

A Beauty Untold

Culture

The legacy that has been passed from generation to generation, the art, the culture, the folklore and the craftsmanship have to be seen. An ancient sea-faring manuscript

If you are someone who has an understanding and appreciation of history, arts, architecture and the structure of traditional societies and government, Oman is the place for you. You can experience Oman's sense of timelessness in the ancient interior city of Nizwa, the towns along the coast, the Capital itself and the southern city of Salalah. All are steeped in history and tradition.

The mosque of Asma'a Bint Abi-Bakr The Sultanate enjoys an unspoiled culture and traditional lifestyle in almost every aspect. Even in its modernity, Oman is distinctly Arab and offers the visitor a glimpse of many unique old-world wonders.



A BRIEF HISTORY OF OMAN END OF TITLE

Oman's unique story reveals examples of great moral strength, courage, heroism, maritime skills, scholarship and hard work that have together moulded the Sultanate into its present form. By drawing our attention to the noble efforts of distinguished Omanis, historians have provided us with a deeper understanding of the great wealth of human experience that is at the foundation of modern Oman.

Wall inscriptions inside a cave in DhufarAn understanding of Oman's place at the heart

of the Middle East and its relationship with neighbouring countries is central to understanding the international position of Oman today as well as its internal dynamics. Oman occupies the far south-eastern corner of the Arabian Peninsula, its geographical boundaries clearly defined by nature from earliest times.

The earliest Stone Age settlement discovered in Oman is in the Wattaya district and dates back more than 10,000 years. Babylon and Assyria were among the first empires to control the Asian land

trade from the Arabian Gulf to the eastern shores of the Mediterranean. Later the Persian Empire expanded to gain influence over a vast area and control the region's trade.

The rule of the Imams in Oman began in the eighth century C.E. Ibn Masoud was elected as the The old renowned Port of Sur in glorious daysfirst imam in 751 and his reign lasted for four centuries until 1154. The Oman of the Imams was in the Nabhan period between the thirteenth and fifteenth centuries AD; attempts to revive the Imamate in Oman were renewed in the fifteenth century but these attempts failed.

Between 1498 to 1507, after Portugal had occupied the trading ports of East Africa along with Aden, the Portuguese stranglehold, which lasted for more than a century and a half, was to fail because of Oman's spirited resistance and the election of Imam Nasir bin Murshid to the Imamate in 1624 AD.





Al-Jalali Fort perches on top of a rock on the eastern side of the old harbour of Muscat, overlooking the majestic Al-Alam Palace. Its name is thought to be derived from the Persian name Jalal.

The fort was originally built in the early 16th century by the Portuguese captain Melkior Calaca, Al-Jalali Castle overlooking Muscat Bay with more fortifications and towers being added towards the latter half of the century. Upon its capture by Omani forces in 1650, it was gradually strengthened and rebuilt into its present form.

Al-Jalali is fortified by two towers, connected by a long wall with cannon slits. Rainwater was collected in a reservoir. Apart from access over a small bridge and stairway next to one of its towers, the fort is entirely cut off and cannot be reached by land.

The fort and its twin Al-Mirani, in conjunction with the formidable defences of Muttrah fort and a number of other fortified structures and watchtowers along the rocky ridges of the bay, made Muscat virtually impregnable. They collectively supplemented the old city's natural defences, the massed rows of rocky hills surrounding the bay.



A site was chosen for the complex in Wilayat Bausher, along the road linking the heart of Muscat directly with other wilayats and cities of the Sultanate. Construction work commenced in 1995 and took over six years to complete. The site covers an area of 416,000 square metres and the complex is built over an area of around 40,000 square metres. The materials and craftsmanship used were carefully researched and sourced at origin. Modern designs and new interpretations were applied to the classic design and details of the building.

