



Dhofar – Mirbat and the Empty Quarter

Day 1

After a short flight from Muscat to the historic southern town of Salalah, you will be met by one of our experienced Hud Hud team and taken, by road, along the scenic eastern coastline to your first luxury camp.

Nestled on a beautiful secluded beach, embraced by twin headlands, a delicious lunch is served in your private Bedouin style majlis as you watch the endless waves of the Indian Ocean. The afternoon lends itself to enjoying a casual walk along the beach, a swim in the warm ocean waters, snorkelling amongst the coral shelves, or just relaxing with a book while you soak up your surroundings.

After freshening up in your private open air shower, dinner will be prepared and served by your personal camp chef, as you watch the sun sink over the horizon from your intimate beach retreat.

Day 2

Today is your day to relax and enjoy the peace and tranquillity of the camp, or after breakfast partake in some exploration of the local surrounding region. This beautiful stretch of the Dhofar coastline is host to an array of wildlife including spinner dolphins, green turtles, and coastal bird life including ospreys, pelicans, flamingos and kingfisher.

On offer are a variety of trips to the surrounding area, including Salalah's fruit gardens and exotic souq, where Frankincense is sold. Other attractions include the verdant Wadi Darbat where you can take a tranquil walk beside water pools and observe the abundant bird life.

There are the ruins of Sumerham, the ancient trading port of the Queen of Sheba and the charming old port of Mirbat, which in 1972 was the scene of a heroic battle between forces loyal to the Sultan and Marxist insurgents. All the key features of the battlefield are still easily identified. The old part of the town still boasts some of Dhofar's unique architecture and a stroll through the streets and alleyways, leading to the sea front, take you back in time.



Hud Hud Travels



Day 3

Up at dawn, we leave the Salalah coastline behind and follow the Darra Ridge in the western Jebel which boasts fantastic views of the ocean to the south and the barren desert mountains to the north.

The wildlife of the area is diverse and fascinating; there are numerous exotic plants and areas scattered with the fabled *Boswellia Sacra*, the Frankincense tree. The incense comes from its gum, and it has been harvested and traded by Omanis for millennia.

After a delicious picnic lunch we continue towards the Yemen border before turning north into an extremely remote and isolated area. Traffic in this region is almost nonexistent.

We leave the vegetation abruptly and enter the empty barren landscape of the Mountains of the Moon and Negd desert. Finally we drop down into the deep canyon of the Wadi Aydim, home to small groups of Bedu from the Bait Zabnawt tribe. We continue following wadis to the north before emerging onto flat open plains with sparse rocky outcrops and pass the only border crossing into Yemen at al Mazyouna.

We leave the main track and weave our way through the grandeur of the russet red sand dunes of the Rub al Khali, the Empty Quarter. Our camp is set deep in the dunes, and we arrive in time for you to explore your surroundings and take in the exquisite sunset.

Following dinner take a walk among the dunes to marvel at the night sky or relax by the campfire.

Day 4

Watch the sun rise over the imposing dunes from camp, or for the more energetic, make your way to the top of one! After a relaxing breakfast, there will be ample opportunity to explore this unique and hauntingly beautiful environment.

A walk through the windswept dunes reveals the diversity of the region as well as the incredible plant life.

In the evening a local Bedu from the Haraizi tribe will take you to see his camels and fascinate you with a wealth of detail about the disappearing way of life of those who still depend on them.

Day 5

Today we leave our desert camp to retrace our steps to Al Mazyouna before taking a different road to Thumrait, past three thousand year old triliths, and an incredible area scattered with fossils.

Finally we leave the desert behind, cross the mountains near Qeiron Heritti to reach Salalah in time to bid you farewell before your flight back to Muscat.