



Marhaba to the Governorate of Musandam

Beauty has an address-Oman



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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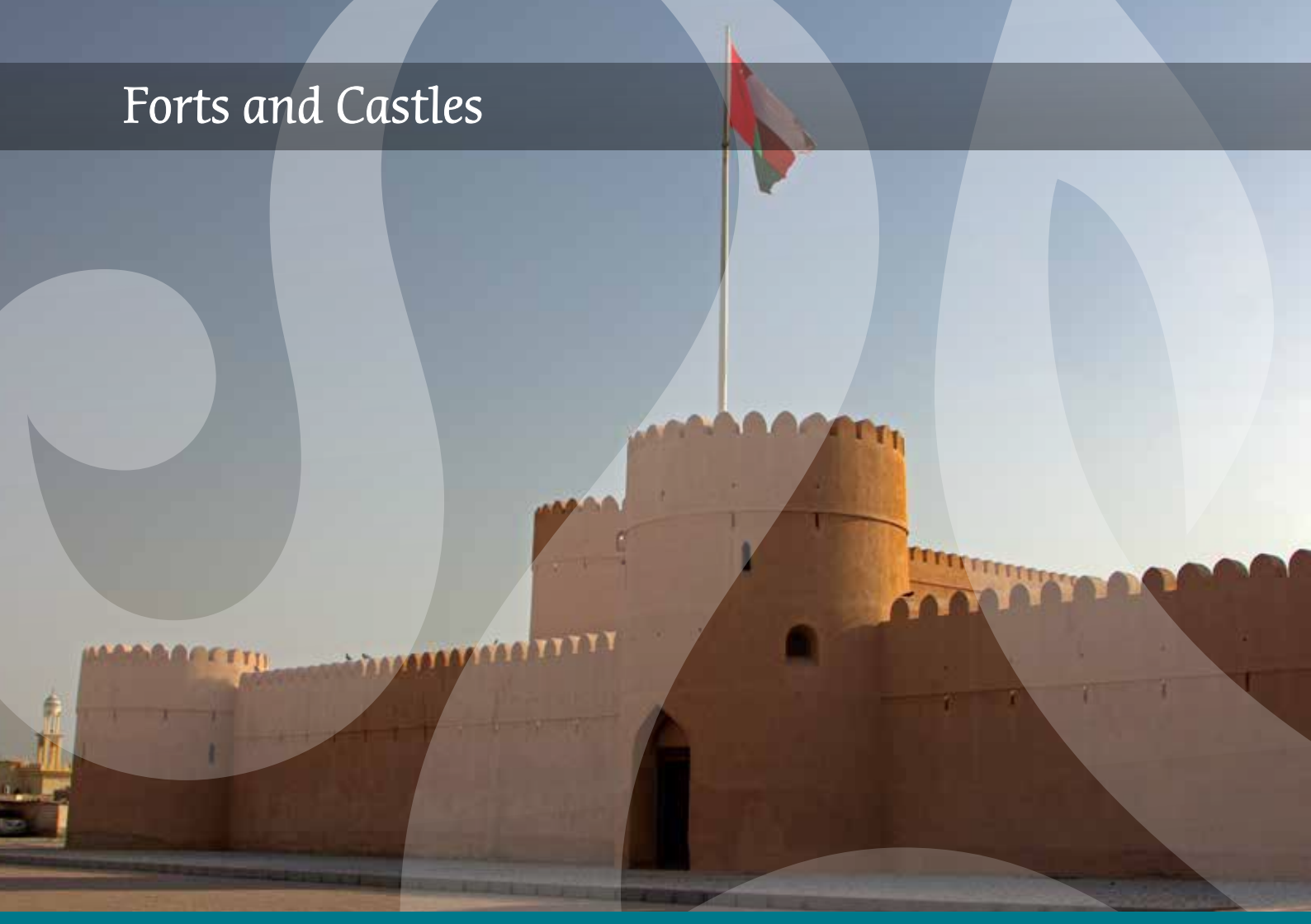
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Governorate of Musandam

The spectacular coastal scenery of the Governorate of Musandam, with its Fjord - like sunken valleys, is one of Oman's most impressive landscapes. Plunging into two seas, the Sea of Oman in the east and the Arabian Gulf in the west, the rock strata leads you to explore either the waters below or the mountains above; each equally rewarding. Inland, convoluted mountain tracks lead into great valleys with many hidden places to explore. Travel north to Musandam and enjoy some of Oman's most breathtaking views. It is located 570 kilometers from Muscat. It can be reached by daily flights from Muscat, by sea in fast ferries and by car through a road that cuts through the United Arab Emirates.

