

North Al Sharqiyah Governorate

Breathtaking Landscapes and Timeless Adventures



experience
oman





Discover Oman

And experience a journey like no other

Situated at the southeastern tip of the Arabian Peninsula, the Sultanate of Oman is a captivating blend of tradition and modernity. A land of striking contrasts, Oman boasts towering mountains and vast seas, sandy deserts and crystal-clear wadis, offering environmental diversity that is just waiting to be explored. From the bustling charm of traditional souqs to the sophistication of modern markets and the serenity of green parks, you can find the perfect spot for both relaxation and leisure.

Oman's 11 governorates offer a kaleidoscope of distinct landscapes and captivating tourist attractions, each with its own unique charm from lush oases and dramatic deserts to historic forts and bustling souqs.

Here, history is deeply rooted in every corner, while unspoiled nature invites you to unwind and reconnect. The country's

extensive coastlines, stretching for thousands of kilometers, are a haven for marine enthusiasts and tranquility seekers alike, offering both serene beaches and thrilling water-based adventures.

The towering mountains provide a refreshing escape during the hot summer months, while the seasonal climate is ideal for those in search of pleasant weather. Experience the thrill of swimming in vibrant wadis or feel the adrenaline rush of exploring the vast, desert dunes.

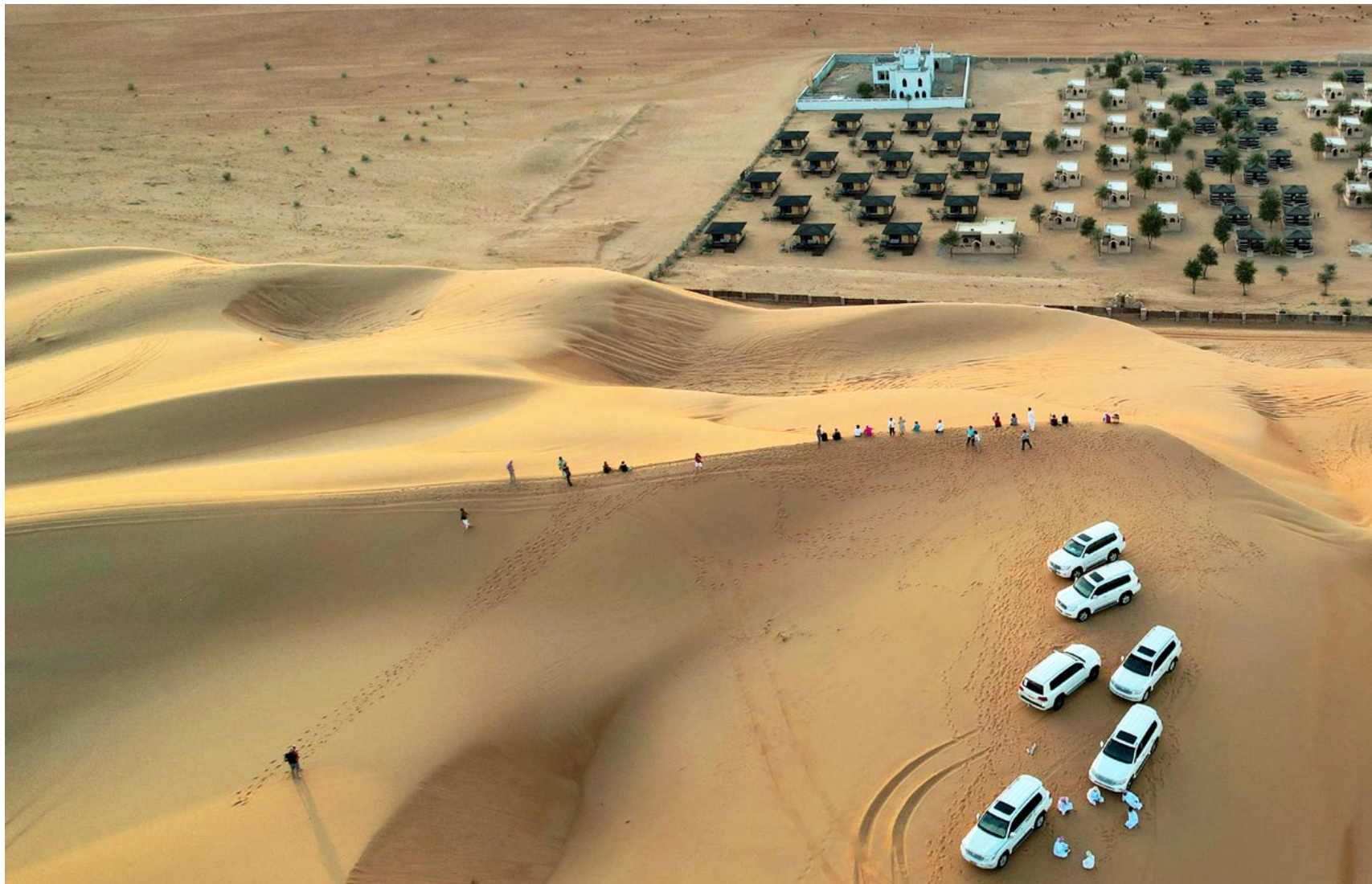
At the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, we are committed to enriching the tourism experience, crafting unique journeys across the governorates of the Sultanate of Oman. Together, we strive to cultivate innovative, modern tourism that fulfils your aspirations and surpasses your expectations. We are thrilled to have you with us - let's explore Oman together!

Perched on the inner slopes of the Eastern Hajar Mountains, North Al Sharqiya Governorate promises a journey of discovery through its charming neighborhoods, ancient mosques, flowing valleys, and golden sand dunes and bustling markets.

Here, you can wander through the historical lanes of Ibra, where the stories of bygone eras whisper from the walls of its venerable mosques and traditional houses.









For thrill-seekers, Bidiyah offers an exhilarating destination for desert sports, while Wadi Bani Khalid invites you to experience the serene beauty of its pools, perfect for a refreshing dip.

