



Marhaba to the Governorate of Ad Dakhiliyah

Beauty has an address-Oman



SULTANATE OF
oman

Ministry of Tourism



The Brand Oman image is one which incorporates elements of the nature of Oman into a unique symbol that represents the country. The initial design incorporated representations of a dhow (top right), turtle (bottom), frankincense smoke (top left) and mountains (centre). These images were then developed into the calligraphic Arabic word “Oman”. Choosing a palette of colours enabled the emphasis of the everyday scenes that make Oman unique. Here our range of colours highlight the leisure that can be enjoyed in Oman; Salalah's khareef, Oman's seas and the purple that envelops the sky before dawn breaks over the desert.

We are proud of our Brand Oman and hope you will recognise it as you travel through our beautiful and hospitable country.

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Governorate of Ad Dakhliyah

Immerse yourself in history during a visit to Oman's Governorate of Ad Dakhliyah. Cascading down from towering mountain peaks, rainwater feeds a network of Oman's Aflaj water systems. Ancient hilltop villages look down over some of Oman's impressive castles, which are encircled by extensive date oases. Mosques built at the dawn of Islam continue to hold prayer services, while the ancient mud brick villages surrounding them are being restored to retain Oman's touch with its past. Come to Ad Dakhliyah, where traditional markets still pulsate with life and where heritage crafts can find their way into home near and far.

Forts & Castles





Nizwa Fort

Dominating the town of Nizwa today as it has done for centuries is Nizwa Fort. An easy walk of less than 400 meters north-west from the central car park, this is a 'must-see' while you are in Oman. The castle dates from the mid-9th century and has been a seat of power in Oman until the mid-20th century. The castle forms the principal defense for the settlement of Al Aqr, which can still be seen to the west of the castle. Inside the old fort is an informative exhibit on the region's heritage. The fort is full of hidden surprises; when you are in the living accommodation, search for the secret escape tunnel, then take the stairs that climb through the main tower to find several more unexpected features. Small pits set in the stairs were intended to cause injury to attackers ascending in the dark (today they are covered in armoured glass).



At the top of the tower, there is a number of holes in the floor that served three different purposes. One type permitted light and air into the stairs tunnel: additionally, as they were originally above doors, hot liquids could be poured on top of any attackers. The second type was a prison, and the third a water well (in Oman each water well has a numbered registration plate, as water is so precious). While you are in the main tower climb to the very top for a panoramic view of Nizwa – it's well worth the effort.

Nizwa Fort opens Saturday – Thursday 09:00-16:00 and on Friday 08:00 am -11:00 am, Admission fees apply.





Bahla Fort

The substantial Bahla Fort sits on a small hill that has been used by man for around 5,000 years. The fort in the centre of the town of Bahla is one of the oldest in Oman; it was rebuilt between 1624-1649 A.D. and enlarged in the late 18th century. It is one of the UNESCO World Heritage Sites with its lofty vestibule the main citadel in the southeast of the fort is the oldest part. Built more recently, Bait Al Hadiith looks south towards Wadi Bahla, while the tower of Burj Al Rih overlooks the main entrance and offers a panoramic overview of the fort. Bahla Fort opens Saturday – Thursday 09:00-16:00 and on Friday 08:00-11:00: Admission fees apply.



Husn Bayt Ar Rudaydah

A short drive of less than a kilometer north of the roundabout at the village of Birkat Al Mouz is the picture perfect isHusn Bayt Ar Rudaydah. Guarding one of the principal routes to Al Jabal Al Akhdar it was built in the late 17th century during a period of increasing prosperity in Oman. The main keep of the castle is a classic Omani design of asquare building with two gun towers on opposing corners and an interior courtyard for light. The castle holds an excellent collection of rifles and other guns associated with Oman. Several Martini Henry rifles are displayed with silver embellishments that create a classic Omani style rifle.



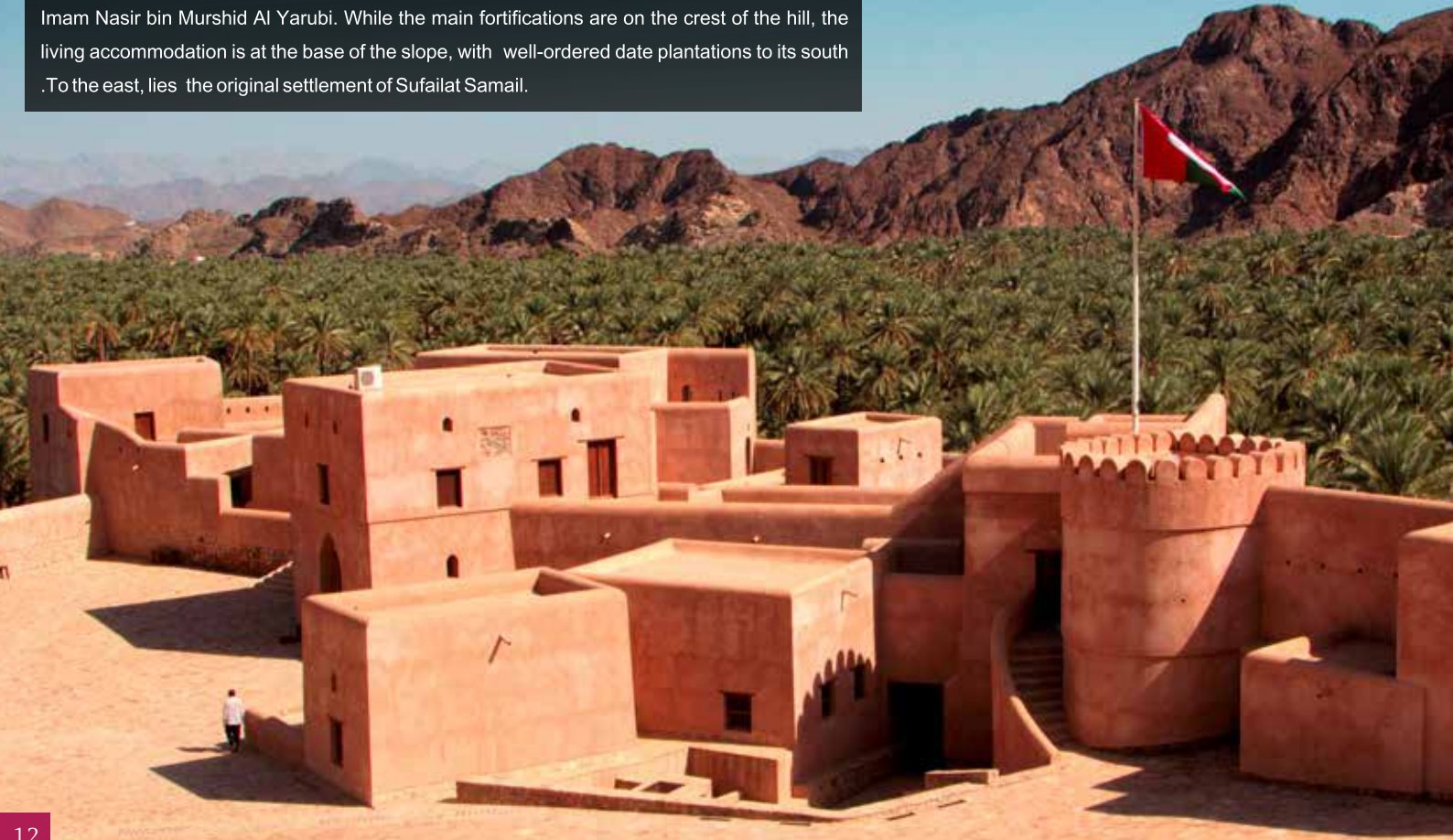
Husn Jabrin

Set on the edge of the vast Saih Al Shamikhat plain about 9 kilometers by road south-west of Bahla is Husn Jabrin. The ceilings of this very atmospheric castle are embellished with floral and symbolic paintings. Several stairways lead you into different areas of the building, including an audience chamber with a low ceilinged chamber under its floor, ideal for soldiers to hide, in should they be needed. Next to the building's main door is the tomb of its founder, the Imam Bil'arab bin Sultan Al Yarubi, dated 1692.

