

Life in Oman

Oman is a naturally beautiful and geographically diverse country that has stunning beaches, rugged mountains, hot deserts and fertile green regions all wrapped up in a friendly package that has for many decades welcomed visitors from far and wide. Omanis are proud of their country and welcoming to visitors, making it a top destination for teachers and tourists.



The capital city is Muscat which, in contrast to nearby Gulf cities that are packed with gleaming modern skyscrapers, is instead brimming with historical sites such as the 16th century Portuguese built forts of Al-Jalali and Al-Mirani. In addition visitors can enjoy shopping, restaurants, cocktail bars, sports bars and clubs. A stroll along the Corniche is a must, but the real magic of Oman is in the natural surroundings. You can drive into the Hajar mountains or to the Wadi Shab, visit a beach to see sea turtles hatching, climb down to the blue-green waters of the Bimmah sinkhole or go bird watching at the Al Ansab wetland. A short flight will take you to the beautiful Salalah with the Indian Ocean and its beautiful beaches.



Oman has a significant expatriate community but recently has introduced a policy of “Omanification” to better train and prepare its citizens to take on jobs that are commonly done by expatriates in other countries. This means that Oman has a more authentic and cultural feel whilst not being exclusive or unfriendly in any way.

The expatriate community is more compact than the UAE and by comparison, there are a limited number of international schools in Oman, so posts are very desirable. Oman is well suited to those who are interested in culture, outdoor pursuits and natural beauty. There

are plenty of bars and restaurants in Muscat, but if you do want a Dubai style nightlife, Dubai itself is within easy reach for a weekend away.

The official language of Oman is Arabic, but English is widely spoken, and the national religion is Islam. Like the UAE, Oman is tolerant of other religions as long as they avoid proselytising. Oman has a desert climate, but everything is air-conditioned, from taxis, apartments, shopping malls through to schools, and the temperatures are overall slightly more pleasant than other popular Middle Eastern countries owing to the sea breezes.

