

جامعة الشرقية
A'SHARQIYAH UNIVERSITY



International Student Supplement



1- Location of the Sultanate of Oman

The Sultanate of Oman is located in the far east of the Arabian Peninsula, with its capital Muscat. It is bordered by the Strait of Hormuz and the Sea of Oman to the north. As for the south-east, it is bordered by the entrance of the Indian Ocean, the Arabian Sea, and the west is bordered by Yemen, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia. The system of government is a monarchy, with the Sultan of Oman being the head of state and also the head of government. Arabic is the official language of Oman. Its currency is the Omani Rial (OMR) and its official religion is Islam. The climate of the Sultanate is a desert climate. The Sultanate also has natural resources such as gas, gold, petroleum, natural coal and silver. It is worth noting that minerals, fish, natural gas, oil, dates and bananas are among the most important products of the Sultanate of Oman.

2- Tourism in the Sultanate of Oman

Tourism in the Sultanate of Oman is diverse and fun; Oman has a variety of attractions, such as markets, traditional houses, and many places classified as World Heritage sites (UNESCO). In Oman, tourists can practice various sports such as fishing, and sailing. Animal lovers can also watch rare turtles, dolphins, and swim with them. For touring the cities of the Sultanate of Oman, visitors can visit these places for their unique tourist attractions. For example, Mutrah, Nizwa, Jabal al-Akhdar, Jabal Shams, Nakhal Fort, Dhofar, Musandam, Ras al-Janz, Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque and the Royal Opera House. There are some valleys such as Wadi Tiwi, Wadi Bani Khalid and Wadi Shab.

3- Recreation Services and Tourist Places in Ibra and A' Sharqiyah in General.

The tourist resources in Ash Sharqiyah North Governorate are an important tourist attraction in the Sultanate because of the diversity of ground forms, quality of tourist sites, environmental and natural details. These places and weather elements play a key role in enriching the winter tourism in particular. The Sultanate in general and Ibra specifically has very attractive tourist elements and environment.

At the beginning of the winter tourism season, a lot of tourists from inside and outside the country visit the places in the Sultanate to enjoy the weather and the various places. For example, water springs, castles, forts, valleys, natural parks, camping, heritage villages and ancient neighborhoods (Hara) as well as local markets and ponds. In all these locations, visitors will find many events and activities that attract and boost tourism such as recreational activities, Omani arts, camel and horse racing, four-wheel drive, sand-skiing, mountain climbing and sand climbing with SUVs.

The governorate's accommodation is also one of the tourist components that improves winter tourism. Places such as hotels, rest houses and tourist camps as well as specialized offices for travel, tourism and organizing trips are readily available. The water springs are natural elements that further enhance the Sultanate's beauty. The provinces of the governorate have many water springs that attract visitors. The most recognized water springs are in Wadi Bani Khalid, "Doh", "Canara", "Al Matjar" Al-Makhda, Al-Hager, Alala. and also in Wadi Dima wa'Tayeen, Al-Falaj, Falaj Al-Mur, Al Sekhna and Al-Musfah. These water springs are a source of tourism because of their natural aesthetics.

The castles and forts in the governorate are distinguished by their exquisite architecture, where the ancient ancestors created their design for security purposes. Today, however, they have become tourist attractions for their architectural beauty and magnificence. The most famous castles and forts, for example, "Al-Munrab" castle in Bidiya, "Bait Al-Yahmadi" in Ibra, "Al Ruwdha" fort and "Al Khubaib in Al Mudhaibi. All play a vital role in defining the history of Oman as a meeting point for political, social and religious interaction.

The valleys and nature parks were prepared to provide the tourists with necessities of leisure and promenade and other activities. These places have been provided with amenities that make them a destination for visitors. They have also been provided with signs and instructions that highlight the most important tourist components in the Ash Sharqiyah North Governorate, such as the valleys in Al Mudhaibi and Wadi Bani Khalid and Wadi Dima wa'Tayeen, where the valleys and natural parks are featured by the natural terrain.

When talking about the desert, it is necessary to talk about Al Sharqiyah Sands and camping as these sands represent a treasure of nature, in Bidiya. These sands have been used for camping, which in turn add a beauty to those golden Sands when tents are set up. This type of tourism attracts tourists from outside the Sultanate to enjoy all the elements of desert tourism and camping on the sand.

