

# THE MUSANDAM IN COMFORT

## The Musandam Peninsula without camping - interested?

This trip includes all the best things about our adventures in Musandam but with no tents in sight. Immersion in this unique and wonderful region without having to give up your everyday luxuries or endure uncomfortable nights.

We begin by exploring the peninsula in a traditional dhow boat and journey through the striking blue waters to Kumzar village which guards the entrance to the Strait of Hormuz. Wlong the way, we make numerous stops to enjoy memorable snorkelling sessions in among beautiful fish. We then continue to Sham Bay where we settle into comfortable oceanfront cottages for two nights. We explore the desert mountains, dramatic fjords and turquoise waters surrounding our accommodation in kayaks and on foot. (We are privileged to be able to use this accommodation as it is the only housing in the area to welcome tourists!) Our wilderness adventure draws to a close with a hike in a wadi, an impressive Omani canyon, then we visit the incredible pioneering city of Dubai.

 Region	Musandam
 Activity	Kayaking Traditional Sailing Walking
 Duration	8 days
 Group	4 to 12 people
 Code	POMBC
 Price	From €1,650
 Level	1/5
 Comfort	4/5
 Language(s)	French / English

## ITINERARY

### Day 1 Meet in Dubai

We will greet you in Dubai. Transfer by private vehicle to our accommodation in Khasab, in Oman.

### Day 2 Dubaï - Khasab - welcome on board



After breakfast and a little preparation time, we board our traditional dhow boat and set off into Sham Bay. We sail north to the Gub Ali Fjord stopping to enjoy a snorkelling session in the clear turquoise waters. During your time on board you will be accompanied by a local crew in addition to your guide providing a great opportunity to learn more about local life. We enjoy a pleasant communal dinner and settle down to sleep on comfortable mattresses on deck under the stars of the Persian Gulf.

### Day 3 The isolated village of Kumzar



We continue our journey by dhow along the Musandam Peninsula to the isolated village of Kumzar. we disembark to discover on foot this unusual village facing Iran which has its own local dialect. If we wish, we can climb a plateau which overlooks the village following a path frequented by goats. Tonight we spend our second night sleeping on board.

### Day 4 Coastal Sailing back to Sham Bay



We sail along the coastline back to the entrance of Sham Bay where dolphins often play in the waves of our wake. We arrive at Sham village in the late morning. This is one of the main villages of the bay and here we settle into chalets built by the villages. This peaceful haven, only accessible by sea, will be our basecamp for the next two days. This afternoon, we enjoy our first kayak outing here in this sheltered part of the bay, an ideal location for an introduction to kayaking and a chance to perfect our rudder settings. We take advantage of this first paddle to introduce ourselves to local villagers.

### Day 5 Kayaking and walking, Sham Island



Today we venture through a secret passage only accessible at high tide to access the foothills of Sham Island. We explore the Caribbean-like scenery of the islands highlands and keep our eyes open for turtles and rays! A short climb brings us to the top of the island and breathtaking views of the bay - we will even be able to see our accommodation. This afternoon we take the kayaks out, pootle among capitaines and barracudas and catch fish to grill for this evenings meal.

#### 📍 Day 6 Kayaking to Sibi Island



Early this morning, after a good breakfast in the cool of our accommodation, we kayak to the bottom of the bay. We pass just a few headlands and before arriving at the majestic island of Sibi. Here, more than anywhere else, the seabed simply must be explored. We kayak, swim and sneak into the foothills of this pearl. We hike along a path which enables us to discover the entire island, once again enjoying the surprising mineral scenery. After a thorough exploration, we head back to the village, then travel by boat to Khasab where we settle for the next 2 nights.

#### 📍 Day 7 Khasab - Hiking in the Wadi de Quadah Canyon



This morning we journey to the small village of Quadah at the entrance to an impressive wadi (canyon) several kilometers long. We enter the wadi and marvel at the power of the water which carved the spectacular walls and polished the rock as we embark on a slightly sporty hike through several intriguing passages to a plateau. Here, we explore a traditional village which has been abandoned by its inhabitants but has managed to preserve a unique charm. It cannot have been easy living here, absolutely everything was done to create methods of collecting the little water provided during the rains...

We also have the opportunity to continue 200m higher to the summit. From here, we can access an incredible path which leads back to the village, about 2m wide carved into the cliff. This narrow path overlooking the void is optional, safe and spectacular...

We leave the mineral world of the canyon and join the fresh green of Quadah palm grove then return to Khasab by vehicle.

