



Four Night Northern Itinerary

A stylish comfortable mobile safari, encompassing four nights and five days in beautiful northern Oman taking in much of Oman's impressive scenery and covering desert, coast, mountains, traditional towns, forts and souks.

Sleeping tents vary according to the location but are always appointed with proper mattresses, crisp cotton linen, feather pillows and traditional furnishings. Each sleeping tent has its own private bathroom tent, open to the skies and furnished with soft towels, basin, shower and a selection of soaps and lotions.

Each camp will offer a large, evocative majlis, decorated in a style in keeping with the ambiance of the environment, with cushions and rugs, topical books, boules and board games. Dining is at a properly laid table under the stars beside a crackling fire. Food is, as far as possible, locally sourced and is freshly prepared by our camp chef and always delicious. We use no electric light, other than solar, and the emphasis is on preserving the atmosphere through natural lighting provided by candles, oil lamps and camp fires.

Day 1

We will head out of Muscat after breakfast travelling along the Al Batinah coast before turning inland to Nakhl, home to a restored fort surrounded by date palms and Ain a'Thawwarah hot springs.

From here we travel onto Rustaq and into the entrance of the exposed and impressive Wadi Bani Auf. This route takes us over the Hajar Mountains, a climb of over 2,000m and is one of the greatest and most memorable off-road drives of Oman. We pass through some very rugged and extraordinary mountain scenery, through small jebel villages and often through plenty of water on the track.

We stop at the beautiful mountain village of Balad Sayt for a delicious and freshly prepared lunch and, if you are feeling energetic, explore one of the excellent hikes surrounding this area.

We continue on the breathtaking track up and over the spine of the Hajar, where the views are magnificent, and gradually wind our way along the gravel tracks to our camp, nestled over 1000 metres above sea level, in the mountains above the town of Tanuf in time for sundowners.



Day 2

This morning, we spend some time exploring local mountain villages to gain an insight into the local way of life. Al Hamra, a 400-year-old town, is home to some of the oldest preserved houses that can be found in Oman.

Winding up the rocky hillside, is the small ancient village of Misfat al Abriyyin with its picturesque collection of ochre-coloured stone buildings, giving it a somewhat medieval feel. A walk through this pretty village of twisting lanes and covered passages brings you to the falaj (irrigation system), which runs below the village, surrounded by lush bougainvillea, banana palms and other greenery.

From here we continue through Wadi Ghul, where we can explore the old ruins of its abandoned village. This area is home to perhaps the highest concentration of traditional carpet weavers in Oman, and as we venture further up Jebel Shams we will see their works on display.

The track takes us into Wadi an Nakhur and winds up the gorge to the summit. It is possible to hike up to the top where the views are extremely rewarding, or alternatively we can drive up to the edge of Oman's 'Grand Canyon' and take a leisurely 'balcony walk', broken up with a tasty picnic lunch.

Day 3

Following an early breakfast, watching the sunrise above the plateau, we head for Nizwa and the renowned market that, particularly on a Friday, can be a thriving and fascinating affair.

After some time exploring Nizwa's souq and imposing fort, we will head towards the UNESCO listed town of Bahla, famous for its fabulous old fort, souq and gorgeous hand crafted pottery.

From here, we will start to make our way towards the Wahiba Sands. The date plantations of Birkat al Mauz provide a good, shaded spot for lunch and we can spend some time walking through the palms and along the afalaj (irrigation system).

The road to the desert passes the market town of Ibra, which contains some well-preserved merchant houses and the historic village of Mudayrib, which is today as it has been for many centuries. With the sun setting behind us, we pass the 18th Century fort and head into the desert along sand tracks made by the Bedouin.



Hud Hud Travels

The camp is set deep within the Wahiba Desert, avoiding light pollution and providing an amazing backdrop from which to relax and enjoy the night sky.

Day 4

The desert provides a great place not only from which to learn more about the Bedouin who still rely on it for their camels and goats but also as a base from which to explore the surrounding area.

After a relaxed breakfast, we drive out of the desert to Wadi Bani Khalid, one of the greatest, most dramatic wadis in Oman, a green oasis spectacularly set against a mountain backdrop. The village still farms in a traditional manner growing dates, bananas, mangos and papaya. A walk through this remote and little visited community provides an insight into the lives of Omanis now and in many ways as they have always been. The wadi flows out of the village and into a dramatic and steep sided canyon, which winds up from its entrance, occasioned by rock pools ideal for a quick dip. We will serve a delicious Hud Hud picnic lunch in the shade of the cliffs. The route is a combination of bouldering, hiking and swimming that is great fun.

On our way back to the camp you could try your hand at a little off road driving in the sands when we put you behind the wheel of a 4x4. Under the expert tutelage of our seasoned Omani drivers, you will be given little tips and tricks about how to rescue even the most deeply embedded vehicle. Sand boarding can be organised in the late afternoon or, alternatively, you can just relax and soak up the views before enjoying a fantastic dinner served beside a crackling log fire.

Day 5

Watch the sun rise over the imposing Wahiba sand dunes from camp, or for the more energetic, make your way to the top of a dune. A relaxed breakfast is then served in the majlis and following this there is an opportunity to visit a local Bedouin family for traditional Omani kahwa (*coffee*) and dates. This brief meeting provides a means of better understanding how the people work and live, in what can be perceived as an extremely harsh environment.

The onward journey passes some very dramatic terrain to the coast near the fishing town of Sur. There are many fishermen and a thriving fish industry that has existed for centuries. There is a small dhow factory where the traditional sailing boats that have taken Omani explorers, traders and colonialists to the furthest reaches of the Indian Ocean are still made.

We will then continue our route up the coastal side of the Hajar range, stopping at either Wadi Shab or Wadi Tiwi for a walk and a swim.

Invigorated, we arrive back in Muscat in the late afternoon.