OMAN EXCURSIONS
SEPTEMBER 2014
Proposal Prepared for GUTECH
MYSTICAL MUSCAT

Duration: approx. 4 hours, water on board

This tour of Oman’s capital city, Muscat, begins with a visit to the Grand Mosque, which was built over a period of 6 years from 1995 to 2001. (Mosque is open only from 0800-1100AM Sat to Thu) The Mosque is surrounded by 5 minarets, each of which symbolizes the five holy vows taken by every devout Muslim to reinforce his faith in the Almighty. Please note strict dress code rules applicable for visit to the mosque. From the Mosque, the tour continues to the old part of Muscat city, the Muttrah Souk. As a traditional Omani market, the souk offers a wide range of goods, especially typical Omani souvenirs. Next on the itinerary is a stop at the Bait Al Zubair Museum, a small townhouse that has been converted to display archaeological remains found at the site as well as Omani traditions such as national dress and jewellery. The tour will also include a chance to see from outside Al Alam Palace, the Sultan’s Palace, which is flanked by Forts Mirani and Jalali, two keeps that were built by the Portuguese in the 16th century.
PANORAMIC TOUR OF MUSCAT & NAKHL

Duration: approx. 8 hours, lunch included, water on board

This panoramic tour begins with a visit to the Grand Mosque, which was built over a period of 6 years from 1995 to 2001. The Mosque is surrounded by 5 minarets, each of which symbolizes the five holy vows taken by every devout Muslim to reinforce his faith in the Almighty. From the Mosque, the tour continues on to the Fort at Nakhl, which stands proudly on the top of a hillock as one of the highest forts in Oman. You then continue on to the Al Thowara Oasis, the source of the natural springs. After lunch return to Muscat by afternoon time and you will have a chance to see from outside Al Alam Palace, the Sultan’s Palace, which is flanked by Forts Mirani and Jalali, two forts that were built by the Portuguese in the 16th century. Before going back to the ship you will stop in the Muttrah souk – a traditional Omani market. The souk offers a wide range of goods, especially typical Omani souvenirs.
FASCINATING FORTS: NIZWA AND JABRIN CASTLE

Duration: approx. 8 hours, lunch included, water on board

This fascinating tour will take you on a 2-hour drive through the beautiful interior of Oman to the town of Nizwa, which once was the Omani capital during medieval times. The first stop is Nizwa Fort, one of Oman’s most impressive round-tower forts that was built in the 17th century. Constructed on a solid base of rock, the huge tower was designed to withstand the vibrations of 24 cannons. From the top, visitors can enjoy a superb panoramic view of Nizwa and the surrounding plains – a sure delight for all avid photographers. From here, the tour proceeds to Jabrin Castle (45 km from Nizwa), the finest of Oman’s fortifications and built in the late 17th century. (Except Friday’s) The castle later became a seat of Omani education and learning. The castle features beautifully painted ceilings and intricate wood carvings. On the way back to Nizwa, the tour also includes a photo stop at Bahla Fort, the oldest and first Omani fort to be built in the Islamic style. After lunch at Falaj Daris Hotel in Nizwa, you will be taken back to the ship.
WAHIBA WILDERNESS TOUR

Duration: approx. 8 hours, lunch included, water on board

Wahiba Sands is a vast mass of undulating red and white sand dunes rising up to 200 meters and stretching as far as the eye can see. It is also host to a large variety of flora and fauna and ever-changing patterns of dunes, all of which adds up to a photographer’s delight! This tour of the sands includes a delicious Omani lunch and an opportunity to enjoy an exhilarating round of “dune bashing” in a four-wheel drive vehicle.
DOLPHIN WATCH

Duration: approx. 3 hours, water on board
How do you rate watching wild dolphins as a thrilling way to start the day? If aquatic mammals are your thing, this is the tour for you. Both dolphins and many species of whale are common in the coastal waters off Muscat’s rugged shoreline. While a sighting cannot be guaranteed during every tour, the chances are good that you will see dolphins and, if you are lucky enough, perhaps even spot a whale or two.
SNORKELLING IN BANDAR KHIRAN

Duration: approx. 4 hours

Catch the wonders of life underwater in Oman’s pristine waters. Rated among the best locales to view abundance of sea life, Oman offers a wide variety of fish and coral. Bandar Khiran, a secluded cove, has a large number of mangrove trees that form a sanctuary for large numbers of lobsters, shrimps, and other fish. The crystal water allow snorkelers unrivalled and unobstructed of the abundant underwater life.