Husn Jabrin opens Saturday – Thursday 09:00-16:00
and on Friday 08:00 am -11:00 am;
Admission fees apply.

Samail Castle

Set on a dominating crag overlooking the central length of Wadi Samail, Husn Samail is the principal fort of the area. It may have been built during the latter part of the 17th century by the Imam Nasir bin Murshid Al Yarubi. While the main fortifications are on the crest of the hill, the living accommodation is at the base of the slope, with well-ordered date plantations to its south. To the east, lies the original settlement of Sufailat Samail.





Al Fiqain Fort

Husn Al Fiqain is an easy drive around 2 kilometers to the north of As Sultan Qaboos Mosque in Manah. Previous access to the impressive keep was through a door above the current entrance. The castle was originally constructed in 1617 by Sheikh Masoud bin Mohammed Al Busaidi. The building is comprised of two connected towers, each with its own staircase, creating a restricted living area. A vertical series of holes above an internal well enables water to be lifted by rope and bucket from any floor.



Husn Bidbid

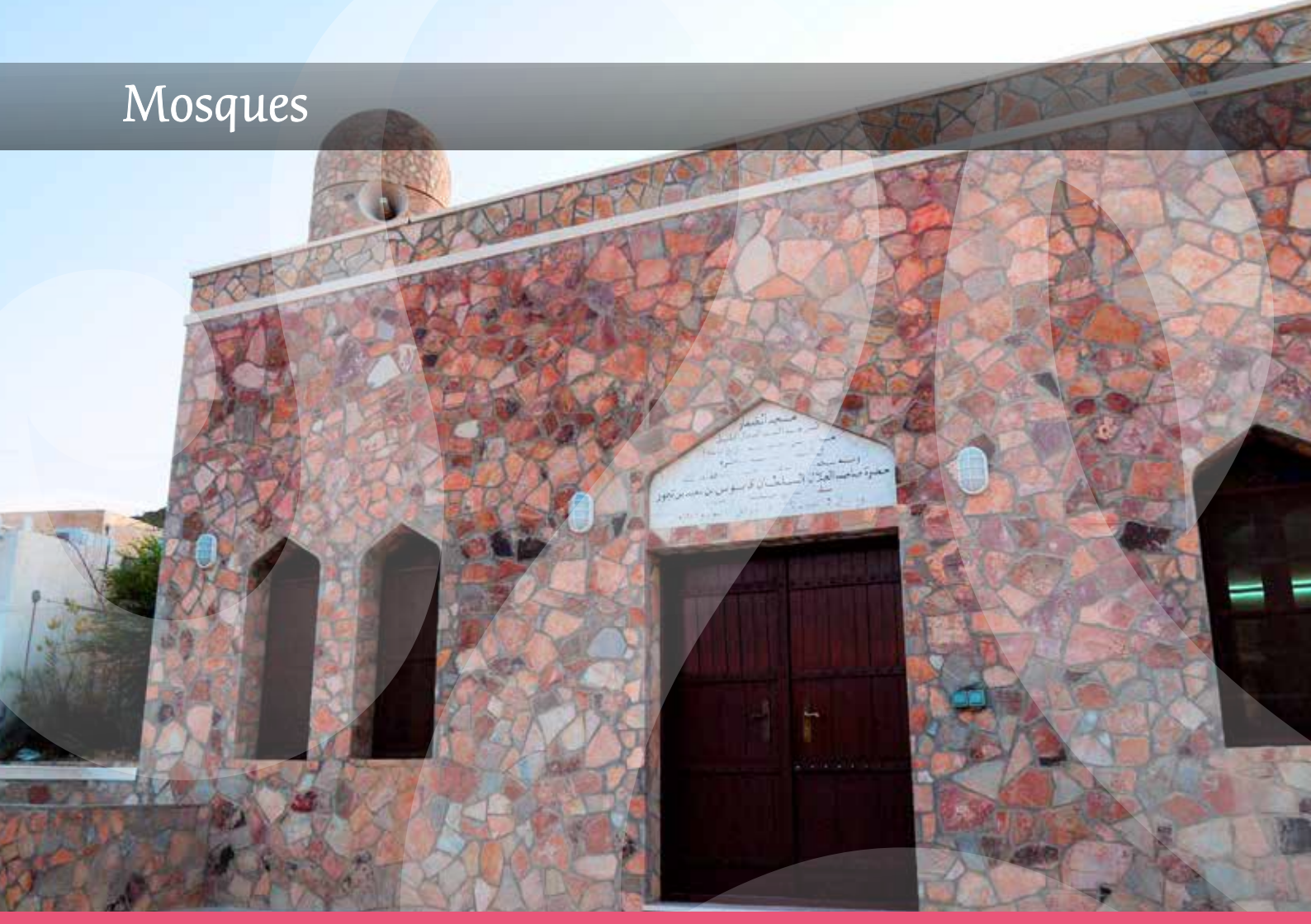
Husn Bidbid is located on the edge of the date plantations which border Wadi Bidbid for about 3 kilometers. Just 1200 meters east of the Muscat-Nizwa road, it's an easy place to visit. The castle was defended by 4 gun-towers of which 3 remain today. Around the main entrance is living accommodation and essentially, a very deep water well.



Mazin bin Ghadooba

Overlooked by Husn Samail, the tomb of Mazin bin Ghadooba is in Ad Daqdaqain, just to the west of the road through the wadi. He was the first Omani to convert to Islam after having met the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) in Medina in the year 6 Hijrah (627AD). On his return to Samail, he built Oman's first mosque. He died having repudiated the idol he previously worshiped.

