

25/25 Muscat Oman

Unlike its flashy neighbours, the sleepy demeanour of the Sultanate of Oman's capital, Muscat, means there are no cranes filling the horizons working on the world's glitziest buildings. Instead, this Arabian town's clear blue skies are adorned with the camel-coloured Al Hajjar mountains, which become a beguiling burnt orange when the sun sets. Long stretches of clean beaches are idyllic spots for diving and swimming.

Essentials

- 01 Throw away your phrase book, English is widely spoken.
- 02 Omanis are welcoming, polite and well-mannered. Expect to be invited in for coffee and dates.
- 03 They've got a great sense of humour so expect to share a joke.
- 04 It's the land of the Queen of Sheeba, Sinbad the Sailor and Vasco da Gama's famous navigator Ahmed Ibn Majid.
- 05 Men should not offer to shake hands when greeting women and vice versa.



Guide/Info

Hotels

Independent and easy

The Platinum
Opposite Court,
Next to Oman Oil Petrol
Pump, Al Khuwair,
+ 968 2 439 2500
theplatinumoman.com

Big chain

Shangri-La
Barr Al Jissah
Resort & Spa
Kantab, PO Box 644,
Postal Code 113
+ 968 2 477 6666
shangri-la.com

Premium

The Chedi
PO Box 964,
Al Khuwair,
Postal Code 133
+ 968 2 452 4400
ghmhotels.com

Dining

Fast breakfast

Food and Juice Centre
Muttrah Corniche
+ 968 2 432 0750

Business breakfast

The Restaurant
at the Chedi
Al Ghubra
+ 968 2 452 4400
ghmhotels.com

Mid-morning coffee

Olivos Coffee Shop
1 Radisson SAS,
PO Box 939,
Al Khuwair,
+ 968 2 448 7777
radissonblu.com/hotel-muscat

Lunch with friends

Bin Ateeq
Al Khuwair
+ 968 2 447 8225

Picnic spot

Qurum Beach
Muscat, 10 miles from
Muscat's airport.

Lunch on your own

Toko Taro Sushi
Al Falaj Hotel, Ruwi
+ 968 2 470 2311
alfalajhotel.com

Sunset cocktail

The Beach Pavillion
Al Bustan Palace, Muttrah
+ 968 2 479 9666
ritzcarlton.com

Dinner for two

Shiraz Restaurant
Crowne Plaza Hotel, PO
Box 1455
+ 968 2 466 0660
ichotelsgroup.com

Dinner with friends

Mumtaz Mahal
Way 2601 near Qurum
Nature Reserve
+ 968 2 460 5907

Big dinner with friends

Shahrazad
Shangri-La Barr Al Jissah
Resort & Spa,
Qantab
+ 968 2 477 6565

Barbecue/al fresco

The Arabian
Courtyard
at the Chedi
Al Ghubra
+ 968 2 452 4400
ghmhotels.com

Drinks after dinner

Trader Vics
Intercontinental Hotel, PO
Box 398, Postal Code 114
+ 968 2 468 0080
tradervics.com

Late drinks

The Long Bar & Xyro
(until 02.00)
Shangri-La Barr
Al Jissah
+ 968 2 477 6666
shangri-la.com

On the tiles

Copacabana
Grand Hyatt
+ 968 2 464 1234
muscat.grand.hyatt.com

Reading

Bookshop

Borders
Muscat City Centre
+ 968 2 455 8089
borders.com
Family Bookshop
Qurum Qurum commercial
district
+ 968 2 460 4245

Basics

Muscat Pharmacy
Al Hail (open 24 hours)
+ 968 2 481 4501
muscatpharmacy.net

Shopping

Something you can't get anywhere else

Omani hats from
Muttrah Souk
Wait until you get home to
wear them.

Lost luggage – where to buy shirts, socks and underwear

Muscat City Centre
+ 968 2 455 8888
citycentremuscat.com

Something for the kids

Clay camels with beads at
Omani Heritage Gallery
Qurum
+ 968 2 469 6974
omaniheritage.com

Something for someone you love

Hand-made 21-carat gold
Arabic love bracelet;
Taalali Oman
Muttrah Corniche

1st Floor Gold Souk
Building, next to the
Rainbow Café
+ 968 9 965 5625

Amouage

Niche luxury fragrance
house, inspired by
frankincense grown
in Oman
amouage.com

Two-hour tour

- 01 Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque in Muscat
Contains the world's largest Persian carpet.
Open to non-Muslims from 08.00 to 11.00 daily except Fridays and holidays. Men must wear long-sleeved shirts and women must cover their hair and body.
- 02 Muttrah Souk
Where you can buy Arabian attars (essential oils).
- 03 Tour Muscat's Al Mirani and Al Jalali Forts
Check with hotel for which company to use.

Limousine/car

Sixt Car Rentals
e-sixt.com

Transport

Car rental

Avoid overpriced taxis.
There are several rental car companies at the airport.
omanairports.com/transport.asp

Fitness

Good gym

Day of Paradise
Shangri-La Barr Al Jissah
Resort & Spa. Non-guests pay 20 Rials (€30) for use of pool, gym and beach.
+ 968 2 477 6666
shangri-la.com

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