

## MEET OMAN, JEWEL OF ARABIA.



**Duration:** 8 days / 5 nights

**The price refers to:** person

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*Program:*

## **Day 1 Saturday, December 2 Italy - Muscat**

Meeting at Milan Malpensa airport, meeting with our tour leader and departure by scheduled Turkish Airlines flights to Muscat via Istanbul. Meals and overnight stay on board.

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## **Day 2 Sunday, December 3 Muscat tour - Sunset boat tour (100km)**

Upon arrival at Muscat International Airport, formalities for entry into the country will be completed, meet with local assistants and guide. Transfer to the Misk Al Mouj Hotel for breakfast. After a short break for relaxation, we will leave for the city tour to discover the capital of the Sultanate. Founded in the first century, it is a crossroads between the Arabian Peninsula, Asia and Africa. This day will begin with the discovery of the Great Mosque of Sultan Qaboos, a true architectural masterpiece. Transfer to hotel for check-in and assignment of reserved rooms. Lunch at the hotel. Afternoon departure for Al-Alam Palace, residence of the Sultan; photo stop of only the exterior. It is surrounded by two Portuguese forts, Mirani and Jilali, dating back to the 17th century. The tour continues through the old city, with a stop to visit the Bait Al Zubair Museum (which houses several collections of objects representative of Oman's culture). Transfer to the port for a sunset boat tour on the shores of Muscat (2h tour) before arriving at Mutrah, a fishing port and important center of local commerce. Free time for the typical souk that has retained all its oriental atmosphere. At the end of the visit, transfer to the hotel for dinner and overnight stay.

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## **Day 3 Monday, December 4 Muscat - Bimah Sinkhole - wadiShab - Wadi Tiwi - Ras Al Jinz (300km)**

Breakfast at the hotel, depart for Bimah Sinkhole, a deep natural depression filled with water. Local tradition states that a meteorite fell at this spot, causing the natural depression and forming a small lake. Depart in the direction of Wadi Shab, one of the most spectacular wadis in Oman, where fresh water flows for much of the year and where banana plantations and rocky paths are found. A stop for a refreshing swim in its clear natural pools is recommended, considering the high temperatures. Lunch at a local restaurant. Continue on to Wadi Tiwi, a spectacular deep narrow gorge carved between mountains, running between high cliffs to the sea. It is surrounded by lush date and banana plantations. Arrive at the hotel in Ras al hadd and after dinner evening excursion to Ras Al jinz turtle reserve, world famous for nesting of the endangered green turtle.

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## **Day 4 Tuesday, December 5 Ras Al Hadd - Sur - Wadi Bani Khalid - Wahiba Sands (280km)**

Breakfast at the hotel. Depart for the coastal city of Sur. Visit to the factory of dhows (traditional wooden boats) that vary in design and size. Afterwards, photo stop, at Ajya Lighthouse. departure to Wadi Bani Khaled, an enchanting Wadi with its landscape surrounded by endless date plantations. The Wadi's natural pools are cool, deep and absolutely breathtaking. Free time to dive and relax among the crystal clear waters. Second breakfast at the Wadi. Continue to the Wahiba Desert ,whose dunes, land of the Bedouins for 7,000 years, stretch over 185 km long and 80 km wide to the Arabian Sea. Adventure hike in the dunes to enjoy an exciting desert sunset while tasting typical Arabian coffee. Return to camp, Bedouin dinner and overnight stay.

