



Marhaba to the Governorate of South Ash Sharqiyah

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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The Governorate of South Ash Sharqiyah

Shimmering golden sand dunes, soaring ochre mountains and sparkling turquoise seas are the backdrop to the Governorate of South Ash Sharqiyah. In this most varied of Oman's regions, you can trek in some of Oman's most spectacular wadis, explore its historic castles or find yourself in the darkness watching giant green turtles nest. Enjoy this dramatic region of Oman where each moment can be savoured.

Forts and Castles



Bilad Sur Castle

Set in the scattered date plantation a kilometre north-west of the 'Clock-Tower' roundabout in Sur, the castle of Bilad Sur is a classic square Omani fort. Possibly built in the early 19th century the fort, with its 4 towers, was constructed from limestone & coral. To overlook the date palms, one tower has a turret on its top that is just large enough for a single man to stand in.



As Sunaysilah Castle

Overlooking Sur's municipal building and Al Oruba Club is As Sunaysilah Castle. Probably built shortly after the Portuguese were expelled from Oman in 1650 AD. The view from the castle's ramparts overlooks far out to sea to the north and provides an excellent first view of Sur. Inside the castle, the entrance hall opens onto a spacious square with only a few rooms, suggesting the castle was intended for short-term use.





Ras Al Hadd Castle

On the Eastern edge of Ras Al Hadd's Khor Al Hajar, Ras Al Hadd Castle sits on a slight elevation above high tide. Though the castle may be several centuries old, it is far from the oldest remains on this site. Scattered remains have been excavated here from Oman's Bronze Age, and this region in particular was a hub of international trade during that era.

Al Ayjah Castle

Less than 400 meters north-east of the bridge over Khor Al Batah is the small castle at Al Ayjah. This mainly single story building is surrounded by the houses of the area it protected, several of which originally were of the same low-build, open courtyard design as the castle. Look out for the herd of domesticated goats who seem to regard this castle as their home.





Jaalan Bani bu Hassan Castle

Less than 1,200 meters south-east of the impressive twin minarets of the Farooq Mosque on the main road past Jaalan Bani bu Hassan is the town's castle. This impressive fortification with its backdrop of desert and date oasis may be, one of Oman's oldest possibly dating from the 19th century AD.

The oval keep and enclosing wall date from the early 19th century and create a peaceful monument to this region's past. Climb to the top of the keep to reach out towards the nearby date palms.

Archaeological Sites



Ras Al Jinz

With excavated finds from the Indus Valley Civilization and Mesopotamia, the archaeological site at Ras al Jinz is one of Oman's most important contributors to the understanding of Oman's history. Located within the main turtle reserve at Ras al Jinz are the remains of settlements from over 4,300 years ago.

Pottery from the Indus valley suggests an evolved trade system, which not only communicated over vast distance, but also enabled fragile objects to be traded. The remains of bitumen, whose closest source was in Mesopotamia, found with the clear impression of a woven mat, probably used to waterproof a boat, suggests the type of vessel used in this commerce.





Qalhat

Since 1230 AD Qalhat, less than 25 kilometers north of Sur, was one of Oman's main trading ports throughout much of the late medieval period. It had been an important part of Oman's history before, as it was renowned as the terminus for the Arab tribes arriving from Yemen. Part of the medieval trading Kingdom of Hormuz, this ancient town benefited from the shelter the Ras al Hadd peninsula gave to ships and the essential supply of water from the valley behind it. The town, with its closely packed stone houses, was protected by a kilometer long city wall, which curved to the sea to its west. This and the low sea cliffs at the city's eastern point may have offered sufficient deterrent to most aggressors. However, these defenses proved insufficient to withstand an attack by a Portuguese navy in 1508, which resulted in the terminal decline of the town.

Bibi Miriam

Overlooking the town of Qalhat, the mausoleum called 'Bibi Miriam', after its builder, has survived earthquakes, invasions and the ravages of time since 1311 AD. Built from coral and limestone, covered in stucco and decorated with blue Persian tiles, it attracted praise from all who wrote about it. The style is a familiar cube shaped building surmounted by a dome, which was used in Iraq and Iran. The interior was decorated with squinches and simple muqarnas to overlook the vault below. Bibi Miriam's husband, Baba ad Din Ayaz, who was the Governor of Qalhat and later Hormuz, predeceased her around 1311 AD and it is possible both were buried in the famous mausoleum on her death, before 1329 AD.





