

## Journey Idea to Oman



Prepared for  
Steppes Travel Clients

## QUICK REFERENCE ITINERARY

Day 1	Fly UK / Muscat (overnight)
Day 2	Muscat
Day 3	Muscat/Sur
Day 4	Sur/Wahiba
Day 5	Wahiba/Nizwa
Day 6	Nizwa
Day 7	Nizwa/Salalah
Day 8	Salalah
Day 9	Salalah/Muscat
Day 10	Fly Muscat / UK



# DETAILED TRIP ITINERARY

## Day 1

### UK / Muscat

Depart the UK on a flight to Muscat, a flight time of approximately 9 hours.

## Day 2

### Muscat

You will be met upon arrival by the Steppes Travel representative at the airport and transferred to your hotel. All transfers are private (unless stated otherwise) and included in your trip, however it will not detail every transfer on this itinerary.



The Chedi, Al Bustan Palace Hotel, Grand Hyatt or the Shangri-La Barr al Jissah Resort and Spa are just a few of Oman's growing 5-star assortment.

This afternoon, your guide will meet you for a sightseeing tour. Sights will include the fish market on the Corniche, which sweeps the entire edge of Muscat Bay and the Royal Al Alam Palace which is flanked by the 16th century forts of Jalai and Mirani. Also visit the charming Muttrah Souq.

The Grand Mosque closes at 11am each day, therefore, if you wish to visit the Mosque before you drive to Sur in the morning, then please inform your guide. Ladies are required to cover their heads, shoulders, arms and legs, gentlemen need to wear long sleeved shirts and long trousers.

*Overnight at your chosen hotel in Muscat on a bed & breakfast basis.*

## Day 3

### Muscat/Sur

Today you will be driven via the coast road to Sur. Enroute, you will visit the port of Quriyat, Fins beach, and stop at Wadi Shaab for a picnic lunch. 'Shaab' in Arabic literally means 'Ravine between Cliffs,' and the shallow green pools and abundant shade give the wadi a perfect setting for your picnic. Continue to Sur and check in to your hotel.



The picturesque city of Sur, is located 300 kms from Muscat, famous for its old fishing village and traditional manufacturers of dhows, it provides an ideal stop over to the Turtle Beach at Ras-al-Hadd, Wadi Bani Khalid and Wahiba Sands.

After an early dinner, head to Ras al-Hadd, a beautiful beach where giant green turtles still come ashore to nest (do take a small torch with you). The main hatching season is May to October but even outside these months, the chances of seeing turtles are high. Return to Sur later this evening.

*Overnight at your chosen hotel in Sur on a bed & breakfast basis.*

## Day 4

### Sur/Wahiba

After breakfast this morning, you will be driven to Wahiba Sands for your overnight camping in the desert.



Our experienced drivers will take you on a drive through the sand dunes to experience the thrill of dune driving before arriving at the campsite where you will camp (option of fly camping or 1000 nights) for the night. En route, your driver/guide will stop at the different and interesting sites and villages.

#### **Fly camping**

Fly camping is camping in traditional Omani style with igloo tents. The equipment is brought along with you from Muscat and your guide will find a quiet area to set up the campsite and prepare your dinner. The igloo tents will be set up complete with mattresses and sleeping bags. Dinner will be served outside under the stars. An authentic experience.



#### **1000 Nights**

This is a Bedouin style camp with tents made in the traditional Omani style. It is located well into Wahiba Sands so well away from the main tourist area. Each tent has its own loo and shower and meals are served in a central tent or outside under the stars.

As there is no electricity at the camp please take some warm clothes to sleep in as the temperatures can fall quite low at night.

*Overnight at your chosen camp on a full board basis.*

### **Day 5**

#### **Sur/Nizwa**

After watching the sunrise and breakfast under canvas, you'll continue onto Nizwa.



This afternoon visit Nizwa, the Fort and Souq.

Nizwa is the main town in the interior province. It was the capital in the 6th and 7th centuries. The town's immense palm oasis stretches for 13km (8 miles) along the course of two wadis. It is famous for its fort and its gold and silver handicrafts. Nizwa Fort was raised over a period of 12 years by Imam Sultan bin Saif in the late 17th century.

*Overnight at your chosen hotel in Nizwa on a bed & breakfast basis.*

### **Day 6**

#### **Nizwa**

This morning return to Nizwa with your guide to see the local Bedouin cattle and goat market. Between 7 am and 12 noon, there is the livestock market where traditionally attired men, many with a khanjar in their belts, a cane to hand and possibly a rifle slung over their back, bid for goats, sheep and cattle.