Mosques



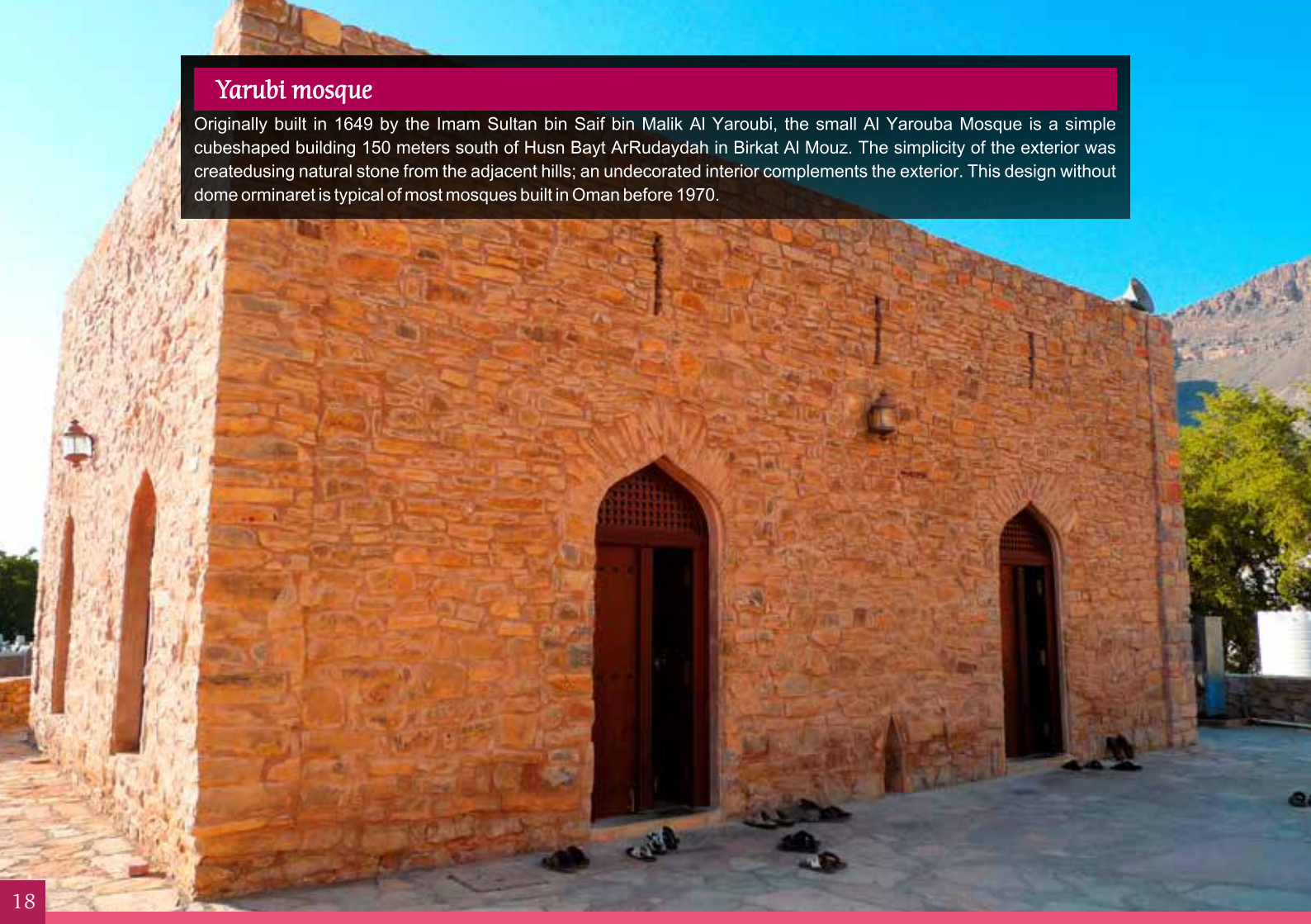
Saal mosque

Less than a kilometer east of the souq in Nizwa is the historic Sa'al Mosque. The mosque's style gives the impression of a small castle. It has buttressed walls and a round tower on one of its corners which gave access to the roof for the call to prayer. The interior is dominated by an impressive Mihrab, dating from 1252AD (650Hijra), with elaborate decorations made from 'wet cut' plaster. Its style spread to other mosques in the following three centuries.