Tower Tombs

The high plateau above Tiwi, despite its barren appearance, must have been of some importance in pre-historic Oman for it is here that Oman's best-preserved Tower Tombs are found. The extraordinary journey to the mountain starts less than 5 kilometers north of Tiwi, taking you along a route of over 30 kilometers to these dramatic structures. Set at over 1,700 meters elevation, these well-constructed tombs date from between 2,000-3,500 BC in the style found throughout Oman during this period of prosperity. The tower's stones are held in place without cementation and care needs to be taken not to move any stone.



Fatah Al Khair

The road south-west from the bridge over Khor Al Batah will take you, after less than a kilometer, to the final resting place of the great dhow 'Fatah Al Khair'. Completed in 1952, this was initially a sailing 'Ghanjah' built in Sur shipyards for the ocean trade, which included Aden, Basra, Sri Lanka and Zanzibar. The outer planks that have weathered so well are teak and nailed to the ribs with handmade nails, probably made in the shipyard. Though sold to a Yemeni of Sayhut, just over the border from Oman, the Fatah Al Khair was purchased for Sur and returned to the town in 1993.



Al Hamooda Mosque

The 51 domes of the Al Hamooda Mosque in Jaalan Bani bu Ali sit over a multi-columned interior, now unique in Oman.

This style of building with small domes allowed a large floor area to be covered without the use of timber, a costly material prone to damage by termites.

The fort, 400 meters to the mosque's north, has a small mosque with 2 comparable domes.





Meebam Village

Set beneath towering cliffs, the village of Meebam in Wadi Tiwi is reached after a scenic journey of some 12 kilometres by 4WD from the town of Tiwi.

The cliffs of honey coloured limestone overlay green ophiolite and in places, this is well exposed.

The village and its large date oasis echo to the sound of cascading water from the plentiful water supply, which constantly flows from a small spring to the rear of the village, through its falaj system.



Jeelah village

Jeelah, with its World Heritage Site falaj, is the final village as Wadi Shab ascends from the sea. The village can be reached via a 20 Kilometers arduous hike thorough the valley along ancient tracks now little used, to the 1,800 meters heights of the Eastern Hajar Mountains.

Alternatively, the village can be reached by a 45 kilometers 4WD trail which commences 5 kilometers north of Tiwi.

The Falaj originates in a cave whose surface has been polished smooth by floodwaters, and it hugs the valley's smooth sides on its way to irrigate a small oasis of date palms and pomegranate bushes.



Lagoons and Beaches





Khor Al Batah

Khor Al Batah is the lagoon at the heart of Sur, which, over the centuries, provided safe anchorage to innumerable Indian Ocean sailing ships, whose voyage took them to Zanzibar in the west and down to the southern Indian ports including Kochi.

Today a modern harbour lighthouse guides shipping along the coast, while passage between the communities on either side of the entrance is eased by a suspension bridge.

Khor Grama

Khor Grama, the largest lagoon in northern Oman, is some 22 kilometres east of Sur in an area of low hills.

The deep-water entrance still makes it a destination for the larger ocean going dhows to anchor for several days.

A traditional cargo was mangrove timber from East Africa, perhaps a reflection of the live trees growing on the southern fringe of Khor Grama.





Khor Al Hajar

The low-lying peninsula at Ras Al Hadd encloses Khor Al Hajar, whose broad entrance some 25 kilometers east of Sur offers easy access to dhows and small coastal fishing boats.

The shallow waters in the lagoon's southeast are one of the locations of mangrove replanting found throughout Oman. These waters offer hunting grounds to osprey who use the dhows at anchor as a resting place.



Masirah Island

Set off the coast of Oman at Shennah, which is just under 300 kilometers by road south east from Sur, the island of Masirah is Oman's largest island. With a pre-history dating back 4,000 years, and despite being a true desert island, Masirah has always supported a small human population involved variously by mining and fish exploitation.

The central region of this 65-kilometres long island is formed by stark mountains with an important population of Egyptian vultures.

The island's perimeter, which is skirted by a tarmac road, is largely sandy beach, which on the east coast has nesting populations of sea turtles, most especially loggerhead. Take a ferry across to Masirah to experience this desert island.

Al Ashkharah

Lapped by the Arabian Sea for countless kilometers on either side of Al Ashkharah are beautiful sandy beaches .