The traditional villages and ancient Hara (neighborhood) featured by attractive architectural designs of houses built by ancient ancestors. Nowadays they have become a tourism element in the governorate; tourists come from around the world to visit them. "Almenzfa" village is one of the most noticeable heritage villages in Ash Sharqiyah North in Ibra, with its unique geometrical architecture since ancient times.

The local popular markets (souq) are other platforms that introduce crafts and industries that characterize each province of the governorate. Today, however, they are an element of tourism in the governorate, especially during winter, in which these markets are active during this period. Particularly the Wednesday souq in Ibra, Tuesday souq in Samad Ash Shan, Thursday souq in Sinaw, AL Mudhaibi, In addition to Monday souq in Wadi Bani Khalid. The ponds are one of the main tourist attractions in the province, where tourists spend most of their free time around these beautiful ponds. Tourists visit the water ponds in Wadi Bani Khalid to enjoy their beauty during the year. Also there are fun activities held in the governorate such as camel racing, horse-riding sports, and horse-riding events.

There are other sports that promote tourism, particularly in Bidiya, including riding bikes and driving SUVs. These sports are challenging and thrilling for those who like such sports and they can practice these sports on the sand dunes. In addition to sand skiing, a unique desert sport on the sand is another source of fun to enjoy and experience.

4- Procedures to Complete Residence and Visa Papers

The University, represented by the Department of Human Resources, assists international students who have been admitted to the University to obtain their visas and complete their residency applications in cooperation with the Royal Oman Police. Students are required to submit the following documents for visas:

- Higher Education approval
- Admission and Registration approval
- Passport
- Photos (2)

5- Living in Oman

People in Oman are friendly, ambitious and multi-talented. The Sultanate has scenic places that provide a decent livelihood for its generous people. Muscat, the capital, was selected as the second best city in the world by Lonely Planet's Best in Travel guide in 2012. Demographic data indicates that 42.6% of Oman's population is aged 25-54 years. The cost of living is also lower compared to neighboring countries in the region. There are many restaurants that offer Arabic, Indian and international food. Famous international restaurants such as Kentucky, Burger King, Pizza Hut, McDonald's, and others. People can shop in many world-class shops such as Carrefour, Lulu, and the Fair. These large shops include a variety of vegetables, spices, in addition to the world famous brands in all categories with the latest fashions, electronic devices and jewelry. In terms of accommodation there are many international hotels, hotel apartments and houses which can be rented directly from the owner with a contract. The rent prices range from 200 to 400 OMR per month.



6- Telecommunications and the Internet in Oman

The telecommunications sector in the Sultanate is one of the most advanced and rapidly developing sectors. The sector has achieved great progress in line with the government's 2020 strategy and vision aimed at liberalizing the telecommunications sector by private sector investments to achieve the economic and social development of the Sultanate and transforming it into an attractive and competitive sector. This sector has witnessed a significant shift in the entry and participation of foreign companies and increased the services offered and also improved the availability and affordability of these services. There are currently six telecommunications companies and the two dominant ones in the market are Omantel and Ooredoo.

Info: How to Get SIM

For a new prepaid number, students may contact the Telecommunications Company directly. Omantel or Ooredoo are the preferred choice, depending on the offers available from the company. A residence card will be required.

7- Transportation

There are many transportation options available in the Sultanate to travel around. For example, local taxis and buses- Operated by Oman National Transport Company, Mwasalat. In addition, there are international transport services such as airlines, cruise ships, ferries and buses that travel outside the country. The Sultanate has launched the latest airports for local and international travelers. Tourists who visit Oman may be required to obtain a tourist visa which can be obtained through travel agency, on arrival or electronically via the Royal Oman Police website, depending on the nationality of the visitor. You can rent a car from the car rental agency in the Sultanate or from agents of international companies that offer a range of services such as luxury car rental with a driver, regular saloon cars, tourist buses, and small or large SUVs, to explore the country. These companies have branches all over the country as well as at the airport. To rent a car, you must have an international driver's license, a passport, a credit card and a valid insurance policy.

8- Local Currency

The Omani Rial (OMR) is the local currency. 1 OMR is subdivided into 1000 Baiza. Smaller denominations of the currency include: 500 Baiza, 100 Baiza, 50 Baiza, 25 Baiza, 10 Baiza and 5 Baiza. Higher denominations include: 5 OMR, 10 OMR, and 50 OMR notes.