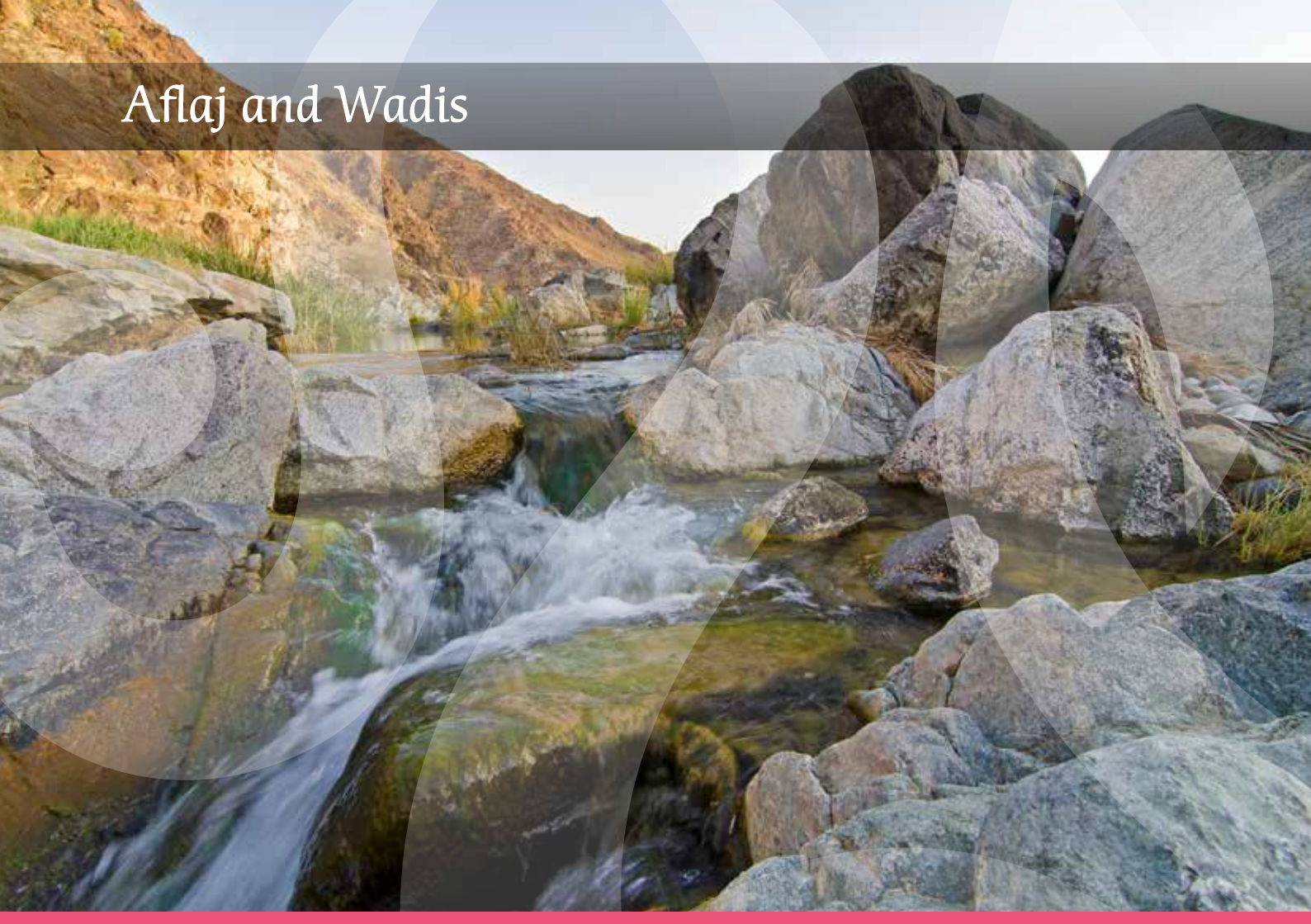


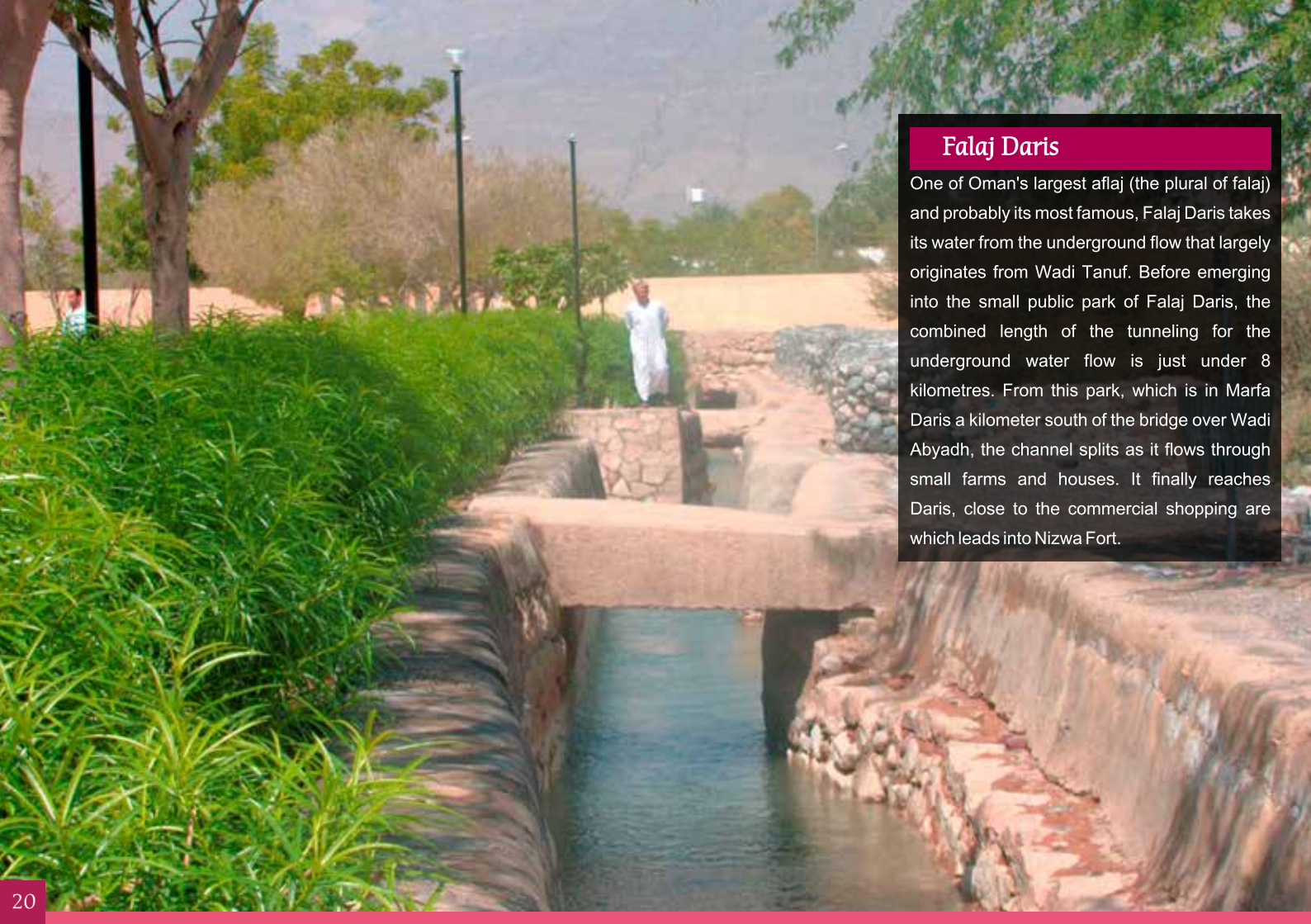
Yarubi mosque

Originally built in 1649 by the Imam Sultan bin Saif bin Malik Al Yaroubi, the small Al Yarouba Mosque is a simple cubeshaped building 150 meters south of Husn Bayt ArRudaydah in Birkat Al Mouz. The simplicity of the exterior was created using natural stone from the adjacent hills; an undecorated interior complements the exterior. This design without dome or minaret is typical of most mosques built in Oman before 1970.



Aflaj and Wadis





Falaj Daris

One of Oman's largest aflaj (the plural of falaj) and probably its most famous, Falaj Daris takes its water from the underground flow that largely originates from Wadi Tanuf. Before emerging into the small public park of Falaj Daris, the combined length of the tunneling for the underground water flow is just under 8 kilometres. From this park, which is in Marfa Daris a kilometer south of the bridge over Wadi Abyadh, the channel splits as it flows through small farms and houses. It finally reaches Daris, close to the commercial shopping area which leads into Nizwa Fort.