Forts and Castles





Khasab Castle

Just north of Khasab is Khasab Castle. The original Husn was re-fortified by the Portuguese in 1623. Following its capture by Oman in the mid-17th century, it has been periodically restored, most recently in 2007. The round tower in the main courtyard is probably the oldest part of the building and now is home to a museum with comprehensive information about Khasab and Musandam.



Husn Kumzarah

About 600 meters southeast of Husn Khasab is Husn Kumzarah. This may have been built around 1860 by Sheikhs from Kumzar and it is located within the area traditionally used by the people from Kumzar during the summer months.



Daba Fort

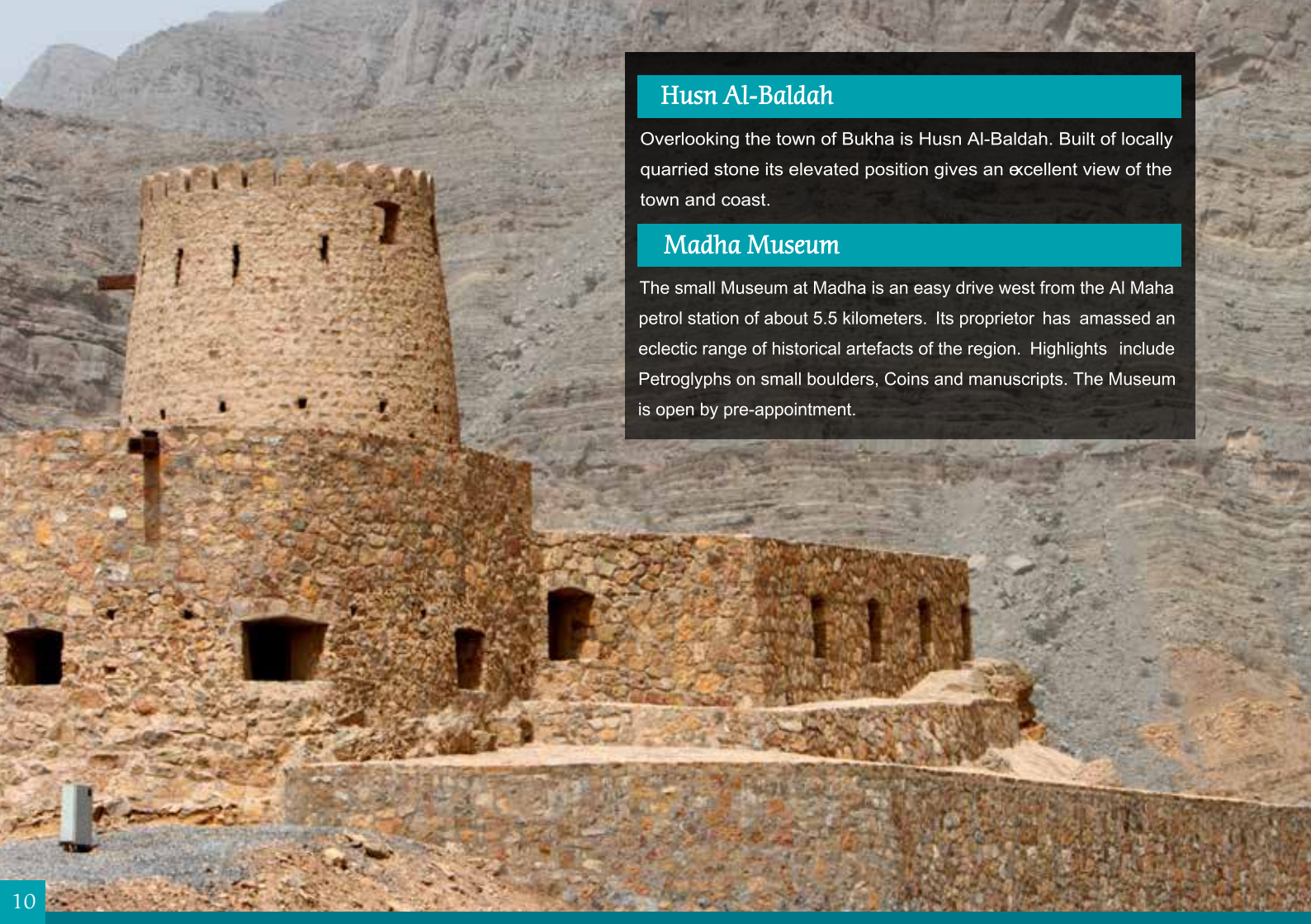
About 1,800 meters southwest of Daba harbour is the double-walled Daba Fort, also called As Seeba Fort. Recently restored, the original fort was built by Portuguese in 1624, one of several forts along the coast towards Muscat. The original fort was the central fortification of a walled town, with a secondary walled area just to its north.