Venture forth to the majestic forts of Al Mudhaibi, where time stands still, and don't forget to immerse yourself in the lively atmosphere of Souq Sinaw. Here, you can share in the vibrant daily lives of the locals while indulging in water sourced from Al Dhahira and Dima W'attayeen.

Positioned between the towering mountains of Muscat to the north and the enchanting landscapes of Al Dakhiliyah to the west, North Al Sharqiya Governorate also borders the serene vistas of South Al Sharqiya to the east and south. Here, grand peaks rise above 2,000 meters, casting their imposing shadows over the undulating dunes known as Al Sharqiya Sands.

Scattered across the landscape, lush palm oases and ancient mud-brick villages paint a timeless picture. As night descends, the sky becomes a glittering tapestry, captivating stargazers with its brilliance.





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Ibra

Where Heritage Meets Architectural
Splendor







In the heart of North Al Sharqiya, Ibra blends history with modernity as ancient villages coexist with contemporary life, creating a rich tapestry of cultures.

Start at **Bait Al Yahmadi**, a two-storey fortified mansion with a watchtower overlooking palm groves and the hidden oasis of Al Yahmadi village, nourished by the ancient **Falaj Al Afreet waterway**.

Next, visit Al Qanatir village, known for its stunning stone arches and intricately carved teak and cedar doors.

The village was named Al Qanatir due to the abundance of arches within it. Perched above the valley's course, it features many wooden doors crafted from teak or cedar trunks, intricately carved with stunning geometric patterns and decorative engravings.







Discover
a Unique
Culture



Step back in time as you explore **Al Minzifah, a historic village** named for its abundant wells. Embraced by a majestic wall with multiple gates, Al Minzifah reveals enchanting heritage buildings and homes beyond, each designed to reflect the charm of traditional Omani architecture.

A visit to Ibra is incomplete without exploring **Bait Al Darwaza**, a private museum in Al Minzifah. The museum's walls feature intricate Islamic plasterwork, enhancing its elegant arches, windows, and wooden doors. A captivating miniature exhibit offers a glimpse into the daily lives and customs of Oman's ancestors.



Standing as the official emblem of Ibra, **Al Aqaba Mosque, or “Qiblatayn Mosque,”** holds deep historical and cultural significance. Perched on a small hill in a rugged valley, just 1,600 meters north of Al Minzifah, this mosque is unique for containing two prayer directions: one facing toward Al Aqsa Mosque, the first qibla in Islam and the site of the Prophet Muhammad's (peace be upon him) night journey, oriented to the northwest; and the other aligned with the Kaaba in Mecca.







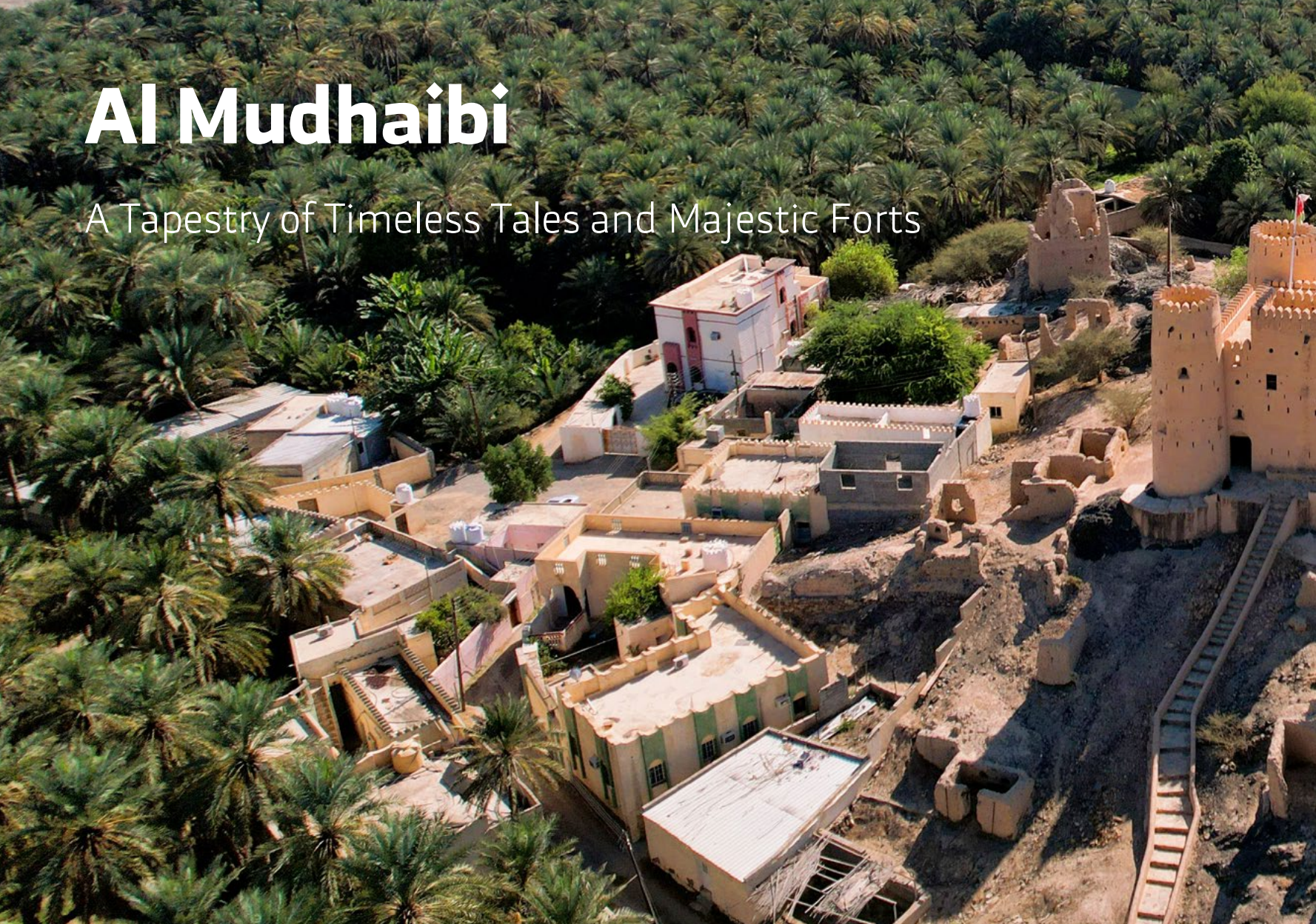
Continue your journey through the picturesque **Qafifa village**. For a true taste of local culture, visit **Ibra Souq**, a vibrant market offering everything from everyday essentials to exquisite handmade crafts.