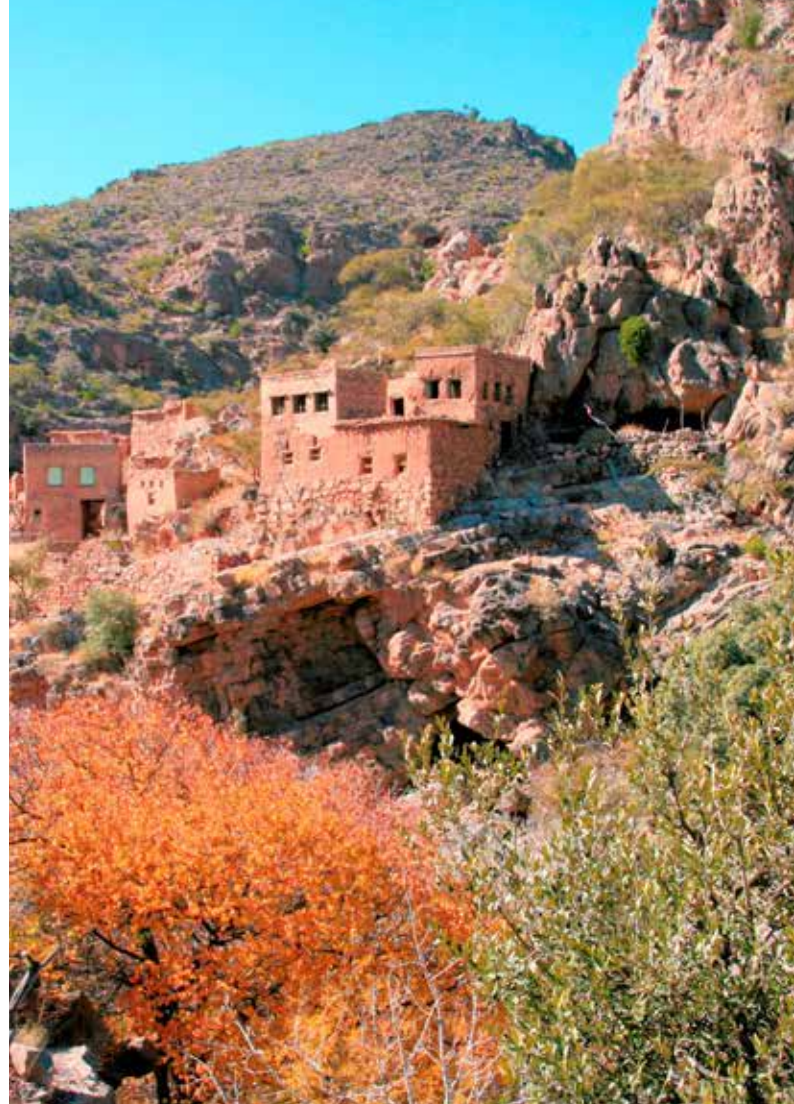
Falaj Al Khatamain

A short drive of less than a kilometer north of the roundabout at the village of Birkat Al Mouz will take you to the village center, through which Falaj Al Khatamain flows. The water of this UNESCO site flows for almost three kilometers through a manmade tunnel constructed in the mid-17th century before it surfaces. Flowing through Husn Bayt ArRudaydah and past a small Mosque named after the Yaroubi dynasty who constructed the falaj, the water subsequently splits into a 40/60% division. The larger volume is routed to the north of the village street, and passing by Hellat As Sibani flows beneath a canopy of date palms, onto one of the largest aqueducts in Oman.



Wadi bani Habib

High in Al Jabal Al Akhdar is beautiful Wadi Bani Habib. This steep valley, some 11 kilometers west along the road from the Al Maha petrol station, is one of the few valleys in Oman the appearance of which changes throughout the year. The principal tree here is the Persian Walnut, whose bright green foliage in summer gives way to the leafless grey of the branches in winter. Two abandoned villages overlook the small intensively cultivated fields, whose other valued crop is the Pomegranate. Enjoy walks in the atmospheric valley at any time of year.





Wadi Tanuf

Hugging the edge of Wadi Tanuf is one of the region's most popular destinations to relax in, Tanuf Falaj. From the Nizwa – Bahla road, it is a short drive of 2.5 kilometers east towards the mountains. Originating from Wadi Tanuf, the water frequently overflows creating a waterfall effect over the falaj's edge. From the wadi a sharp turn takes the water into the old village, past a beautifully restored traditional mosque and beyond to the date oasis.





Wadi Muadin

Opening out onto the plain at Birkat Al Mouz, Wadi Al Muaydin cascades down from the heights of Al Jabal Al Akhdar from 2,000 meters to around 600 meters in little over 20 kilometers. The geology here is impressive, with vast convoluted strata on either side, as the wadi's route continues to the small village of Muaydin where two branches join. The valley to the left (west) includes a small dam that creates the water supply for the village falaj. The valley continues through a very steep ascent towards Wadi Bani Habib, high on the plateau. The right (east) route climbs steeply to the small village of Masirat Ar Ruwajih at the end of a track from Saiq high in Al Jabal Al Akhdar.



Falaj Al Manabik

At the base of the northern spur of Al Jabal Al Akhdar is the falaj al Manabik. Only 2 kilometers west of the flyover to Samail, this hot (45C) falaj provides water on alternate days to the adjacent villages of Manabik and Heel. The excavation shafts descend for up to 15 meters below the ground, providing an insight into the difficulty in aflaj construction.



Falaj Samdi

Falaj As Samdi, about 2 kilometers south-west of Husn Samail, is a beneficiary of the plentiful subsurface water flow through Wadi Samail. A small low-lying dam near the village of Hellat As Sad blocks and directs the water flow into the dense date plantations towards Husn Samail. The abundant water supply allows up to 100kilograms of fruit to be harvested each season from palms in Samail.



Wadi Samail

Less than 40 minutes drive south-west of Muscat Airport, Wadi Samail, with its plentiful water and luxuriant date oasis, is one of Oman's more fertile valleys and a rewarding place to visit. Geologists the world over know the name Samail through its mountains rock sequence "Ophiolite"; the stark, chocolate brown mountains through which the wadi is cut. Its inhabitants have played a key part in Oman's history. The man who became the first Omani Muslim, Mazin bin Ghadooba, lived and died in the valley and His Highness Sayyid Said bin Sultan Al Said, the last ruler of Oman and Zanzibar as a single state, was born in Samail.

Izki Falaj Malki

Falaj Al Malki in Izki was built during the major falaj-building period of the Yaruba period (1624-1744 AD). The falaj is easiest to view at around 1250 meters south of the Shell Petrol Station in Izki, to the east of the old road. An 'inverted syphon' takes the falaj under the wadi where it continues to the settlements of An Nizar and Al Yemen, a walk of about 3 kilometers.





Wadi Bani Aouf

Overlooking a vast panorama, Sharaf Al Alameen has one of the most spectacular outlooks in Oman. A well-constructed tarmac road starts its ascent from some 5 kilometers east of Al Hamra, and in less than 25 kilometers, takes visitors to the cool of 2,000 meters altitude. In the west, the peak of Jabal Shams can be seen, and looking east three great wadis, Sahtan, Bani Aouf and Bani Kharus create a web of interconnected wadis, which are a popular destination to explore.



Wadi Nakhar

Wadi An Nakhr, 12 kilometers west of the road into Al Hamra, is one of Oman's most famous valleys, yet its real name is almost unknown. Most visitors know it as 'The Grand Canyon'. Grand it certainly is; the vertical range from the valley floor to the canyon rim is 1000 meters. Some 7 kilometers along a rough track from the valley's entrance is An Nakhr village. In places, the track is only a few meters wide, in others small fields of date palms make use of a wider bed. The villagers weave traditional goat hair rugs, an ideal souvenir of this area.



Hasat Bani Sult

In the bed of Wadi Al Abri, opposite Bilad Sait around 5.5 kilometers by road south of Al Hamra, is the cream coloured boulder 'Hasat Bani (bin) Sult' which has ancient low relief carvings of human figures. The figures which are on all faces of the rock need to be seen in harsh, oblique light to display their relief. The south western face has a group of 4 people, while on the northern west face another group of 3 people are shown. The style is unique and, as representations of humans, they are presumed to have been created before Islam.





AL Fiqain Falaj

Al Fiqain's falaj originates in the hills just to the north of Husn Al Fiqain. The principal tunnel carries the water underground for some 5 kilometers before arriving at the surface, just north of Husn Al Fiqain. This water system was established during the rule of the Imam Saif bin Sultan Al Yarubi in 1669, as a result of the depletion of water during the expansion of the falaj in Birkat Al Mouz. The water irrigates the oasis to the north of Al Bilad in Manah, though reduced water supply has affected the productivity of the date palms.

Mountains & Caves





Al Hoota Cave

In the base of southern base of Al Jabal Al Akhdar, Al Hoota Cave takes its name from the entrance to the upper cave, through which water flows to the exit through Al Fallah Cave. Less than 10 kilometres east of Al Hamra, today's visitor to the cave enters through the Al Fallah section into a world of rock lions, blind cave fish and more. The fish, 'Garra Barreimiae', live in a lake in the rear of the accessible cave.

It is one of around 100 life forms which call the cave home. The lion, though frighteningly realistic, is a stalagmite formed from limestone dissolved in the water that has dripped from the cave roof, over thousands of years.



