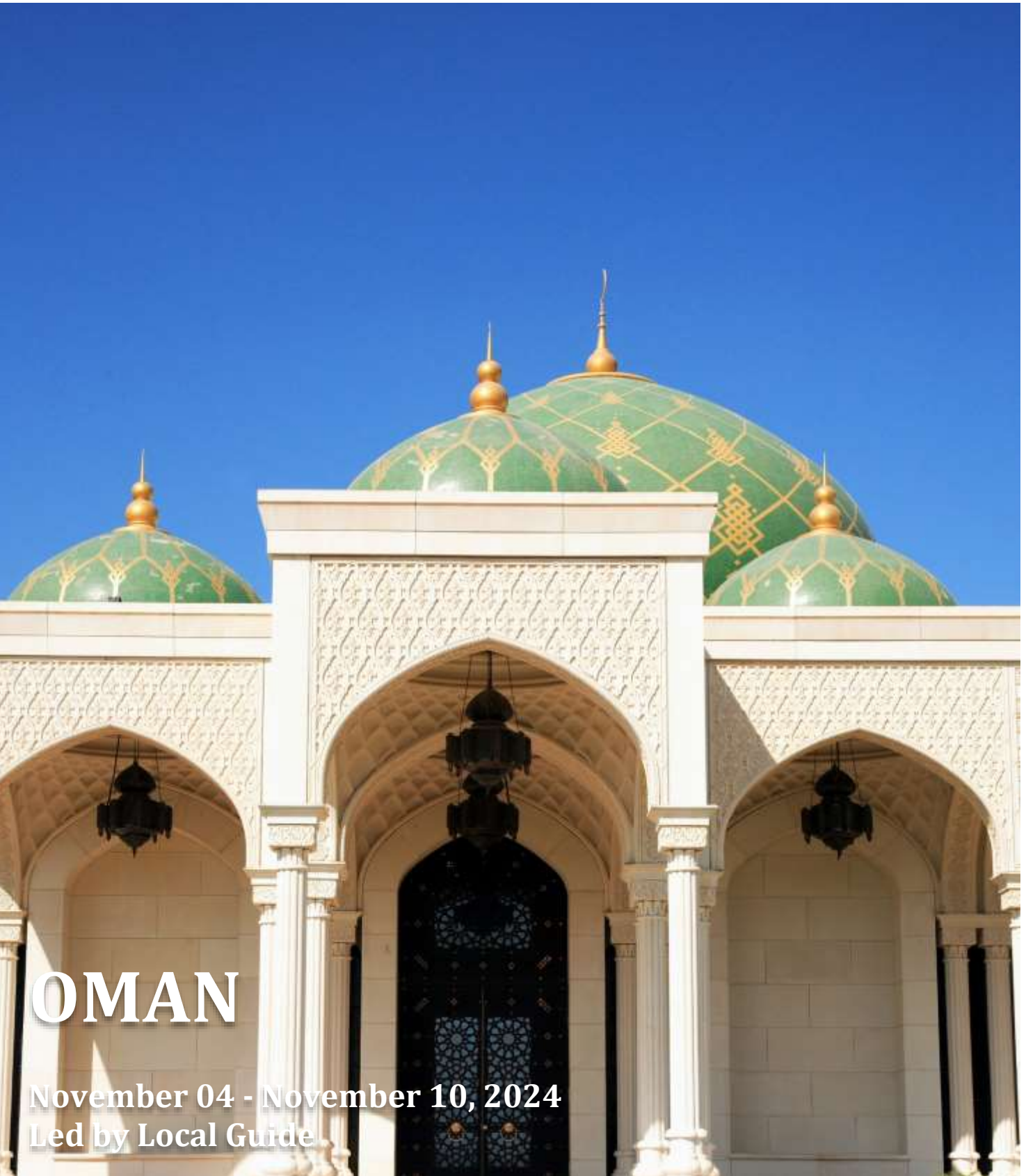


DISCOVER THE WONDERS

SPIEKERMANN

TRAVEL SERVICE



# OMAN

November 04 - November 10, 2024  
Led by Local Guide

Can be combined with the Arabian Gulf tour (October 23 - November 04, 2024)

