

# We invite you to join us on this exciting journey to

# **Oman**

with optional extension to

# Saudi Arabia

# The Sultanate of Oman, the hidden gem of the Arabian Peninsula! Oct 10, 2025 - 11 nights

It's a country that invites you to immerse yourself in a world where the desert meets the sea, traditions dance with modernity, and every corner holds a new adventure.

Stroll through ancient cities like Nizwa and explore captivating forts and castles that narrate tales from the past. Engage with the warm-hearted locals and dive deep into their rich cultural tapestry, mingling modern influences with age-old traditions, enchanting Souks and Markets



# "Within the Desert's heart lies a well awaiting your discover Rumi

# The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, a land of immense contrasts and undiscovered beauty Oct 21, 2025 - 7 nights

The country is home to UNESCO World Heritage sites like Herga - the Petra of Saudi Arabia and the ancient city of Al-Ula and historic Jeddah, the gateway to Makkah.

Journey into the heart of Arabia, it promises an unforgettable adventure for every traveler.





# The Sultanate of Oman

#### Friday, 10 October Arrive in

Muscat - 3 nights

Upon arrival we will be greeted by our guide and transferred to our hotel Prime class Fast Track service

#### Crowne Plaza Muscat Beach Resort

Including breakfast Meals included: Dinner

After about 30" we will arrive at our hotel where we can spend some time on the lovely beach, plunge into the infinity pool and indulge in diverse lunch options from Italian to Persian and local dishes, with terraces for watching spectacular views.

#### <u>Saturday, 11 October Muscat</u> 11:00am Half day private city tour

#### Royal Opera House Muscat is

Oman's premier cultural venue, featuring stunning architecture and hosting a variety of performances, including opera and concerts. It symbolizes the country's dedication to arts and culture.

(visit if no rehearsal or performance)

Bait Zubair The museum is a fantastic place to learn about Omani culture and history.
Gallery Sarah offers an array of paintings and photographs by both up-and-coming and established local and international artists. The building itself is often praised for its traditional Omani design and aesthetic.



Sunset Dhow Cruise In the afternoon, we will drive to the marina to board a traditional Dhow for a 2h sunset cruise along Muscat's dramatic coastline in a traditional Dhow, passing by the small fishing towns of Al Haramel and Sidab, Old historical Muscat, Riyam Park, His Majesty's Palace, heading towards Sultan Qaboos Port all the way to the busy Muttrah Corniche side before returning to the marina Bander Rowdha. A golden sunset on the horizon, a peaceful atmosphere, a beautiful blue sea and a perfect way to end the day.

After our relaxed sailing our driver will leave us at our hotel or at the colorful Mutrah Souq

**Mutrah Soug**, located in the heart of Oman, is one of the country's oldest and most iconic marketplaces. This bustling market has played a vital role in Muscat's commercial activities for centuries. Traders at Mutrah Souq bartered spices, fabrics, and handmade products from distant countries like India, Persia, and Africa. The sough as played a very active part in the rich economic history of Oman as a commercial center at the junction of important maritime trade routes. The Souq is open till 10pm when you will see most locals shopping. If you look beyond the main passage, you can slink into a labyrinth of hole-in-the wall coffee shops, stands dripping with gold and boutiques where black-clad ladies thumb abayas (traditional robes) in fabrics of cerulean and hot pink.

Meals; Breakfast

#### Sunday, 12 October Muscat



## 9:00am. Visit Grand Mosque **Dinner with Omani family**

A religious landmark of Muscat and splendor of unique Islamic architecture

(Visitors are gathered in groups and guided through the Grand Mosque by guides from the Mosque itself. Ladies should cover their head with a scarf and wear long-sleeved clothes. Men should wear long trousers and t-shirt with sleeves)

The Mosque is one of the most beautiful and extravagant modern mosques in the world.

Spanning an impressive 416,000 square meters, the mosque was constructed using 300,000 tons of Indian sandstone. Its central dome, with a diameter of 50 meters

and standing 34 meters high, is one of the largest of its kind in the world.