#### 📍 Day 8 Khasab - Dubai



Morning transfer to the Emirates and early afternoon arrival in the incredible city of Dubai for which no challenge is too great. Our visit begins in old Dubai with its various souqs (gold, spice, textile...), then we make the short crossing to the other side of the 'creek' by taxi boat. We explore the historic district, the fort, museum and mosque before moving to Burj Khalifa and modern Dubai. The contrast between these authentic historic highlight and the fountains, luxury shops and promenade of today is astonishing. We enjoy dinner at a restaurant to end our trip. If your onwards travel is scheduled for late tonight or tomorrow, contact us and we can extend your stay in Dubai with Altai Oman.

Please note that this itinerary, including walking distances and times, is indicative. Our guides aim to provide the adventure that is best suited to the weather, your interests and the demands of the group. Please be aware that in order to achieve this, changes to

the programme may be made.

This trip is possible in single or double kayaks depending on your kayaking experience and desires. Please note that we will not exceed a maximum of 6 kayaks so group sizes may vary.

## DATES & PRICES

### *Departures for French-speaking groups:*

No departure for now

### *International departures:*

No departure for now

**Trip code: POMBC**

### *Included*

- All in-country transfers as detailed in itinerary
- Full board except for the final evening meal in Dubai
- Private use of a dhow boat with captain and cook
- All technical kayaking equipment (single kayaks)
- Accommodation in double rooms and communal living on board
- Full supervision by a qualified Altai Guide

### *Not included*

- Flights and air taxes
- Your Oman visa: around €15, you can reserve this online at <https://evisa.rop.gov.om> before your departure
- Your final evening meal in Dubai
- Snorkelling equipment
- Tips, drinks and personal expenses

### **Additional Options**

- This trip is possible in double kayaks: 250 € reduction per person
- Single supplement: Contact us
- Accommodation in Dubai before and/or after your trip: 110 € per room, prices may vary please contact us

### *Terms and conditions*

#### *Booking conditions*

Booking a trip with Altaï Oman implies acceptance of the terms and conditions of sale. Each customer is required to complete a registration form and, subject to availability at the time of registration, travellers are expected to pay a deposit of 30% of the total price to complete their booking. Payments can be made online or by bank transfer. You will receive an e-mail with your booking confirmation.

#### *Invoice procedure*

Once your booking is confirmed you will receive an invoice by e-mail. The full balance of the trip must be received at least 35 days before your departure date. Altaï Oman reserve the right to cancel your booking, free of charge, if this deadline is not respected.

#### *Cancellation policy*

If for any reason you have to cancel your trip, Altaï Oman require written confirmation of your decision. The money you have paid will then be refunded according to the following deductions:

- Cancellation received more than 30 days prior to the departure date: a sum of €50 per person will be retained
- Cancellation received 30 to 21 days before the departure date: your deposit, 30% of the total trip price will be retained
- Cancellation received 20 to 14 days before the departure date: 50% of the total trip price will be retained
- Cancellation received 13 to 7 days before the departure date: 75% of the total trip price will be retained
- Cancellation received less than 7 days before the departure date: 100% of the total trip price will be retained

### **Special cases:**

Please note that, regardless of the date of cancellation or modification if you have agreed to pay for services such as hotel reservations, flights or additional activities, these services are usually non-refundable so additional fees may apply.

- Fixed airfares: if your airline ticket was issued in advance, often done to avoid significant surcharges, you will be charged 100% of any non-refundable fees if you wish to change or cancel your flight plan.
- Fixed in-country costs: early charges for firm bookings will be charged if you cancel or modify your trip.
- Insurance costs: if you have taken out comprehensive or cancellation insurance, the cost of insurance is due and cannot be refunded.

**Please note that fees apply according to the date Altaï Oman receive your cancellation or modification request in writing.**

If we have to cancel a departure due to an insufficient number of participants, you will be informed no later than 21 days before departure and a full refund will be issued, you will not be entitled to further compensation. We reserve the rights to cancel departures due to exceptional circumstances which may impact the safety of participants. Such circumstances include those amounting to 'force majeure' in which case participants will receive a full refund but they will not be entitled to any compensation.

### ***Changes to travel contract***

If you wish to make a change to your booking please contact us in writing; you will be expected to pay any fee which might arise from this change. In the event of unforeseen external events, Altaï Oman may change some aspects of the travel contract. If any changes are necessary you will be informed as quickly as possible.

### ***Pricing***

The prices on our website are updated regularly and all of the prices we advertise are accurate when published. We reserve the rights to make changes to any of these prices. Before you make a booking we will give you the up-to-date price of your chosen holiday including any supplements, upgrades or additional activities you may have requested. If the number of travellers is fewer than the indicated number of participants on the website, a small group surcharge may be applied. For all of our trips we include details of services, prices and what is/is not included but please be aware that changes to the prices may be necessary in accordance with exchange rates or price changes of various components of the journey.

