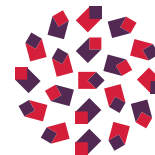


Al Dahirah Governorate

A treasure trove of captivating experiences
and stunning landscapes



Experience
عُمان
OMAN



Discover Oman

And experience a journey like no other

Situated at the southeastern tip of the Arabian Peninsula, the Sultanate of Oman is a captivating blend of tradition and modernity. A land of striking contrasts, Oman boasts towering mountains and vast seas, sandy deserts and crystal-clear wadis, offering environmental diversity that is just waiting to be explored. From the bustling charm of traditional souqs to the sophistication of modern markets and the serenity of green parks, you can find the perfect spot for both relaxation and leisure.

Oman's 11 governorates offer a kaleidoscope of distinct landscapes and captivating tourist attractions, each with its own unique charm from lush oases and dramatic deserts to historic forts and bustling souqs.

Here, history is deeply rooted in every corner, while unspoiled nature invites you to unwind and reconnect. The country's

extensive coastlines, stretching for thousands of kilometers, are a haven for marine enthusiasts and tranquility seekers alike, offering both serene beaches and thrilling water-based adventures.

The towering mountains provide a refreshing escape during the hot summer months, while the seasonal climate is ideal for those in search of pleasant weather. Experience the thrill of swimming in vibrant wadis or feel the adrenaline rush of exploring the vast, desert dunes.

At the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, we are committed to enriching the tourism experience, crafting unique journeys across the governorates of the Sultanate of Oman. Together, we strive to cultivate innovative, modern tourism that fulfills your aspirations and surpasses your expectations. We are thrilled to have you with us - let's explore Oman together!

With a history that spans thousands of years, a rich, authentic culture and towering mountains harbouring secrets and stories from the past, Al Dhahirah Governorate offers a unique backdrop for your next adventure.





Al Dhahirah is a land of fertile valleys, rich archaeological sites, and numerous treasures waiting to be discovered. Wander through the majestic forts of Wilayat of Ibri, where history is etched into every stone, and dive into the depths of Wadi Dhank, a stunning natural wonder in the region. Explore the charming villages of Yanqul, each offering a unique glimpse into the local way of life and the cultural richness that defines Al Dhahirah.

Uncover the regions majestic mountains, picturesque valleys, and historical landmarks, each reflecting the profound heritage and natural beauty of the area.

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Wilayat of Ibri

Between forts and castles,
countless stories await

The Wilayat of Ibri is a treasure trove of historical and archaeological significance, offering a captivating journey through Oman's rich past. Known for its impressive collection of castles, forts, and towers, as well as its towering mountains, Ibri is a rare destination where history and nature converge.

Begin your adventure at **Ibri Fort**, located just 5 km from the town centre. Built in the late 17th century, this historic fort provides a fascinating insight into the region's past. Nearby, the traditional Ibri market offers a lively atmosphere from which to experience the local culture.





Next, explore the **Ainain Fort, Al Iraqi Fort, and the historic area of Harat Al Salif**, home to ancient buildings surrounded by a towering wall and high watchtowers. For a relaxing break, head to **Salif Park**, a perfect spot for a picnic amidst stunning surroundings.



A Journey
Through
Rich
History

A short drive from Ibri, **Al-Ma'mur Fort** is another must-see. Located about 35 km away, it historically protected a palm oasis and features a traditional aflaj irrigation system that channels water from the nearby hills, offering a glimpse into the region's ancient water management techniques.

Head to the old **village of Al-Ghubi** and, as the sun sets, ascend **Mount Kawas** for breathtaking panoramic views of the town. Next, visit **Bilad Al-Shaum**, a beautiful town nestled among towering mountains about 64 km from the center of Ibri. This oasis is filled with palms and trees and is home to Al-Shaum Dam, which stores water for the town.

Al-Sakhna spring, with its unique feature of warm water in winter and cool water in summer, is also located here. Upon entering Bilad Al-Shaum, you'll be greeted by Aqabat Shanita, one of the most stunning views in the area.





Ambition
That Touches
the Sky

Finally, visit the **village of Maqniyat**, located 50 km northeast of Ibri, renowned for its many waterways. Maqniyat is a scenic and historic destination, home to several archaeological sites, including the **Black Fort, Al-Thawara Tower, and the Mountain House**, as well as the captivating **Wadi Maqniyat**.

Wadi Damm, nestled northeast of **Mount Musht**, is a must-visit destination for nature enthusiasts. Here, streams converge into **Wadi Al-Ain**, making it an ideal camping location. The area offers a chance to witness the region's diverse wildlife while enjoying the serene beauty of the surroundings, including a star-studded sky at night.

The nearby **Wadi Damm village**, surrounded by numerous valleys, features an oasis of palm trees and scattered remains of ancient mud-brick houses, including fortified palaces. The small dam here is the source of Al-Ghili Falaj, which provides water to the oasis.

If you continue foot for a short distance, you'll reach the main slopes of Jabal Shams, where stunning rock formations and natural pools await mountain trekking enthusiasts. This area features limestone surfaces with underground streams, offering a solid—though cracked—path for hikers to traverse.

Not far from the UNESCO-listed Bat Archaeological Site lies Wadi Al-Hajr, with its tributaries flowing from the western highlands of Jabal Akhdar, stretching from the northern slopes of Jabal Musht to Aqabat Shanita, which separates Wadi Al-Hajr from valleys descending towards Bilad Al-Shuhum and the village of Maqniyat. The wadi is accessible via the village of Ad-Dreez, passing through Bat, Al-Banah, and finally reaching Al-Hajr, covering a distance of approximately 34 km.

