



5 Days Dhofar – Salalah and the Empty Quarter

Enjoy the luxury of a comfortable four-night package with 2 nights at the Al Baleed Resort by Anantara in Salalah, followed by 2 nights deep in the heart of the breath-taking Empty Quarter, the largest sand desert in the world. Our route takes us via much of Dhofar's most impressive scenery including its stunning coastline, impressive mountain chains, the fabled Frankincense route and the magnificent dunes of the Rub Al Khali.

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 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

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 for a transfer to the beautiful Al Baleed Resort by Anantara, located at the Al Baleed Archaeological Park, part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site “Land of Frankincense”.

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 (not included).

Overnight at the Al Baleed Resort by Anantara



Hud Hud Travels

Day 2

Today there is time to explore the surroundings of Salalah. One option would be to visit the West side of Salalah, making a stop at Mugh sail, known for its blow holes and stopping at some nearby frankincense trees where your guide will explain how the resin is harvested. We then climb up the mountain on a cleverly cut road and venture along the road that leads to the border with Yemen. There are some beautiful bays that can be explored where we can make a stop for a swim.

Another option would be to venture to the East Side of Salalah, where you could make a stop at the picturesque village of Taqah, visit the ruins of Sumerham, the ancient trading port of the Queen of Sheba or have a tranquil walk beside the water pools of the verdant wadi Darbat, which is also a great place to observe the abundant bird life.

Dinner at leisure at the hotel (not included)

Overnight at the Al Baleed Resort by Anantara

Day 3

After breakfast, 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.

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.



Hud Hud Travels

Day 4

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 5

Today, we will leave our desert camp behind and retrace our steps to Thumrait and onwards to Salalah in time to bid you farewell before your flight back to Muscat.