Suwaiq Police Station	+968 26860099
South of Al Batinah	Barka Police Station	+968 26882099

Hospitals and Medical Centrters

South of Al Batinah	Al Abyath	Al Abydah Health Centre	+968 26874024	Wadi Bani Aouf	Wadi Bani Aouf Health Centre	+968 99836585
South of Al Batinah	Al Aqar	Muscat Pharmacy	+968 26748483	Wadi Bani Ghafer	Wadi Bani Ghafer Hospital	+968 26898100
South of Al Batinah	Al Awabi	Al Awabi Health Centre	+968 26767473	Wadi Bani Kharus	Wadi Bani Kharus Hospital	+968 92773181
South of Al Batinah	Al Houqain	Al Houqain Health Centre	+968 26792198	Wadi Mistal	Wadi Mistal Hospital	+968 92150377
South of Al Batinah	Al Naseem	Al Naseem Health Centre	+968 26893224			
South of Al Batinah	Al Razi	Al Razi Health Centre	+968 92117043			
South of Al Batinah	Al Rustaq	Al Rustaq Hospital	+968 26877186			
South of Al Batinah	Al Rustaq	Muscat Pharmacy	+968 26878631			
South of Al Batinah	Al Sawadi	Al Sawadi Health Centre	+968 26795345			
South of Al Batinah	Barka	Barka Health Centre	+968 26886011			
South of Al Batinah	Barka	Barka Polyclinic	+968 26882055			
South of Al Batinah	Barka	Muscat Pharmacy	+968 26885372			
South of Al Batinah	Barka	Scientific Pharmacy	+968 26883673			
South of Al Batinah	Bidiya	Muscat Pharmacy	+968 26708180			
South of Al Batinah	Musanah	Muscat Pharmacy	+968 26868142			
South of Al Batinah	Musanah	Musanah Health Centre	+968 26870646			
South of Al Batinah	Musanah	Musanah Polyclinic Emergency	+968 26868155			
South of Al Batinah	Nakhal	Nakhal Health Centre	+968 26780894			
South of Al Batinah	Rustaq	Rustaq Polyclinic	+968 26877761			
South of Al Batinah	Suwaiq	Muscat Pharmacy	+968 26862128			
South of Al Batinah	Wadi Al Haimali	Wadi Al Haimali Hospital	+968 26765199			
South of Al Batinah	Wadi Al Maawil	Wadi Al Maawil Health Centre	+968 26780709			
South of Al Batinah	Wadi Al Sahtan	Wadi Al Sahtan Health	+968 26773525			

South of Al Batinah Contacts Info

Hotels and Tour Operator`s

South of Al Batinah	Al Musanah	Millennium Hotel	+968 26871555
South of Al Batinah	Al Musanah	Musanah Hotel Apartment	+968 26868818
South of Al Batinah	Al Musanah	Traveller Hotel	+968 26870998
South of Al Batinah	Al Rustaq	Al Shimookh Guest House	+968 26877071
South of Al Batinah	Barka	Al Nahda Resort & Spa	+968 26886114
South of Al Batinah	Barka	Al Rumais Guest House	+968 26894177
South of Al Batinah	Barka	As Sawadi Beach Resort	+968 26795545
South of Al Batinah	Barka	Oriental Landmark Hotel	+968 26884623
South of Al Batinah	Sohar	Sohar Tour	+968 25362541
South of Al Batinah	Barka	Al Sawadi Euro Divers	+968 95057317
South 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.

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محافظة جنوب الباطنة
Al Batinah South Governorate



- مواقع التراث العالمي اليونسكو
UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Canal / قناة
 - Fort/Castle / قلعة / حصن
 - Fahj / فحم
 - Sea Port / ميناء البحر
 - Wadi / وادي
 - Dakhira / الدخيرة
 - Road / طريق
 - Archaeo / الأثر القديم
 - Town / مدينة

GLOSSARY

Wadi	Wadi Spring
Wadi	Wadi / Wadi
Wadi	Wadi / Wadi
Wadi	Wadi / Wadi
Wadi	Wadi / Wadi
Wadi	Wadi / Wadi
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SULTANATE OF
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Ministry of Tourism

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