**6:00pm** *Dinner in Omani house.* The Omanis are known for their generosity and hospitality. They are extremely welcoming people, and they find happiness in inviting visitors to their homes as well as offering them the authentic home cooked Omani food. Meet an Omani family in their lovely home, enjoy sitting with them for a pleasant conversation and savor authentic home cooked food. With this dining experience, you support local sustainability for the local families. Meals; Breakfast & Dinner

**8:30am** Our English-speaking guide and local drivers will greet us for the round trip in 4x4 vehicles We will start along the coastal fishing village of *Seeb* and on to *Bait Al Ghasham* 

A stunning 200-year-old traditional Omani abode, stands as a beautifully restored testament to Oman's rich cultural heritage. This charming house, known locally as **Bait Al Ghasham**, offers an inviting atmosphere where history comes alive through its antique furnishings and thoughtfully curated exhibits.



Visitors will find themselves immersed in the unique narratives of early Omani life. The museum's library boasts an impressive collection of literature, enriching the experience further. The serene ambiance makes Al Ghasham Museum House not just a place to explore history, but a beautiful setting for families to connect with the past and enjoy quality time together. It is truly a remarkable destination, perfect for anyone seeking to experience the beauty and warmth of Omani culture.

We will have a delightful authentic lunch experience in this ancient place, which will support local sustainability & corporate social responsibility for the local people & women of the village, who cook the food in their homes.

We will continue through **Nakhl** home to Nakhal Fort, a massive fortified building sitting atop a hill that dominates the countryside and the adjoining date palm plantation. From this position, the owners could control one of the major commercial roads in the region. Its rich history and stunning landscapes make it a popular destination for visitors.

Time permitting we will stop at **Wadi Bani** to enjoy its beautiful natural pools

After leaving Nakhal, we will start our epic drive across the **Hajar Mountains\*\***, along the valley known as Wadi Bani Awf.

This is known as one of the finest off-road drives in Oman and leads you from the feet of the mountains up to an altitude of more than 2,000m on a track that gets increasingly steeper and narrower till we arrive at the scenic town of Bilad Sayt

\*\* Weather permitting as it is an off dirt-road crossing the mountains at over 2000m above sea level.

#### Season Inn Bilad Sayt

Meals; Breakfast & lunch

Note: the accommodation is not licensed to serve alcoholic beverages.

<u>Tuesday, 14 October</u> <u>Bilad Sayt ~ Nizwa</u> - 1 night Al Hamra - Misfah - Bahla- Jabreen castle - Nizwa

(Drive with no stops 3hrs)

Driving again through the rugged mountains surrounded by the desert with rust-coloured sand dunes and rocky terrain we will drive to **Al Hamra** village at the foot of the Hajar Mountains is one of the oldest in Oman, interesting for its well-preserved row of two- and three-story mud-brick houses built in the Yemeni style.

#### **Misfah Al Abreyeen**, is celebrated for its breathtaking scenery.

The terraced fields, verdant date palms, and historic mud-brick homes combine to form a picturesque setting straight out of a postcard. The sweeping views of the surrounding mountains are truly awe-inspiring, particularly if you explore the winding paths and terraced gardens. The village is known of its narrow passages, very old houses made of rocks and mud still lived in, palm and lemon farms everywhere and Falajs, streams.

**Bahla** is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, renowned for its impressive mud fortress, the largest of its kind in Oman. **Bahla**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is renowned for its impressive mud fortress, the largest of its kind in Oman.



Nestled within Oman's arid heartland, the age-old oasis town of Bahla is steeped in captivating legends. Stories of fire-breathing hyenas devouring camels and tales of men transforming into donkeys contribute to its enduring reputation for enchantment and mystique.

Some superstitious Omanis still shun the isolated desert settlement because of its stories of "jinn," the spirits that have been part of Arab folklore since before the dawn of Islam.

*Jabreen Castle,* built in the 17th century, is one of Oman's most beautiful and impressive castles.

With its intricately decorated ceilings, wall paintings, and well-preserved interiors, it offers fascinating insights into Omani architecture and culture. The castle served as both a defensive stronghold and an educational center. Jabreen is one of the best-preserved and whimsical castles of them all.

We will arrive for overnight at **Nizwa**, once Oman's capital with its iconic Nizwa Fort, a true masterpiece of seventeenth-century architecture. Its circular main tower stands as a testament to the innovation of its time

Falaj Daris Hotel http://www.falajdarishotel.com/ Meals; Breakfast



Wednesday, 15 October
Nizwa ~ Jebel Akhdar 
I night
Nizwa Souq - Birkat Al
Mouz (Drive with no stops 1.20hrs)

In the morning we will visit the **Local Souq of Nizwa**, site of one of the oldest Souqs in the country it is dedicated mostly to fruit and vegetables, meat and fish, all of which are housed in separate blocks behind the great, crenellated piece of city wall that overlooks the wadi.