From Nizwa, you'll venture further a field to Bahla, home to Bahla Fort, now a UNESCO World Heritage Site (closed inside for renovation but still worth a stop) and Jabrin Castle, one of Oman's most beautiful forts, built in the late 17<sup>th</sup> Century.

*Overnight at your chosen hotel in Nizwa on a bed & breakfast basis.*

### **Day 7**

#### **Nizwa/Salalah**

Today return to Muscat for the quick flight to Salalah. This flight takes approximately one hour, fifteen minutes and flies over

Wahiba; on a clear day you will get a fantastic view of the Empty Quarter below.

On arrival into Salalah you'll be met and driven to your hotel.

*Overnight at your chosen hotel in Salalah on a bed & breakfast basis.*

## Day 8

### Salalah



Today you'll be collected from the hotel and taken on a full days sightseeing of East and West Salalah.

Salalah is the largest city in southern Oman. It has a unique charm with its coconut groves and banana plantations growing right to the water's edge. Its beautiful beaches of white sand are a heaven for swimmers and sea lovers. The rugged beauty of its fertile plains, its fresh water springs, its bustling souqs and tropical landscape leave a lasting impression on the visitors mind.

*Overnight at your chosen hotel in Salalah on a bed & breakfast basis.*

## Day 9

### Salalah/Muscat

This morning you'll be collected your hotel and taken for your flight to Muscat.

On arrival into Muscat you'll be met and driven to your hotel.

*Overnight at your chosen hotel in Muscat on a bed & breakfast basis.*

## Day 10

### Muscat / UK

Depart Muscat on a flight to the UK.

# TRIP PRICE

There is a variety of different category of hotels; therefore this is a general price guide only.

## Price from £2,895.00 per person

The rates quoted are subject to the availability of all services, currency fluctuations, written confirmation and Steppes Travels terms and conditions.

The price includes return flight from UK, local transport, airport-hotel transfers and tours on a private basis, accommodation, and board, entrance charges to sites, parks and museums. Accommodation is on a bed and breakfast basis or full board where mentioned.

The price excludes travel insurance, visas, single supplements (if applicable) and items of a personal nature, such as laundry, drinks, etc.

**Please note** that the above is only a suggested journey, allowing in-depth visits to the highlights of the country and the chance to explore the wide range of possibilities this fascinating country has to offer. We have a separate list of escorted tours and specialise in tailoring individual itineraries to your particular interests and requirements. This journey idea serves more as a general guide on what there is to see and do, as well as a guide on price.

## Why Travel with Steppes?

Steppes Travel was founded in 1989 with the objective of creating a travel company where service and knowledge are of the highest priority. We aim to design itineraries and include the highlights of any country, whilst taking travellers off the beaten track to see lesser known, interesting places not frequented by large numbers of tourists. We offer individuals the ability to travel safely in remote areas, with the knowledge that we have travelled there before.

### Financial Protection

Steppes Travel is a fully bonded tour operator that complies with the Civil Aviation Authority bonding conditions of the UK. This fully guarantees your money in the unlikely event of us going out of business before you start your holiday. Our ATOL number is 6945 and we have full insurance to cover the financial failure of an airline. In addition, all accommodation-only bookings (such as hotels, lodges and boats) which are not covered by the ATOL regulations are financially protected with all payments being held in a separate trust account until the date of departure. This is in accordance with the Package Travel Regulations Act 1992.

### Specialist Knowledge

We demand and employ only a very high calibre of staff. All of our specialists have a wealth of travel experience and have travelled, and continue to travel, extensively throughout their regions of specialisation. You can therefore rely on their first hand knowledge and expertise. Some have been with us for more than ten years. They will tell you about those intimate, friendly hotels and introduce you to our charismatic guides - those little extra qualities that make your holiday both unique and special.

### A Tailor-made Journey

After an initial discussion with you, one of our specialists will create a unique itinerary for your trip, designed around your own interests, preferred style of accommodation and the pace at which you like to travel. This will be fine tuned until you are completely satisfied with it. Throughout this whole process, you will be dealt with by the same specialist and you are welcome to call them at any time.

### 24 hour Emergency Service

We have an emergency service so that we can be contacted 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

## Recognition

More than 65% of our business is achieved through recommendations, referrals and repeat bookings. This, for us, is the highest endorsement we could have. In addition, our 20 years of experience in this specialist travel sector confirms our expertise.

Please contact the Steppes East team on 01285 651010 or visit our website [www.steppestravel.co.uk](http://www.steppestravel.co.uk) for further information.

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