

Muscat, Oman

- Saturday, April 9, 2022
- Docked from 8:00AM to 6:00PM
- Tourist Info
 - <https://www.lonelyplanet.com/oman/muscat>
- Weather
 - April is a tropical spring month - average temperatures range 76°-95°F
- Ramadan is 4/2/22 to 5/2/22
 - It is illegal to eat, drink, or smoke in public
 - Some hotels may have enclosed areas for non-Muslims to dine during the day
 - It may be difficult to find restaurants that are open during the day
 - Attractions may not be open. Verify days/times before signing up for a tour

Muscat, Oman

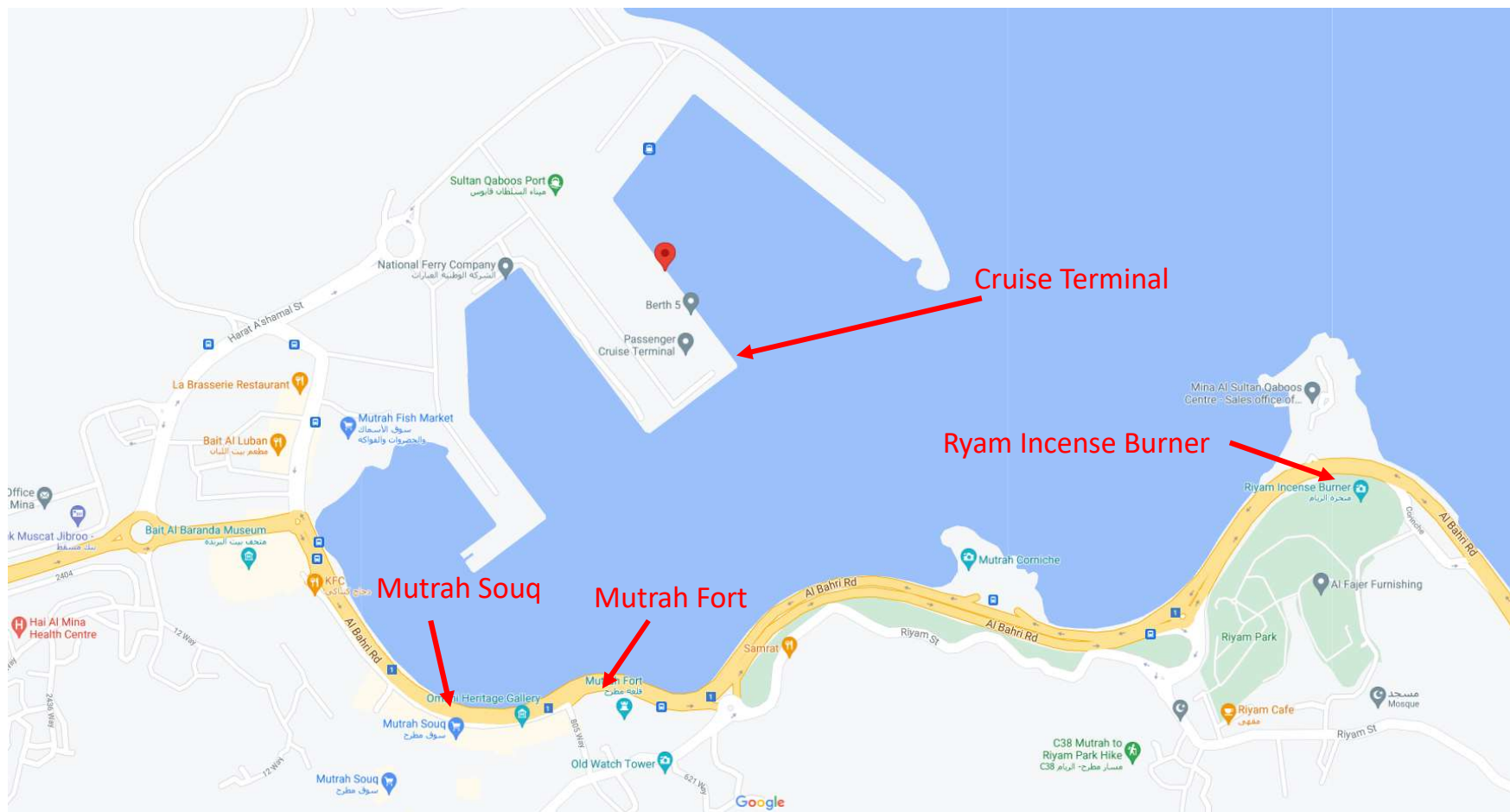
- Capital and most populated city in Oman (1.4M as of Sept 2018)
- Comprised of 6 Provinces called Wilayats
- Sits on the Gulf of Oman surrounded by the rocky Western Al Hajar Mountains and desert
- With history dating back to antiquity, it mixes high-rises and upscale shopping malls with clifftop landmarks such as the 16th-century Portuguese forts (Al Jalali and Mirani)
- Since the early 1st century AD, Muscat has been an important trading port between the west and east
- Muscat was ruled by various indigenous tribes as well as foreign powers such as the Persians, the Portuguese Empire, the Iberian Union and the Ottoman Empire at various points in its history
- Since the ascension of Qaboos bin Said as Sultan of Oman in 1970, Muscat has experienced rapid infrastructural development that has led to the growth of a vibrant economy and a multi-ethnic society
- Muscat's economy is dominated by trade, petroleum, liquified natural gas, and porting

