



Article Side

Oman: the right place to spend your holidays by [Sheikh Al Zubairi](#)

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Oman is known for its popular tourist attractions. Wadis (green, lush oases of palm trees, grasses, and flowers), deserts, beaches, and mountains are the features that distinguish Oman from its neighboring regions. The landscapes and landmarks such as wadis with year-round running water, deep, cool ponds which are safe to swim provided that the currents are slow, the 1500 years ago built aflaaj (distribution channels for water especially for irrigation purposes), various forts and castles, souqs as well as various other activities such as sand skiing, scuba diving, rock climbing, surfing, sailing and a lot more, induce the tourists to spend the holiday in Oman and make Oman a great place to visit. Tourists are especially attracted to the mountains region surrounding Salalah. The beaches in Oman are private, except some attached to the beach resort hotels, or those adjoining military or official property. There are over 500 forts and castles in Oman. Nowadays, many shopping malls which are like western European malls have been built in the capital area. The Muscat festival is held in January and February which is similar to the shopping festival held in Dubai.

One of the most popular activities in Oman is camel racing. The camel, also called "Ship of the Desert", is an essential part of the Omani Society, since it represents a profoundly treasured and highly valued tradition. It is particularly loved by Arabs due to its patience and they call it Ata Allah (gift of God). Bedouins have a great affection for Camels and they are never mistreated by them. Camels' needs are fulfilled before their own. The Sultanate, Sultan Qaboos has planned the development process of Oman in such a way so as to keep a balance between modernization and ethnical traditions. He has paid equal attention to Omani legacy and have seen to it's preservation for future generations. For this purpose, many institutions like Ministry of Heritage and Culture, the Public Authority for Craft Industries have been set up. The camel racing is one of these traditions that have been preserved. It occurs for a period of two days in each Wilayat. Twelve rounds of races are conducted on the first day depending on the camel's age that are participating in the race. The camels get trained from the age of 2.

Both cheap and expensive hotels can be found all over Oman. Some of these hotels are popular for providing luxurious rooms, lavish dining services, banquet and conferencing facilities, sports and recreational activities, themed bars with live amusement as well as Desert Nights Camp with camel rides, dune bashing, dune bike rides, idealistic sunsets over the desert skyline and campfires under the stars with customary Omani fare and melody. All of these features of Oman hotels attract not only the tourist but business travelers as well. Some of the renowned 5-star hotels of Oman include Al Bustan Palace InterContinental Muscat, InterContinental Muscat, Six Senses Hideaway Zighy Bay, The Chedi Muscat, Shangri-La Barr Al Jissah Resort and Spa and Radisson Blue Hotel Muscat. Several 3-star hotels are also present including The Treasure box, Beach Hotel, Ibis Muscat, Bowshar International Hotels and others.

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