



# Hud Hud Travels



## Seven Days Dhofar – The Empty Quarter, Salalah and Mirbat

Enjoy the luxury of a comfortable six-night package with 2 nights deep in the heart of the breath-taking Empty Quarter, the largest sand desert in the world, 2 nights at the Al Baleed Resort by Anantara in Salalah and 2 nights in your private beach camp on the coast of Mirbat. Our route takes us via much of Dhofar's most impressive scenery including impressive mountain chains, the fabled Frankincense route, the magnificent dunes of the Rub Al Khali and along the stunning Dhofari coast line.

Sleeping tents vary according to the location but are always appointed with proper mattresses, crisp cotton linen, feather pillows and traditional furnishings. Each sleeping tent has its own private bathroom tent, open to the skies and furnished with soft towels, basin, shower and a selection of soaps and lotions.

Both camps offer a large, evocative majlis, decorated in a style in keeping with the ambiance of the environment, with cushions and rugs, topical books, boules, board games and yoga mats. At the desert camp we will offer sandboarding and at the beach camp we will have 2 Stand Up Paddle Boards available. Dining is at a properly laid table under the stars beside a crackling fire. Food is, as far as possible, locally sourced, freshly prepared by our camp chef and always delicious. We use limited electric light, and the emphasis is on preserving the atmosphere through natural lighting provided by candles, oil lamps and camp fires.

### Day 1

After a short flight from Muscat to the historic southern town of Salalah, you will be met by one of our experienced guides. We take the road up and through the Qara Mountains, making stops on the way to absorb the beautiful views of the mountains and wadis on our way through the rocky desert.

We stop at Wadi Dawkah, part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site “Land of Frankincense”. Wadi Dawkah is a major place where the frankincense tree (*boswellia sacra*) can be found in large numbers and frankincense is harvested to this day. The incense comes from its gum, and it has been harvested and traded by Omanis for millennia.



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After a delicious lunch at Thumrayt, we make a stop at another site of the Land of Frankincense UNESCO site, the caravan oasis of Shisr, where we visit the remains of what is believed to be the lost city of Ubar.

We then turn into an extremely remote and isolated area, where traffic is almost nonexistent. We leave the main track and weave our way through the grandeur of the russet red sand dunes of the Rub al Khali, the Empty Quarter. Our camp is set deep in the dunes and we arrive in time for you to explore your surroundings and take in the exquisite sunset.

Upon arrival at the private camp you will be greeted by the Hud Hud team with cold flannels and a refreshing drink and given some time to settle in. Relax from the comfort of your tent, or in the majlis, and soak up your surroundings before enjoying a spectacular sunset view from the camp.

Enjoy some nibbles and drinks while our chef prepares a tasty freshly cooked dinner.

Following dinner take a walk among the dunes to marvel at the night sky or relax by the campfire.

Overnight at a Private Hud Hud Desert Camp in the Empty Quarter

## Day 2

Watch the sunrise over the imposing dunes from camp or, for the more energetic, make your way to the top of one! After a relaxing breakfast, there will be ample opportunity to explore this unique and hauntingly beautiful environment. A walk through the windswept dunes reveals the diversity of the region as well as the incredible plant life.

We pack a delicious picnic lunch and set out to explore the beautiful desert area, stopping to search for geodes that are often hidden in the sand.

In the evening, if possible, we visit a local Bedu from the Al Rashidi tribe to see his black camels and fascinate you with a wealth of detail about the disappearing way of life of those who still depend on them.

Another delicious dinner will be served at camp.

Overnight at a Private Hud Hud Desert Camp in the Empty Quarter

## Day 3

Today, we will leave our desert camp behind and retrace our steps to Thumrait, to return to Salalah.

Check-in at the beautiful Al Baleed Resort by Anantara, located at the Al Baleed Archaeological Park, part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site "Land of Frankincense".



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Enjoy the afternoon at leisure at the hotel to explore the property and enjoy the excellent hotel facilities.

Dinner at leisure at the hotel.

Overnight at the Al Baleed Resort by Anantara

## Day 4

Visit the Al Baleed Archaeological park and the Frankincense Museum, before venturing into the town of Salalah, known for its green fruit gardens and Haffa Souq where Frankincense is sold.

Dinner at leisure at the hotel.

Overnight at the Al Baleed Resort by Anantara

## Day 5

Before we set out to our beach camp, it is possible to visit the West side of Salalah, making a stop at Mughsail, known for its blow holes and stopping at some nearby frankincense trees where your guide will explain how the resin is harvested.

We then take the road that ventures along the East side of Salalah, towards Mirbat, with a chance to explore the village of Taqah and the ruins of Sumhuram, the ancient trading port of the Queen of Sheba, which is also incorporated in the “Land of Frankincense” UNESCO site.

Late afternoon we reach our camp in Mirbat, nestled on a beautiful secluded beach, embraced by twin headlands.

After freshening up in your private open air shower, dinner will be prepared and served by your personal camp chef, as you watch the sun sink over the horizon from your intimate beach retreat.

Overnight in a Hud Hud Beach Camp on a beach near Mirbat

## Day 6

Today is your day to relax and enjoy the peace and tranquillity of the camp, or after breakfast partake in some exploration of the local surrounding region. This beautiful stretch of the Dhofar coastline is host to an array of wildlife including spinner dolphins, green turtles, and coastal bird life including ospreys, pelicans, flamingos and kingfishers.



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There are a variety of trips to the surrounding area such as an outing to the verdant Wadi Darbat where you can take a tranquil walk beside water pools and observe the abundant bird life.

We can visit the charming old port of Mirbat, which in 1972 was the scene of a heroic battle between forces loyal to the Sultan and Marxist insurgents. All the key features of the battlefield are still easily identified. The old part of the town still boasts some of Dhofar's unique architecture and a stroll through the streets and alleyways, leading to the seafront, takes you back in time.

We can also head to Jebel Samhan, the highest mountain in the region, where we can do a short hike (15 min) on a rocky path leading to the most impressive, centuries old baobab tree. If interested we can involve an expert to lay out a walk of approx. 4 hours through the breathtaking landscape with magnificent views to follow the Arabian Leopard trail in Jebel Samhan, during which you will be introduced to leopard conservation in Oman and see the leopard signs such as leopard scats, scrap markings etc. Jabal Samhan Nature Reserve consists of an array of caves, scalloped peaks separated by deep wadis (valleys) and cliffs.

Overnight in a Hud Hud Beach Camp on a beach near Mirbat

## Day 7

Today we leave our beach camp, following the coast gradually back towards Salalah, reaching in time for your flight back to Muscat.