Essentials

- Money – Omani Rial (1 OMR = \$2.60); USD widely accepted; bring small denominations; ATMs available
- VISA – None; landing card will be distributed to ship; must keep in possession
- Safety – Normal Precautions
- Clothing – Dress modestly; fully cover arms and legs; woman must wear headscarf to visit mosque
- Internet – Free WiFi is available at a growing number of hotels, resorts, banks, and urban cafes
- Cell Service – Oman has four 3G mobile networks: OmanMobile, Ooredoo, Renna, and Friendi; purchase a local SIM to avoid international roaming charges
- Taxis – Available at the “immigration building” in port; ensure you double check price with driver as many taxis are not metered
- Bus – Shuttle bus from pier to “immigration building”. Also HAL shuttle into town. HOHO bus doesn’t go to Grand Mosque or Royal Opera House
- Car rentals – Avis, Budget, Dollar, National, and Sixt available at airport



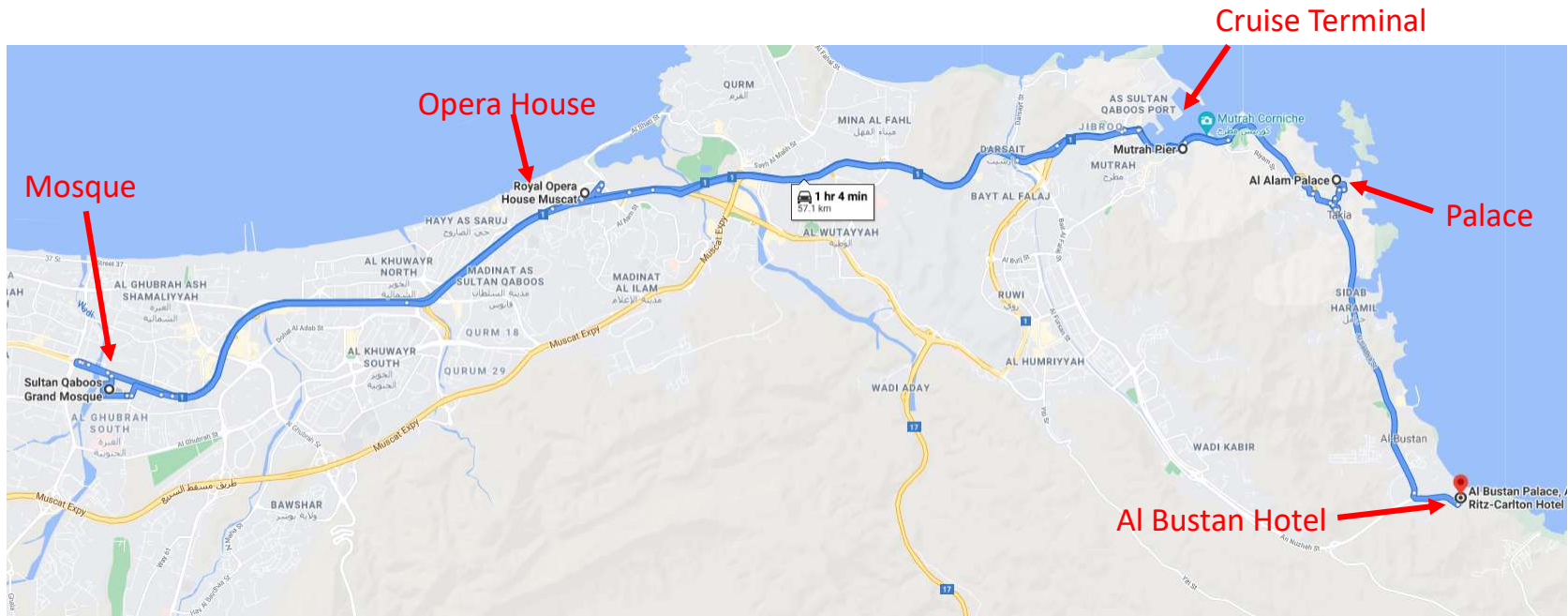
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Mutrah Corniche - Al Bahri Road