On **Wednesdays**, the market comes alive with a special bazaar for women, featuring traditional garments, jewelry, frankincense, and perfumes, open from 6 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Dive into an exhilarating wildlife experience at **Safari Park**, the largest zoo in Oman, sprawling over 286,000 square meters and home to nearly 300 species of rare animals, birds, and reptiles.

Al Mudhaibi

A Tapestry of Timeless Tales and Majestic Forts







Discover the rich history of Al Mudhaibi, where impressive forts stand as timeless guardians of the past. Start your journey at **Bait Al Khabib Fort** in Al Khabib, Samad Al Shan.

This two-story rectangular fort, constructed from mud and gravel, features two circular towers and offers a glimpse into the region's heritage. Enter through the main gate to the south or the secondary entrance to the east and immerse yourself in its historical charm. The newly opened museum further enriches your visit, showcasing archaeological discoveries from across North Al Sharqiyah.



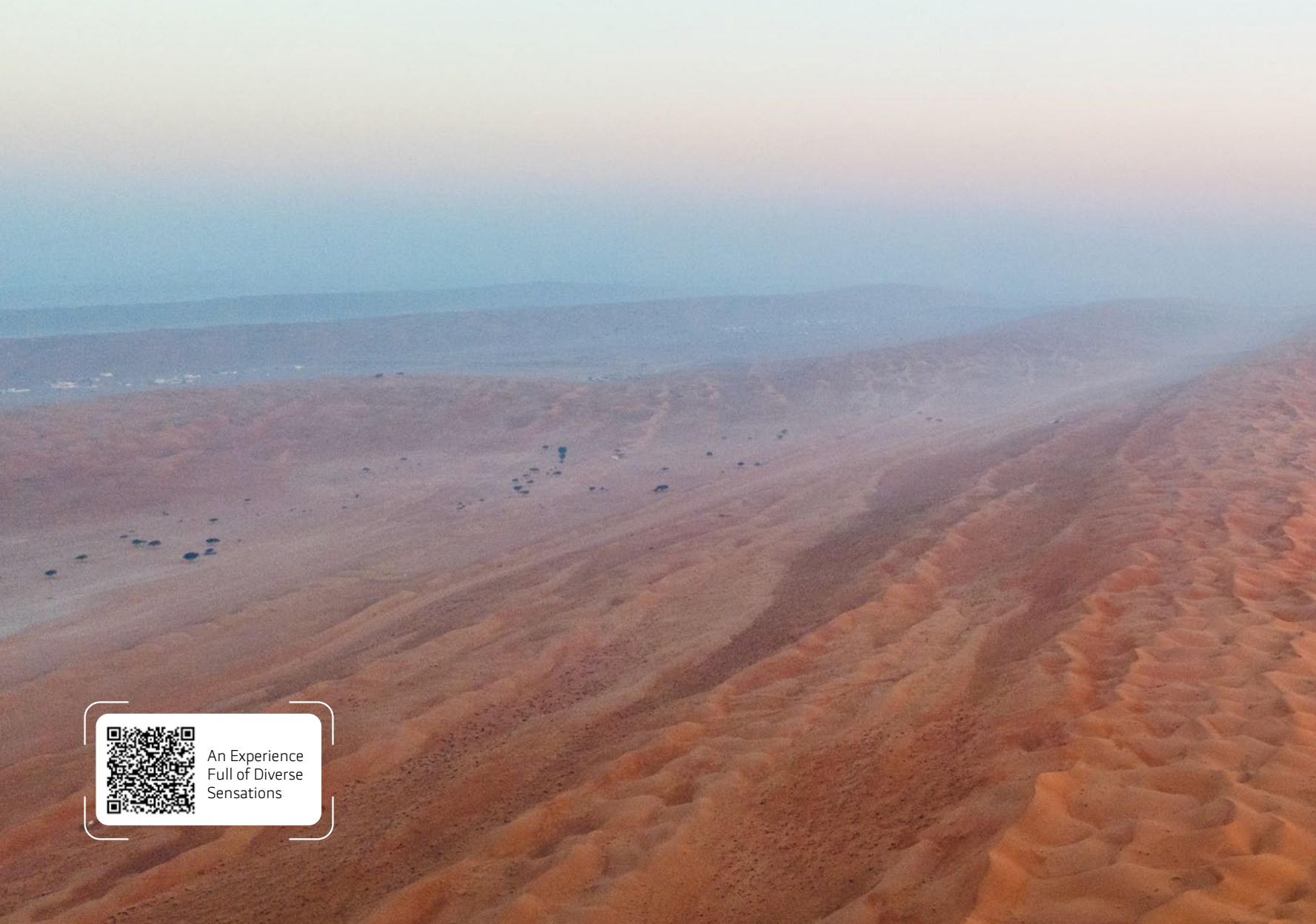




The Blend of
Golden Sands
and Green Plains



Perched atop a hill in the picturesque village of Al-Rawda, within Samad Al-Shan, **Al-Rawda Fort** offers a stunning view of lush palm trees. Renowned as one of Oman's most splendid historical landmarks, this fort showcases a unique architectural beauty that captures the essence of Omani heritage. The fort unfolds across three levels, showcasing 13 beautifully crafted rooms and two towers, alongside one well. Don't miss the chance to wander through the **old alleys of Al Mudhaibi** before continuing your journey to **Al Fath village**, where towering structures stand as reminders of the past. Complete your experience with a visit to Wadi Andam Park and Al Hawra– ideal spots to take in the natural beauty of the of North Al Sharqiyah region.