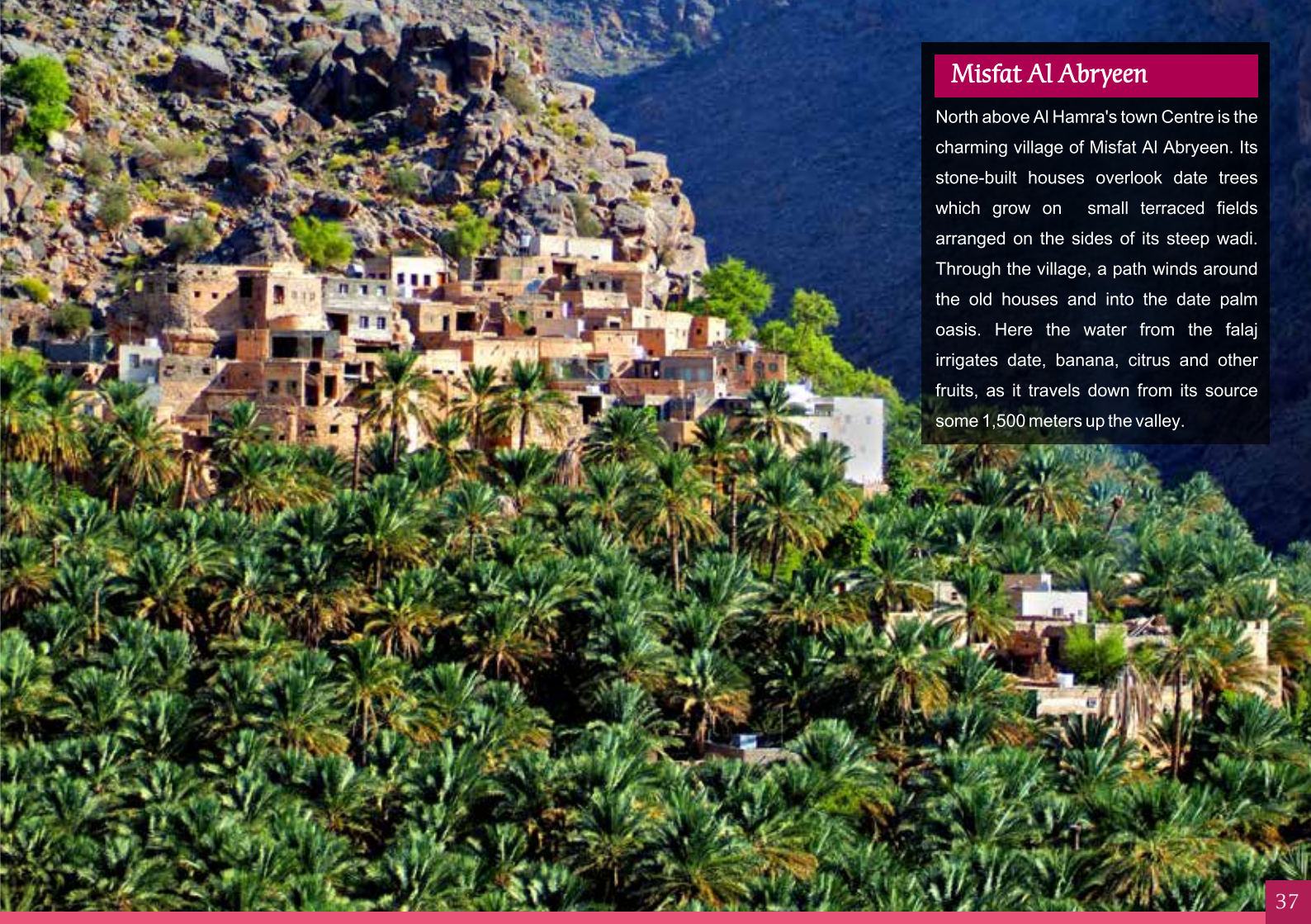
Jernan Cave

Taking the steps down into the Wadi Halfain from the northern end of An Nizar in Izki will take you to Jernan Cave which is immediately below the settlement. The cave has the appearance of a man - made tunnel through lower Ophiolite rock and upper conglomerate. Local legend tells of a bull made from solid gold which was worshiped in the depths of the cave; today no trace of the golden idol remains.



Jabal Shams

Peaking at over 3,000 meters, Jabal Shams, Oman highest mountain, can be seen from a vast area in northern Oman. South of its peak are the areas accessible to visitors who arrive on the road from Al Hamra. The cool air makes this excellent walking country with the 'Balcony Walk', from the small settlement of Al Khitayim to the abandoned houses of As Sap, amongst the most rewarding. In winter, occasional falls of snow dust its upper reaches, creating one of the more unexpected sights in Oman.



