

Leisure Lady Travel presents

# The 12-Day Dubai & Oman Tour

April 12 –23, 2020

An intimate travel experience, with a **maximum** of 22 passengers ... *guaranteed!* Thanks to our small group size, you can get to the heart of your destination, visit places that other tours miss, and get to know the locals.



**Land-Only Package is \$2649/person in double-occupancy  
Single Supplement is \$705 • Airfare rates available in June, 2019**

*This pricing reflects a \$1000 Early Booking Discount!*

*Land-only deposit is \$300/person • Balance due 90 days before departure*

**Package Includes:**

10 nights First Class accommodations (including one night at the Wahiba Sands Desert Camp) • Hotel taxes, fees & service charges including Dubai tourism fee and hotel portage in and out of each hotel • 25 meals (10 breakfasts, 8 lunches, 7 dinners, including welcome & farewell dinners) • Sightseeing per itinerary in modern air-conditioned vehicles • Services of local English-speaking tour manager throughout • Comprehensive, guided sightseeing and entrance fees per itinerary • Active itinerary with unique cultural features

**For details, contact Janet Moseley of Leisure Lady Travel (877-905-3478 • 734-237-3711 • Janet@leisureladytravel.com)**

## Your Itinerary

**DAY 1, Sunday** – Board your airplane for your overnight flight to the **United Arab Emirates**

**DAY 2, Monday** - Arrive in **Dubai**, the quintessential land of opulence, wealth and astonishing glass and steel skyscrapers that stand alongside mosques. Balance of the day is at leisure to rest, relax and acclimate to the adrenaline-charged tempo of this dynamic city and your new time zone!

**DAY 3, Tuesday** - Today, discover the world's most futuristic cities, once a tiny fishing village and Bedouin port. Begin with a visit to the **Dubai Museum** at the **Al Fahidi Fort**. Then, board a traditional wooden **abra** (water taxi) for a ride on **Dubai Creek**, to get a perfect snapshot of the city's startling contrasts between old and new. In **Old Dubai** walk along the narrow lanes of the bustling souk to tiny shops selling traditional robes and aromatic spices. Afterward, you're invited to the important **Sheikh Mohammed Centre** in the heart of the old **Bastakiya** area. Over lunch, enjoy an open discussion and learn more about Emirati culture and local traditions. Continue to the **Dubai Mall** before you visit the world's tallest building **Burj Khalifa** and view Dubai from your vantage point on **Level 124** of the building. Pause to delight your senses at the **Dubai Fountain's** dancing waters performance accompanied by colorful syncing lights and music. In the evening, join your Tour Manager and fellow travelers at a **Welcome Dinner** and attend an orientation meeting on the extraordinary journey that lies ahead (B, L, D)



**DAY 4, Wednesday** – Start with a special breakfast this early morning at the **Meydan Stables Private Club**, home of the thoroughbred stars of racing. Experience world-class horse racing with an exclusive behind-the-scenes tour of the stables, grandstand, and racecourse, host to the \$10 million Dubai World Cup. Observe the horses during morning track work and walk through the stables where the horses are groomed. You'll even see horses exercise in the equine swimming pool; visit the jockey's rooms, saddling paddock and parade ring. Afterward, tour **Camelicious Farm**, the first and only camel dairy farm and major research center. Learn about camels, their milk, and many sub-products, with samples to taste, followed by lunch at a local restaurant. A photo stop at **Burj Al Arab**, the distinctive sail-shaped hotel and iconic symbol of Dubai, before continuing on a monorail tour of **Palm Island**. Return to your hotel, with time to explore the city's extraordinary restaurants and nightlife on your own. (B, L)

**DAY 5, Thursday** - An exciting day awaits you in ultra-sophisticated **Abu Dhabi**, the capital of the UAE! Visit the renowned **Falcon Hospital**, a pioneer in the nurturing and rescue of these super-intelligent birds. Then, a photo stop at the futuristic eco-city of **Masdar**, the world's first carbon-neutral, zero-waste city powered entirely by renewable energy built on a moon-like, inhospitable terrain. A change of pace as you arrive at the gigantic Yas Mall on **Yas Island** then end the day at the opulent **Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque**, an iconic symbol of Abu Dhabi, one of the world's largest with a capacity for an astonishing 40,000 worshippers, featuring 82 domes, over 1,000 columns and 24 karat gold gilded chandeliers. Stand before the gorgeous reflective pools surrounding the mosque, amplifying its beauty. Tonight, dinner is at your hotel. (B, D)

**DAY 6, Friday** - Start at the new **Founders Memorial**, where here you hear about the fascinating life of the late *Father of the Nation*, Sheikh Zayed. Afterward, admire cultural art at the Arab World's first universal museum, **the Louvre Abu Dhabi**. Then, head to the **Date Market** to view all the different varieties of dates from across the Middle East. Drive through **Al Bateen** on the way to the **Marina**, where you board a traditional double-decker **dhow** boat that takes you on a lunch cruise around the city. Disembark and head to the **Etihad Tower Observation Deck** for an uninterrupted bird's eye view of the city's skyline before a photo stop at **Emirates Palace** on your way back to the hotel. Tonight, perhaps stroll along the glamorous waterfront or sip coffee at a seaside café and just people-watch. (B, L)