Bukha Castle

Bukha Castle stands next to the coastal road in the town of Bukha. The fort was perhaps built in the mid-19th century on the shore with a protective seawater filled ditch. The fort's design has several unusual features including an arched entrance and a single 'pear shaped' tower and two square ones, instead of the traditional round towers, the sea has receded, its water completely blocked by the road. The fort's interior has a limited number of rooms suggesting its purpose was as a short-term refuge rather than a permanent residence.





Husn Al-Baldah

Overlooking the town of Bukha is Husn Al-Baldah. Built of locally quarried stone its elevated position gives an excellent view of the town and coast.

Madha Museum

The small Museum at Madha is an easy drive west from the Al Maha petrol station of about 5.5 kilometers. Its proprietor has amassed an eclectic range of historical artefacts of the region. Highlights include Petroglyphs on small boulders, Coins and manuscripts. The Museum is open by pre-appointment.

Wadis & Beaches





Wadi Bih

Wadi Bih is one of Musandam's great wadis. Its tributaries originate southeast of Musandam's highest peak, Jabal Harim. The adventurous drive to reach the wadi (check with immigration authorities for access) is some 60 kilometers through spectacular scenery south of Khasab. The rock stratas' plunge into the wadi bed, almost as a knife through butter. The scattered small settlements and occasional areas of cultivation, both in the wadi bed and high above in the mountain slopes, are dominated by mountain peaks that in places soar almost 1000 meters above the wadi.



