

Muscat, Oman - Middle East Cruises

In this low-rise gem, wedged between Arabian Gulf and scenic mountains, your first impression will be of the Sultanate of Oman's beautiful main palace. Three forts – Mutrah, Jalali and Mirani – stand guard at the entrance of Muscat. Once ashore witness lavish palaces, Zawawi Mosque, its pink marble crowned by a gilded dome, and Muttrah Souq, a jumble of crafts and clothing perfumed with spices and frankincense.

Excursions

Please note: The shore excursions listed are typical for this port. The full programme of shore excursions available for your cruise will be displayed on Cruise Personaliser at least 12 weeks prior to departure.

• **Dolphin Watching**

Enjoy the thrill of a speedboat ride and the chance to spot dolphins.

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Embark your speedboat at a local marina and head out to sea in search of dolphins in their natural habitat; these lively, intelligent and fascinating creatures can be spotted swimming in the warm waters off the coast.

Experience the excitement of the sea air and wind rushing past as you give chase on the speedboat to catch sightings of dolphins; then feel the adrenaline as you get closer, charged with sensation you are about to see these mammals out in the wild as nature intended.

Although sightings are not guaranteed, the experienced boatmen are in constant contact with each other and will notify other boatmen of sightings – so there is a good chance of encountering the dolphins at close hand. Many species of dolphin are spotted in the area, including common dolphins, spinner dolphins and bottlenose dolphins; if you are very lucky you may even see sperm and hump back whales.

Mineral water and soft drinks will be available during your boat ride.

Tour code

MCT_007

Features

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ACTIVITY LEVEL: LOW

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REFRESHMENTS INCLUDED

Duration

2½ HOURS

• **Nakhl & Hot Springs**

This wonderful excursion encompasses spectacular views, tranquil hot springs and a relaxing buffet luncheon at a resort.

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Heading for Nakhl, drive along Oman's expressway and along the scenic coastal road. On the way, a stop will be made at the tranquil and picturesque Thowarah Hot Springs, charmingly set near a lush oasis framed by the majestic mountains.

Perched on a 200-foot-high hilltop, Nakhl Fort has commanding and spectacular views of the entire oasis and date plantation surrounding it. This pre-Islamic fortress used to be the stronghold of the Bhani Kharous tribe during the medieval era. Visit the ladies sitting room and the wali's barzas and majli's (the ruler's court and tent where he met his citizens). You will also have an opportunity to visit the old prison and split-level terraces and courtyards as you gain a unique insight into times gone by.

Enjoy a delicious buffet luncheon at a resort hotel before the journey back to Muscat.

Complete your tour with a photo stop at the exquisite Grand Mosque before returning to the ship.

Tour code

MCT_003

Features



ACTIVITY LEVEL: MEDIUM



MEAL INCLUDED

Duration

7 HOURS

• Mystical Dhow Cruise

Relax and watch the world go by on a traditional dhow cruise.

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Do something out of the ordinary with a unique opportunity to experience cruising on a traditional dhow through the glorious scenery of Muscat.

These amazing crafts were used to sail the sea routes between Oman, India and Iran. Oman's connection with the sea stretches back many centuries when Omani sailors, using mast and sail, pioneered sea routes to the cities of the ancient world. Favourable factors were Oman's position at the crossroads of shipping routes which linked the Arabian Gulf to India, the Red Sea and East Africa and their knowledge of shipbuilding.

Board your traditional wooden dhow and cruise along the Muscat coastline taking in the fantastic sights at leisure and with plenty of time to capture that special photograph opportunity that other modes of transport do not offer.

Take in the scenery of rugged mountains and cliffs as you are served dates, Kawah (Arabic coffee) and assorted soft drinks on this memorable excursion.

Tour code

MCT_006

Features



ACTIVITY LEVEL: MEDIUM



REFRESHMENTS INCLUDED

Duration

2½ HOURS

• Muscat Beach Break

A chance to get away to the beautiful Oman Dive Centre Beach to swim, soak up the sun and relax.

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Sun, sea and sand await at the Oman Dive Centre Beach, unwind on the beach or take a refreshing dip, during three hours at the beach.

A refreshment of a soft drink will be offered to you during your stay and a local escort will be present during the excursion.

Sun beds are available at the beach and there are toilet facilities in the dive centre. Umbrellas are not available, however there are canopies on the beach that provide some shade.

Tour code

MCT_008

Features



ACTIVITY LEVEL: LOW



REFRESHMENTS INCLUDED

Duration

5 HOURS

• Nizwa Fort & Souk

Experience Nizwa, the historical capital of Oman, and visit its pre-Islamic fortress

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A scenic drive will take you through the Hajar Mountains en route to Nizwa, one of the largest cities in Oman and the capital of the interior region. Nizwa has a wealth of cultural and ancient landmarks; the most prominent is Nizwa Fort built over a period of 12 years.

Located in the city centre, your visit will allow you the opportunity to explore and learn of its interesting history. The Fort is surrounded by ancient traditional souks where locals trade and where you can see fabulous collections of gold and silver in the various shops.

Nizwa is a sight to behold being set in an oasis enclosed by a series of mountains, including Al Jabal Al Akhdar, the famous green mountain.

A delicious buffet luncheon will be served at a local hotel accompanied with water or a soft drink.

Upon your return to Muscat, round off your tour with a photo stop at the impressive Grand Mosque.

Tour code

MCT_002

Features

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ACTIVITY LEVEL: HIGH

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MEAL INCLUDED

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SHOPPING

Duration

8 HOURS