It is also renowned for its hand carved "Khanjars" (daggers), dates souk, pottery, ornamental silver jewelers and much more.

A short drive will take us to **Birkat Al Mouz**, situated at the base of Oman's Green Mountain, this village is home to the ancient Aflaj irrigation system, a UNESCO World Heritage Site where we will stop for a leisurely stroll through the oasis and date plantations.

Our journey continues for overnight at **Jebel Akhdar** a towering gem at 2,000 meters above sea level.

Traverse the lush terrain, unveiling the cool climes that earned it the name "green jewel" of the Al Hajjar mountain ranges. The terraced fruit orchards are a sight to behold, sustained by natural springs and the intricate Aflaj system. From peaches to pomegranates, the bounty is yours to discover 2000 meters above sea level that is known as the green jewel of the Al Hajar

# ${f Sama\ Hotel\ Jebel\ Akhdar,\ }$ Deluxe room

Meals; Breakfast

Note: the accommodation is not licensed to serve alcoholic beverages.

# <u>Thursday, 16 October Jebel Akhdar ~ Wahiba Sands</u> - 1 night Wadi Bani Khalid - 1000 Nights Desert Camp

(Drive with no stops 4+hrs)

Our first stop will be at *Wadi Bani Khalid* a beautiful oasis where large emerald pools sit surrounded by orange and brown rocks.

We will continue for overnight at **Wahiba Sands**, in the Al Sharqiya region, features stunning sand dunes rising up to 200 meters. It is home to diverse flora and fauna, offering thrilling dune bashing and beautiful sunset views from the top of the dunes.

#### **Thousand Nights Camp**, IX Premium tent including ensuite bathrooms

Meals: Breakfast & dinner

Note: the accommodation is not licensed to serve alcoholic beverages.



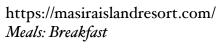
# <u>Friday, 17 October</u> <u>Wadi Kahdil ~ Masirah Island</u> - 2 nights Wahiba - desert crossing - Masirah Island

(Drive with no stops 3.5hrs)

After breakfast we start the desert crossing until we reach the coast. We take the road to the port of Shannah where we will board the ferry to reach Masirah Island.

A 1.5hrs ride on the ferry will take us to *Masirah Island*, the largest island of the Sultanamet.

Offering plenty of unspoiled coastlines. Masirah feels like a true 'desert island'. Empty, golden beaches with turquoise water meet barren hills and eerie landscapes. Goats and camels forage in parched scrub and low acacia bushes. The island's tiny town, Hilf, has a few shops and a handful of cafes and restaurants Wildlife is the other draw with four species of turtle nesting and the island is number one in the world for loggerheads. Uniquely, there's a school of non-migrating humpback whales. The island is also frequented by 300 species of bird, many of them rare



Saturday, 18 October

<u>Masirah Island</u> Masirah Island Tour



nature with white beaches only recently opened to tourism Meals; Breakfast

#### Sunday, 19 October Masirah Island - Ras Al Hadd

1 night

(Ferry &Drive with no stops 2hrs)

After early breakfast and checkout, we take the morning ferry boat back to Shannah and on

by road to Al Ashkharah, driving along the coastline of the Arabian Sea.

**Ras Al Hadd** is a coastal village in Oman known for its beautiful beaches and as a nesting site for green sea turtles. It was designed as a Heritage site in 1996

Turtles are the main biological resource of the reserve as annually thousands of people from all over the world come to watch them. The number of Green Turtles which nest on over 275 beaches along Oman's coastline is estimated to be about 20,000. This makes the Sultanate one of the most important nesting areas for green turtles in the Indian Ocean.

It is possible to see turtles all year long but the best month is August Walks are sometimes organized at night and early morning depending on the season

#### Turtle Beach Resort

https://tbroman.com/ Meals; Breakfast and dinner

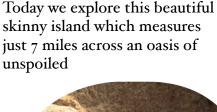
Monday, 20 October Ras Al Hadd ~ Muscat

I night

Sur Dhow factory - Wadi Tiwi - Bimah Sinkhole - old Muscat - Muttrah Souq

(Drive with no stops 4hrs)

**Sur** offers scenic coastal views, with traditional whitewashed buildings, charming lighthouses, and a glimpse into Oman's maritime heritage along the waterfront.