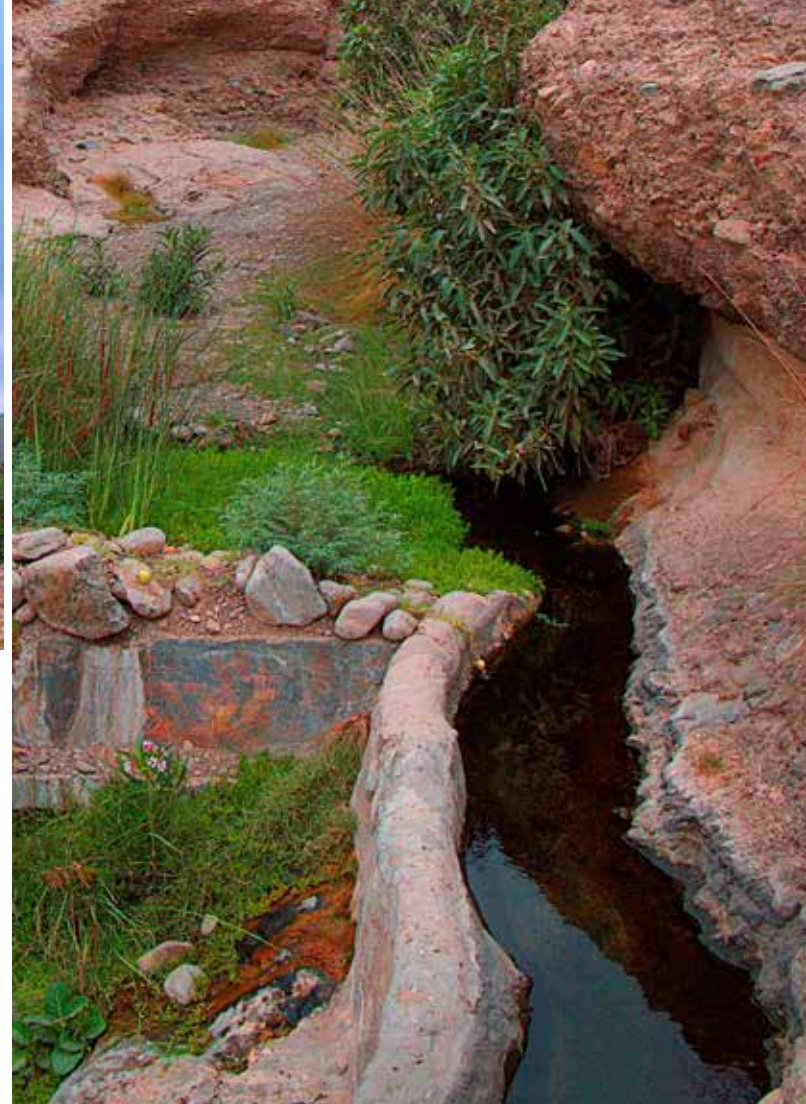
Wadi As Saye

Overlooked by Jabal Harim, Wadi As Saye is a remarkably fertile small valley in the mountains. The adventurous drive to reach the wadi is about 35 kilometers through beautiful scenery south of Khasab. In the wadi, a patchwork of fields grows a variety of crops including grass for fodder and occasional date palms. This makes it one of Oman's important sites for bird watching, most especially during April when the birds, which have overwintered in Oman, fly north.



Wadi Madha

A drive west about halfway along the main road between Khitmat Milahah and Daba, will take you to Wadi Madha. Making its way through the stark igneous mountains of Ophiolite, the wadi passes through well-kept date plantations and interesting geological features for some 20 kilometers in Madha. Just under 9 kilometers west along the road from Al Maha petrol station a short detour to the north will take you to a 'recharge dam'. This is designed to collect floodwater and return it to the water table.





Wadi Shis

Wadi Shis joins the wadi through Hajir bani Hamid by cutting through the ancient conglomerate. This rock mixture was built up over thousands of years, while the later eroding force of water gives us an insight into the power of nature.



Wadi Khabb Al Shamsi

West of Daba the road swings north past Daba's water dam and enters the mountains. Wadi Khabb Al Shamsi is a dramatic, narrow gorge with several rock climbing sites. Scattered high above its length there are abandoned old houses and small seasonal fields. In places where the wadi is wider small areas of cultivation cling to the side, just above flood levels. The road climbs steeply before descending towards Wadi Bih, the junction of these two dramatic wadis is the furthest that non-GCC passport holders can go.



Madha springs

Madha is blessed with a number of small Aflaj fed by springs. Two of the most productive are Samay Spring in the central area about 600 meters north of the Museum building. This irrigates the most easterly section of the town's date plantations. Further east is the spring at Hajir bani Hamid, located on the northern side of the wadi, near an abandoned area of housing. A number of small cisterns store water in this oasis to improve irrigation methods.





