

SEA, WADIS, TURTLES AND DESERT

An easy going trip to discover Sharqiyah region, which is full of surprises : coral reef, wadis with turquoise water pools, green turtles, and Wahiba's Sand Desert.

DAY 1 *(- Lunch - Dinner)*

✓ **Muttrah fish and vegetables souq (1 hour)**

It is a very lively and typical place that is worth a visit. We only rarely see such a choice of fishes : many species of breams and groupers, tuna, swordfishes, kingfishes, sharks, squids, crabs, shrimps, and even parrot fishes and other multicolor fishes. Next to the fish market is the vegetable market where you'll find fruits, vegetables, dates, honey, thyme, etc...

✓ **Stop in front of Sultan's Palace (0 hour 30)**

The palace is not the residence of the Sultan. It is only used for official meetings. We cannot visit it, but seeing it from outside is already impressive. It was built on the seashore between the 2 portuguese forts (Al Jalali and Al Mirani).

Transfer Muscat - Al Khiran (0 hour 45 - 50 Km)

✓ **Boat tour and Snorkeling in Khiran (4 hours)**

We start from the tiny port of Khiran. We go on a fisherboat and have a round in this wonderful bay that looks like a 'little Musndam'. We then stop on a wonderful cove and have rest. We can swim, and if you bring snorkel equipment, you'll see unbelievable marine life : surgeon, tiger, angel, butterfly fishes, and even sometime green turtles... It is one of the best place for snorkeling near Muscat! ATTENTION : When the sea is rough, this cove is not reachable by boat ; we go to another one which is also nice and suitable for snorkeling, but the seabed is not so rich.

Bivouac on a white sandy beach in Bandar Khiran

We set up our camp in a lovely secluded cove, that you can only reach by boat or by foot. A fisherman brings us all the equipment and luggages by boat. Before sunset, for those who like it, we can go fishing. It is a wonderful camping spot!

Individual camping tent

DAY 2 *(Breakfast - Lunch - Dinner)*

✓ **Return to Khiran by boat (0 hour 30)**

We come back to Khiran by boat. We navigate across the bay and discover its mangrove nice sea birds, and many secluded coves.

Transfer Al Khiran - Tiwi (3 hours - 250 Km)

✓ **Walk and unforgettable swim in Wadi Shab (3 hours)**

We start from the sea and start hiking in the wadi. After 45 minutes or 1 hour walk in this beautiful wadi we'll go to the water : we swim from pool to pool to discover a incredible place. But we don't tell you more about this, since it has to be a surprise!

- Level 1*

- Walking time : 1 to 2 hours

Transfer Tiwi - Fins (0 hour 20 - 20 Km)

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Bivouac on the beach

We set up our camp in one of the numerous beaches around Fins and Tiwi. We sleep hearing the sound of the waves...

Individual camping tent

DAY 3 *(Breakfast - Lunch - Dinner)*

 **Transfer Fins - Tiwi (0 hour 12 - 25 Km)**

 **Transfer Tiwi - Saymah (Wadi Tiwi) (0 hour 45 - 25 Km)**

✓ **Full Day in Wadi Tiwi (6 hours)**

We start from a village called Saymah. We walk on an old donkey path a little up the wadi. The views are splendid. The palm trees are so dense in this wadi that they look like a green river. As we arrive to another village, we go down and walk at the bottom of the wadi, on the falaj chanel, along the river or between the boulders, We finally arrive to a nice pool surrounded by cliffs and palm trees. We enjoy a swim there and have rest. We make a barbecue for lunch, and enjoy relaxing and swimming in this lovely place. We come back the same way and stop en route to have a last bath...