An Experience
Full of Diverse
Sensations

Bidiyah

Desert Wonders and Thrilling Sand Adventure



In Bidiyah, the desert offers an unforgettable experience. Start with a serene sunrise over golden dunes, then explore thrilling activities like desert biking, camel rides, and sand surfing. As night falls, relax under a star-filled sky, soaking in the tranquil beauty of this timeless landscape.









Explore **Al Muntarib Fort**, a 13th-century gem in Al Muntarib village, nestled in the heart of Sharqiya Sands. This historic landmark is a focal point for tourists exploring the enchanting trails of Sharqiya Sands, drawing history enthusiasts and adventurers alike. The ground floor features several rooms, a mosque, and a water well, while the open-air upper level offers stunning views of the surrounding landscape. The fort showcases traditional Omani craftsmanship, with ceilings made of locally sourced sarooj that highlight the artistry and techniques of the region's architectural heritage.

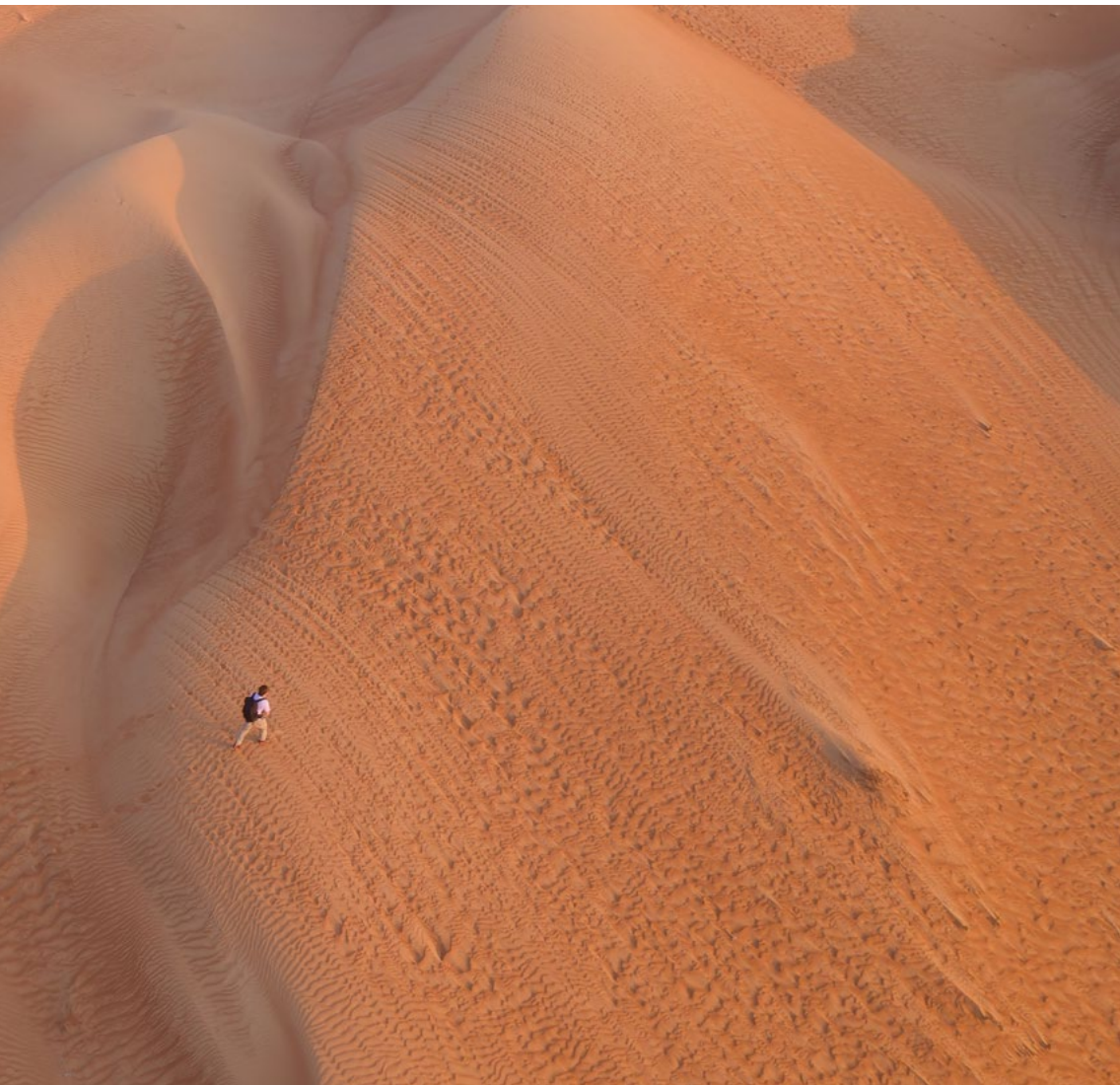
Situated across from the fort, you'll find **Bidiyah Museum**, beautifully designed to mimic a classic Omani home. Here, you can immerse yourself in a captivating collection of artifacts, including vintage rifles, intricately designed silver-handled khanjars, and exquisitely decorated pottery.

Experience the timeless charm of **Al Wasil Fort**, one of the oldest and most majestic forts in Al Sharqiya. As the first fort built in Bidiyah, it stands as a magnificent landmark, featuring five meticulously restored towers encircled by sturdy walls. This grand structure not only showcases its historical significance but hosts a traditional souq within its walls, offering a delightful glimpse into traditional Omani heritage.