Home to the *Sur Maritime Museum* which will set us back in time, immersing ourselves in the captivating history of traditional boat-building techniques and Oman's significant role in maritime



navigation. The museum's exhibits, featuring Omani ships, sailors, ports, and Sur itself, weave a fascinating tale of seafaring traditions and craftsmanship.

We will pass through *Wadi Tiwi* dramatically situated where the Hajar Mountains reach the sea and enclosed by steep canyon walls; Wadi Tiwi has been continuously inhabited for at least a thousand years.. Continuing we might stop at *Bimah Sinkhole*, a huge limestone crater featuring clear blue-green water. Its dramatic size and stunning beauty make it a popular natural attraction, ideal for photography and highlighting the region's landscape.

Upon arrival in Muscat we will visit the *Old City* with a stop at *Al Alam Palace*, the ceremonial palace of the Sultan of Oman.

The Al Alam Palace in Old Muscat is one of six palaces belonging to the ruling monarch Sultan Qaboos. The original structure was built by the Sultan's ancestor over 200 years ago.

The existing palace, with its vibrant gold and blue facade, was rebuilt as a royal residence in 1972. Al Alam Palace is surrounded by the Mirani and Jalali Forts, defensive structures built by the Portuguese in the 16th century.

Then we will have time to do our last shopping at the Souq

#### Royal Tulip Hotel Muscat, Superior room

Note: the accommodation is not licensed to serve alcoholic beverages. *Meals; Breakfast* 

#### <u>Tuesday, 21 October Muscat ~ Riyadh (Saudi Arabia) or home</u> Transfer to airport

Departure to airport flight TBA Meals; Breakfast

Those continuing to Saudi Arabia will take a flight to Riyadh

Flight time 2.5hrs



The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia



## Tuesday, October 21 Muscat - Jeddah - 1 night

#### **Afternoon City tour**

Upon arrival in Jeddah we will be greeted at the airport and transferred to our hotel

#### Warwick Hotel Including breakfast

Meals: Breakfast

Jeddah, which means grandmother, is a name that owes the city to the belief that Eve would be buried there. Jeddahis the commercial heart of Saudi Arabia and traditionally the port where pilgrims from all over the Islamic worldarrive on their way to Mecca and Medina.

A visit to this urban vibrant city offers the chance to witness a rich cultural heritage recognized by UNESCO, from thehistorical district to the intricate designs of balconies and ancient sidewalks that have inspired artists, writers, and visitors for centuries. The destination also boasts unforgettable sunsets over the Red Sea shores and magical diving experiences featuring colorful coral reefs, making it a year-round destination for nature lovers.

#### pm Visit to the historic district of Jeddah, Al-Balad

An enchanting area with vestiges of a simpler, more traditional way of life, with winding, snugly huddled Souqs, mosques, and over 650 houses built over the centuries by Jeddah's mercantile families. The architecture is characterized by the artistic use of limestone, wood, and coral stone, which can be found in blocks on the shore of the Red Sea. The stone is breathable and forms thick walls that keep out the heat. The facades of these houses are highlighted by trademark 'rawasheen', which are hanging latticed teakwood windows of great artistry and craftsmanship.

Here we can enjoy our first taste of some aromatic spices of traditional Saudi dishes like Kabsa and Mandi to the tantalizing sweetness of Middle Eastern desserts like Baklava and Kunafa, each bite telling a story of heritage and hospitality.

Whether indulging in a hearty meal at a local eatery or savoring a cup of fragrant Arabic coffee, or the A Jeddah favorite; Al Baik's take-away fried chicken.

# Wednesday, October 22 Jeddah - Medina - 1 night Am City tour of Jeddah - Late afternoon departure to Medina

In the morning we will visit the *Floating Mosque*, the most visited attractions in the city due to its unique design, which gives the illusion that it is floating on the water, especially during high tide. With bases planted under the surface of the sea, it is distinct by its bright white color and its turquoise dome which paints a wonderful scene especially when the sun shines on it to reflect the beauty of architecture

Continue to *The King Fahd Fountain*, the tallest fountain in the world shooting water up over 1000 feet

Late afternoon departure to Medina by high speed rail *1.5hrs* 

# Hotel Delights Inn

Meals: Breakfast & Dinner

# Thursday, October 23 Medina - AlUla. 2 nights Visit of the city of Medina

Begin our adventure with a visit to the iconic *Oubud Mountain*, a historic landmark that stands as a testament to Medina's rich past. This significant site is not just a striking natural feature but also a place of great historical importance. Here, you'll learn about the pivotal Battle of Uhud, where early Muslims faced a crucial test of faith and bravery. As you explore the rugged terrain, imagine the historic events



that unfolded on these very slopes and appreciate the breathtaking views of the surrounding landscape. It's a journey through time amidst serene, majestic scenery.