(Soft drinks on board) (Exclusive boat will be provided from 10pax onwards)
GAME FISHING

Duration: 04/ 06 Hours, water on board

The Gulf of Oman is rich in marine life including Marlin, Sailfish, Yellow fin Tuna and Dorado, trivially, king fish, barracuda, etc. We can arrange your trips on one of our recommended game fishing charter boats which come equipped with professional equipment together with Omani captains who have a sound knowledge of the Muscat waters.

Water and soft drinks are provided on board the boats and other catering can be arranged upon booking, Game Fishing trips are either 4 or 6 hour trips. Our fishing trips operate from Marina Bandar Al Rowdha and we advise leaving as early as possible (0700hrs onwards), to enhance your chances of catching that big one.
GREEN MOUNTAIN

Duration: Full day, 4WD Private Transport, pick-up, Omani guide, lunch & soft drinks
You depart Muscat on a guided tour through the Sumail Gap and Izki by 4WD. Your journey continues on a scenic mountain route up to the roof of Oman, the Saïq Plateau which for hundreds of years has only been accessible by donkey. Jebel Akhdar, ‘Green Mountain’, as it is popularly dubbed, offers discovery, adventure and a fascinating insight into the life in one of the most inaccessible places in the Sultanate. From Princess Diana's Point, experience a sense of awe as you witness nature’s primordial beauty as seen in the soaring peaks and plunging canyons.
The rise of terraces on extremely steep mountain slopes is particularly impressive. Feel the climate cool down by as much as 15 degrees on top of the mountain. Dining at a local restaurant is included before taking a leisurely walk through the hanging gardens which run parallel alongside the original Falaj system. Next we take you down to the remote mountain village of Soqra, which would not look out of place on the front cover of ‘The National Geographic Magazine’. Return to Muscat at approx 1730hrs.
WADI KHOUED

Duration: Half day, 4WD Private Transport, pick-up, Omani guide, water on board

Board the 4 WD vehicles and proceed for a soft adventure trip to Wadi Al Khoud for Wadi bashing. You will drive past the city and Muscat airport to arrive at a viewpoint overlooking the Fanja Village for a photo stop. After this stop you will return to your 4 WD vehicles and continue the drive. After driving through the town you will arrive at the Wadi, from where you will experience the drive over the rocky beds on the bumpy tracks sometimes splashing the water.

All along the Wadi you will see small farms and lots of date plantation. During the ride you will see water pump been kept by the farmer to pump the water from the Wadi to the plantations. After having enjoyed the Wadi ride, you will break in a small area near the rocks where an open Majlis would be placed for you if you wish to relax. Here you will be served soft drinks/ water, fruits and cookies. After enjoying this you will return to your vehicle and proceed on your return journey to Muscat. You now drive through the town of Fanja and see some small beautiful houses built by the locals and also shops selling earthen ware and daily household items. Continue drive enjoying the natural beauty with the back drop of the beautiful mountain landscape before arriving at the port. After an exiting tour of Wadi Al Khoud we return to the port to board the cruise.
AL HOOTA CAVES, JEBEL SHAMS

Duration: Full day, 4WD Private Transport, Omani guide, pick-up, cave entry fee, lunch & soft drinks
You depart Muscat through the Hajar mountain range en route to Al Hoota Caves, 2.7km tunnel which leads to an enormous subterranean chamber and large underground lake some 800m in length which is home to a rare species of blind fish. Following a recent refurbishment of the caves, there are now reception facilities, tunneling and the introduction of a train together with a sound and lighting system. The inside of the cave features several classical formations including stalactites, stalagmites and solid columns, which take thousands of years to form. The colorization is also magnificent, with hues of gold, beige, yellow and pink.
Your guide will lead you onto the charming ancient village of Misfat Al Albriyyin, former settlements of the interior Imams and their tribes. The village is set in a stunning landscape above terraced plantations of date palms. The ancient houses and ruined watchtower perched on the mountain complete the scene.
Following a sumptuous local lunch at Al Hamra you head up to Jebel Shams, ‘Sun Mountain’, Oman’s highest peak at a staggering 3000 meters. At the upper reaches of the mountain is the ‘Grand Canyon’, which provides breathtaking views down to its floor. Feel the cooler climate change on top of the Canyon. Be prepared for a little ‘summit shopping’ as the village children regularly set up stalls of various homemade handicrafts such as rugs, slippers and key rings made from local mountain goat wool. On descending Jebel Shams you will witness the amazing mountain sunset over Al Hamra, a perfect end to the day before returning to Muscat.
OVERNIGHT TRIPS
JEBEL SHAMS - SUN MOUNTAIN
OVERNIGHT TRIP