**DAY 7, Saturday** - In the garden city of **Al Ain**, visit one of the world's oldest permanently inhabited settlements. This UNESCO World Heritage Site was once a vital green oasis on the caravan route and it includes its six oases and the archaeological sites of **Bida Bint Saud**, **Hafeet** and **Hili**, all testimonies to the human occupation of this desert region dating back to the Neolithic period. Here, visit the **Sheikh Zayed Palace Museum**, the residence of the Sheikh and his family, and the **Al Ain National Museum**, housing artifacts discovered around the city, ancient Arabic manuscripts and royal treasures. After lunch at a local restaurant, visit the **Al Hili Archaeological Park**, en route to your hotel. The park is a public garden and excavation site of a Bronze Age settlement, with discoveries dating back over 4,000 years! Tonight's dinner together at the hotel recaps an enlightening day. (B, L, D)

**DAY 8, Sunday** - The journey today takes you to culturally-rich **Oman**. Enjoy a lunch in **Jabreen** before arriving at the **Jabreen Castle**, designed to imitate the most beautiful grand European palaces of the 1600s. On the visit, you'll be enchanted by the stunning Omani craftsmanship in its decorative inscriptions, frescoes, and magnificent carvings. Afterward, a photo stop in **Bahla**, best known for its gigantic ancient fort with towers of unbaked bricks, a remarkable example of this type of fortification that sits adjacent to the **Friday Mosque** with its decoratively sculpted prayer niche dominating the surrounding mud brick settlement and palm grove. Continue to the hotel located in the hills above the town of **Al Hamra**, with spectacular views of the entire countryside and dinner at the hotel. (B, L, D)

**DAY 9, Monday** - This morning after breakfast, drive to the town of **Nizwa**, nestled on a stark plain surrounded by a thick palm oasis and some of Oman's highest mountains. At the **souk**, stroll the narrow lanes past vendors selling their colorful wares. Next, on to the striking 17th century **Nizwa Fort**, with its 125-foot round tower offering panoramas of the **Hajar Mountains**! After a home-hosted lunch with a local Omani family, get ready for a remarkable experience! Arrive in the stark desert wilderness of the **Wahiba Sands**, a vast mass of undulating red and white seas of sand and dunes that rise over 650 feet. The ever-changing patterns of the dunes are a photographer's delight! After settling in at your delightful **desert camp**, enjoy the glowing sunset and a traditional barbecue dinner under the starry skies accented by sweeping vistas across the golden sands. (B, L, D)

**DAY 10, Tuesday** - Awake this morning to breakfast under the desert dawn before departing on the scenic journey to Muscat. *En route*, stop to visit an authentic **Bedouin** house in the desert and meet the proud tribespeople who embrace their ancient Bedouin traditions and culture. The drive then takes you between the contorted slopes to the desert paradise of **Wadi Bani Khalid**, an oasis of shaded palms and stunning water pools. From here, drive to **Sur** to enjoy lunch at a local farm house. Then to **Wadi Tiwi**, with its string of emerald pools and thick plantations, known as *the Wadi of Nine Villages*. As you approach **Muscat**, shining white beaches nestle under rocky overhangs. Here, stop at the unique **Bimah Sinkhole**, a spectacular limestone crater with inviting cool blue-green waters. Created by erosion, or perhaps even a meteorite, this sinkhole is thought to be one of the most beautiful sinkholes on the planet! After, continue to Muscat, the ancient capital of Oman and one of the oldest cities in the Middle East, characterized by a unique civilization that reflects both Arabic and Islamic influences. Upon arrival, fantastic vistas of the city's beautifully manicured parks, unspoiled stretches of beach and striking azure blue coastline. Tonight, relax together over a traditional dinner at the hotel. (B, L, D)



**DAY 11, Wednesday** - The discovery of the white-walled city of Muscat begins at the exquisite **Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque**, one of the most extravagant modern mosques in the world - considered an architectural masterpiece! Admire the magnificent blend of Islamic, Middle Eastern, and Omani architectural styles along with the world's largest handmade Persian rug. Here, an Omani guide offers an overview of Islamic culture as you walk through the mosque that holds over 20,000 worshippers. View **Al Alam Palace**, the ceremonial palace of His Majesty the Sultan in the heart of the Old Muscat, surrounded by two 16th century Portuguese fortresses, **Al Jalali** and **Al Mirani**. Lunch at a local restaurant before proceeding to the **Beit Zubair Museum** that celebrates the culture and heritage of Oman with extensive permanent collections and jewelry and costumes from different regions of Oman. A drive along the corniche takes you to **Muttrah**, a delightful quarter of the city with ancient buildings, narrow winding streets, Arabesque gates and beautiful engravings, evoking a unique medieval charm. Time to explore the picturesque narrow alleyways of the souk, filled with locals busy with daily shopping. Tonight's **Farewell Dinner** is enriched by an informative lecture and discussion on the heritage, culture, and status of women in Omani society. (B, L, D)

**DAY 12, Thursday** - Transfer to the airport in Muscat for your flight. (B)