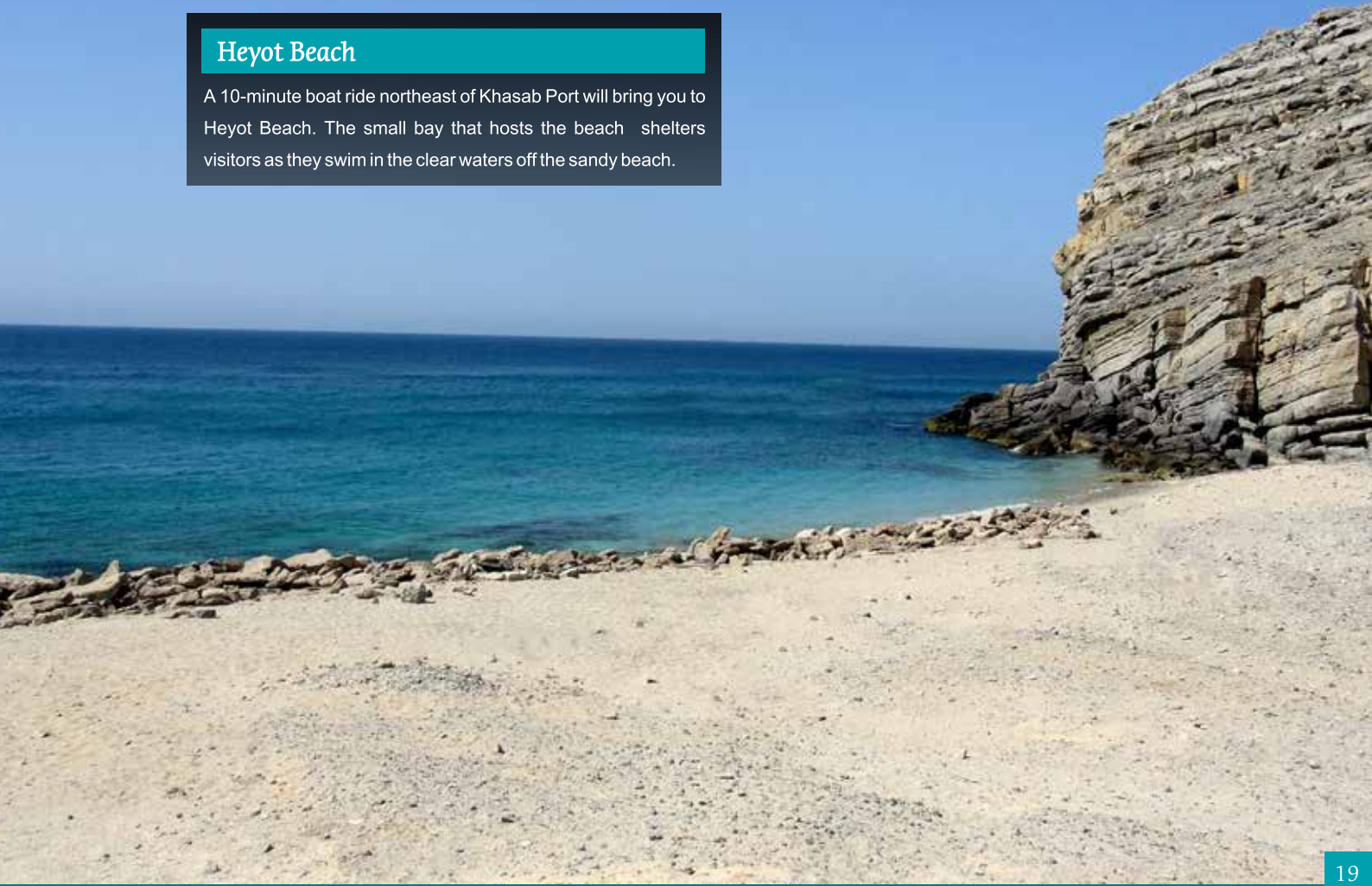
Gulf of Khasab

The Gulf of Khasab is a broad anchorage for boats immediately north of the city. With mountains plunging directly into the sea in the east and west it provides an indication of the dramatic coastal scenery of Musandam. From the harbour in the bay's southern part, small boats speed out in the morning and evening, while larger boats including the high-speed ferry and smaller cruise ships maneuver more sedately through the harbour entrance.

A Sanbuq is a traditional Arab sailing vessel, the predecessor to the motorized boom, yesteryear workhorse of the seas. With its graceful bow and square cut off stern and triangular lateen sail, the boat was a frequent sight until the mid-1960's.

Heyot Beach

A 10-minute boat ride northeast of Khasab Port will bring you to Heyot Beach. The small bay that hosts the beach shelters visitors as they swim in the clear waters off the sandy beach.





Bessah Beach

Less than 3 kilometers northwest of Khasab, the sandy beach of Bessah is the area's most accessible beach. Over 600 meters of sea front provides a spacious area for families to relax and enjoy sea views.

Daba Beach

Facing the warm waters of the Sea of Oman and overlooking by a mountainous skyline, the soft sand beach of Daba stretches south-north for over 5 kilometers. Adding interest to a walk is the fishing harbour about half way along its length. There are usually several fishing Dhows in port and numerous small inshore fishing boats.