**Medina's Mosques** (Exterior Visits): Next, you'll take in the grandeur of Medina's renowned mosques. Marvel at the architectural beauty of these sacred spaces, which include the Prophet's Mosque and other notable sites. While access inside the mosques is restricted to Muslims, the exteriors offer a captivating glimpse of Islamic architectural excellence. Admire the intricate designs, the towering minarets, and the serene courtyards, all of which reflect the spiritual and cultural significance of these revered places.

In the afternoon we will drive to AlUla - 3brs

We will drive the route of the famous Hejaz Railway, long abandoned by the frequent sabotages under rebel Arabs led by T.E.Lawrence during WWI, made famous in the movie **Lawrence of Arabia** 

#### Saharay Hotel

Meals: Breakfast & Dinner

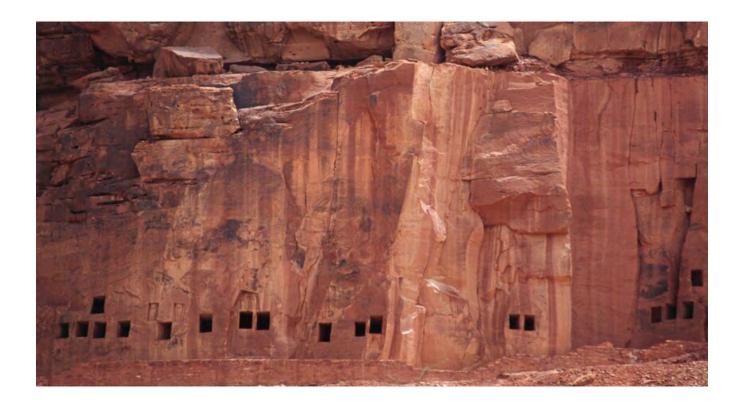
# Friday, October 24 AlUla Dadan, Jabal Ikmah, Hegra

AlUla's underground water resources and its strategic location along the frankincense road meant this valley played a major role in the history of the Arabian Peninsula.

Today we explore **Al Ulla**, the birthplace of two ancient Arabian kingdoms. During the 1st millennium BC, Al-Ulla saw the rise of the ancient city of Dadan that became the capital of two successive kingdoms, Dadan and Lihyan, that ruled over the northwest of the Arabian Peninsula.

Start our journey through time at **Dadan**, the ancient Kingdom of the Lihyanite and Dadanite civilizations, situated in a stunning desert canyon.

Marvel at *Jabal Ikmah*, an open library of inscriptions, rock art and petroglyphs set in a stunning desert canyon.



Continue to the UNESCO-listed splendor of *Hegra*, the Nabataean kingdom's crown jewel with over 100 toms carved from solid rock with intricate embellishments

In the first century AD the Nabataeans, grown rich on trading frankincense and myrrh to Rome and Alexandria, built Hegra as a southern rival to their capital Petra. We drive around outcrops of golden sandstone sculpted by the wind into Gaudi-esque swirls and spires.

Hegra was once part of the Nabatean Kingdom, which also included the famous city of Petra in present-day Jordan. The Nabateans were skilled traders who controlled important trade routes connecting southern Arabia, the Levant, and Egypt. Hegra features a stunning collection of well-preserved Nabatean ruins, including elaborately carved tombs, rock-cut facades, and inscriptions. These structures date back to the 1st century CE and provide insight into the architectural

and cultural
achievements of the
Nabatean
civilization.

Al Ula is wrapped in the seductive silence of the desert and the romance of travel. Charles

Doughty's 1888



account of his search for Hegra and his dastardly dealings with the local bedouin, Travels in Arabia Deserta, was "a bible of its kind" for TE Lawrence, who used it to plan his attacks on the Turkish-built Hijaz Railway in the First World War. At the entrance to the archaeological site one of the original German locomotives still stands outside the restored buildings of Mada'in Saleh station.