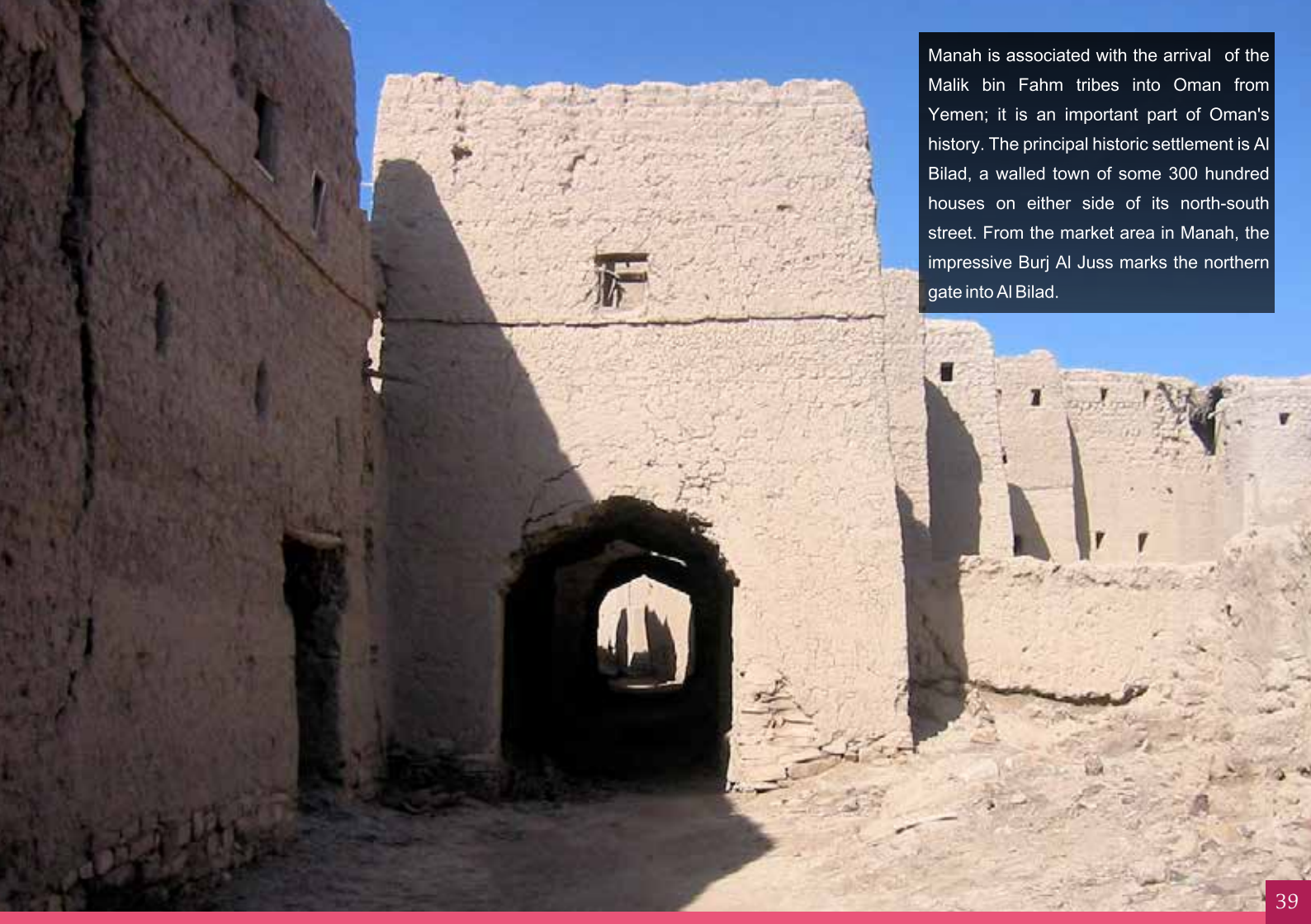
Misfat Al Abryeen

North above Al Hamra's town Centre is the charming village of Misfat Al Abryeen. Its stone-built houses overlook date trees which grow on small terraced fields arranged on the sides of its steep wadi. Through the village, a path winds around the old houses and into the date palm oasis. Here the water from the falaj irrigates date, banana, citrus and other fruits, as it travels down from its source some 1,500 meters up the valley.



Ad Dhakhliyah Villages

There are some villages in Adh Dakhliyah Region which have several tourism features. Among the villages , Firq in Arabic has a special name which means a division. Other villages such as: Hellat As Sibani, Al Aqr, Zukait, Imti, An Nizar, Al Hamra Ghul, Harat Al Hawashim, and Al Bilad are noted for their old walled mud-brick settlements.



Manah is associated with the arrival of the Malik bin Fahm tribes into Oman from Yemen; it is an important part of Oman's history. The principal historic settlement is Al Bilad, a walled town of some 300 hundred houses on either side of its north-south street. From the market area in Manah, the impressive Burj Al Juss marks the northern gate into Al Bilad.

Souqs





Souq Nizwa

On a daily basis, the souq at Nizwa, just west of the central car park, bustles into life in the early morning. A wide selection of local produce is sold here including honey and dates, as well as fish from the coast. Just north from here is the silver-ware and handicrafts souq; look for locally made Khanjars, Oman's traditional dagger, or perhaps some decorative enameled camels to take home. South of the food souq is the weekly animal auction, where goats and cattle are paraded in a frenzy of interest from potential buyers and visitors.



Souq Bahla

Bahla's main souq is one of the more traditional in Oman. Set within an ancient complex only 200 meters west of Bahla Fort, the souq is still locked at night. Inside, it contains a myriad of interesting stores, from metal repair workshop through to small groceries. Each Thursday, the small square around the Banyan tree is used for a livestock auction in which the animals for sale are so great that the sellers need to push their way through the throng.





Souq Fanja

Fanja's market is some 35 kilometers south of Muscat Airport. This is a simple market with an extraordinary range of goods for the local population. Over the years, it has become well known for its traditional clay pots. During Eid festivities, the market is augmented by traditional 'Hapta Souqs' held in the old town. These create a festive atmosphere, culminating in a traditional parade of men through the throng of people and a rousing firing of an ancient Canon as its highlight.



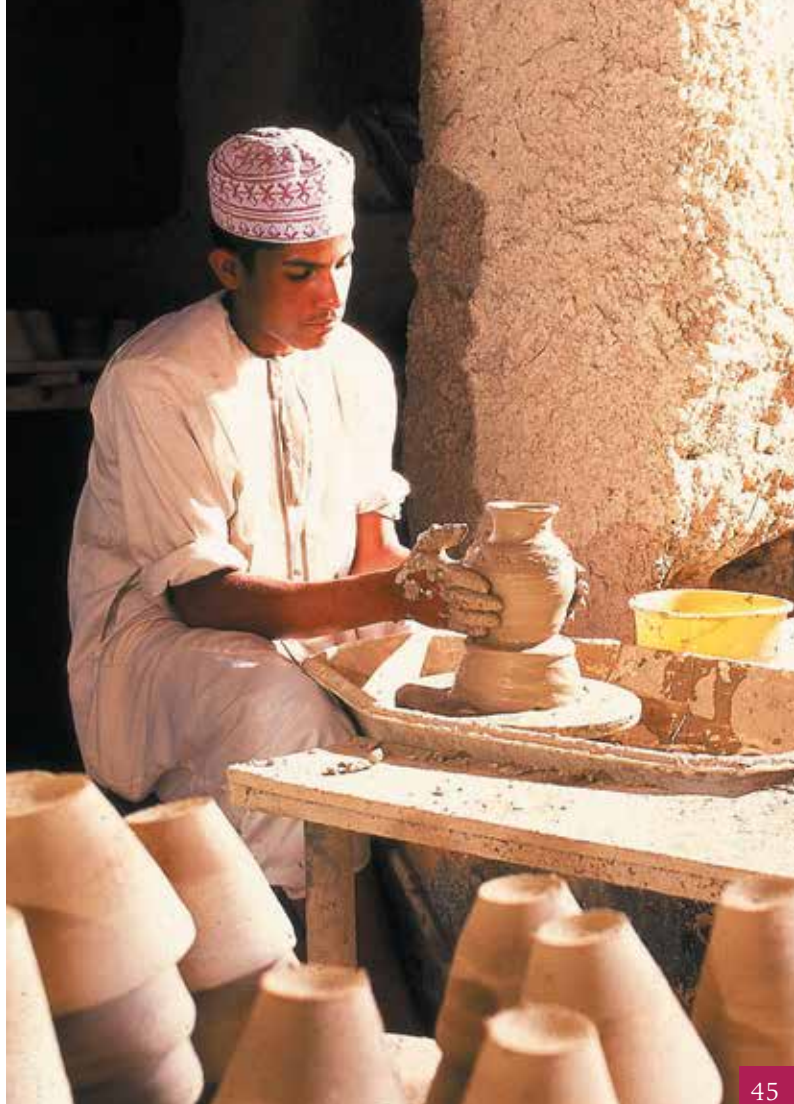
Folk Dance

Folk Dances in Oman are often held in Oman's historic monuments, and few settings are as impressive as Nizwa Fort. Here under the great tower, troops of around a dozen men often perform folk dances with the joyful 'rabbuba' style of rhythm accompaniment. While showing their expertise with swords, one or two men vie for the audience's attention. Enjoy these occasional events as you visit our historic regions.



Bahla Pottery

A 700 meter walk north from the suq in Bahla will bring visitors to one of Bahla's potteries. Here the family of Abdullah Bin Hamadan Al-Adawi carry on an artisanal tradition that has now seen four generations of the family create some of the iconic clay pots of Oman. Designs include porous water jars that allow the water to evaporate; creating naturally chilled water, as well as northern Oman's iconic style of circular incense burner, found in large quantities throughout the country.