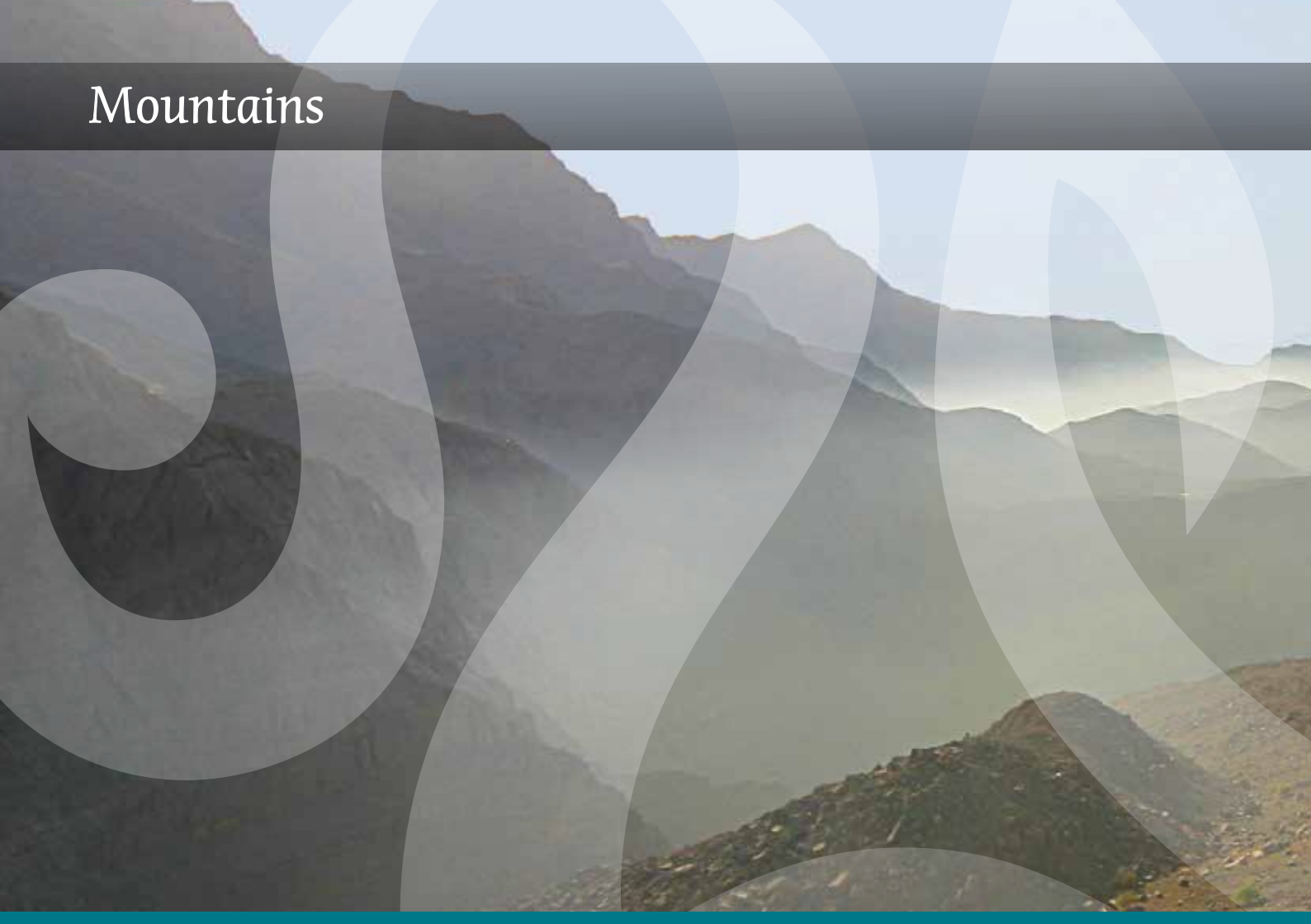




Hal Beach

Some 3.5 kilometers north from Husn Bukha is spacious Hal Beach which overlooks the Arabian Gulf. This makes a delightful picnic spot when driving between Bukha and Khasab. In late summer large flocks of Socotra cormorants congregate along this coast as they migrate.

Mountains





Jabal Harim

Jabal Harim is Musandam's highest peak at just under 2,100 meters. Some 10 kilometers south of Wadi As Saye, the mountain heights are occasionally dusted with snow, creating an extraordinarily unexpected sight amidst the great rocky peaks in Musandam.