To the town' s south, occasional sun-shelters mark the route while 16 kilometers south-west of Al-Ashkharah the end of the beach is marked by a small lagoon at Al Jifn, which invariably has flocks of gulls and waders.



Natural Landmarks





Wadi Shab

Wadi Shab, one of Oman's most scenic wadis, has carved its 30 kilometers route from the plateau of the Eastern Hajar Mountains of almost 2 kilometers depth through honey-coloured rocks and out to sea, just north of Tiwi town.

Just over a kilometer inside the valley, the surprising sight of pools of deep water appear, edged with elegant date palms. Farther ahead vast boulders, as if thrown by giants, have created a secret 'cave' with a gushing waterfall which plunges into cyan coloured water, a playground for youthful explorers.



Wadi Tiwi

Opening into the Sea of Oman just south of its namesake town, Wadi Tiwi has been visited by explorers for centuries. Ibn Battuta described its flowing streams, which still course through the valley today as carefully controlled Aflaj (the plural for Oman's Falaj water system). Several small villages are overlooked by the valley's cliffs; their inhabitants have carefully managed the water to create small farms with date palms, papaya, banana and more. It is best to travel here by 4x4 cars.



Reserves



A large green sea turtle is resting on a sandy beach. In the background, there is a massive, layered rock cliff with distinct horizontal strata. The sky is a pale, hazy blue. The turtle is positioned in the lower right foreground, facing left. The cliff face is the central focus of the background, showing signs of weathering and erosion. The overall scene is a natural coastal environment.

Turtle Reserve

The easternmost peninsula in Oman hosts one of the world's most important populations of green turtles. Throughout the year, these vast sea-reptiles haul their weight of up to 190 kilograms from the sea at Ras al Jinz to lay the future of this endangered species.

From the around 100 eggs, each female lays during a night, only one hatchling, may survive to maturity. Visitors to Ras Al Jinz will find the night walk to the beach may provide the rewarding experience of seeing the start of one of nature's most remarkable life cycles.

Nature Reserve of As Salil

North of the town of Al Kamil is the nature reserve of As Salil. This reserve covers an area of 220 square kilometers with 3 principal geographic landscapes: an alluvial plain with an open acacia woodland; the wadis that cut into the mountains; and the foothills of those mountains. The park is home to the Arabian gazelle, Gordon's wild cat and Arabian wolf as well as a variety of reptiles and birds.



Museums





The Old Castle Museum

First built over 200 years ago, the Old Castle Museum is hidden just 200 meters southeast of the new souq in Al Kamil. A beautifully restored private fort is the home for an eclectic collection of artefacts from not only Oman's ancient past but also its more recent, but rapidly vanishing from memory, modern history. Children's toys share space with antique porcelain creating a unique, personal glimpse into Oman. Enjoy your visit here on your travels through the region.



Al Oruba Museum

Opposite the Shell Petrol Station in Sur's town centre is the successful football club Al Oruba, Since 1986 the club has also created a Museum, which tells the story of Sur's seafaring tradition through models, photographs and original equipment used in dhows from the town.

Though having no scheduled opening hours, the club's caretaker is available to open the door during normal working hours in Oman.