The Omani Rial is pegged to the US Dollar. The exchange rates against the Euro and the US dollar are as follows:

1 OMR = 2.28 euro

1 OMR = 2.60 USD

9- Opening an account in Oman Banks

There are many banks, whether local or international. The most prominent local banks which have branches spread in all governorates of the Sultanate are: Oman Arab Bank, National Bank of Oman, Bank Muscat, Bank Sohar, Bank Dhofar and Bank Nizwa. There is also Islamic banking services offered by banks such as Meethaq, Bank Alizz, Islamic Bank and Maisarah. It is easy to open a current account in one of the branches of known banks. The following documents must be provided to open a new account:

- Passport
- Visa
- Resident card

10- Working Days and Official Holidays in Oman

The working days of the Public sector start from Sunday to Thursday: 7:30 am - 2:30 pm (except for the holy month of Ramadan, where the working hours are from 9 am - 2 pm). The private sector working days are from Sunday to Thursday (as per the companies' policy). The official holidays of the Sultanate are 7 official holidays, including religious and national events according to Omani law:

- 1-Eid al-Adha (Dhu al-Hijjah)
- 2- Eid al-Fitr (Shawwal)
- 3- Islamic New Year (Muharram 1st)
- 4-Isra'a Wal Mi'raj (Rajab 27th)
- 5- Prophet Muhammad's Birthday (Rabl' al-Awwal 12th)
- 6- Renaissance Day (23 Jul)
- 7-National Day (18 Nov).

11- Female Students' Dormitory accommodation

The University provides internal dormitories for female students who prefer to stay in University accommodation. All University dormitories are equipped with modern facilities for a comfortable life. All aspects of living suitable for female students are available in A'Sharqiyah University's accommodation such as transport according to the schedule to and from University, transportation to the hospital, the banks, shops, the restaurants, and stationery shops. University dormitory accommodation also has TV rooms, study rooms, electrical devices like microwaves and washing machines. The accommodation also arranges trips to various areas in the Sultanate, in addition to internal activities and ongoing events such as workshops, exhibitions, events, educational meetings and health awareness.

As for male student hostels, there are currently no university dormitories for male students. Students can share with other students and rent houses, apartments or some buildings with private rooms that are built or rented by investors for student use. Students are responsible for their accommodation expenses.

12- Services Provided to International Students:

A- Arrival and Departure of Students

The University provides free transfer of students from Muscat International Airport to the University and vice versa at the beginning and at the end each academic year, as well as on long official holidays and during semester breaks.

B-Health Care

The University offers free primary health care to all students in the University Clinic. International students must have an annual health insurance and obtain a health insurance card to be treated in private hospitals. Personal accident insurance is granted annually to all university students, including students' exposure to accidents while under the supervision of the University or during their participation in any activities of the University or during their transfer to and from these activities.

C- Trips

Studying in another country is difficult. However, students can have times full of fun and entertainment. In addition to academic study, there is study of the country's culture where the student will learn about customs and traditions of this country. The University also pays great attention to international students for recreational and educational trips to tourist attractions. This can help students to learn new concepts about the country and break the routine of daily life.

13- Emergency Numbers (Police- Hospitals)

1- Royal Oman Police (Emergency) 9999

2- Ibra Police Station 25570099

3- Ibra Hospital 25570533

Ibn al-Haytham Health Center 25571899-4

5-Umm Balqis Clinic 94518351

14- Admission Procedures at the University for General Education Diploma Students

- General Education Diploma (original copy) or equivalent (approved by the embassy or Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Certificate OF Equivalence by the Educational Assessment Section in the Ministry of Education)
- Copy of the passport
- A copy of ID
- 4 photos
- Registration fees 100 OMR
- Insurance: 100 OMR
- Application fee: 10 OMR

15- Admission Procedures for Students Wishing to Complete their Degrees

- Transcript + Course Description both approved and stamped.
- General Education Diploma certificate (original) or equivalent (approved by the embassy or Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Certificate equation by Qualification Evaluation Section in Ministry of Education).
- Copy of the passport
- A copy of ID
- 4 photos
- Registration fees 100 OMR
- Insurance: 100 OMR
- Application fee: 10 OMR.



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