Hajar bani Hamid

Some 16 kilometers by road west of the Al Maha petrol station is the small village of Hajar bani Hamid. Set below a dramatic multi-toned mountain the narrow track through Hajar bani Hamid winds through date plantations. The old abandoned village sits on the southern side of the wadi.

Villages





Shesa Village

The bay at Shesa, is overlooked by several hundred meter-high mountains that provide shelter from prevailing winds. On its western shore is the small traditional fishing village of Shesa, with a small quay for fishermen to unload their catch. Usually several Dhows are at anchor along with dozens of small fishing boats, making it one of Musandam's more scenic locations.

Qadah

From the Al Maha petrol station in Khasab, a drive of around 5 kilometers to the west will bring you to Qadah. With a backdrop of date palms and soaring mountains and a clear bay in the foreground, Qadah is set in a beautiful location. The wadi has an excellent water source that supplies the plantations, mango trees and other crops. On the plateau above Qadah the scattered houses and gardens that relied on rain have been abandoned. The road through Qadah continues for just under 3 kilometers Tawi where a small collection of boulders on the east side of the road have a number of petroglyphs (information can be found in Husn Khasab).





Ghubb Ali Village

Ghubb Ali village lies in an inlet of the same name, about 30 minutes by speedboat northwest of Khasab. The traditional single story houses overlook one of the deepest fjords in Musandam, which is fringed with several small beaches. To the west of Ghubb Ali village, a number of acacia trees provide shade and fodder for livestock.



Kumzar Village

Oman's most northerly village, Kumzar is some 36 kilometers from Khasab, about two hours by sea. Tightly packed into a small valley, the village is surrounded by mountains. This is one of the centers of Oman's sardine fishing industry. Vast shoals are caught and later sun-dried on the adjacent beaches. Larger fish may be caught from the Dhows, which lie off shore; the Dhows are often decorated with horns from cows and strings of cowry shells.



Lima Village

Lima, located on the east coast of Musandam, is located at the sea exit of the substantial Wadi Al Aqbat al Atabal. Facing the Sea of Oman, the town is a focus for scuba diving as well as walk over the mountain ridges where several abandoned villages can be found. The town is known throughout Oman for the distinctive Jerz, an elegant stick topped with a decorative axe head.



Zighy Village

Taking the track through Wadi Khabb Al Shamsi, there is a turn east, about 6 kilometers north of the dam, which takes a steep road over the mountain ridge. The road plunges down and to the right to the village of Zighy. Beautifully located under towering cliffs and facing the sea the town is blessed with a productive date oasis and fish which can be caught in only a few moments out of its small fishing harbour.



Al Khalidiyya

Southeast of Khasab the open woodland of As Sei park in Al Khalidiyya is about 6 kilometers further east from the approach to Khor Najd. The trees are acacia with broad tops, creating shaded areas for picnics. In Spring and Autumn the area comes alive with birds. Here, a number of Musandam's Bait al-Qufi (House of the lock) have been constructed around vast storage jars. The monolithic stone walls are constructed with part of their height below ground level; this helped disguise the house and added security even when the occupants were away.

Fjords





Creek Ash Sham

Khor ash Sham, the most popular of the fjords in Musandam offers sparkling blue waters, stupendous mountains scenery and very accessible wildlife along its 16 kilometers length. From Khasab the journey by sea may take 30 minutes to its entrance; with dolphins playing in the water and cormorants and herons on the cliffs, it's a fascinating trip. Small settlements like Al Maqleb and Qanaha sit between mountain and sea; on the mountain slopes occasional walled fields can be seen. The calm waters make the fjord an excellent place to swim, snorkel or scuba dive to get close to the brilliant tropical fish below the surface.

Khor Al Najd

Khor al Najd is one of Musandam's more photographed vistas, yet few visitors venture into its azure waters. From Khasab the route leads southeast for some 30 kilometers before descending to the khor via a steep switchback road. The multi-hued mountains here rise to around 1,000 meters and overlook the small settlement of Al Boot. Opening out into Khor Hablayn on Musandam's more remote east coast, the location of Khor al Najd means that few people are fortunate to see the scenery from the sea.





Khor Hablayn

Khor Hablayn is Musandam's largest khor and with its numerous small villages the most populated. Its entrance on Musandam's east coast is just 20 kilometers north of Lima. Small villages include Al Hablayn to the west and the almost deserted Maqaqa hidden behind Maqaqa Island north of the khor.