Handicrafts

Throughout Oman, traditional weaving is still carried out, though few places have the number of craftspeople as the region around the village of Ghul. Here, 'pit-loom' weavers use either natural goat hair or coloured sheep wool to create practical, durable floor rugs. These are also excellent as wall hangings, where their powerful design always creates interest in any room.



Accommodation (Hotels)

Adh Dakhliyah Governorate is served by a number of small comfortable hotels and furnished apartments. These are ideal if you are travelling through the area or wish a base for touring and exploration. Whichever your choice, you will be welcomed as a guest and leave as a friend.



Ad Dhakhiliyah Contacts Info

Royal Oman Police (ROP)

Ad Dakhliyah	Al Dakhiliya Police Headquarters	+968 25414899, 25425222
Ad Dakhliyah	Nizwa Police Division	+968 25425222, 25425559
Ad Dakhliyah	Bahla Police Station	+968 25419099, 25419899
Ad Dakhliyah	Adam Police Station	+968 25434099
Ad Dakhliyah	Nuhaidah Police Station	+968 25384495
Ad Dakhliyah	Samail Police Division	+968 25350099, 25350213
Ad Dakhliyah	Izki Police Station	+968 25340099, 25342099
Ad Dakhliyah	Bid Bid Police Station	+968 25360099, 25361299
Ad Dakhliyah	Directorate of Traffic, Nizwa	+968 25431811

Hospitals and Medical Centrters

Ad Dakhliyah	Adam- Adam Hospital	+968 25434055
Ad Dakhliyah	Al Hamra-Muscat Pharmacy Al Hamra	+968 25422343
Ad Dakhliyah	Bahla-Muscat Pharmacy Bahla	+968 25419740
Ad Dakhliyah	Izki-Izki Hospital	+968 25340033
Ad Dakhliyah	Nizwa-Muscat Pharmacy Nizwa	+968 25410235
Ad Dakhliyah	Nizwa-Nizwa Hospital	+968 25449361
Ad Dakhliyah	Nizwa-Badr Al Samaa Hospital	+968 25447776
Ad Dakhliyah	Nizwa-Al Qala'a Pharmacy Nizwa	+968 25431666
Ad Dakhliyah	Sumail-Sumail Hospital	+968 25352236

Ad Dhakhiliyah Contacts Info

Accommodation

Ad Dhakhiliyah	Adam-Al Manara Guest House	+968 24603611
Ad Dhakhiliyah	Adam-Badar A'salam Guest House	+968 25435007
Ad Dhakhiliyah	Adam-Rimal Adam Guest House	+968 25435140
Ad Dhakhiliyah	Al Hamra-Rustaq Road-Al Hoota Rest House	+968 9282 2473
Ad Dhakhiliyah	Al Jabal Al Akhdar-Alila Al Jabal Al Akhdar	+968 25344233
Ad Dhakhiliyah	Al Jabal Al Akhdar-Jabal Akhdar Hotel	+968 25429009
Ad Dhakhiliyah	Al Jabal Al Akhdar-Sahab Hotel	+968 25429288
Ad Dhakhiliyah	Al Jabal Al Akhdar-Saih Qatna Hotel Apartment	+968 25429120
Ad Dhakhiliyah	Bahla-Heritage village Guest house	+968 25363353
Ad Dhakhiliyah	Bahla-Jabreen Hotel	+968 25363340
Ad Dhakhiliyah	Bahla- Adam Road-Uwayfiyah Guest House	+968 25428273
Ad Dhakhiliyah	Jabal Shams-Jebel Shams Resort	+968 99382639
Ad Dhakhiliyah	Jabal Shams-Sunrise Resort	+968 94100900
Ad Dhakhiliyah	Nizwa-Al-Diyar Hotel	+968 25412402
Ad Dhakhiliyah	Nizwa-Bait Al-Ahlam Hotel Apartment	+968 25414404
Ad Dhakhiliyah	Nizwa-Falaj Daris Hotel	+968 25410500
Ad Dhakhiliyah	Nizwa-Golden Tulip Nizwa Hotel	+968 25431616
Ad Dhakhiliyah	Nizwa-Nizwa Hotel	+968 25431616
Ad Dhakhiliyah	Nizwa-Nizwa Hotel Apartment	+968 99313600
Ad Dhakhiliyah	Nizwa-Safari Hotel	+968 25432150

Travel agencies

Ad Dhakhiliyah	Nizwa-Al Maalam Tours	+968 94366757
Ad Dhakhiliyah	Birkat al-Mawz -Al Jabal Al Akhdar Trading	+968 25443722
Ad Dhakhiliyah	Birkat al-Mawz -Gulf for Organising Tourist Trips	+968 25443767
Ad Dhakhiliyah	Bait Al Harafee Al Omani	+968 25410451

+968 99313010

Tourism Guidelines

Dear Visitor:

In order to make your visit to Oman a perfect and unforgettable experience, we kindly ask that you observe the following guidelines closely.

General Guidelines

- Please observe the social customs of the Omani society and dress decently.
- Do not make any noise and keep music volume to a minimum when passing through the popular neighborhoods or residential areas.
- Do not photograph people when entering private properties without obtaining prior permission.
- Keep your environment clean. Dispose of litter or garbage in the designated dustbins.
- Make sure that your tour guide holds a valid license from the Ministry of Tourism.

When you visit any village, please:

- Protect the flora and fauna. Don't pick any fruits or vegetables as they are private property and a source of income for the locals.
- The Falaj system is the main source for drinking and irrigation water. Do not pollute it in any way.
- Stick to the specified trails at any tourist destination that you visit.
- Don't park or stop your vehicle in any place other than the designated parking space.

Cruises:

- Deal only with tourist boats licensed to do so, as they are equipped with the safety equipments prescribed by the law.

Visiting the Desert:

- Use a specialized tour guide. It's preferable to make the journey in more than one vehicle and to have GPS devices, along with the necessary safety means and equipments.
- Visiting hours for forts are subject to change.

Off-Road Travel:

- Use only 4WD vehicles and make sure you have adequate water, food, fuel and spare tyres. Check your 4WD system for proper functioning. Inform a close friend of your destination and the expected date of your return.
- Don't camp in the Wadi beds. Flash floods can occur occasionally.

Trekking:

- When trekking in the mountain trails, choose suitable shoes and make sure you have enough food and water. Don't trek alone, and make sure you know about the roughness and length of such tracks beforehand.

General Instructions to visitors of handicrafts showrooms:

- 1- Don't touch or move any of the artifacts on display to avoid any damage.
- 2- Photography is allowed but without touching the exhibited items.
- 3- Don't leave children unattended and make sure they don't touch or move the displayed potteries so as not to be broken.
- 4- Do not dispose of litter or garbage inside the exhibited items.
- 5- The site is equipped with surveillance system to ensure the safety of the collection and to prevent theft.
- 6- Don't write, draw or put any stickers on the exhibited items.
- 7- While roaming, be careful not to hit any of the artifacts on display.
- 8- Use the proper shoes when you visit any archeological sites and avoid any wooden or tapered heel shoes that may cause erosion or damage to such sites.
- 9- Don't touch or take away any stones from the archeological sites.

Tourism`s International Representative Offices

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