



Hud Hud Travels



Oman - Top to Bottom

Each day we move to a new camp, set up exclusively for your group. Sleeping tents are white canvas bell tents, furnished with a comfortable mattress, cotton sheets, feather pillows and local rugs. There are, in addition to this, well-appointed shower and loo tents, open to the skies, complete with soft cotton towels, basin and a selection of soaps and lotions.

Our Bedouin style majlis tents, decorated with cushions and rugs, topical books and board games make a great place to relax and chat while sipping traditional Omani kahwa or fresh mint tea.

Dining is at a properly laid table under the stars beside a crackling fire and our private camp chef will work with you to develop a special meal each night. We draw on traditional dishes and work with food that is locally available, often picking fresh fish up from the local fishing villages and fruit and vegetables from the souks.

Day 1 - Muscat to Bandar Khairan

The first day of this eight day adventure takes us from Muscat, along the coast in an eight berth catamaran to Bandar Khairan. The route passes the ancient village of Qantab, where we can detour to see the palaces of old Muscat and some striking rock formations and if we are lucky we may spot some dolphins and the occasional turtle along the way. Lunch will be served on board and the afternoon will be spent snorkelling or simply relaxing at leisure in the stunning inlets and islands of Bandar Khairan.

Day 2 - Bandar Khairan to Quriyat

There will be a chance to scuba dive should you wish before leaving Bandar Khairan. We will then continue further down the coast, passing small fishing villages along the way.

Day 3 - Quriyat to Sur

Sur is one of the most significant fishing towns in Oman with a long history of seamanship and ship building. There is still a factory there that builds the traditional wooden dhow, using methods which have been used for centuries.

Day 4 - Sur to Barr al Hickman

We will leave our yacht behind us and take up behind the wheel, with the reassuring presence of an expert Omani driver and guide or if you are feeling intrepid, with just a map and a compass! The destination today, via a spectacular lunch spot on the edge of the Wahiba Desert, is Barr al Hickman, a beautiful stretch of tidal salt pans. The birdlife here is remarkable, from vast colonies of sea birds to flamingos and various birds of prey. From the comfort of your deck chair, feel free to observe the bird life that remains unperturbed by your presence.



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Day 5 - Barr al Hickman to Huqf

We are probably only a third of the way between Muscat and Salalah but we now enter the vast unknown area stretching from the coast to the Empty Quarter. The Huqf is a largely uninhabited, barren stretch of stunning rock formations.

Day 6 - Huqf to Empty Quarter

The harsh rock and gravel plains will gradually give way to sweeping sand dunes that increase in height as we get further in to the Empty Quarter. This is the largest sand desert in the world and although we will be immersed in it for a few days, we will only get to see a very small proportion of it, as it stretches from Yemen in the south, Saudi Arabia in the west and from Oman, on to the UAE and Bahrain in the north.

Day 7 - Empty Quarter

Enjoy a late start, or climb a dune to watch the sun rise. After breakfast there will be ample opportunity to explore this unique and hauntingly beautiful environment. A walk through the wind-sculpted sands reveals the huge diversity of shapes, colours and textures in the sand and a plethora of small hardy plant life. In the evening a local Bedouin 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. You can watch as he milks them and try the most nutritious milk in the world.

Day 8 - Empty Quarter to Mirbat

Once we reach Al Mazyouna, we take the new road to Thumrait, past three thousand year old triliths and areas scattered with fossils. Finally we leave the desert behind, cross the mountains near Qeiron Heritti and drive past Salalah to reach Mirbat in time for dinner.

Day 9 - Mirbat to Salalah

After a lazy start and a delicious breakfast, guests are free to enjoy the peace and beauty of the camp. Dolphin and turtles are often seen here and the coastal bird life includes ospreys, pelicans and flamingos.

There are also a variety of different trips in the surrounding area, including Salalah's fruit gardens and the souq where Frankincense is sold. Other attractions include the verdant Wadi Darbat, where you can take a tranquil walk beside water pools, which are the habitat of numerous birds and two kinds of kingfisher.

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 from which 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 takes you back in time.

In the afternoon we will head to Salalah, in time for your flight home.