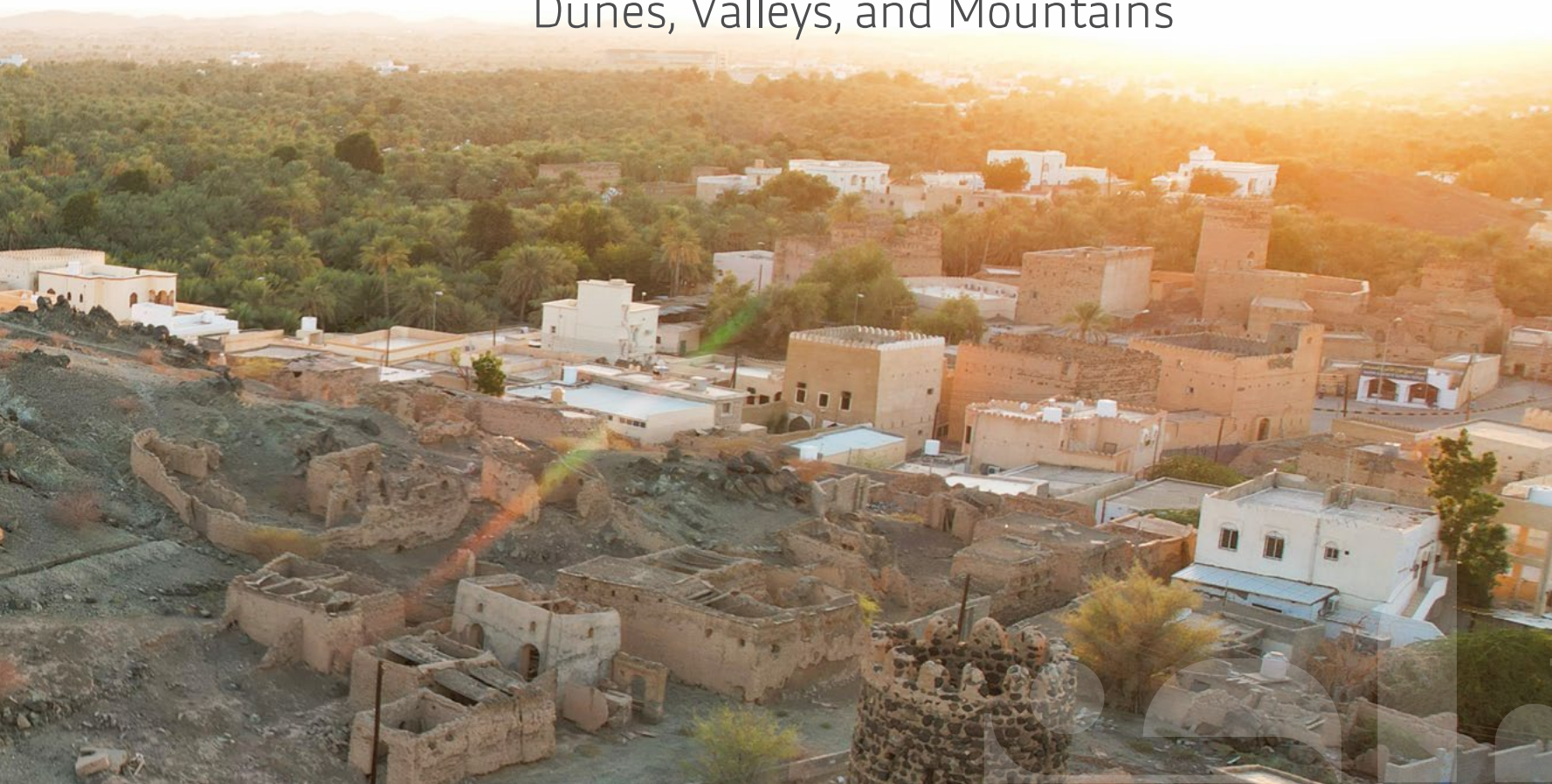
Visit **Al Gabbi village**, where the falaj sustains a lush oasis with banana, lemon, linden, and papaya trees.

