

10 Most Frequently Asked Questions

Experience Oman with Al Maamari Tours



Who we are



Our team specializes in creating distinctive experiences that connect you to the spirit of Oman.

- **Yasser Al Maamari** – founder & owner, more than 20 years experience as guide & supplier
- **Jasmin Nutt** – Managing Director, experience as luxury travel expert, hotel sales, DMC
- Together with the team we count more than 40 years of passionate experience in tourism.
- Very well connected in Oman & Internationally
- Professional & licensed tour guides

Introduction

Link: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PKVKBoZ04gbVJsdOuGVky50H4Z6UEfcT/view?usp=sharing>



Information about Oman



- Oman among Lonely Planet's top countries to visit in 2022
- Monarchy ruled by his Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tarik
- Average of 7h flight from Europe, more with stopover
- GMT +4
- Experience Oman Website:
<https://www.experienceoman.om/press-kits/>
- E-Visa: <https://evisa.rop.gov.om>
Stay up to 14 days – no visa required since Dec 2020 for 103 countries including EU
- 08 June 2022: According to the latest regulations issued by the Supreme Committee for dealing with COVID-19, all restrictions have been lifted for travelers arriving in Oman. (please refer to [this link](#))





1. Best travel time

Detailed link: <https://www.climatestotravel.com/climate/oman>

- Along the coast of the Gulf of Oman, the climate is desert, sunny all year-round, with a few winter rains from December to March. This area is very hot in summer with around 37/38 °C (99/100 °F) on average, and the humidity of the sea that makes the heat oppressive. When the wind blows from inland, the humidity drops, but the temperature can get close to as high as 50 °C (122 °F). The winter temperature is pleasant with daily average around 20 °C (68 °F) in the far north and 21 °C (70 °F) in Muscat.
- The Gulf of Oman is warm enough for swimming all year round, and it becomes very warm in summer
- In the Al Hajar **mountains** and in Jebel Shams, at almost 2,000-3,000 meters (6,500 feet) above sea level, the average temperature in January is 10 °C (50 °F), so it is quite low, with possible frosts at night. In June and July, highs are around 29/30 °C (84/86 °F). On the contrary, at lower altitudes, the summer heat is intense.
- In **Salalah**, the daytime temperature reaches 32/33 °C (90/91 °F) in May and June, but then it goes down to 27/29 °C (81/84 °F) in July and August, when even a bit of rain falls, just 20/25 mm (0.8/1 in) per month, in the form of frequent drizzle. In addition, in July and August, a permanent layer of clouds and fog hangs over this part of the coast; for this reason, the daily temperature range is narrow.
- **Best travel time for European guests: from October to April**

2. Dress code



- Dressing conservatively is appreciated. Clothing that covers knees and shoulders are required for men and women. It is important that women dress modestly beyond the hotel grounds: long skirt or dresses (below the knee) with covered shoulders. For men long trousers are more respectful.
- Swimming in Wadis: it is recommended to wear a t-shirt and leggings (for women) over the swim suit.
- Visit of Grand Mosque: woman are requested to cover their hair with a scarf as well as long skirt or trousers and long sleeves. Men are requested to wear long trousers and shirts with sleeves.
- **Winter:**
 - Muscat: light clothes for the day, a sweater and a jacket for the evening and for cool days, and a scarf for the wind/AC
 - High mountains: spring/autumn clothes, a sweater and a jacket for the evening
 - Desert: light clothes for the day, a scarf or turban, desert boots or sandals, and a sweater or jacket for the evening.
- **Summer:**
 - Muscat, the north, the desert: loose-fitting, lightweight clothes, made of natural fabric (cotton or linen), a desert turban, a sweater and a scarf for air conditioned places.
 - High mountains: light clothes, a sun hat, and a sweatshirt for the evening.



3. Safety & Regulations

- Oman is one of the safest and most relaxing countries to visit (Criminalization rate is almost 0%) and is home to some of the most welcoming people in the world. However, when visiting anywhere it is always recommended to take the necessary safety precautions and to store passports, money and other valuables in a closed bag or hotel safe.
- Dumping litter is forbidden and can be fined by the police.
- It is polite not to smoke in public, but generally a “non smoking” sign is posted where appropriate.
- Collecting flowers, fruits, seashells, abalone, corals, crayfish and turtle eggs is prohibited.
- Visitors should ask permission before attempting to photograph people or their property. “No Photography” signs must be followed. To take pictures of Government and Military installations are strictly prohibited.
- Here are a few helpful pointers and tips to help you make the most of your visit to the Sultanate and gain a better understanding of the country’s culture, customs and laws:
<https://www.experienceoman.om/good-to-know/travel-advice/>



4. Alcohol

- Alcohol should not be consumed in public places apart from licensed premises, such as licensed hotels & restaurants (mainly located in 5* hotels).
- Taxes on alcohol are high, therefore one small beer costs easily EUR 10.
- There is no liquor shops for tourists. If you want to bring alcohol, please buy it at the airport duty free.
- Licensed hotels outside Muscat:
 - Jebel Akhdar: Anantara, Alila, dusitD2, Sahab Resort
 - Desert: Desert Nights camp, Arabian Nights Resort
- The police take a serious view of traffic offences in which alcohol is involved and heavy fines may be imposed.