- **Level 2***

- **Walking time : 2 to 4 hours**

- **Height difference : +100m/-100m**

 **Transfer Saymah (Wadi Tiwi) - Tiwi (0 hour 45 - 15 Km)**

 **Transfer Tiwi - Ras Al Had (1 hour 45 - 130 Km)**

✓ **Nighttime turtle watching (2 hours)**

The coast is here declared Natural Reserve to protect the numerous green turtles which lay eggs there. The visits are well organized and gathered on only 2 beaches ; the other ones are forbidden in order not to disturb too much the turtles. The high season for turtles is in summer : in that time we can find up to 50 turtles laying eggs at the same time on the same beach. But they come all year long and you are almost sure that you will see some. You'll see turtles digging hole, laying eggs, covering eggs, and going back to the sea. You'll also see baby turtles getting out of the sand and heading to the sea...

Overnight in the Turtle Beach Resort

This resort is pleasant. There is a small beach with deckchairs. The bar and the restaurant are located in an old arabic dhow. You can also play snooker. The small bungalows are in a traditional style : covered with palm stems.

Turtle Room

Simple room with fan only (no A/C) and shared bathroom. Bathrooms are plenty enough and well and regularly cleaned.. breakfast et dinner at the hotel

DAY 4 *(Breakfast - Lunch - Dinner)*

 **Transfer Ras Al Had - Sur (1 hour - 50 Km)**

✓ **Visit of the city of Sur (2 hours)**

Sur is a big city living quietly. It is built on the seashore and extends along a wonderful lagune. It was famous in the past for the naval construction. This traditional industry is declining but there is still one factory which produces wonderful traditional arabic dhows. We stop to visit it. We then walk up to a watch tower from which we have the best view over the city.

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 **Transfer Sur - Bidiyah (1 hour 20 - 120 Km)**

 **Transfer Bidiyah - Our Camp in Wahiba sands (0 hour 30 - 20 Km)**

✓ **Sunset in the dunes (1 hour)**

We start a walk across the dunes in late afternoon. The heat isn't too strong anymore and the sunlight is the more beautiful. The setting sun always gives changing colour to the sand and the shades. This a great unforgettable time.

- *Level 1**

 **Safari Desert Camp**

A very nice camp which lays the middle of the sand dunes, in a quiet and wild area. There is no electricity, which makes this camp more authentic. Tea, coffee, water and soft drinks are complimentary. There are also some nice lounges where you can relax and smoke sheesha.

Arabic Tent with private bathroom

Arabic tent nicely equiped as an hotel room : bed, carpets, tabe, chairs. Private bathroom.. breakfast et dinner at the hotel

DAY 5 (Breakfast - Lunch -)

 **Transfer Our Camp in Wahiba sands - Bidiyah (0 hour 30 - 30 Km)**

 **Transfer Bidiyah - Bidah (1 hour - 50 Km)**

✓ **Hiking and swimming in the lower part of Wadi Bani Khalid (3 hours)**

The lower part of this valley forms a narrow and wild canyon. We start from the lovely village of Bidah and cross its palm garden to access the entrance of the canyon. We hike in the canyon between big boulders (the way is not very easy but doesn't last long) until we arrive to a splendid pool with waterfall. We have rest here and enjoy the swimming in this secluded place. For those who like jumping, a very nice 10 meters ump is possible there...

- *Level 2**

- *Walking time : 1 to 2 hours*

 **Transfer Bidah - Muttrah (3 hours 30 - 300 Km)**

 **Difficulty level Trekking & Easy Walking**

Level 1 No difficulty. Easy and short walks. Apporprate for anyone walking occasionally

Level 2 Easy hikes with elevation gain of less than 300 meters with no big terrain difficulty

Level 3 Hikes with an elevation gain from 300 to 800 meters. Appropriate for those who are used to walk in the mountain. The hikes mentioned Level 3 with a lesser elevation gain present terrain difficulties

Level 4 Hikes with an elevation gain from 800 to 1100 meters. For fit mountain hikers

Level 5 Long hikes with an elevation gain of more than 1000 meters and may require scrambling or easy climbing in some parts of the trail

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