*Oman is one of Arabia's true gems - a land of rugged coastlines and vast deserts where tradition and progress go hand in hand. This wonderful adventure takes us from the heart of its picturesque capital, deep into mountains and deserts of the Bedu. We will take in the breathless landscapes of the Hajar Mountains, It is a journey of incredible contrasts, following in the footsteps of the pioneering explorers of old and discovering some of the richest natural and cultural highlights that Arabia has to offer. Visiting Musandam city that dominates the Strait of Hormuz and have a wonderful adventure exploring its mountains and terraces. In addition, Exploring Salalah, the land of Frankincense and UNESCO world heritage site and be introduced to the famous city of Sumharam (Khor Rohri). This UNESCO World Heritage Site was the easternmost outpost of the Hadramawt Kingdom. Oman is also steeped in myths and legends as it is believed to be the home of Sinbad the Sailor and the site of the ruins of the palace are reputed to be that of the Queen of Sheba.*

**Ihab Zaki**  
Managing Director

**Monday, November 04**

**Muscat - Musandam**



After breakfast, transfer to Muscat airport for your flight to **Khasab**, a port city on Oman's **Musandam Peninsula**. Upon arrival, Meet representative and begin the city tour of Khasab including a visit to the **Khasab Fort**, a picturesque stronghold built in the 17<sup>th</sup> century by the Portuguese seeking dominion over the maritime trade in the Strait of Hormuz and to prevent attacks from the sea. The structure you will see is the result of extensive restoration work carried out in the late 20th century. Stroll around the town before checking into *Atana Khasab Hotel* or similar. This afternoon jump aboard your 4WD and head to **Jabel Harim (Mountain of Women)**. The mountain takes its name from the time when local women would retreat to the caves here to avoid being kidnapped by pirates or rival tribes while their husbands were away on fishing or trading expeditions. During your mountain safari, enjoy spectacular panoramic views from the road and see terraced mountain villages, lush acacia forests, and wadis. Many of the rocks on the mountain contain well-preserved fossils of sea creatures, such as mollusks, fish, clams, and trilobites. There is also an excellent collection of **petroglyphs** carved into the borders including human stick-figures, animal figures, and one even thought to be a man on an elephant. Return to the *Hotel* for overnight. **(B,L,D)**

**Tuesday, November 05**

**Musandam (Dhow Cruise)**



After breakfast, transfer to the pier, board a traditional Omani dhow (shared), and cruise towards Musandam's longest and spectacular **Fjord**, which is often referred as "**Norway of the Arabia**." Enjoy a traditional lunch while cruising, then anchor at the vicinity off Telegraph Island where you can enjoy a swim or just sit back and relax or, you can be more adventurous, climb up the stairs to visit the crumbling ruins of the repeater station and operator's quarters (depending on the tide). Enjoy your cup of Tea,

and coffee while you are on board. Return to the *Hotel*, the rest of the day free to relax and overnight. **(B, L)**

**Wednesday, November 06**

**Musandam - Muscat - Salalah**



In the morning, check-out from the hotel and transfer to the Khasab airport for the flight to Salalah connecting in Muscat. Upon arrival, transfer to *Crowne Plaza Hotel* for check-in and overnight. **(B,L)**

**Thursday, November 07**

**Salalah (City Highlights)**



Salalah, is the capital and largest city of the southern Omani Governorate of Dhofar, and the birthplace of the current sultan, Qaboos bin Said. Your city tour of Salalah begins with a visit to the "**Museum of the Frankincense Land**", a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** that opened in July 2007 at **Al Balid Archaeological Park**. This museum is the latest addition to Oman's heritage and cultural scene. A complete history of the Maritime trade and ship building industry of Oman can be experienced here and even include meticulously carved replicas of the ancient boats and ships that date back to the Omani Maritime trade. Next, drive through lush green fruit and vegetable plantations and make a brief stop to sample a fresh coconut water drink at one of the fruit stalls (pay on own) that line the streets within the periphery of the old Salalah town (Haffah). Also, stop for a photo opportunity at the impressive **Sultan Qaboos Mosque**, the largest mosque in Salalah and view **the Official Palace of His Majesty the Sultan (Al Husn Palace)**. Take a stroll through the old **Haffah Souk**, famous for the sale of high-quality Frankincense and numerous other traditional Dhofari souvenirs. This attractive souk is full of small shops lined up with straight piles of incense boxes, clay incense burners colorfully decorated with traditional patterns and bags of incense crystals. You will have an opportunity to shop then head to have lunch at a local restaurant. After lunch, return to the resort. The rest of the evening will be at leisure. Overnight. **(B,L)**