Islands





Maqlab Island (Telegraph)

Maqlab Island is popularly known as Telegraph Island as from 1864 it was the location for a Telegraph booster station for the cable route between Bombay and London. Just 12 kilometers west by sea from Khasab this is a popular destination throughout the year. The Telegraph station was superseded in 1868 leaving the ruins that today overlook the popular snorkeling location and the colorful fish in the water.



Um Al Tair Island

The small island of Um Al Tair or the Birds Mother Island is set some 7 kilometers of the east coast of Musandam. One of the key species that can be found here are ground nesting osprey.



Salamah Island

Jazirat Salamah (Islands of Safety), a group of three small islands lie some 17 kilometers off Musandam's northern coast.

The name refers to the joy returning sailors must have felt when the islands came into view.

Today the islands are the navigation focus for all shipping passing through the straits of Hormuz ; Oman's most northerly lighthouse is located here.



Al Khayl Island

Jazirat al Khayl lies 6 kilometers northeast of Kumzar. The island shelters Kumzar from the effects of rough seas which otherwise would be damaging to the low-lying town.

Black & Red Island

The twin Islands, Black and Red Islands, are located just over 40 kilometers north of Lima on Musandam's east coast. The southern Red Island is an excellent location for scuba diving with soft corals and a wide variety of fish.

Seebi Island

About 6 kilometers east beyond Telegraph Island is the larger Seebi Island. This offers a sheltered location for snorkeling in its shallow turquoise waters - look for emperor angelfish, Clarks anemone fish, McCoskers wrass and more.





Lima island

East of Lima is one of Oman's best dive sites, Lima Island. With a variety of habitat including Coral and Caves and good depth, this attracts a wide number of fish including open ocean species such barracuda and yellow fin tuna as well as seasonal visits from whale sharks.



Folk Dances

With an ensemble of drummers creating a powerful rhythmic beat in the Rauwah performance, Musandam's celebrations are unique in Oman. The drummers add to the performance by a slow dignified dance movement as they beat their drums, usually the Rahmani type . You will see this compelling performance during Eid festivals and weddings.



Activities (Diving)

Beneath the Ochre mountains of Musandam a rainbow of colours lie hidden in the Azure seas. Salmon pink cave coral waves its tentacles as if to entice you to get closer; Yellow and blue emperor angelfish flutter past and the giant presence of the chocolate and cream whale shark glides through. Whether you swim or scuba in these rich waters, you will be amply rewarded.



Accommodation (Hotels)

The impressive mountains of Musandam look down on equally impressive hotels. Superbly located overlooking Oman's seas, the hotels here are modern, luxurious and, welcoming. Each offers unrivaled local experiences, delivered with a discerning international flair. Come to Musandam and enjoy our unique welcome.

Musandam Contacts Info

Royal Oman Police (ROP)

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Musandam	Bukha Police Station	+968 26828399
Musandam	Diba Al Bayah Police Station	+968 26836999, 26836669
Musandam	Madha Police Post	+968 26839075
Musandam	Tibat Police Post	+968 26734325
Musandam	Customs Department, Musandam	+968 26830804
Musandam	Port Khasab Police	+968 26830799

Hospitals and Medical centers

Musandam	Bukha-Bukha Hospital	+968 26828562
Musandam	Daba-Daba Hospital	+968 26836446
Musandam	Khasab-Muscat Pharmacy Khasab	+968 26730150
Musandam	Khasab-Khasab Hospital	+968 26730148

Musandam Contacts Info

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Musandam	Daba-Six Senses Zighy Bay	+968 26735555
Musandam	Khasab-Atana Khasab	+968 26730777
Musandam	Khasab-Atana Musandam	+968 26730888
Musandam	Khasab-Diwan Al Amir	+968 26833991
Musandam	Khasab-Isra Hotel Apartment	+968 26730562
Musandam	Khasab-Khasab Hotel	+968 26730267
Musandam	Khasab-The Lake Hotel	+968 26731664

Travel agencies

Musandam	Daba-Blue Planet	+968 26836118
Musandam	Daba-Al- Marsa	+968 26836550
Musandam	Daba-Al-Shasi Beach	+968 26836551
Musandam	Daba-Nomad Diving Daba	+968 26836069
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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.

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