Day 1: Al Hoota Caves & Jebel Shams ‘Sun Mountain’

You depart Muscat through the Hajar mountain range en route to Al Hoota Cave, 2.7km tunnel which leads to an enormous subterranean chamber and large underground lake some 800m in length which is home to a rare species of blind fish. Following a recent refurbishment of the caves, there are now reception facilities, tunneling and the introduction of a train together with a sound and lighting system. The inside of the cave features several classical formations including stalactites, stalagmites and solid columns, which take thousands of years to form. The colorization is also magnificent, with hues of gold, beige, yellow and pink.

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Your overnight accommodation is at a mountain camp retreat set amongst the stunning landscape of this dramatic mountain.
Day 02: Bahla Pottery & Jabrin Fort

Following breakfast, you visit the village of Bahla with its rich tradition of pottery and weaving. Bahla is a delightful town having retained its traditional characteristics and is surrounded by a 12km long protective wall, much of which still stands. You visit the famous Pottery Centre and Bahla Fort, one of the oldest in Oman, built in the late 17th century (UNESCO Heritage Site) on much earlier Persian foundations. You will then visit Jabrin Fort, built in the late 17th century and originally designed as a residence. It displays the highest achievement in Omani ceiling painting and beautifully executed woodcarvings. Return to Muscat at approx 1700Hrs.
TURTLE BEACH & WADI BANI KHALID
OVERNIGHT TRIP

Day 1: Turtle Beach

Starting from Muscat and travelling inland through the Eastern Hajar Mountains you head south east to the fishing port of Quriyat, which lies on the east coast at the end of a sandy plain. Like other ports it suffered under Portuguese supremacy during the 16th century. An island with a watchtower just offshore can be reached on foot during low tide. Along the beach is an inlet lined with dense mangrove forest - home to marine and bird life.

Near Dibab is a huge sinkhole known as Bait Al Afreet - "house of the demon" - with its clear green water. Concrete steps lead down the sides making swimming possible. Along the coastline, passing Bimah and Fins, with many tiny coves tucked beneath the cliffs and stretches of white sandy beaches lapped by an incredible turquoise sea.

Next stop is Wadi Shab, which means, "gorge between the cliffs". The Wadi is entered via a small ferry and it has cool pools of water all year round. Further into the enchanting Wadi is a deep pool ideal for swimming. The ravine is lush with trees, grasses and date palms. A single beach dotted with fishing boats at the mouth of the Wadi completes the picturesque view.

The route proceeds and passes through the village of Tiwi continuing along the coast to Qalhat - one of the oldest towns and seaports of Oman. Built by the Persians, it was a major and prosperous city during the 13th century and the main port of trade with the Interior, famous for its exports to and imports of spices from India.

You continue the journey to Sur, an ancient port and seafaring town which once played a major part in the trade between Oman, East Africa and India. It started its trading activities with the African coast as early as the 6th century. A walk through its labyrinth of streets reveals many fine old houses with carved doors and arabesque windows. The fishing dhows in the harbour make a splendid sight. Separated from Sur by the bay is the village of Al Ayja, well fortified by watchtowers and forts. On the sheltered lagoon is the traditional Dhow Building Yard - today, craftsmen still build dhows following traditional designs without the aid of drawings.