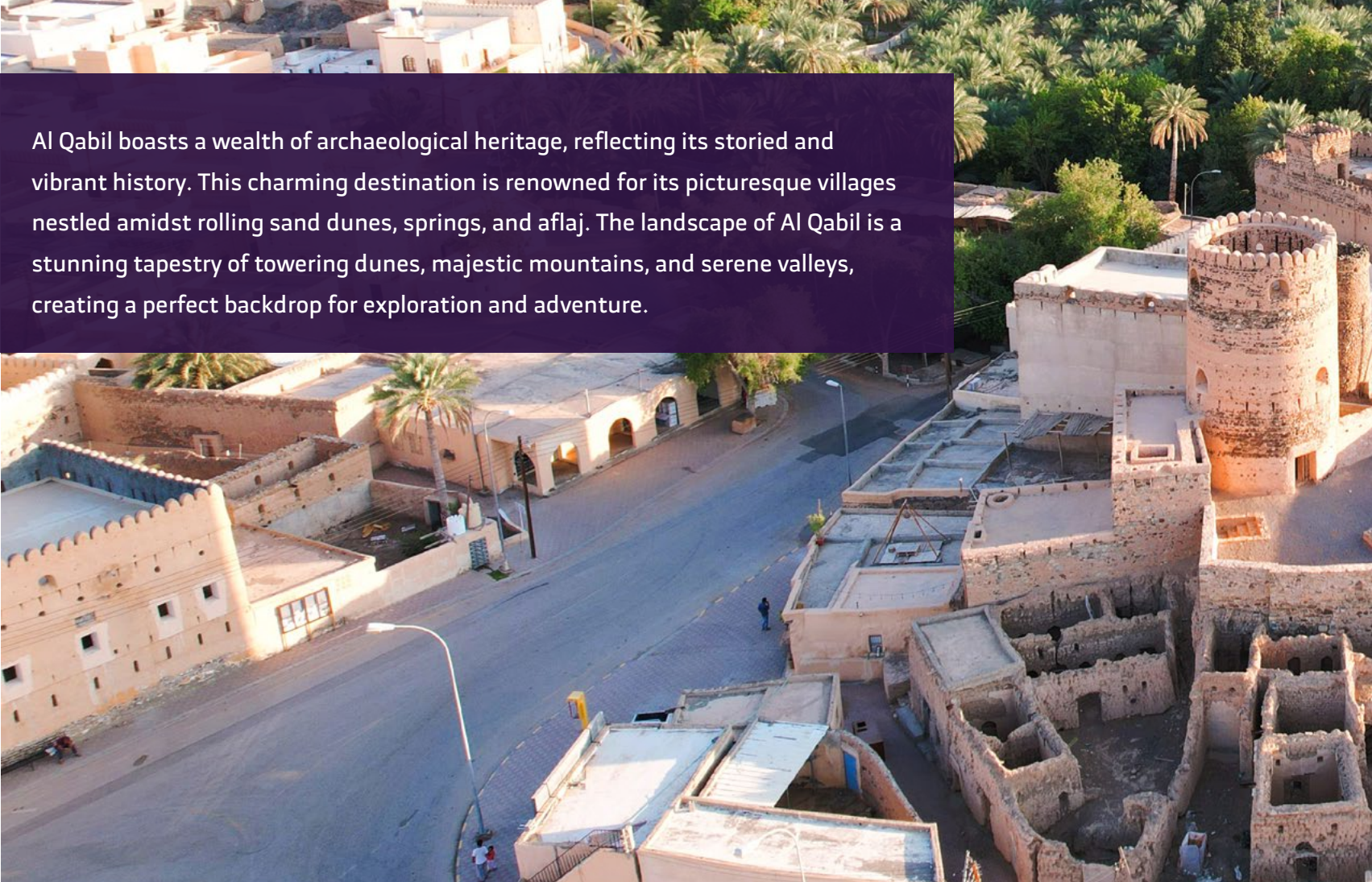
In **Al Hawiyah village**, enjoy the contrast of palm trees against the surrounding desert dunes. End your Bidiyah journey at **Falaj Al Dhahir**, a peaceful spot to unwind.



Al Qabil

The Enchantment of Villages Amidst Sand
Dunes, Valleys, and Mountains



An aerial photograph of Al Qabil, showing a large, circular stone fortification with a crenellated top. The fort is surrounded by a wide, paved road. In the background, there are more buildings and a dense grove of palm trees. The scene is captured from a high angle, looking down on the fort and the surrounding area.

Al Qabil boasts a wealth of archaeological heritage, reflecting its storied and vibrant history. This charming destination is renowned for its picturesque villages nestled amidst rolling sand dunes, springs, and aflaj. The landscape of Al Qabil is a stunning tapestry of towering dunes, majestic mountains, and serene valleys, creating a perfect backdrop for exploration and adventure.







Uncover the charm of **Al Mudhaireb village**, where the echoes of history come alive in its ancient architecture. Home to 50 archaeological sites, this captivating destination also boasts the vibrant old **market of Al Mudhaireb**, which bursts into life during the annual Habtah celebrated on religious holidays. The village features four gates, known as “Darwazah”: Kasham, Qardhoub, Al Ghayouth, and Kanishah. Each gate invites you to delve deeper into the village's rich history. Among the village's towering structures, you'll find **Bait Al Burj**, a beloved gathering place where villagers come together to exchange Eid greetings.

At the heart of the village, a two-story home made of plaster features a falaj flowing through its interior. Explore the golden sands of **Shajjat Al Jawfaa**, where the surrounding desert transforms Al Qabil into a hotspot for sand sports, desert activities, stargazing and camping.









Visit the **Shanna archaeological site**, home to bee-hive-shaped graves from around 3000 B.C. and a collection of ancient artifacts, including copper arrowheads and stone vessels.

Wadi Bani Khalid

A Symphony of Nature's Waters





If you're seeking a refreshing swim in nature, **Wadi Bani Khalid** is your ideal destination. Its crystal-clear pools, nestled within rocky formations, remain full year-round, and the flow of water adds a soothing rhythm to the surroundings. The serene atmosphere is enhanced by the various streams winding through its valley.





Sceneries
that Refresh
Your Senses



Happy
Moments
Await You



Beyond its natural beauty, **Wadi Bani Khalid** is rich with heritage. Ancient landmarks, captivating caves, and majestic mountains stand as lasting testaments to its deep historical roots. Famous for its vibrant emerald-green waters fringed by tall palms, the valley is divided into two main areas: a northern section ideal for relaxation and leisure, and a southern area for hiking and rock climbing.

Step into the mystical depths of **Muqal Cave**, stretching 250 meters into the earth. As you venture inside, be captivated by the thunderous roar of underground water carving its way through solid rock, stunning geological formations, tranquil natural pools, and cascading streams that weave a mesmerizing visual symphony along Wadi Muqal.

Conquer the **peaks of Wadi Hawar**, where breathtaking mountain vistas and shimmering water pools await. Discover **Al-Adhafin Fort**, once the seat of the wali (governor) and judge of the region. This historical landmark, with its carefully restored chambers, preserves the charm of traditional Omani architecture.





Wadi Hawer:
Unleash Your
Adventurous
Spirit





Marvel at the intricate engravings of **Al-Awaina Mosque** and admire its centuries-old construction. Built in the mid-16th century using Omani sarooj (a traditional plaster), the mosque features an ornate mihrab, an exact replica of the original, which was relocated to the National Museum in Muscat.



Dima W'attayeen

Where Nature's Splendor Flourishes
Amidst Water and Lush Greenery







Dima W'attayeen in North Al Sharqiyah blends stunning landscapes with rich heritage, where majestic mountains and fresh springs create a peaceful, green oasis.

Begin your journey at **Al Hamam Fort**, a historic treasure that stands over 90 meters above sea level, surrounded by tranquil oases and overlooking the serene flow of Dima W'attayeen's wadis. This fort, perched on a hill, is a gateway to Oman's rich heritage. Three sturdy watchtowers encircle the fort, designed for both surveillance and defense.

