

Shore excursions from Port Salalah

Coach Tours

a. Salalah Introduction - Half-Day Tour – 0900 – 1330 hrs (4.5 hrs)

Driving along broad avenues lined with lush green trees, you experience both, the traditional & modern life-styles of this tropical Paradise.

Take a stroll down the narrow streets of the '**Gold Souk**' & the traditional '**Frankincense Souk**' with its equally intense sparkle of the 'yellow metal' – historically known as 'Frankincense', the white gold of Salalah... of which a wide range of aromatic fragrances reminds you of the 'Mysterious Orient'. Photo stop at the '**Al Hosn**' Palace of His Majesty, Sultan Qaboos

Also visit the **Al Balid museum**, which gives you a comprehensive picture of the traditional & historical aspects of this region. Proceed to visit the ruins of "**Al Balid**"

***Note: Children below the age of 7 years are not allowed inside the Al Balid Museum, they can however visit the Al Balid ruins**

b. Salalah Contrast - Half-Day Tour – 0900 – 1330 hrs (4.5 hrs)

The excursion begins with a visit to the ancient ruins of the Palace of the legendary Queen Sheba (**Khor Rouri**) believed to have been the hub & harbor for the shipping of Frankincense, for export to the rest of the Arabian Peninsula.

A picturesque drive then leads you to '**Mirbat**', the ancient capital of 'Dhofar', which in the 9th century traded in frankincense, horses & slaves. Stroll through the streets lined with old **Omani mud houses** & visit Dhofar's best known historic site – the 'twin-domed **Bin Ali Tomb & Mosque**...a classic example of medieval architecture. Visit the gardens of '**Ayn Razat**', beautifully laid out amidst the tranquil lush mountains & nourished every day of the year by natural underground spring water.

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c. Frankincense Trail - Half-Day Tour – 0900 – 1330 hrs (4.5 hrs)

On a road steadily winding up a steep incline, herds of Camels & Cattle are a common sight. Visit the ancient tomb of '**Prophet Job**' situated in the scenic green mountains of the Salalah Plains.

Proceed to the beach of **Mughsail** where the white sands touch the deep blue of the ocean & at high tide, where waves burst through the natural titanic '**Blow Holes**', at the far end of the 'Rocky beach' with a cave-like entrance through the 'Dragon Rock'.

We thereafter continue along the '**Hair-pin-bend**' road towards Yemen, with its white cliffs on either side, to see the historical '**Frankincense trees**' growing wild, deep down in the valleys, dotting the dry & craggy countryside. Stop for a walk into the valleys to smell the '**Holy Incense**' amidst the scenic view of the region

Four wheel drive Tours

d. Lost city of Ubar – Full -Day Tour – 0930 – 1730 hrs (8 hrs)

Departure by 4x4 vehicle & drive north towards the '**Qara**' mountain range with its spectacular view of the Salalah plains dotted with thick shrub & woodland. Passing '**Thumrait**' town we proceed west on graded road crossing the area of '**Nejd**'. En-route photo stop at "**Frankincense Valley**"

After a 175 Km journey from Salalah city we reach our destination in the desert, arriving at the '**Lost City of Ubar**'. A carefully maintained museum with artifacts unearthed from this once buried city, which was spotted by satellite, gives you a glimpse of the value of work carried out by a team of explorers in 1982, led by Sir Ranulph Fiennes.

Visit a **camel farm** in Ubar and then enjoy a roller coaster ride on the sand dunes in the comfort of your 4wd's. Later we settle down for lunch. Return to Salalah by Sunset.