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## **Day 5 Wednesday, December 6 Wahiba Sands - Ibra - Birkat Al Maouz - Jabal Akhdar (330km)**

Early in the morning you will have the opportunity to watch the sunrise over the dunes. Breakfast, depart for Ibra, one of the oldest cities in Oman and once a center of trade, religion, education and art. Visit Manzifat, a ruined village with narrow alleys that enhance the traditional architecture of the hamlet where protection from tribal raids and wars was needed during the Middle Ages. A walk through old dilapidated mud brick houses for a taste of historic life. Lunch at a local restaurant. Continuation to Birkat Al Maouz. Photo stop at the village with a large banana plantation; the site also houses the traditional Falaj irrigation system listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Afterwards, the journey continues in the direction of Jabal Al Akhdar 'The Green Mountain' which is part of the Al Hajar mountain range in the Governorate of Ad Dakhiliyah in Oman. Visit to the Saiq Plateau at 2,000 meters above sea level. Jabal Akhdar is famous for its maze of wadis and terraced orchards, where pomegranates, apricots and roses grow in abundance thanks to its mild climate. Dinner and overnight stay at the hotel.

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## **Day 6 Thursday, December 7 Jabal Akhdar - Jabrin - Bahla -Misfat - Nizwa (160km)**

Breakfast at the hotel. Depart for Jabrin and visit the castle built in 1675 by Imam Sultan bin Bil'Arab as his secondary residence. It is famous for its painted ceilings, its walls decorated with arabesques, its door grilles, and its stucco or wooden windows. Photo stop in front of the pre-Islamic fort of Bahla, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Continue to Misfat, for a photo stop, a small wonder perched on the edge of a canyon in the heart of an arid mountain. You can stroll through its narrow streets with mud walls, lulled by the sounds of daily village life. Typical lunch at Misfat old house. Continuation to Nizwa. Arriving in Nizwa, you will take a leisurely stroll through the souk, famous for its handicrafts: khanjars (curved daggers), pottery, baskets. Return to hotel,

dinner and overnight stay.

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## **Day 7 Friday, December 8 Nizwa - Al Hamra - Muscat (250km)**

Breakfast at the hotel. Depart to visit Nizwa the inland capital and cradle of Islam in the Sultanate of Oman. It was the capital of many imams and enjoyed a period of prosperity during the reign of the Ya'ruba dynasty, which ruled the country from 1624 to 1744. It has one of the oldest mosques in the world (which cannot be visited). Tour the fort and its watchtower and visit the cattle market, where you will enjoy the effervescent environment, a unique experience to experience the very lively atmosphere there. It will continue to Al Hamra. You will be able to enjoy views that extend over the region and its palm groves. Lunch at a local restaurant. Continue on to Bait Al Safah, where in the heart of the village you will discover a traditional earthen house, the different parts of which tell the story of Oman's former days (about 300 years old). Women will reproduce for you the gestures of old-time crafts: the making of flour, powdered medicines, local pancakes ... During the visit Oman coffee (kawa) and dates as a small break before returning to Muscat. Dinner at a seafood restaurant. After the farewell dinner, transfer around 11 p.m. to the airport for the flight back to Italy. Overnight stay and meals on board.

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## **Day 8 Saturday, December 9 Italy**

Arrival in the morning at Milan Malpensa airport.

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### **Il tour include:**

Turkish Airlines scheduled flights from Milan Malpensa via Istanbul Airport taxes, carry-on and checked luggage 5 nights in 4\* hotel with half board, excluding drinks Lunches on excursion as scheduled, drinks not included Transfers on arrival/departure and during the tour by private bus Italian-speaking guide throughout the tour Entrance fees to sites mentioned in the program Medical, baggage and cancellation insurance (for justifiable reasons with medical certificate) Clio Travel Companion

### **Nel tour non è compreso:**

Drinks with meals during the itinerary Personal extras Optional Excursions Anything not expressed under "the fee includes"



Encounter with Oman, jewel of Arabia.

Located in the southeastern corner of the Arabian Peninsula, Oman is an incredible country, a mix of nature, history and traditions.

Oman is imbued with enveloping scents like the incense route, with colors as warm and intense as its desert, and with fortresses and villages clinging to rock faces where flowers bloom.

A pristine world!!!!

Flight operations subject to reconfirmation

02/12 MXP IST 18:50 - 23:40

03/12 IST MCT 01:20 - 07:10

09/12 MCT IST 02:10 - 06:55 night between 08/12 and 09/12/2023

09/12 IST MXP 08:55 - 09:55