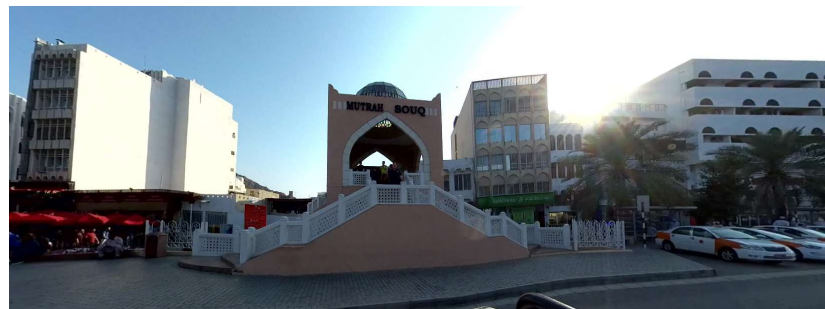


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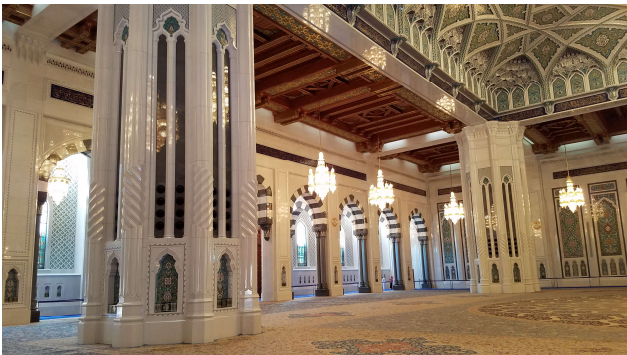
Shopping

- **Mutrah Souq** – a maze of alleys and small stores. HAL shuttle bus pickup/drop off is right in front of Souq.
****Don't miss****



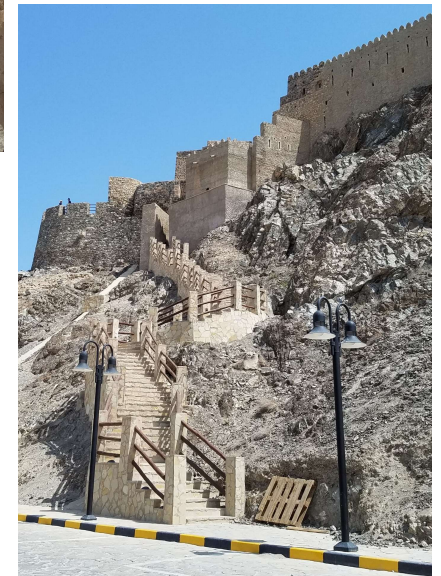
Attractions (1)

