



## **Best of Dubai and Oman**

## 8 Night Private Tour

This 8 night private tour intertwines the cultural riches, natural marvels, and warm hospitality of the United Arab Emirates.

From the futuristic marvels of Dubai to the time-honoured forts of Nizwa, the grandeur of Wahiba Sands, and the vibrant tapestry of Muscat, each day unveils a fresh chapter in your Arabian odyssey. Whether you're luxuriating on the shores of Al Fujairah or navigating the bustling streets of Dubai, this tour promises an unforgettable immersion into the very heart of the Arabian Peninsula.

## Highlights:

- Experience the buzz of Dubai
- Explore Jibreen Castle
- Discover the ancient city of Nizwa, it's fort and pottery
- Traditional lunch with an Omani family
- 4x4 Dune blasting in the Omani desert
- Magical sunset in the desert
- Bedouin house visit
- Swim in the Wadi Bani Khalid Oasis
- Explore Muscat and its Grand Mosque and Souq
- Relax at Fujairah's beaches

## What's included:

- Getting there: Return flights to Dubai
- Transport: Private air-conditioned vehicles
- Accommodation: 8 nights total duration 7 nights in hotel accommodation, 1 night in a desert camp
- Meals included : 8 breakfasts, 5 lunches and 3 dinners (One bottle of water and one soft drink per meal included)
- Local English speaking tour guides throughout the trip
- Activities as per itinerary and entrances to Fort, Castle and Museum
- One bottle of water per day in the vehicles

## Not included:

- Any meals (other than the one mentioned in the itinerary), drinks, tips, expenses of personal nature.
- Anything not mentioned in the "What's Included"
  list

# **Full Itinerary**

## Day 1: UK to Dubai

Upon your arrival at Dubai Airport, you will be greeted by an English-speaking driver outside the airport. You will then be transferred to your hotel, where you can enjoy some free time to explore the surroundings. Take the opportunity to discover the area before embarking on your Arabian adventure.

ACCOMMODATION: 4\* Dubai Hilton Gardens Marina, Dubai or similar



#### Day 2: Dubai

Free time to explore the futuristic marvels of Dubai, or to relax at your hotel.

ACCOMMODATION: 4\* Hilton Garden Inn Dubai Al Mina or similar MEAL INCLUDED: Breakfast

## Day 3: Dubai to Nizwa

Begin your day with a delightful breakfast at your hotel before meeting your guide in the lobby, ready to embark on a fascinating journey from the modern metropolis of Dubai to the cultural heart of Al Ain.

As you arrive in Al Ain, often referred to as the "Garden City" of the UAE, immerse yourself in its rich heritage with a visit to the Al Ain Palace Museum, a beautifully restored residence that offers a glimpse into the life of the UAE's founding father.

Next, cross the Mezyad Border into Oman and continue towards Ibri. En route, take a break at Ibri Bawadi Mall, where you'll have time for a relaxed lunch at Rimi Restaurant.

After lunch, delve into the past with a visit to the Bat Tombs, an archaeological site dating back to the Bronze Age. These ancient burial grounds provide a fascinating insight into Oman's early civilisation.



Continue your journey towards Nizwa, stopping along the way at the magnificent Jabreen Castle. This 17th-century stronghold is a masterpiece of Islamic architecture, renowned for its intricately painted ceilings and beautifully preserved interiors.

As the day winds down, arrive in Nizwa, a city brimming with history and tradition. Check into your hotel and take a moment to unwind before enjoying a delicious dinner, either at your hotel or a charming local restaurant nearby.

ACCOMMODATION: 3\* Heritage Inn, Nizwa or similar MEAL INCLUDED: Breakfast, lunch, dinner

#### Day 4: Nizwa

After breakfast, set off with your guide to explore Nizwa's rich history and culture. Begin at Nizwa Fort and Souq, where the impressive 17th-century fortress and bustling market showcase Oman's heritage through stunning architecture and traditional handicrafts.

Next, journey to the scenic Misfat Al Abriyeen, a 300-year-old mountain village known for its mud-brick houses, lush terraces, and winding alleyways. Enjoy an authentic Omani lunch with a local family before heading to Al Hamra, home to beautifully preserved mud-brick homes and the Bait Al Safah Museum, where living history comes to life through traditional crafts and storytelling.

Continue to Bahla, a town steeped in legend, where you'll stop to admire the UNESCO-listed Bahla Fort, a striking medieval stronghold. End the day at Bahla's Pottery Workshop, where artisans continue the town's ancient craft.

Return to your hotel in Nizwa for a well-earned rest, with dinner available at your hotel or a nearby restaurant.

ACCOMMODATION: 3\* Heritage Inn, Nizwa or similar MEAL INCLUDED: Breakfast, lunch, dinner



#### Day 5: Nizwa to Wahiba Sands

Start your day with a hearty breakfast before setting off with your guide towards the breathtaking Wahiba Sands.

Along the way, stop at Birkat Al Mawz, a picturesque oasis framed by mountains, where you can explore ancient ruins, banana plantations, and the restored Bait Al Redidah Fort. Nearby, visit the UNESCO-listed Falaj Al Khatmain, an ingenious 2,450-metre-long irrigation system that has sustained life in this arid region for centuries.