Wadi Dima Wa'ttayeen stretches northwest from the Al Sharqiyah Expressway, connecting Bidbid to Sur in Al Jarda. Surrounded by towering mountains, the wadi is known for its palm groves and fertile hills. The name comes from the Tay tribe, who settled here after the collapse of the Marib Dam.

Start your visit at **Mehlah village**, where unique limestone and ophiolite rock formations highlight Oman's geology.









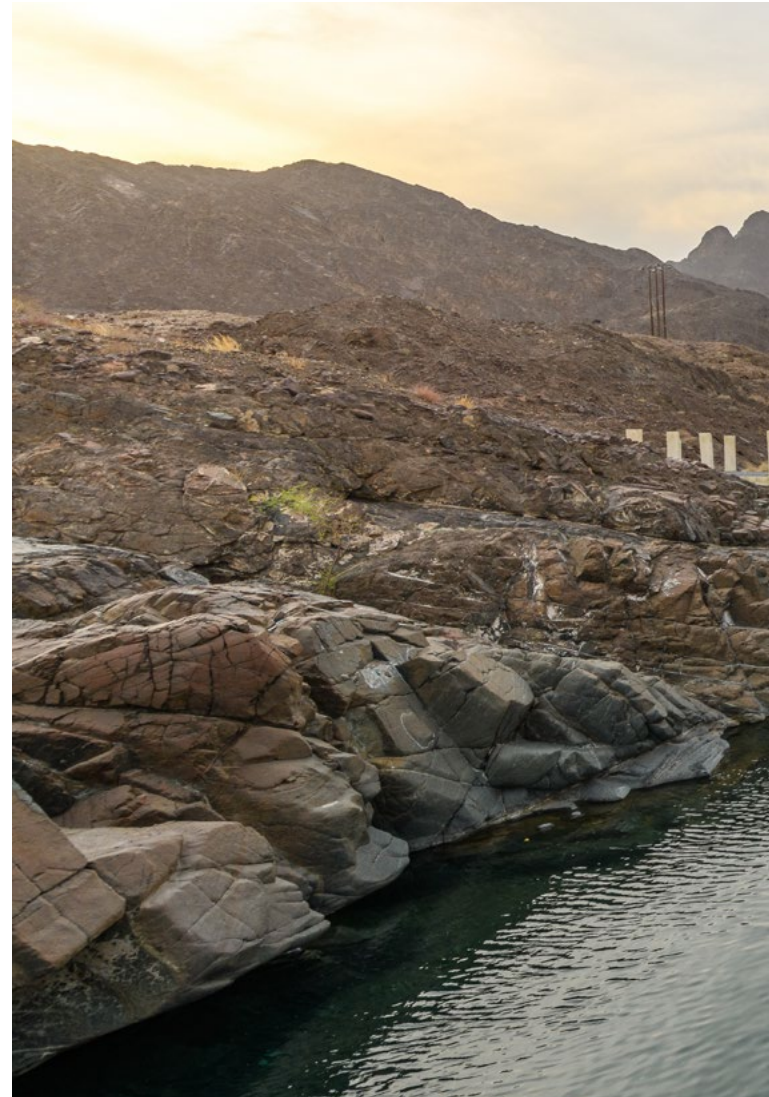
Enjoy fresh seafood at **Mehlah Fish Market**, then head to Sumut Natural Park, a great spot for family camping.

Explore **Wadi Dima's villages and palm oases**, set against the brown ophiolite mountains.

Visit **Al Zam spring near Sumut**, a picturesque spot with lush groves. Continue to **Ain Waghla**, where water springs from the rocks, creating a serene oasis.

Walk through the winding paths of the wadi, leading to blue pools and white calcite deposits.

Don't miss **Khabbat Bani Saad**, a fertile area with flourishing date palms and abundant livestock fodder.









The **White Mountain** in Dima Wa'ttayeen stands at an elevation of 2,000 meters above sea level, offering breathtaking views that stretch over Quriyat and Sur. This stunning peak, part of the Eastern Hajar Mountain range, is known for its temperate climate, which brings refreshing summer rains and cool, invigorating winters.

More than 50 charming villages are nestled within its slopes, where locals embrace a pastoral lifestyle, primarily engaging in livestock rearing and cultivating date palms, pomegranates, and lemons. The moderate climate allows for a diverse array of flora, including the prominent acacia, sidr, and ghaf trees that thrive in this serene environment.

Adventure seekers can choose from five rugged routes leading to the peak, accessible from various starting points such as Ismailiyah, Tul, and Ajma in Dima Wa'ttayeen, or from Al Muzara in Quriyat and Tiwi in Sur.

Sinaw

A Serene Nature Escape









Wilayat Sinaw in North Sharqiyah offers a unique blend of natural serenity and vibrant community life. The area's strong social fabric is evident in its villages, neighborhoods, and bustling markets.

Visit the lively Sinaw Market, just a kilometer from the Sinaw Roundabout, along the road connecting Sinaw, Al Mudhaibi, and Izki.

Every Thursday, the market buzzes with activity, featuring a livestock auction and a variety of goods like fresh fish, dried fish, khanjars, and handcrafted artifacts. Local shops offer textiles, fragrances, gold, and silver.

The Old Market, nestled at the heart of Wadi Sinaw, stands as a historical landmark. Built from clay, plaster, gravel, and stone, the market's circular layout is surrounded by lush date palm plantations. The “Al-Sidi” gate, named after a specific type of date palm, remains one of the market's prominent entrances, offering a glimpse into the region's rich past.