Discover one of Al-Banah's hidden gems—the twin falaj systems of "Al-Hilu" and "Al-Murr." The first is a fresh-water daoudi falaj, used by locals for drinking and irrigation. The second is a sulfuric spring-fed falaj, known for its naturally bitter-tasting water. Visitors flock to this site, drawn by its reputed healing properties for various skin conditions.

A visit to the UNESCO World Heritage Sites of Bat and Al-Ayn is a must. Perched atop a hill overlooking Wadi Al-Ayn, these sites feature a remarkable row of 21 ancient stone towers, serving as tombs that once held human remains. Dating back to the third millennium BCE, these structures, built from locally sourced dry-stone masonry, have withstood the test of time for thousands of years, standing as a testament to Oman's rich archaeological heritage.



The Call of
Adventure
Awaits You



Close to the UNESCO World Heritage sites of Bat and Al-Ayn is **Al-Khatm Tower**. This oval-shaped tower, situated 2 km southwest of Bat on a small hill, is surrounded by burial mounds. Dating back to the 3rd millennium BCE, the structure was built using simple “dry stone” techniques and has remarkably withstood the test of time for thousands of years.

For nature enthusiasts, Mount Al-Sara is a must-visit. Standing 2,500 meters above sea level on the borders of the Star Light Reserve in eastern Ibri, it’s accessible via Jabal Shams Road from Al Hamra. At its summit, you’ll encounter trees like junipers and wild olives, offering a cool climate in the summer and snowfall in winter. The nearby Al-Manzafah House Museum in Majzi showcases artifacts that reflect the rich heritage of the area.

Marvel at **Mount Al-Kawr**, located on the eastern borders of Al Dhahirah, which rises to 2,700 meters. Its valleys help irrigate various palm tree oases in the nearby villages of Al-Abla and Al-Ain to the north, as well as Nadan and Muwal to the west. **Mount Musht**, although not the highest at around 2,000 meters, is one of the most distinct with its unique limestone formations resembling a comb.

For those seeking adventure, head to the **Rub' al Khali (Empty Quarter) desert**. This vast desert expanse offers a thrilling environment for recreational activities like sandboarding, dune buggy rides, and 4x4 vehicle drives, making it an exciting destination for outdoor enthusiasts



Wilayat of Dhank

Flowing water valleys and lush,
fertile landscapes



Are you tempted by the idea of swimming in flowing valley waters after a refreshing rainfall? Then make your way to the Wilayat of Dhank, a place renowned for its fertile valleys that come alive, particularly after heavy rains. These valleys, including **Wadi Al-Fath, Al-Khabeeb, and Balat**, flow year-round, offering stunning landscapes to explore.

Make sure to visit **Wadi Al-Fath**, one of the most beautiful valleys, just 40 km from Dhank. The valley is known for its stunning geological rock formations, and at its end, you'll find a raised rock that appears to be suspended in the air.





Lush
Valleys

Next is **Wadi Qumaira**, where crystal-clear, deep waters flow between large rocks. Close by is the village of Qumaira, which is steeped in history. Explore its many stone-built houses, a circular historical tower, and fragments of both local and imported pottery.

The valley villages are famous for cultivating papayas, mangoes, figs, grapes, and other seasonal crops. For a scenic stroll among lush farms along its banks and a refreshing breeze, **Wadi Fida** is ideal. Don't miss the historic **Al-Manikh Fort**, a significant landmark in Dhank, offering a glimpse into the area's rich past and the way of life that once thrived here.



Wilayat of Yanqul

Enchanting villages

Wilayat of Yanqul is known for its beautiful villages, surrounded by towering mountains and filled with lush gardens and diverse crops. The wilayat is blessed with valleys and numerous historical sites. One of its most stunning sights is the view from Mount Hawra, whose peak takes on changing shapes as you travel along the road.

Don't miss the grand **Beit Al-Marrah** Fort, surrounded by palm groves and situated near the remnants of an old village built with mud bricks. The fort, one of Al Dahirah's most prominent landmarks, was constructed in the 17th century and is surrounded by several buildings, including a mosque built in a traditional style. Nearby, you'll find the town's old market, a vibrant space where you can experience local culture and customs firsthand.

As you prepare to leave, make sure to visit Sidrat Al-Madam, home to one of the oldest sidr trees in Oman. This ancient tree stands as a testament to the enduring beauty and heritage of the region.





Take a tour of **Wadi Falaj Al-Sidiriyyin**, then head to the ancient town of Al-Waqbah, which is surrounded by remarkable tourist attractions. Explore the surrounding caves, cliffs, valleys, farms, and springs filled with crystal-clear water. One of the highlights is **Al-Arshi Valley**, which features a groundwater dam that has created a naturally stunning lake.

North of Yanqul, about 55 km from the center, lies the **village of Wal**, known for its charming desert landscapes and expansive farmland. The village thrives with year-round crops such as wheat, grapes, and mangoes, and is also home to camel farming.

Explore **Harat Al-Shabaniyah**, one of Yanqul's largest neighborhoods, where old houses stand resilient against environmental challenges, though some have succumbed to time. The preserved ruins offer a glimpse into traditional architecture, with remnants of old rooms, doors, windows, and even outdoor grills (tannur ovens).

Aqeer Al-Shamoos is Oman and the Gulf's first soapstone production site, dating back to the early 1st millennium BCE, with around 800 pieces of ancient pottery unearthed there. Evidence of ancient mining activity can also be found in Al-Raki and Al-Muaydin, where melted rock formations serve as a testament to the region's rich mining history.

In the western part of Al Dhahirah lies the **Rub' al Khali desert**, with the renowned Sufa and **Masroq dunes**. The area is dotted with ghaf trees near the large sand dunes, offering ideal spots for camping or watching sunsets. The desert lakes interspersed with sand dunes create a unique and breathtaking scene.





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