

Oman principal tour

OCTOBER 2026

Day 0 – Wed, 30 Sept > Muscat - arrival

Arrive in Muscat (MCT), either directly or from Salalah (SLL) if doing the Salalah pre-tour.

Wide variety of airlines have regular schedules (mostly overnight to arrive in the morning), directly or via other Middle Eastern hubs.

Grab a SIM card at the airport. Cheap and easy.

Transfer to hotel. Group transfers available in blocks of arrival times. (Optional extra)

Afternoon and evening at leisure.

Overnight: Royal Tulip, Muscat (B)

*** TRIP STARTS ***

Day 1 – Thu, 1 Oct > Nizwa – culture, history and vistas

Visit the historic [Nizwa Fort](#), a massive 17th-century fortress overlooking the old town, offering panoramic views and insights into Oman's history.

Enjoy a walk of approximately one hour through [Nizwa Souk](#), one of Oman's most vibrant traditional markets, famous for silver jewelry, dates, and spices.

[Oman Across Ages Museum](#), a modern, interactive museum showcasing Oman's history through time with striking architecture.

Overnight: Al Diyar, Nizwa (B)

Day 2 – Fri, 2 Oct > Jebel Shams – mountain of the sun

Early morning visit to the lively [Nizwa Animal Souq](#), a traditional livestock market offering an authentic glimpse into local culture. Return to the hotel for breakfast.

Begin the tour with a visit to [Jibreen Castle](#), a beautifully preserved fortress known for its painted ceilings and elegant design.

Photo stop at the [Beehive Tombs](#), a UNESCO World Heritage Site dating back thousands of years.

Proceed to [Wadi Dam](#) for a short nature stop in a quiet mountain valley.

Visit [Misfat Al Abriyeen](#), a charming mountain village famous for its terraced farms, oasis, and traditional mud houses.

Drive onward to [Jebel Shams](#).

Overnight: Sama Heights Resort (or equivalent), Jebel Shams (D, B)

Day 3 – Sat, 3 Oct > Jebel Akhdar – mountain and stargazing

[Balcony Walk](#) along the dramatic canyon views of Jebel Shams.

[Hoota Caves](#) for a guided visit through its impressive limestone formations.

Visit [Birkat Al Mouz](#), a traditional village known for its ancient falaj irrigation system.

Ascend to [Jebel Akhdar](#), famous for its cool climate and terraced landscapes.

Thrilling near-death experience: [Via Ferrata](#) and [zipline](#). Via Ferrara is a must-do adventure climbing path that uses steel cables or ladders, fastened to the rocks to which climbers attach a harness with a leash. (Optional extra)

In the evening, enjoy [stargazing](#) (possible only before moonrise at approximately 23:30

Overnight: Jebel Akhdar Hotel, Jebel Akhdar (D, B)

Day 4 – Sun, 4 Oct > Wahiba Sands – desert experience

Visit the [Saiq Plateau](#) for panoramic mountain views.

Stop at [Wadi Bani Habib](#), a historic abandoned village nestled among terraced farms.

Enjoy lunch at a [traditional Omani house](#). (included)

Continue the drive to Wahiba Sands, where a short [dune bashing experience](#) marks your arrival in the desert.

Sunset [camel ride](#) (Optional extra).

Overnight: Bedouin Desert Camp, Wahiba Sands (D, B)

Day 5 – Mon, 5 Oct > Wadi Hawer > Al Ashkhara - oasis

Early morning, enjoy a [Bedouin-guided animal exploration trekking tour](#) in the desert.

Return to the camp for breakfast.

Visit [Wadi Hawer](#). Enjoy a short walk and swim in the lush oasis pools.

Continue the scenic drive via [Jalan](#) to Al Ashkhara.

Overnight: Al Ashkhara Beach Resort, Al Ashkhara (D, B)

Day 6 – Tue, 6 Oct > Ras al Hadd – turtles

Drive to [Ras al Hadd](#).

Afternoon at [leisure/stroll on the beach/do your laundry](#).

After dinner, night [turtle watching tour](#) to observe nesting turtles in their natural habitat.

Overnight: Sama Ras Al Jinz ecolodge, near Ras al Hadd (D, B)

Day 7 – Wed, 7 Oct > Sur

Early morning turtle viewing at 04:00 am how babies hatch and make their way to the sea.
(Optional extra)

Return to the hotel for breakfast and a relaxed checkout around 11:00 am.

Visit the [traditional Dhow Factory](#) in Sur to see handcrafted wooden boats.

Lovely [corniche area](#).

Afternoon at [leisure/walk around/do laundry](#).

Overnight: Sur Hotel, Sur (B)

Day 8 – Thu, 8 Oct > Wadi Tiwi > Wadi Shab > Muscat – water

After early breakfast, depart to visit [Wadi Tiwi](#), enjoying a walk through the lush oasis and traditional villages.

Continue to [Wadi Shab](#) for a hike, swimming experience, and visit to the [cave waterfall](#).

Drive onward to [Bimmah Sinkhole](#) for a photo stop.

Return to Muscat.

Overnight: Royal Tulip, Muscat (B)

Day 9 – Fri, 9 Oct > Barka and Rustaq > Muscat – return to city

After early breakfast, travel to Barka and Rustaq.

Visit the lively [Barka Fish Market](#), explore [Barka Fort](#) (photo stop).

Continue towards the [Rustaq mountain region](#), making photo stops at [Rustaq Fort](#), [Al Hazm Fort](#), and enjoy views of the natural hot springs ([Ain Al Kasfa](#))

Return to Muscat.

Overnight: Radisson Blu Muscat (B)

Day 10 – Sat, 10 Oct > Muscat – city tour

[Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque](#)

Stop by the [Royal Opera House](#).

[Muttrah Corniche and traditional Muttrah Souq](#) for sightseeing and shopping.

Overnight: Radisson Blu Muscat (B)

Day 11 – Sun, 11 Oct > Muscat seas > Muscat/Optional early departure

Early morning departure after breakfast for a boat excursion to [watch dolphins](#) along the Muscat coastline. (Optional extra)

Enjoy views of the sea and surrounding cliffs, possibly spot dolphins in natural habitat.

Afternoon boat trip to the Daymaniyat Islands Nature Reserve. (Optional extra)

Enjoy swimming, snorkeling, and relaxing on the pristine beaches while discovering rich marine life and coral reefs and sometimes turtles. (Optional extra)

If you are not in the mood for watersports or free time, you can fly out on this day.

Overnight: Radisson Blu Muscat (B)

Day 12 – Sun, 12 Oct > Departure

Airport transfer (Optional extra) and departure.

***** MAIN OMAN ENDS *****

Optional extras

Prices are indicative, and may change somewhat towards the time of the trip, based on group sizes, inflation adjustments, etc.

Airport transfer	12 OMR*	30 September and on Departure (11 or 12 Oct)
Via Ferrata and zipline	30 OMR	Day 3, 3 October
Sunset camel ride	25 OMR	Day 4, 4 October
Morning turtle viewing	15 OMR	Day 7, 7 October
Dolphin snorkeling	25 OMR	Day 11, 11 October
Daymaniyat islands	40 OMR*	Day 11, 11 October

*Prices may vary based on number of participants – more are cheaper per person, fewer may be a bit more expensive