### ***Contract transfer***

If you are unable to travel for any reason with Altaï Oman, you can transfer your booking to another person in which case our modification conditions apply. Both the transferor and transferee will be jointly and severally liable for payment of the total holiday price and other associated expenses. Some airline carriers treat name changes as cancellations and you may be required to pay for the cost of a new ticket.

### ***Insurance***

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We strongly recommend that you take out personal travel insurance for your trip with Altaï Oman as soon as your booking is confirmed. We advise you to purchase a travel insurance policy which covers flight cancellations, luggage loss and emergency health care. Please look carefully at which activities are covered by your insurer and do not forget to bring all necessary documents and information with you (name of the company, name of the contract, insurance policy number, telephone number...)



## PRACTICAL INFO

### Staff

You will be greeted in Dubai by an English-speaking representative from our local team and accompanied for the duration of your stay. You will be accompanied by a Altai Oman sea kayak guide with flawless knowledge of both the sport and the destination. Please be aware that you will be expected to help your guide with certain tasks like loading and unloading kayaks, your involvement is based on mutual respect and creates a friendly atmosphere as well as a nice relationship between yourself and your guide.

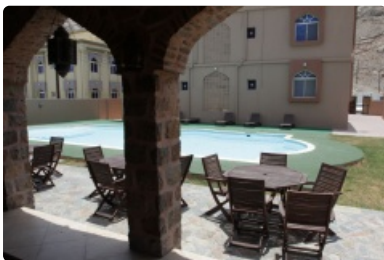
Altai Oman is a member of the Altai Travel Group, a network of local nature and adventure agencies found in nearly 30 different locations around the world. Altai Oman has been established in Khasab for many years now and is able to guarantee you a successful active adventure primarily thanks to expert guides as well as our quality logistics.

### Food

We love the local cuisine here in Oman. It is not always easy to carry fresh products on board boats but we are proud of the hearty and varied menus we manage to offer. Fishing enables us to eat fresh fish very regularly. You can expect buffet style lunches, hot evening meals and seasonal products including houmous, pita breads as well as fresh fish, caught daily, perhaps by yourself!

Please let us know about any dietary requirements when you book the trip and we will work with you to cater for your needs.

### Accommodation



#### Khasab

Hotel owned 4 person apartments with 2 bedrooms and 1 bathroom. Swimming pool access.

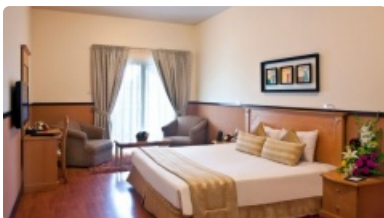
#### On Board

We sleep all together on the deck under the stars on comfortable mattresses. Toilets are rudimentary and the shower is a freshwater hose to rinse off after swimming.



#### Sham

4 person chalets with 2 bedrooms and 1 bathroom. The chalets have running water and air conditioning.



#### Dubai

If you choose to purchase additional nights in Dubai, we work with the Landmark Plaza Baniyas Hotel using twin or double rooms with private bathrooms. The hotel is found in a lively neighbourhood near to souqs, just next to a metro station and it is 15 minutes from the airport by taxi.

### Transportation

Transfers from Dubai to Khasab are in a minibus, a private vehicle driven by a local driver. When kayaking: we use our boats to transport our belongings.

Please note that basic kayaking techniques are very fast to learn. To take full advantage of this activity, it is best to be a little prepared, notably a certain level of strength and flexibility in your lower back and abdominal muscles can help.

English speaking departures are all operated with singles kayaks if your technical skills allow that. For double kayaks, please ask. In case of some participants accept to paddle on our double kayaks, we can increase the amount of participants in the group. We will not oversize a total of 6 kayaks accepted in the tour.

## Budget & exchange

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The official currency is the Omani Rial (OMR) and the United Arab Emirates dirham (AED) is commonly used in Musandam. Visit <http://www.xe.com> for the latest currency converter and exchange rates. ATMs are fairly common, we advise you to use Dirham and to withdraw money at Dubai Airport.

## Tips

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Tipping is always appreciated but it is not obligatory and should be left to the discretion of each individual. We recommend an amount between 35 and 45 € per participant according your satisfaction and the attention to detail of your local team.

## Supplied equipment

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- A comfortable sleeping matt for on the deck of the dhow
- Equipment on board the dhow
- Kayaks and all technical paddling gear including paddles and life vests

## Vital equipment

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This kit list is for all seasons - you may not need all of the warm clothes listed.