Continue towards Al Minzifah Ibra Ruins, an abandoned 18th-century town of mud-brick mansions, offering a fascinating glimpse into Oman's past.

After lunch at a local restaurant, journey into the heart of Wahiba Sands, a vast desert of golden dunes stretching over 12,500 square kilometres. Experience the thrill of dune bashing, an exhilarating drive over rolling sands, before arriving at your desert camp.

As the sun sets, take in the breathtaking views from the highest dunes, watching the sky transform into shades of gold and crimson. Back at camp, enjoy a delicious dinner under the stars before unwinding in the peaceful embrace of the desert.

ACCOMMODATION: Safari Desert Camp, Omani Desert or similar MEAL INCLUDED: Breakfast, lunch, dinner



#### Day 6: Wadi Bani Khaled to Muscat

Wake up to the magic of a desert sunrise before enjoying a hearty breakfast. Your guide then leads you towards the stunning Wadi Bani Khalid, with a special stop along the way.

Experience the warmth of Bedouin hospitality with a visit to a traditional desert home, offering a glimpse into a way of life that has endured for generations.

Continue to Wadi Bani Khalid, a serene oasis of turquoise pools and lush palm groves. Take a refreshing dip or simply relax in this tranquil setting before heading to Sur for lunch at a local seaside restaurant.



After lunch, explore Sur, once a major trading hub renowned for its shipbuilding. Visit the Dhow Factory, where skilled craftsmen continue the centuries-old tradition of building Arabian sailing vessels, once essential for trade across the Arabian Sea.

On the journey to Muscat, stop at the Bimmah Sinkhole, a striking natural wonder surrounded by rocky terrain. Legend has it that the shimmering waters hold the reflections of the stars, adding to its enchanting allure.

Arrive in Muscat by early evening, check into your hotel, and unwind after a day of exploration.

ACCOMMODATION: 4\* Royal Tulip Muscat or similar MEAL INCLUDED: Breakfast, lunch

#### Day 7: Muscat Full Day

Start your day with a delicious breakfast before heading to the fish market, where you'll select fresh seafood for lunch. The chef at a local restaurant will prepare your catch, giving you a taste of the freshest flavours Muscat has to offer.

Next, visit the Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque, a stunning example of Islamic architecture with its intricate design and peaceful atmosphere. After, immerse yourself in the arts at the Royal Opera House Muscat, a cultural gem that showcases Oman's creativity and elegance.

Enjoy lunch with the freshly selected seafood at the local restaurant, then continue your exploration in Old Muscat at the Bait Al Zubair Museum, where you can delve into Oman's fascinating history and traditions.

Take a moment to capture photos at the Al Alam Palace, surrounded by the historic Mirani and Jalali Forts. Finish the afternoon with a visit to Muttrah Souq, a bustling market full of local crafts, spices, and unique treasures.

Conclude your day by returning to your hotel, reflecting on a full day of cultural discovery in the heart of Muscat.

ACCOMMODATION: 4\* Royal Tulip Muscat or similar MEAL INCLUDED: Breakfast, lunch



### Day 8: Muscat to Fujairah

Set off on an unforgettable journey from Muscat to Fujairah, taking in the stunning scenery along the way. As you drive through lush valleys, winding wadis, and past ancient fortresses, you'll be treated to breathtaking views at every turn.

Once you arrive at your hotel, unwind and spend the rest of your day relaxing on the beach. To make the most of your time, we recommend starting your journey early so you can enjoy some downtime before heading home the following day. The drive to Fujairah typically takes around six hours.

ACCOMMODATION: 5\* Radisson Blu Resort, Fujairah or similar MEAL INCLUDED: Breakfast



#### **Day 9: Departure**

Say goodbye to the captivating lands of the UAE and Oman as you head to the airport for your return flight. As you embark on your journey home, you'll carry with you cherished memories of the incredible experiences you've had, showcasing the very best of these two remarkable destinations.

MEALS INCLUDED: Breakfast

## FAQs

#### DO I NEED A VISA?

British passport holders will be issued a tourist visa for free on arrival in Dubai, which will normally be a stamp on your passport as you go through immigration; there is no need to apply in advance of travel.

You can visit Oman for up to 14 days without a visa.

Please note that your passport should also be valid for at least 6 months from arrival into Dubai. Please check the FCDO website for more information.

#### HEALTH AND VACCINATIONS

Please note that there are no mandatory vaccinations required to enter Dubai or Oman. However, we recommend consulting your GP or a travel health clinic before you travel to ensure your routine vaccinations are up to date and to receive any personalised health advice.

#### WHO IS THIS TOUR SUITABLE FOR?

This tour is accessible to most people with an average level of fitness and normal mobility. This tour is not suitable for anyone with walking difficulties.

#### DRESS CODES FOR SOME HISTORICAL SITES

Be mindful of local customs and wear suitable attire when visiting religious or cultural sites.

For visiting the Grand Mosque women should wear long sleeves and cover the head with a scarf. For swimming in Wadis it's recommended t-shirts and shorts.

#### RAMADAN

During Ramadan, some shops may be closed and only hotels' restaurants are open.

