



Hud Hud Travels



Four Nights Land and Sea itinerary with Bandar Khayran, Ras Abu Daud, & Wahiba Sands

A stylish comfortable safari, encompassing four nights and five days in beautiful northern Oman taking in much of Oman's impressive scenery and covering Muscat, desert, coast, mountains, beach, traditional towns, forts and souks. Accommodation is a combination of 2 nights on Hud Hud's Luxury Modern Dhow Ibra followed by 2 nights spent in your very own private Hud Hud Camp in the Wahiba Sands.

The Ibra can comfortably accommodate 8 guests for an overnight charter in 4 guest cabins (2 Double + 2 Twin). Each cabin comes with Italian style spacious bathrooms, equipped with a shower, wash basin, toilet and storage shelves. There are several comfortable seating areas to relax and enjoy the beautiful landscape; a large air-conditioned indoor lounge with ample seating and a dining table and 3 outdoor seating areas, including sun beds and an outdoor dining table. Meals will be cooked fresh by the onboard chef.

At the desert camp, sleeping tents vary according to the season 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, board games and yoga mats. At the desert camp we will offer sandboarding. Dining is at a properly laid table under the stars beside a crackling fire. Food is, as far as possible, locally sourced, freshly prepared by our camp chef and always delicious. We use limited electric light, and the emphasis is on preserving the atmosphere through natural lighting provided by candles, oil lamps and camp fires.

Day 1

From the Shangri-La Marina we embark Ibra, Hud Hud's luxury modern dhow, which after a full renovation allows us to bring our Hud Hud style, comfort, service, and gastronomy that our camps are renowned for to the sea.

We will sail for about 45 minutes to nearby Bandar Khayran, a labyrinth of islands, beaches, mountains, bays and natural channels, where we will spend the night. The yacht will anchor



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in a tranquil bay where, after a delicious lunch served onboard, you can swim, snorkel, discover the different bays by Stand Up Paddle Board or just relax.

Bandar Khayran is also known for its diving spots and we can arrange for a diving boat to meet you there if you would like to go on a dive.

Dinner and overnight on the Ibra at Bandar Khayran

Day 2

Today we leave Bandar Khayran behind to venture further along the coast towards Quriyat for our second destination of Ras Abu Daud. Less known than Bandar Khayran, this is another great location for swimming, snorkelling and exploring. Breakfast, Lunch and dinner will be served on board.

Dinner and overnight on the Ibra at Ras Abu Daud

Day 3

This morning we sail a little further to the coastal town of Quriyat, before we say farewell to the Ibra and her crew and begin the next part of our journey with a Hud Hud guide. We continue, by car, along the coast. After a short stop at the Bimah Sinkhole, we turn away from the sea and head up the northern face of the eastern Hajar Mountains. We follow a steep gravel track that, in a short time, takes us to the peak of the impressive Selmah Plateau over 2,000 m above sea level. Views to the north are of the Arabian Sea and, to the south in the hazy distance, the Wahiba Desert.

This track passes ancient villages that were, until a couple of years ago, only accessible on foot or by donkey. We visit the village of Al Jayla, with its interesting Falaj that is included in the UNESCO World Heritage site of the “Aflaj Irrigation Systems of Oman” and featured on Oman’s 100 Baiza notes. After a stop for a freshly prepared picnic lunch we drive to one of the numerous beehive tombs present on this long, west facing ridge, built by the Umm Naa people around 2500 BC.

By mid afternoon we leave the mountains and head down towards the Wahiba Sands through Ismaiyyah. Passing the 18th Century fort at Mudayrib, we leave the tarmac road behind to enter the desert and drive the final stretch on sandy tracks before reaching our camp, set-up with the russet red dunes.

The Wahiba Sands is a stunning desert of parallel valleys of sand dunes stretching north to south. Bedouin live, mostly on a seasonal basis, in the dunes tending to their camels. Our camp will be nestled deep within the desert, away from other tourists and light pollution from streets and villages at the desert’s edge. The skies are crystal clear and covered with stars.



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Day 4

Watch the sunrise over the imposing Sharqiya Sand dunes from camp, or for the more energetic, make your way to the top of a dune.

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, mangoes 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. The route is a combination of boulders, hiking and swimming that is great fun. After the visit of the Wadi, we will serve a Hud Hud picnic lunch in a shaded spot.

On the 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 After breakfast 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 coast on the sea-side of the Hajar range, stopping at one of the luscious Wadis such as Wadi Mibam, Wadi Shab or Wadi Tiwi for a walk and a swim.

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