Folk Dance

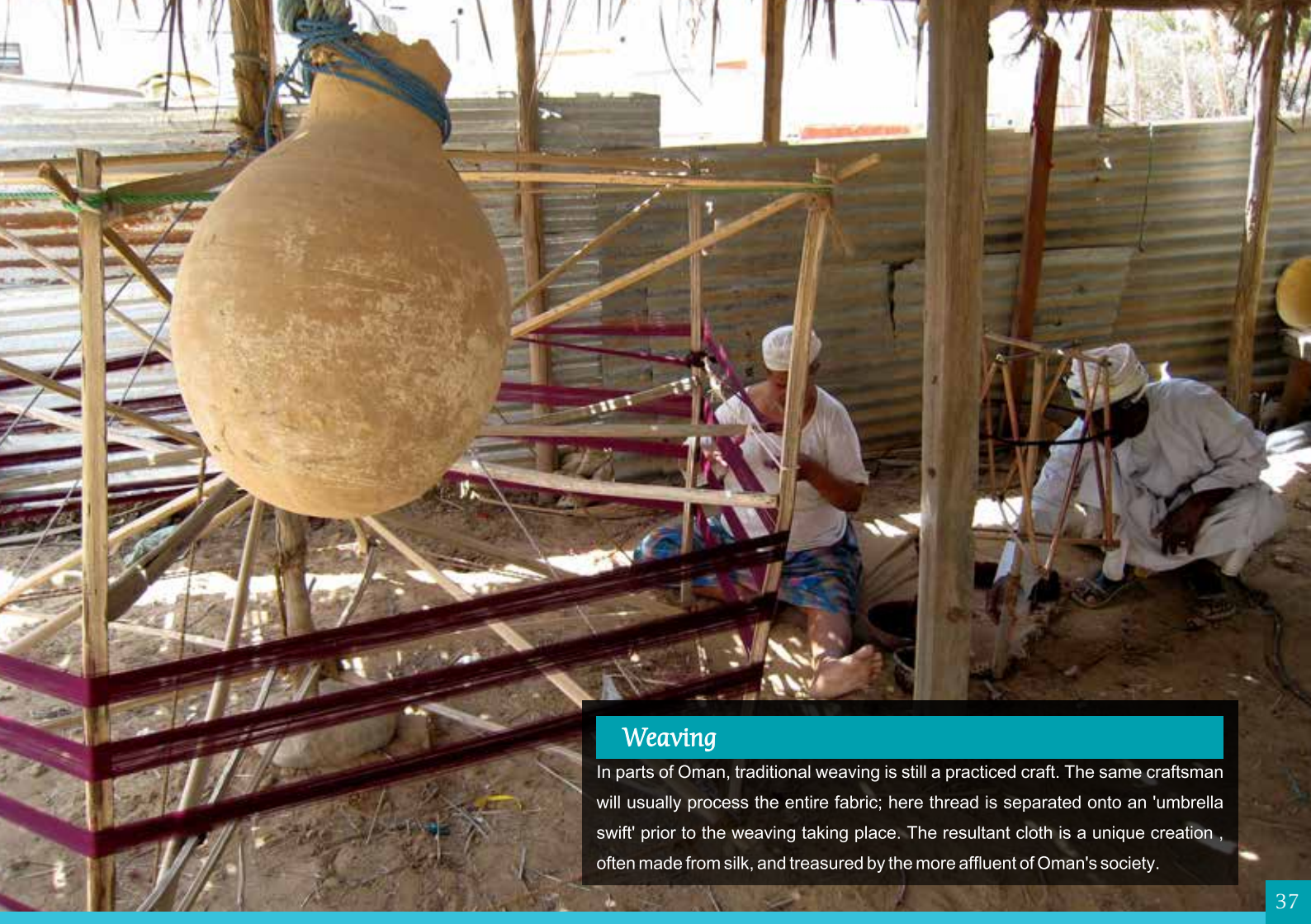
Though the Khanjar is traditionally never unsheathed there is an occasion when the blade is displayed, during one of the varieties of Al-Bar'ah folk dance. The actual dance is simple, however the skill is to keep in rhythm with the musical beat and fellow dancers. This dance can be found in rural areas, most especially along the East coast.



Dhow Construction

Just southeast of the bridge over Khor Al Batah are the shipyards, which magically create substantial wooden dhows. Timbers from southern India and Oman are crafted through the skills of the craftsmen into these iconic ships.

Today rather than trade, the dhows from these yards are used for leisure and may, despite their traditional design, bristle with all manner of sophisticated navigation aids.



Weaving

In parts of Oman, traditional weaving is still a practiced craft. The same craftsman will usually process the entire fabric; here thread is separated onto an 'umbrella swift' prior to the weaving taking place. The resultant cloth is a unique creation, often made from silk, and treasured by the more affluent of Oman's society.



Accommodation (Hotels)

Stay in Al Sharqiyah South Governorate for more time to explore the local attractions. Small comfortable hotels located in the center of the city encourage you to walk and explore. If you wish to relax, then larger hotels either in the city or in rural surroundings will give you a chance to enjoy their landscaped gardens.