## Saturday, October 25 AlUla - Riyadh Elephant Rock - AlUla Old Market

Let the awe-inspiring *Elephant Rock* enchant you. This iconic geological marvel, sculpted by nature's own hand, stands proudly as a testament to AlUla's undeniable allure. Embrace the gentle warmth of the setting sun as it casts its golden glow upon this majestic sentinel, bidding you farewell until the dawn of another day in this magical land.

Step into the magical world of AlUla's past with a guided tour by a Rawi through the enchanting **AlUla Old market**. This is the place where pilgrims, travelers, and permanent settlers have gathered for centuries and now you have the chance to experience it for yourself. As you embark on the AlUla Old Town Tour, you will be transported back in time and get a glimpse of AlUla's not-so-distant past.

The town has been inhabited since before the 12th century till the early 1980s, it offers a treasured trove of unique oral histories and living memory that researchers can uncover here.

With 900 houses, 500 shops, and 5 town squares, AlUla Old Town is a maze of remnants of original stone and mudbrick buildings that will take your breath away.

The tour culminates with spectacular views of the *AlUla Castle*, dating back to the 10th century.

Transfer to the airport for our flight to Riyadh 1.5hrs

#### Warwick Hotel

Meals: Breakfast & Dinner

# Sunday, October 26 Riyadh City Tour

Embark on a captivating journey to one of the world's most mesmerizing cities, where the pulse of modern life beats in harmony with the echoes of a storied past. Riyadh, the jewel of Saudi Arabia, with its national museum, a World Heritage Site that unveils the enchanting tale of the kingdom's birth, and a myriad of lavish hotels and gastronomic delights that cater to the most discerning tastes.

In the ever-evolving tapestry of Riyadh, uncover the very roots of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, nestled within the hallowed halls of ancient palaces that stand as timeless witnesses to the dawn of a proud nation. This alluring oasis lures globe-trotting adventurers, eager to immerse themselves in a kaleidoscope of shopping, entertainment, and business experiences, where the treasures of the past and the promise of the future collide in an unforgettable





Historical Riyadh, is a remarkable site with a rich history in the middle of an Arab desert on the banks of Wadi Hanifa, amidst a green oasis filled with orchards, farms, and fruitful palms. This is where Imam Muhammad bin Saud established the foundations of the first Saudi state, resulting in an unprecedented period of prosperity for the region that lasted for centuries.

**At-Turaif District** is an essential part of Diriyah, and it is one of the five UNESCO World Heritage sites in Saudi Arabia. This district includes **Salwa Palace**, which was the center of governance of the first Saudi state. Other districts such as Al-Bujairi, Al-Suraiha, and Ghasiba are also worth exploring.

Continue to visit *The National Museum*, a "Journey Through Time and Space", which opened its doors in 1998. The museum showcases 3,700 artifacts, including statues, scripts, and unique sculptures that chronicle earth's history to the moon and beyond.

Continue to visit the *Masmak Museum* (*Exterior*), Enjoy and step back in time and explore Saudi Arabia's roots. A short documentary also re-enacts the capture of the fortress by King Abdul Aziz, whose spearhead you can still see embedded in its wooden gate.

Will end our day at the *Dira Souq*, dating back to 15th century is famous for its variety of old copper and brass objects including silver daggers, silver Bedouins Jewelry, and dresses. The traditional architecture of the Souq, narrow alleys and high arches speak volumes about the country's past

Meals: Breakfast & Dinner

# Monday, October 27 Riyadh Ushaquier - Qassim

Today we will start the journey through the Nafud desert to visit the Mud Village of *Ushaquier*. These houses display the painting of the antique Najdi architectural design with their windows, triangular roofs, and wooden doors.

Because of freshwater springs and the densely clustered olive and palm trees in this region, the village has historically been a central stopping point for pilgrims traveling from Kuwait. You can walk along the shady and charming paths that wind between the 400 mud houses and 25 mosques that the village houses. Some of the houses still bear the name of the families that originally lived here.

Then on to **Qassim**. A land that poets wrote about and that supplies over 74 countries with the finest dates. The rest of the day we have time to explore Qassim, visit the lively Souq and the date market.

Meals: Breakfast & Dinner

# Tuesday, October 28 Riyadh - Homebound

Transfer to the airport

Meals: Breakfast



Please email or call us to be part of this unique small group journey.
Space is limited
We will email sign-up sheet with detailed information about deposits and final payment due