### Important

- A sleeping bag - comfort 10°C
- Quality sunglasses (filter lenses)
- Water bottle(s) - min 1L
- Sun cream - waterproof
- Head torch and spare batteries
- Personal toiletries - think small and biodegradable if possible, shampoo for saltwater recommended
- Toilet paper

### From head to toe

- A sunhat
- T-shirts - some long-sleeved for the sun - synthetic, fast drying materials
- A warm jacket for evenings by the sea
- A lightweight wind proof waterproof jacket - breathable (Gore-Tex...)
- Light weight trousers or cropped pants
- Sarongs / long skirts for women are welcomed
- Socks - for walking

### Shoes

- Sports sandals are great in the water and for camping on the beach

### For Kayaking

- A swim suit
- Swimming shorts
- Rash vest / lycra t-shirt
- Shoes which can go in the water
- A small towel - fast drying micro fibre towel recommended
- Snorkelling equipment - mask, snorkel and flippers

## Helpful equipment

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- A pocket knife
- A personal first aid kit
- Wet wipes
- Anti bacterial hand gel
- Matches / a lighter



## Luggage

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Your luggage will follow you for the duration of your stay.

## Medicine

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We recommend that you bring a small personal first aid kit containing any medication you may need such as inhalers, plasters, antiseptic, painkillers, anti-diarrhea medication, antibacterial hand gel, eye drops, anti inflammatories...

## Passport

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To visit Oman, travellers may need a passport which is valid for at least six months after the last day of their stay. It is your responsibility to confirm your specific passport requirements and please be aware that proof of onwards travel may be required.

## Visa

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It is your responsibility to confirm your specific visa requirements.

Express and tourist visas are available for download before your trip at <https://evisa.rop.gov.om> and will be accepted at the Oman Customs.

To complete the electronic visa application, the following steps must be followed:

Attention the visa is valid 1 month from the date of issue, so do not apply too far in advance.

- Go to <https://evisa.rop.gov.om>
- Click register as user
- Fill in the details
- Apply for visa
- Payment (Up to 10 days: 5 Omani Rials, around 12 euros depending on the exchange rate)

Please note that this website is designed and managed directly by the Omani Police. For e-visa assistance please contact: L1.SGS.Oman@sita.aeroor +968 99537194.

Visas for the United Arab Emirates can generally be acquired in-country and are free.

## Mandatory vaccines

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Recommended vaccinations include: Hepatitis A and Typhoid.

Malaria, Hepatitis B, Rabies and Yellow Fever vaccines are also advised.

## Health information & recommendations

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It is your responsibility to check that your personal health insurance covers everything in this trip. A consultation with your doctor is a prerequisite for any trip. Due to the remote location of this trip we must stress the difficulty of an emergency evacuation, radio connection is almost non-existent and health centres are often very far away.

## Weather

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The Sultanate of Oman is relatively mild in the winter. In the mountains, there are large temperature variations between day and night. At sea level the evenings are pleasant. Thunderstorms are possible in the winter.

## Electricity

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In Oman, type C / G plugs are used.

Please note that you will not have access to electricity when camping. A small powerbank can be useful for recharging cameras or phones.

## Local time

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Coordinated Universal Time (UTC)/ Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) +4. Daylight Saving Time (DST) is not observed here.

## Sustainable tourism

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Altai always aims to have as little impact on the environment as possible. As adventure and wilderness travel experts who run trips to some of the most remote parts of the world, we take responsible tourism very seriously.

Since the beginning, we have advocated for responsible tourism and the importance of equitable and sustainable principles. Harmonising these fundamentals ensures a fair distribution of economic benefits, improved working conditions for local teams and an increased awareness of the importance and practice of environmental protection.

We kindly request that you adopt the following simple actions when travelling with Altaï Oman in order to support our ethical, sustainable and responsible tourism policies:

### **Culture**

The Omanais are very welcoming and smiling by nature but keeps keep their distance, not out of spite towards tourists but out of wisdom and respect. It is very important to be respectful of places of worship and to wear non-provocative clothing as is custom here.

### **Leave No Trace**

This ethical code can be summarized in 7 simple steps which we hope you will follow during ourtrip...

1. Be prepared
2. Stick to trails and camp overnight right
3. Stash your trash and pick up waste
4. Leave it as you find it
5. Be careful with fire
6. Respect wildlife
7. Be considerate of other visitors

### **Litter**

The ecological balance of this region is precarious and garbage degradation is almost zero. Each visitor is responsible for the cleanliness and condition of the places visited and camping locations used. Let's leave the landscape as pristine as we had the pleasure of finding it. These are completely wild and uninhabited places so no cleaning is provided by the local authorities. We count on your involvement to leave the place as clean as possible after your visit. If rubbish is washed ashore by the sea let's leave the beach cleaner than we found it!

Over the years we have built up good relations with our local suppliers and we are keen to support local businesses as much as possible. We are a small company with a local basecamp so we have no need for middlemen; we pay our local partners and suppliers directly insuring fair rates for everyone.

Our small group sizes not only provide a more intimate adventure but also cause less impact on the environment and local communities.

**We expect all who travel with us to support and uphold our Sustainable and Responsible Tourism philosophies.**