South Ash Sharquiyah Contacts Info

Royal Oman Police (ROP)

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South Ash Sharquiyah	Jaalan	Jaalan Police Station	+968	25550420, 25550004
South Ash Sharquiyah	Masirah	Masira Police Station	+968	25482339
South Ash Sharquiyah	Sur	Sur Police Station	+968	25540099, 25542599
South Ash Sharquiyah	Sur	Civil Defence, Sur	+968	25540199, 25540021

Hospitals and Medical Centres

South Ash Sharquiyah	Al Ashkarah	Ashkhara Health Centre	+968	25566100
South Ash Sharquiyah	Al Kamil	Al Kamil Health Centre	+968	25557126
South Ash Sharquiyah	Al Kamil	Muscat Pharmacy	+968	25557091
South Ash Sharquiyah	Al Ruwais	Aruwis Health Center	+968	25567800
South Ash Sharquiyah	Al Wafi	Al Wafi Health Center	+968	25558212
South Ash Sharquiyah	Al Wafi	Falaj Al Mashaikh Health Centre	+968	25548100
South Ash Sharquiyah	Bani Bu Ali	Jaalan Bani Bu Ali Health Centre	+968	25554101
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South Ash Sharquiyah	Bani Bu Ali	Muscat Pharmacy	+968	25553984
South Ash Sharquiyah	Bani Bu Hassan	Jalan Ban Bu Hassan Hospital	+968	25550960
South Ash Sharquiyah	Masirah	Masira Hospital	+968	25504363
South Ash Sharquiyah	Masirah	Muscat Pharmacy	+968	25504349
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South Ash Sharquiyah	Sur	Badr Al Sama Polyclinic	+968	26884918
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South Ash Sharqiyah Contacts Info

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South Ash Sharqiyah	Al Ashkarah	Youth Hostel Areen Al Ashkarah	+968	25566288
South Ash Sharqiyah	Bani bu Ali	Al Dabi Tourist Motel	+968	25553307
South Ash Sharqiyah	Bani bu Hassan	Jaalan Sands Camp	+968	99357265
South Ash Sharqiyah	Masirah	Danat Al Khaleej Hotel	+968	25504533
South Ash Sharqiyah	Masirah	Masirah Hotel	+968	25504401
South Ash Sharqiyah	Masirah	Masirah Island Resort	+968	25504274
South Ash Sharqiyah	Masirah	Serabis Hotel	+968	25504699
South Ash Sharqiyah	Ras Al Hadd	Turtle Beach Resort	+968	25540068
South Ash Sharqiyah	Ras Al Hadd	Ras Al Hadd Beach Hotel	+968	25542031
South Ash Sharqiyah	Ras Al Jinz	Al Naseem Camp	+968	99450063
South Ash Sharqiyah	Ras Al Jinz	Ras Al Jinz Centre	+968	96550606
South Ash Sharqiyah	Sur	Al Faisal Suits Apartment	+968	25542500
South Ash Sharqiyah	Sur	Al Ayjah Plaza Hotel	+968	25544433
South Ash Sharqiyah	Sur	Al Basateen Hotel apartment	+968	25562121
South Ash Sharqiyah	Sur	Al Jamhoor Hotel Apartment	+968	25543561
South Ash Sharqiyah	Sur	Al Salawi Hotel Apartment	+968	25544407
South Ash Sharqiyah	Sur	Al Thabit Hotel Apartment	+968	25544667
South Ash Sharqiyah	Sur	Al-Afia Hotel Apartment	+968	25544490
South Ash Sharqiyah	Sur	Bait Al Afya Hotel Apartment	+968	25544301
South Ash Sharqiyah	Sur	Marsa Sur Hotel Apartment	+968	99641741
South Ash Sharqiyah	Sur	Sur Beach Hotel	+968	25542031
South Ash Sharqiyah	Sur	Sur Hotel	+968	25540090
South Ash Sharqiyah	Sur	Sur Plaza Hotel	+968	25543777
South Ash Sharqiyah	Tiwi	Wadi Shab Hotel	+968	24757668
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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.

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محافظة جنوب الشارقة
Governorate of South Shahrjeh

LEGEND

□ International Airport
 □ National Airport
 □ Government Building
 □ Mosque
 □ School
 □ Hospital
 □ University
 □ Park
 □ Beach
 □ Mountain
 □ Hill
 □ Valley
 □ River
 □ Canal
 □ Road
 □ Railway
 □ Power Line
 □ Telephone Line
 □ Water Pipe
 □ Sewerage Pipe
 □ Drainage Pipe
 □ Irrigation Pipe
 □ Fencing
 □ Boundary
 □ National Boundary
 □ International Boundary
 □ Height Scale
 □ Contour Line

LEGEND

□ International Airport
 □ National Airport
 □ Government Building
 □ Mosque
 □ School
 □ Hospital
 □ University
 □ Park
 □ Beach
 □ Mountain
 □ Hill
 □ Valley
 □ River
 □ Canal
 □ Road
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LEGEND

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Tourism Oman



Oman Tourism



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