Your final destination for the evening is Ras al Jinz located on the edge of the Arabian Sea. Here you will spend your first night under the stars listening to the sounds of the Arabian Sea. Your camping experience will include a guided walk along the sand where you can see giant green turtles laying or hatching under the light of the moon.
Day 2: Wadi Bani Khalid

From here you will travel to Wadi Bani Khalid for an easy walk along the riverbed with ample time to cool down in the crystal clear waters of the rock pools. Wadi Bani Khalid is one of the largest Wadis in Oman. Nestled deep in the mountains, it is a true oasis. Water cascades down the gorge forming cool blue-green pools, fed by underground streams flowing from within the surrounding limestone hills. Perennial flowing streams of spring water carried in aflaj (man-made channels) cling precariously to the rugged terrain and supports villages in the area. Return to Muscat.
WAHIBA SANDS & WADI BANI KHALID
OVERNIGHT TRIP

Duration: 2 days / 1 night, 4WD Private Transport, Omani guide, pick-up, soft drinks & all meals

Day 1: Wahiba Sands

Your scenic tour begins through the mountains passing through Sumail Gap and across the desert plains through the townships of Bidbid, Al Qabil and Ibra - gateway to the Sharqiya Region. Many watchtowers on the surrounding hills pay silent tribute to its past strategic importance. Remains of grand fortified houses and forts abound. Not far away is Al Mudayrib, where the surrounding hills are dotted with watchtowers.

The journey continues to the Wahiba Sands, a romantic desert with rolling sand dunes, varying from deep red to a rich honey color, stretching as far as the eye can see. This is the traditional home of the Bedouin, hardy spirited people who know how to survive in these harsh desert conditions. Following a traditional lunch at the camp, you are invited to meet with a Bedouin family, providing an intimate insight into their traditional lifestyle. Experience an exciting dune drive and witness the amazing desert sunset from the top of a dune. Dinner is typically Omani. Relax and enjoy the tranquility of the desert - clear skies, glittering stars and moving sands. Overnight accommodation is at Desert Camp.
Wadi Bani Khalid

Following breakfast your journey continues to Wadi Bani Khalid, nestled deep in the mountains and one of the largest and most picturesque Wadis in Oman. Water cascades down the gorge forming cool blue-green pools, fed by underground streams flowing from within the surrounding limestone hills. Perennial flowing streams of spring water are carried along the Falaj clinging precariously to the rugged terrain to support local villages. Enjoy a gentle walk along the riverbed and cool down in the crystal clear waters of the rock pools.

Return to Muscat 1700hrs.
PRICES
TERMS AND CONDITIONS
# PRICES – COACH TOURS

ALL RATES IN USD

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<th>TOURS</th>
<th>06-09 PAX</th>
<th>10-14 PAX</th>
<th>15-19 PAX</th>
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THE ABOVE RATES INCLUDE:
- 22 STR coach up to 14pax and from 15pax onwards a large 45str coach with chauffeur and English speaking guide.
- Drinking water onboard the vehicles on all tours.
- Entrance fees wherever applicable.
- Dolphin Watching & Snorkeling trip – we will offer an exclusive boat if there are 10pax or multiples.
- Game Fishing rate does not include a guide but includes vehicle & boat with all fishing equipment.
  The rate for this tour is based on Min / Max 6pax.
- Tour 2 and 3 include lunch as well.
- Please note Fri/Sat are our weekly day off’s.
## PRICES – 4WDTOURS

### ALL RATES IN USD

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<th>Tour</th>
<th>PRICE PER JEEP</th>
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<tr>
<td>2. GREEN MOUNTAIN</td>
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<td>3. WADI KHOUD</td>
<td>298.00</td>
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<td>4. AL HOOTA &amp; JEBEL SHAMS</td>
<td>390.00</td>
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THE ABOVE RATES INCLUDE:

- 4WD vehicle rental for full day as per timings including chauffeur & fuel.
- Tour 1, 2 & 4 include local restaurant lunch.
- Water on board.
- Entrance Fees wherever applicable.
# PRICES – OVERNIGHT TOURS

**ALL RATES IN USD**

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<td>2. JEBEL SHAMS</td>
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<td>3. RAS AL HADD</td>
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**THE ABOVE RATES INCLUDE:**

- 4WD vehicle rental for 02days as per timings including chauffeur & fuel.
- Includes 02 Lunches, 01 dinner & 01 breakfast.
- Water on board.
- Entrance Fees wherever applicable.
- Wahiba – Sama Al Wasil Campsite / Jebel Shams – Sunrise Resort / Ras Al Hadd – Sur Plaza Hotel
- All rooms subject to availability at the time of request.

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT FOR ALL FOUR OVERNIGHT TOURS ONE SHOULD CARRY AN OVERNIGHT BAG THAT SHOULD INCLUDE A WARM PULLOVER & COMFORTABLE WALKING SHOES.**