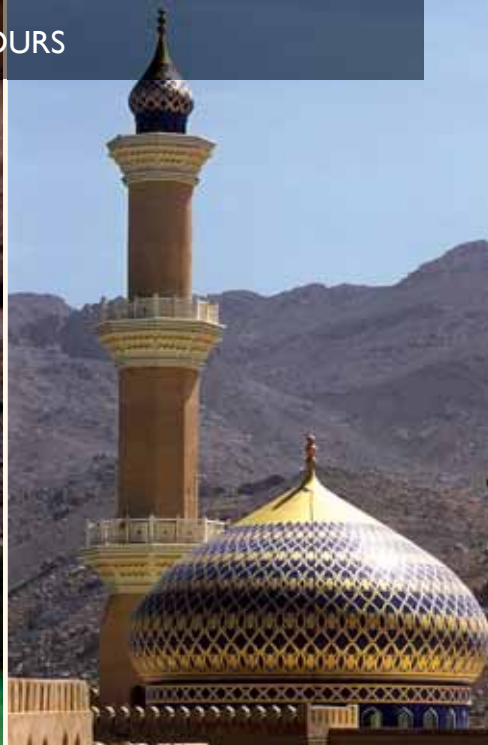




Beautiful oasis at Wadi Bani Khalid © Zahara Tours



Stunning Niswa Mosque © Zahara Tours

OMAN

Suffused with the mystery and romance of Arabia, Oman is relatively unspoilt by tourism. Offering far more than spectacular desert landscapes, Oman has a proud and ancient culture and a wealth of archaeological wonders. Visit ancient stone forts, picturesque fishing villages and dramatic coastlines where mountains plunge directly into the sea. Travel by 4WD through rugged mountains, canyons, oases and sand dunes, populated by mysterious Bedouin tribes.

MUSCAT CITY STAY
3 days/2 nights
Hotels

One of the oldest cities in the Middle East, Muscat is a gracious mix of old and new, overflowing with treasures. Take a private half day city tour visiting the Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque and the fascinating Bait Al Zubair Museum. Walk through the old port of Muttrah with its colourful souqs and charming waterfront, past the Al Alam Palace and the Portuguese forts of Mirani and Jalali.

ACCOMMODATION

Price per person from:*	Twin	Single
01 Jun-07 Sep		
Al Bustan Palace	\$785	\$1537
Barr Al Jissah Resort & Spa - Al Waha	\$700	\$1366
The Grand Hyatt	\$617	\$1099
The Chedi	\$557	\$1083

*Prices outside these date ranges on request.

Price per person includes: Muscat airport/hotel return transfers, hotel accommodation for 2 nights on bed & breakfast basis (breakfast not included at The Chedi), half day city tour.

Optional Sunset Dhow Cruise from \$84 per person.

Al Bustan Palace

Surrounded by dramatic mountains, 200 acres of gardens and private beach, this stunning waterfront property is just 8km from Muscat. The hotel features 250 rooms and 40 elegant suites, a fitness centre, swimming pools, watersports and 5 restaurants.

Barr Al Jissah Resort & Spa

Owned by the Shangri-La group, this oasis resort of 3 luxury hotels is located between rugged mountains and an azure bay, 15 minutes from Muscat. The resort comprises the 262-room family-friendly Al Waha, the deluxe Al Bandar with 198 sea-facing rooms, and the exclusive 6-star Al Husn.

The Grand Hyatt

Centrally located within the diplomatic heart of Muscat but next to the beach, this lovely hotel has 280 rooms with large marble bathtubs and balconies. Guest facilities include the pool, gym, spa centre, 4 restaurants and piano lounge.

The Chedi

A member of the prestigious Leading Hotels of the World, the ultra-luxurious Chedi is 20 minutes from Muscat. Designed in traditional Omani style, its 156 rooms have garden or ocean views. Facilities include a swimming pool, private beach, spa, bars and 5 trendy restaurants.



© The Chedi

The Chedi, Muscat



© Shangri-La Resorts

Barr Al Jissah Resort & Spa

OPTIONAL DAY TOURS

Tour cost per person from:	Twin	Single
Fascinating Forts	\$152	\$303
Wahiba Wilderness	\$264	\$527
Wadi Arbayeen with lunch	\$252	\$504

Price per person includes: Full day tours from Muscat hotels with private saloon car or 4WD (desert tours), driver/guide.

Fascinating Forts

Duration: 09 Hours/450 km

Drive to the oasis town of Nizwa with its outstanding Islamic architecture including the famous 17th century Round Tower Fort. The Souq is renowned for its Friday cattle auction, hand-carved "Khanjars" (daggers) and silver jewellery. Visit 17th century Jabrin Castle, with its painted friezes and extraordinary wood carving. Return to Muscat via the quaint village of Birkat Al Mauz.



© Zahara Tours

17th century Omani Fort



© Zahara Tours

Wahiba Sands of Oman

Wahiba Wilderness

Duration: 10 Hours/550 km by 4WD

Drive to The Wahiba Sands, a vast sea of red and white sand and dunes rising up to 200 metres, home to a variety of flora and fauna. Visit a Bedouin house in the wilderness before reaching the mountain villages of Wadi Bani Khalid, known for its wadi of clear deep blue water.

Wadi Arbayeen

Duration: 08 Hours/340 km by 4WD

Drive to the picturesque fishing village of Quriyat and visit the 400 year old Quriyat Fort and the Fish souk. Continue to the coast and visit the spectacular Bimah sinkhole, a limestone crater with blue green water at the bottom. Driving through dramatic mountains enjoy a picnic lunch beside the deep pools of Wadi Arbayeen, shaded by date palms. Return to Muscat via Wadi Mazara.