



# Hud Hud Travels



## Seven Days Dhofar – The Empty Quarter, Salalah and Mirbat

Enjoy the luxury of a comfortable six-night package with 2 nights deep in the heart of the breath-taking Empty Quarter, the largest sand desert in the world, 2 nights at the Al Baleed Resort by Anantara in Salalah and 2 nights in your private beach camp on the coast of Mirbat. Our route takes us via much of Dhofar's most impressive scenery including impressive mountain chains, the fabled Frankincense route, the magnificent dunes of the Rub Al Khali and along the stunning Dhofari coast line.

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.

The camps 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

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. We take the road up and through the Qara Mountains, making stops on the way to absorb the beautiful views of the mountains and wadis on our way through the rocky desert.

We stop at Wadi Dawkah, part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site “Land of Frankincense”. Wadi Dawkah is a major place where the frankincense tree (*boswellia sacra*) can be found in large numbers and frankincense is harvested to this day. The incense comes from its gum, and it has been harvested and traded by Omanis for millennia.

After a delicious picnic lunch we pass Thumrayt, and make a stop at another site of the Land of Frankincense UNESCO site, the caravan oasis of Shisr, where we visit the remains of what is believed to be the lost city of Ubar.



# Hud Hud Travels

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We then turn into an extremely remote and isolated area, where traffic is almost nonexistent. 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 2

Watch the sunrise 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.

We pack a delicious picnic lunch and set out to explore the beautiful desert area, stopping to search for geodes that are often hidden in the sand.

In the evening, if possible, we visit a local Bedu from the Al Rashidi tribe to see his black camels and fascinate you with a wealth of detail about the disappearing way of life of those who still depend on them.

## Day 3

Today, we will leave our desert camp behind and retrace our steps to Thumrait, to return to Salalah.

Check-in at the beautiful Al Baleed Resort by Anantara, located at the Al Baleed Archaeological Park, part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site "Land of Frankincense".

Enjoy the afternoon at leisure at the hotel to explore the property and enjoy the excellent hotel facilities.

Dinner at leisure at the hotel.

Overnight at the Al Baleed Resort by Anantara

## Day 4

Visit the Al Baleed Archaeological park and the Frankincense Museum, before venturing into the town of Salalah, known for its green fruit gardens and Haffa Souq where Frankincense is sold.

Dinner at leisure at the hotel.



# Hud Hud Travels

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## Day 5

Before we set out to our beach camp, it is possible to visit the West side of Salalah, making a stop at Mughsail, known for its blow holes and stopping at some nearby frankincense trees where your guide will explain how the resin is harvested.

We then take the road that ventures along the East side of Salalah, towards Mirbat, with a chance to explore the village of Taqah and the ruins of Sumerham, the ancient trading port of the Queen of Sheba, which is also incorporated in the “Land of Frankincense” UNESCO site.

Late afternoon we reach our camp in Mirbat, nestled on a beautiful secluded beach, embraced by twin headlands.

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 6

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 kingfishers.

There are a variety of trips to the surrounding area such as the verdant Wadi Darbat where you can take a tranquil walk beside water pools and observe the abundant bird life.

Explore 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 seafront, take you back in time.

## Day 7

Today we leave our beach camp, following the coast gradually back towards Salalah, reaching in time for your flight back to Muscat.