

### **3 NIGHTS / 4 DAYS - MOUNTAIN / DESERT / BEACH**

#### **DAY 1 MUSCAT / NAKHAL / BILAD SAYT / AL HAMRA / JABAL SHAMS**



After breakfast you will meet your tour guide at 0800 hrs who will escort you to the waiting 4 wheel drive which you will board for a soft adventure tour. We start the tour by visiting famous Barka Fish market. After visiting the fish market, you drive to Nakhal to visit the Nakhal Fort. This fort once served the Imams of Bani Kharous and the Ya'arubah dynasty. After recent restoration work, the fort is refurbished with traditional furniture, handicrafts and historic relics. The ceilings, the doors and the windows are decorated with beautiful carvings. The view from the roof-top is very impressive and offers a panoramic view of the surrounding landscape.

The old village of Nakhal, which nestles below the fort, gradually leads to the famous warm springs of Nakhal situated at the end of an attractive Oasis. Relax by the side of the shallow waters of the springs surrounded by lush green date plantations and steep mountain peaks. From there, you drive to Wadi Bani Awf and reach Bilad Sayt. Arrive at Bilad Sayt, the most idyllic village with a wealth of verdant terraces. The graded track through the mountains is stunning and most of the time, this Wadi has water, making it a unique place for bashing. Make a short stop at Bilad Sayt and continue driving to Al Hamra. Make a stop at Al Hamra by the old houses. After the stop, you continue driving to Jabal Shams, the highest peak in Oman at 3,009m. Jabal Shams means "Mountain of the Sun" and its old name is JABEL AL QANAHA. The area is home to weavers of heavy woollen rugs in distinctive colours. Take a walk to see the Grand Canyon before driving to your hotel where you are going to spend overnight. Rest of the day at leisure.

#### **Overnight at the Jabal Shams Resort.**

#### **Day 2 JABAL SHAMS / NIZWA / IBRA / WAHIBA SANDS**

After breakfast you will explore the various villages scattered around on the mountain and proceed to Nizwa.



You will drive to the Oasis city of Nizwa and then continue on a tour of the Nizwa fort with its enormous round tower built in the 17<sup>th</sup> century by Imam Sultan Bin Saif Al Ya'aruba to defend the route to the interior. The fort dominates the entire area with the town having grown around the edifice. Access to the top is possible only by means of a narrow, twisting staircase barred by heavy wooden doors, studded with metal. From the top of the tower one can get a bird's eye view of the Nizwa city.

From here you will proceed to the Nizwa Souq which is renowned for its intricately hand-carved Khanjar and ornately designed silver jewelry. Here on a Friday a unique goat and cattle auction is held. The atmosphere here is electric. Lunch at a local restaurant (own expense). After lunch proceed to Wahiba Sands which is the home of Bedouins.



The 'Wahiba Sands' is often described as a perfect example of Sand Sea consisting of large ranges of dunes running from North to South, some attaining a height of about 100 metres and orange in colour. Our experienced driver will take you on a dune bashing tour through the undulating sand dunes to experience the thrills of dune driving. Arrive at the pre arranged camp site for overnight. Rest of the day at leisure.

**Dinner and overnight at Al Raha camp.**

### **Day 3 WAHIBA SANDS / WADI BANI KHALID /SUR / RAS AL JINZ/ RAS AL HAAD**

Breakfast at the camp site. Proceed to Wadi Bani Khalid, which stands out like an oasis in the desert with clear green natural spring water pools, before continuing to the Wahiba Sands which stands out in stark contrast to Wadi Bani Khalid. After spending some time here, proceed to Ras Al Jinz and check in at the pre-arranged camp site to have dinner. After dinner around 2200 hrs leave for the famous turtle beach to watch turtles laying their eggs and nesting.

**Overnight at Ras al Hadd Beach Hotel or Turtle Beach resort (breakfast).**

### **Day 4 SUR WADI SHAAB / QURIYAT / MUSCAT**

Breakfast at the hotel. At around 1000 hrs you will be met by your guide in the lobby and start driving by jeep to Muscat. Short visit of Sur town and Dhow Building Yard. Thereafter proceed to Wadi Shaab. Shaab in Arabic literally means 'Ravine between Cliffs'. Here, shallow green pools and abundant shade give Wadi Shaab a perfect setting for a picnic (additional charge). Continue on the bumpy track, sometimes touching the sea following a creek or overlooking superb white beaches hundreds of metres long. Arrive at Fins beach (White beach) stop. After spending some time here, you continue on the way to Muscat. En-route visiting Quriyat, a very large fishing village between the lagoon and the sea. The port of Quriyat is still guarded by a watchtower. Reach Muscat by afternoon

**\*\*\*\*\* END OF TOUR \*\*\*\*\***

#### **Price includes:**

- 3 night's accommodation on twin share basis.
- Daily breakfast
- 4x4 wheel vehicle for 4 days with the services of an English speaking driver / guide
- Entrance fee at Forts and Museums.

Items of a personal nature (telephone, alcohol etc.) and some meals are not included. Children may join the tour – please ask for rates. All Museum / Fort visits are subject to change without notice. Museums are normally closed on Fridays, Saturdays and Public Holidays. Similarly visits to forts may be changed without notice since certain forts are often closed temporarily for renovations on a regular basis.