Friday, November 08

Salalah (Historical Highlights)



After breakfast, visit the old **fishing village of Taqah**, famous for the manufacturing of dried sardines and **old “Dhofari Houses”**. Then, visit the 19th century **Taqah Castle**, the former official residence of the ‘Wali’ (Governor) of the region and obtain a glimpse into the rich history of the region. Continue onto the ancient ruins of the once famous city of **Sumharam (Khor Rohri)**. This UNESCO World Heritage Site was the easternmost outpost of the **Hadramawt Kingdom** on the ancient incense route between the Mediterranean Sea, Persian Gulf, and India. A picturesque drive then leads you to Mirbat, the ancient capital of Dhofar and the beginning of the “Frankincense Trail”. Take a stroll through the streets lined with old Omani houses and stop to take a photo of the twin-domed Bin Ali’s Tomb - a classic example of medieval architecture. On the way back to the hotel, explore the natural spring of **Ayn Razat**, beautifully laid out amidst the tranquil lush mountains, and nourished every day of the year by a natural underground spring water. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant before returning to the Crowne Plaza Resort or similar. The rest of the evening will be at leisure for further exploring the city on own and overnight. **(B, L)**

**Special Notes on Travel:**

*Touring - You will be covering a lot during this journey. The roads are good, and the bus is very comfortable. Some driving days are long, but there will be several restrooms stops along the way. It is important to recognize the exhausting nature of some of the long sightseeing days, as well as some of the site visits where you may have to climb over uneven terrain, steps, rocks, and sand, as well as up inclines and stairs. Be prepared to travel with comfortable shoes. You do have the option of staying in the vehicle if some sites seem difficult to you*

Saturday, November 09

Salalah - Muscat



After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your flight to Muscat. Upon arrival, You will be met by our representative and transferred to *Park Inn by Radisson Hotel or similar* for check in, rest of the day at leisure and overnight. **(B,L,D)**

Sunday, November 10

Muscat - USA



Enjoy your breakfast and then transfer to the Airport for your flight back home. **(B)**

*“We reserve the right to change the order of activities or places visited due to unforeseen schedule conflicts or in order to make the itinerary run smoothly”*



## Tour Cost (Land Only):

*Per person sharing in double occupancy*

2-4 travelers      \$3,995.00

5-9 travelers      \$3,495.00

**Single Supplement: \$995.00**

*Price based on group size minimum of 2 and maximum of 9 participants*

**Trip Grade: II    Lodging Level: \*\*\*\***



### Tour Includes:

- Airport / Hotel / Airport transfers.
- Accommodations in Superior (4\*) in centrally located hotels.
- Domestic flight Muscat - Musandam - Muscat and Muscat - Salalah - Muscat.
- Travel by modern, air-conditioned van or minibus (depending on the number of group).
- 4WD excursion to **Jabel Harim**
- Meals as mentioned in the itinerary (B: Breakfast, L: Lunch and D: Dinner).
- Entrance fees to all mentioned sites and museums.
- English Speaking local guides.
- All activities described in the tour.

### Tour does not include:

- International airfare into-out of Oman.
- Oman visa (currently free obtainable on arrival - subject to change).
- Items of a personal nature (camera fees, laundry, excess luggage, etc.).
- Transfers if not arriving/departing on tour dates.
- Dayroom/overnights necessitated by changes in airline schedules or misconnections.
- Gratuity to your guides, drivers, restaurant staff, etc.
- Travel protection insurance (HIGHLY RECOMMENDED)

### Trip Grade:

**II Active** – Some hikes, slightly more demanding walks at or to sites, few elevations, comfortable but busy schedule and some long rides and extensive drives.

### Lodging Level:

**★★★★ Luxury:** Regular style- usually large- hotels, typical western standard with ample venues, and full amenities. (4 or 5 stars)