5. Distances

- **Dubai – Muscat:** almost 500km
by car it takes around 4 hours 30 minutes in normal traffic, depending on border procedures and traffic it takes longer.
- **Musandam – Muscat:** around 540km
by car it takes around 6 hours 20 minutes in normal traffic, it requires 2 border crossings (OM-UAE/UAE-OM), depending on border procedures and traffic it takes longer.
Alternatively there are ferries or daily flights
- **Muscat – Salalah:** around 1000km
by car it takes around 10h and 1-2 overnights on the way are recommended (mainly camping due to very few accommodations), alternatively there are daily flights
- Muscat – Wahiba Sands / Nizwa / Jebel Akhdar: around 2h drive
- Muscat – Sur: around 2h 30Min drive, (3h to Ras Al Jinz)
- Muscat – Jebel Shams: around 3h 30Min drive
- Day trips can take easily up to 400-500km per day.
- **Self-drive:** GPS is not always accurate (different way of writing in English letters and new roads), therefore a local SIM for google maps is recommended

Regions



6. Beaches



- With over 3,000 km of pristine coastline, Oman has some seriously beautiful beaches to call its own. Whether it is the rugged coastline of Ras Al Madrasah, the white sands of Fins Beach or the endless expanse of Masirah Island beaches, visitors are welcome to enjoy beach walks, picnics and wild camping.
- Hotels such as the Al Bustan Palace and Shangri La Barr Al Jissah Resort and Spa have their own beaches, linked with popular activities such as kayaking or jet skiing.
- Public beaches, such as in Shatti Al Qurum in Muscat, draw residents playing beach soccer or hosting family barbecues.
- The more South you go, the more beautiful the beaches are.

7. Family travel



- Oman is an incredibly safe and sunny vacation destination making it a perfect family trip. Depending on the
- Various activities are offered for families including dolphin watching / snorkeling boat trips, turtle watching, local Souqs, Malls with kids playing areas, various parks for a walk and playgrounds, Wadis that invite for a swim or hike, climbing & trekking in the mountains, camel riding, quad bikes in the desert and much more...
- Family rooms are rare and mainly available in 5* hotels in Muscat. Hotels offer extra beds, higher room categories or limited connecting room options for families.

8. LGBTQ travelers



- Homosexual acts are illegal in Oman and Sharia Law applies throughout the country.
- Visitors should maintain an understanding of the cultural sensitivity and regardless of orientation, discretion should be practiced in sites of antiquity as well as during day to day touring, but Oman welcomes all to its beautiful country.
- We recommend to specify the bedding type for hotel bookings to avoid confusion upon check-in.

9. Wildlife



- Nature reserves are present throughout the country, on- and off-shore, to keep animals safe in their natural habitat. Examples are the As Saleel Nature Park in the A'Sharqiyah region, which provides a safe haven for the Arabian Gazelle and Omani Wild Cat (it requires a), and the Jebel Samhan Nature Reserve, one of the last places of the wild Arabian Leopard. Entrance to the reserves is not always open for public and requires special approvals.
- Local operators offer regular dolphin and whale watching tours, with several bird watching groups also in existence.
- 1000 Nights Camp has a small Zoo with Arabian Oryx, Camel as well as Arabian horses.
- Please keep in mind that it is Nature and depending on the season & weather, wildlife might not be seen (no refund applicable).

9. Turtles



- An equally dedicated level of protection is extended towards marine life, including the turtle reserve at Ras al Jinz (Museum & Reserve), Ras Al Hadd and the uninhabited Daymaniyat Islands.
- The Shangri-La Resorts have dedicated turtle rangers taking care of the nesting & hatching.
- The best time to see them is between April and August every year. During these months, around 20,000 turtles come to Oman's beaches, especially on the Eastern side. These turtles lay 50,000 to 60,000 eggs during this period and are buried under the sand, just to protect them. After the eggs are laid, around 55 days later the eggs hatch and the babies begin their lives.
- Breeds: Leatherback Turtle, Green Turtle, Olive Ridley Turtle, Hawksbill Turtle, Loggerhead Turtle

10. What makes Oman special?



- Oman is a wonderful combination of ageless heritage and modern life. A place where one can explore a traditional souq in the morning, and attend a world-class show at the renowned Royal Opera House Muscat in the evening.
- Oman has a lot to offer: from tall mountains and deep gorges, to water-filled wadis, endless beaches and some of the world's most stunning desert landscapes, the diverse beauty of Oman is apparent in every part of the country.
- A large part of the Sultanate's unique charm is the hospitality of the Omani people. It is common for visitors to be invited for Omani coffee and dates by locals when travelling through the country, an offer that should never be refused.
- Even when summer temperatures soar in the rest of the region, the Sultanate enjoys cooler temperatures in Dhofar and the mountain tops of the Al Hajar range, making it a one-of-a-kind holiday destination for visitors from around the world.

History & Culture



- Cultural Sites:
 - National Museum, Maritime Museum and various other museums
 - More than 500 Forts
 - Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque
 - Royal Opera House with international performances
- 5 UNESCO World Heritage Sites:
 - Ancient City of Qalhat (2018)
 - Aflaj Irrigation Systems of Oman (2006)
 - Land of Frankincense (2000)
 - Archaeological Sites of Bat/Al-Khutm/Al-Ayn (1988)
 - Bahla Fort (1987)



Accommodations



- From guesthouses to 5* luxury properties
- Muscat: a huge variety of city hotels, few beach hotels
- Outside Muscat: few options in certain places
- Desert camps: from fixed camps to glamping
- Mountains: luxury Anantara and Alila, as well as the new property dusitD2 Naseem Resort



Q & A Session



Thank you and see you soon!



Don't hesitate to contact us for any inquiries or questions
and find more information on our website:



SCAN ME

Email: almaamaritours@outlook.com

Mobile: +968 9339 0883

Website: www.almaamaritours.com