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The Sultanate of Oman is far more exotic and unspoiled than its better-known neighbours. As one of the oldest civilisations in the Arabian Peninsula the country is blessed with a rich cultural heritage, together with extraordinary natural beauty and guaranteed sunshine.



Oman Explorer

A spectacular journey through the north

Though roads may be a little rough in places, thereby necessitating a 4WD vehicle, a self-drive journey through northern Oman is the perfect introduction to this mysterious and fascinating country.

The journey begins with a couple of days to explore Oman's colourful capital, Muscat, before you drive inland to the historic town of Nizwa with its traditional souk and splendid desert forts, and the nearby hill villages of the beautiful Jebel Akhdar (Green Hills), where ancient customs still survive. You then continue east to the Wahiba Sands, a spectacular sea of 200-metre high undulating dunes on the edge of the Empty Quarter, and on to the coastal town of Sur where traditional Arabian dhows are still built. Returning to Muscat, this fascinating journey ends with a few days relaxation beside the azure waters of the Arabian Gulf.

Sample itinerary:

Day 1/2: Fly London to Muscat. City sightseeing. Overnights Al Bustan Palace/The Chedi. **3:** Drive to Nizwa via Jabrin Fort and Jebel Akhdar. City sightseeing. Overnight Nizwa Hotel. **4:** Drive to Wahiba Sands. Overnight 1000 Nights Camp. **5:** Drive to Sur. Overnight Sur Hotel. **6/9:** Drive to Muscat via Wadi Tiwi and Bimah Sinkhole. Overnights Al Bustan Palace/The Chedi. **10/11:** Fly to London.

Dates: To suit individual requirements.

Price: From £1,635 per person (based on 2 people travelling).

NB: Costs are based on self-drive 4WD. The supplement for a chauffeur driven vehicle is approx. £165 per person.



Oman Options

With guaranteed sunshine and endless unspoiled beaches, Oman is perfect for a break in the sun.

The country's best beach hotels are undoubtedly The Chedi, The Al Bustan Palace and the new Shangri-La Barr al Jissah Resort. Each has facilities that compare favourably with the leading hotels in Dubai but with a price tag that is a good deal more attractive (further details can be found in our new Resort Collection brochure).

Excursions to Salalah in the southern region of Dhofar, dhow cruises in the Arabian Gulf and overnight stays amidst the towering dunes of Wahiba Sands can be included in any tailor-made itinerary, while for the more adventurous we can even arrange guided camping safaris through the silent desolation of the Empty Quarter.

Those who wish to explore Oman's beautiful coastal waters should look no further than a charter aboard Charlotte Anne, a traditional 1949 Baltic Schooner built entirely of Swedish oak and refitted to a very high standard by owners Christopher and Renate Hurndall. Charlotte Anne sails the Musandam Peninsula, a spectacular region of towering mountains and deep waters where it is unlikely you will encounter other boats for days at a time, and runs a series of weekly dive charters (non-divers are more than welcome) that can be booked privately or joined individually.