Seasons In North Al Sharqiyah Governorate

Al Tabseel season

The Wilayats of North Al Sharqiyah shine brightly during the Al Tabseel season, a time dedicated to the bountiful harvest of Al Mabsali dates from the majestic Al Mabsali palm. As the temperatures rise, these dates begin to ripen earlier in the year, heralding a period of rich tradition and community involvement. The gathering, cooking, and packaging of Busoor Al Mabsali dates not only represent a vital economic activity for Omani farmers but also embody the heritage and culture of the region. Visitors can immerse themselves in the vibrant culture by witnessing Busoor harvest from June through early July each year.













Winter Season

Winter brings a surge of excitement to North Al Sharqiya, with tourist spots, retreats, and camping sites bustling with activity. The season attracts many adventurers who flock to enjoy outdoor recreation, connect with friends, and embrace the cool weather.

Dune buggy and 4x4 racing across the sandy terrain are popular attractions, as well as camping under the stars and partaking in a range of exhilarating activities. The atmosphere is further enhanced by the inviting aroma of grilled delicacies wafting from local restaurants and cafes, making winter a truly vibrant and engaging season in North Al Sharqiya.

Camping Season

Winter nights in the Eastern Sands offer a captivating experience, with the vast, star-filled sky illuminating the golden dunes. This region, known for its minimal light pollution, provides an exceptional view of the Milky Way and occasional shooting stars. Camping here offers the chance to witness the serene beauty of the desert, with the quiet sounds of nature enhancing the experience.

As dawn breaks, the peaceful call of a mother camel searching for her calf may be your gentle wake-up, setting the tone for another day of adventure and exploration in this breathtaking landscape.



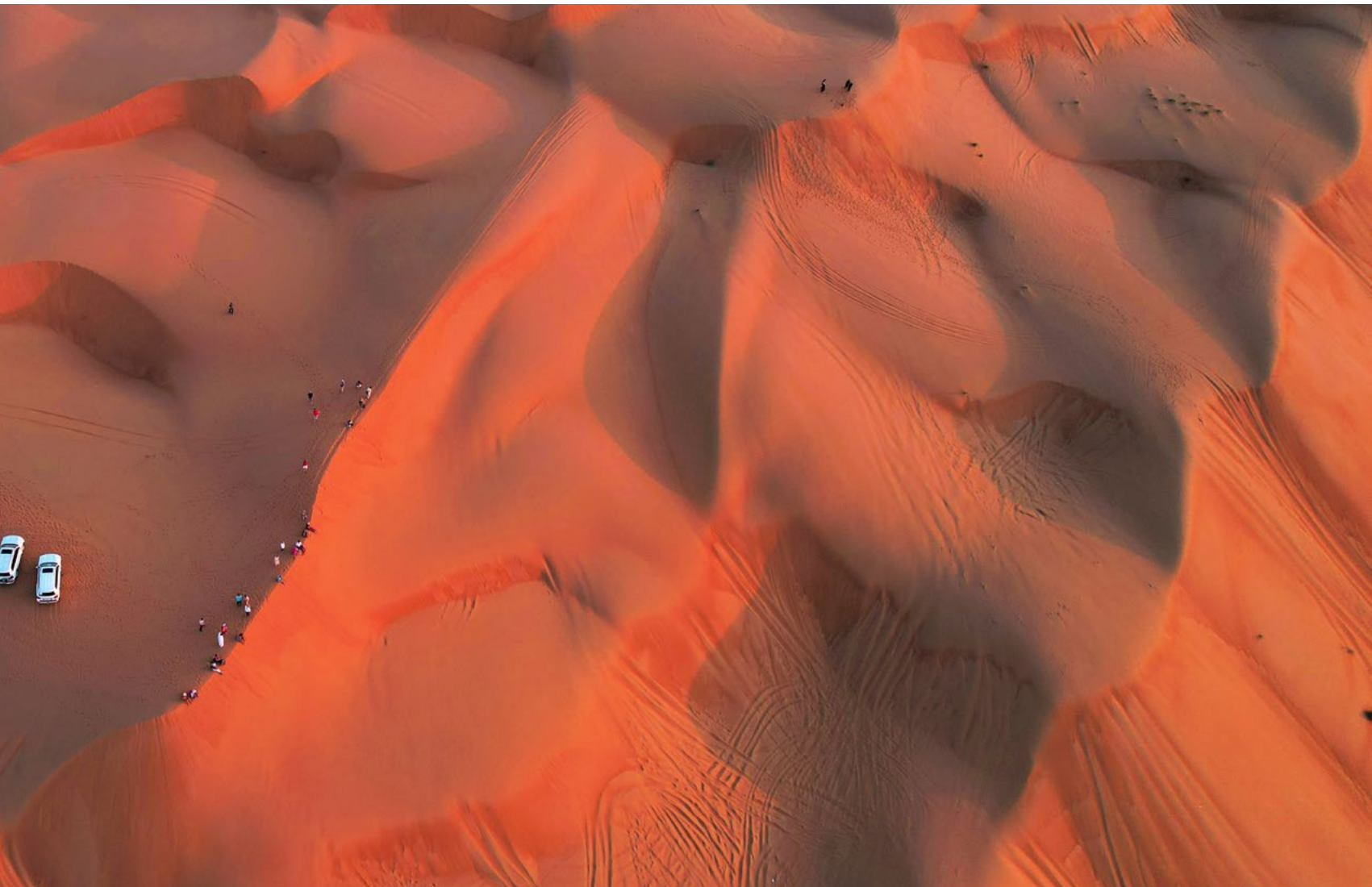


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6 Things to Buy or Acquire in North Al Sharqiya

1. Bedouin products
2. Fresh and dried dates
3. Palm leaf products
4. Textile goods
5. Fragrant and cosmetic products
6. Silver items









10 Activities to Enjoy in North Al Sharqiya

1. Sandboarding
2. Sunset
3. Group or solo camping
4. Riding quad bikes on the sand
5. Paragliding
6. Off-road racing with souped-up cars (known as “ronat”)
7. Swimming in the valleys
8. Camel or horse riding
9. Hot air ballon
10. Zipline

A Special Space Just for You

Beauty Has An Address
#experienceoman