- **Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque** – A gift from the nation from Sultan Qaboos to mark his 30th year of reign. One of the largest mosques in the world. Can hold 20,000 worshippers. The modern, marble-clad mosque has 50m dome and prodigious Persian carpet. Free to enter. Verify entry days/times for non-Muslims and if open during Ramadan. Go early to avoid crowds. ****Don't miss****



Attractions (2)

- **Mutrah Fort** – located high on a mountain ridge, overlooking the city and bay of Mutrah. Built in 1507. Later, the Portuguese added 2 towers and a Curtain Wall. During the 18th century, the Al Busaidi dynasty doubled the curtain walls and added additional towers. Restored using traditional methods and materials per its original design in 1980. Fantastic views of the harbor and the Sultan's 2 yachts. Lots of stairs.



Attractions (3)

- **Royal Opera House** – 3 OMR in **cash** to enter. Reservations may be required for guided tour.



Attractions (4)

- **National Museum** – Established by Sultan decree in 2013 and opened in 2016. Oman's flagship cultural institution, showcasing the Sultanate's cultural heritage from the earliest human settlement to today. Contains more than 7,000 objects. 5 OMR fee; 90 minute guided tour for 10 OMR
- **Bait al Zubair Museum** – House of the Zubair Family opened in 1998. Displays outstanding collection of artifacts from all over Oman – weapons, Omani dress, jewelry, household items mixed with modern and traditional art. 2 OMR fee
- **Al Bustan Hotel** – about 15 minutes from the center of Muscat. Gorgeous Ritz Carlton hotel on the sea. Nice place to relax and have lunch

Attractions (5)

- **Al Alam Palace** – Ceremonial palace of the Sultan Qaboos. Built in 1972. Can be viewed from outside the gates.
- **Ryham Incense Burner** – The giant ornamental Incense burner is a memorial built in honor of Oman's 20th National Day and offers great views of the sea and old city. The Al-Riyam Park is for kids.



Private Tours

- Oman Day Tours - <http://www.omandaytours.com/>
- VS Private Tours - <http://www.vstours.com/muscat.html>
- Tours By Locals - <https://www.toursbylocals.com/Muscat-Tours>
- Mark's Tours - <https://www.marktoursoman.com/>
- Sunshine Tours - <https://www.sunshinetoursoman.com/>
- In 2019, we did a 3-hour taxi tour for 5 people for \$120 total. We paid when the tour was complete to ensure he waited for us at each stop.

HAL Tours

- **Bilad Sayt Adventure** - \$200; 7 ¾ hrs; drive to Nakhl village and visit fort; drive to Wadi Bani Auf; visit mountain village of Bilad Sait; picnic lunch; bumpy ride in safari-style vehicle
- **Cruise on an Arabian Dhow** - \$120; 3 hrs; cruise along Muscat coastline; light refreshments
- **Culture of Muscat** - \$70; 4 ½ hrs; visit Bait Al Baranda Museum (some steps to climb), Mutrah Souq, and Bait Adam Museum
- **Dolphin Watching Cruise** - \$130; 3 hrs; speedboat
- **Enchanting Forts of Nizwa** - \$150; 8 ½ hrs; drive through Hajar Mountains to Nizwa (former cultural and political capital of Oman); 17th century fort; visit Souq; drive to Bahla Fort (15th century UNESCO World Heritage Site); Jabrin Castle (Palace of Bilyaroub); includes restaurant lunch
- **Muscat & Al Hazm Fort** - \$150; 8 ¼ hrs; drive through Muscat; pause to visit Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque; drive to Al Hazm Fort in Al Rustaq (100 miles from Muscat); visit Oasis of Nakhal; Mutrah Souq includes restaurant lunch
- **Muscat HOHO** - \$79; 2 hrs; recorded commentary in multiple languages; 8 stops; \$70.20 if buy in advance on HOHO website
- **Muscat Private Touring** - cars/minivans with guide and driver \$500-1000; ; half and full day options