NATURAL AND CULTURAL



Ministry of Tourism

P.O. Box 200, P. C. 115, Madinat Al-Sultan Qaboos
Muscat, Sultanate of Oman

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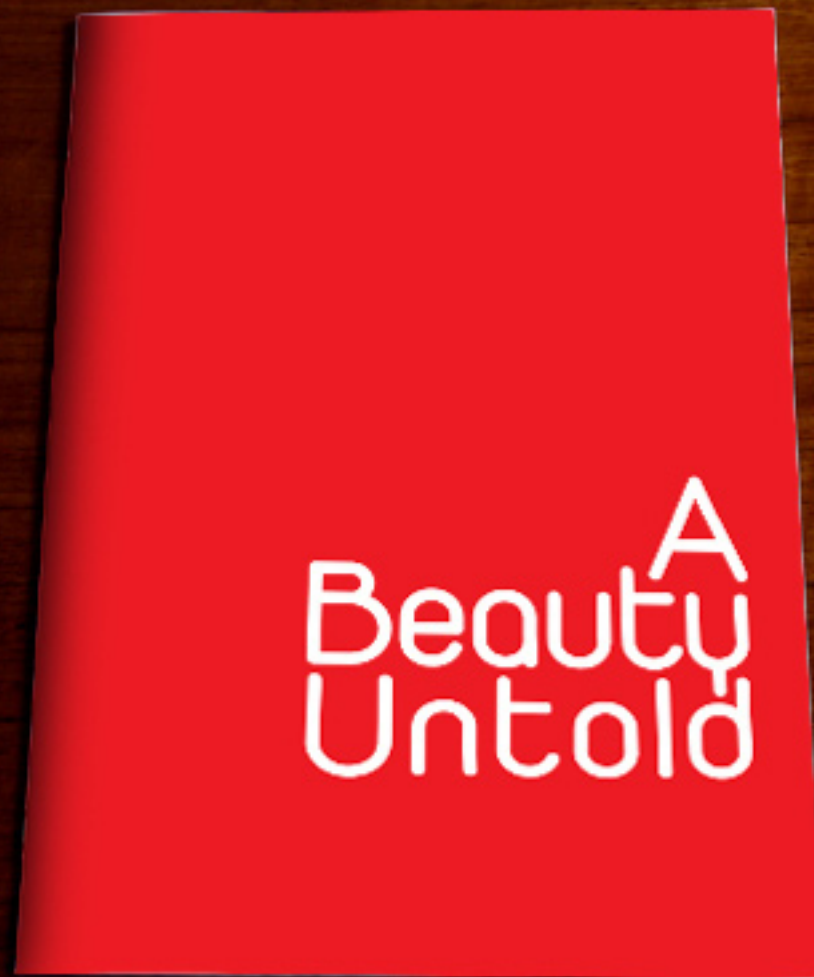
the beauty of the night



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A model holds a national flag of China outside a shopping mall in Hong Kong on October 1, 2009. (Reuters)

NEWS LATEST

More than 30 dead in North Yemen clashes

SANAA: Twenty-eight Shiite rebels were killed on Wednesday in clashes with soldiers at Uqab west of Saada city in Yemen's mountainous north, the defence ministry said on its website.

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- ▶ Iran under spotlight in crucial N-talks
- ▶ US visit marks slow growth of Syria ties

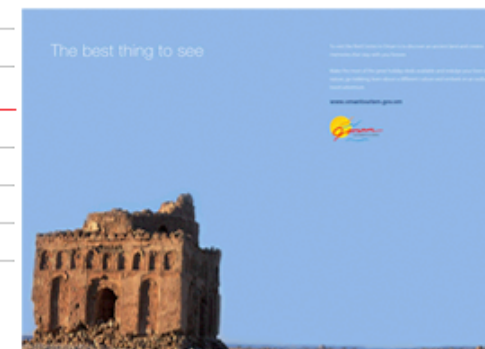
SPORTS LATEST

Maradona calls for help from God



BUENOS AIRES: Argentina coach Diego Maradona has called on God's hand to shield the South American country from World Cup elimination.

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- ▶ Rio ready to stage 'perfect' Games



LOCAL FLAVOUR

- His Majesty congratulates German chancellor
- Oman, Yemen ink minutes of trade talks
- Pooling collective knowledge
- Oman pioneering in environment: Alawi
- Empowering Omani women
- SQU students hold architectural expo
- Omani students off to Germany

QUICK POLL

What kind of personality do you like best?

- ☐ Outspoken
- ☐ Shy
- ☐ Intelligent
- ☐ Dumb
- ☐ Other

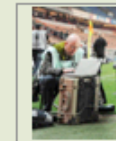
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- mSpot streaming Hollywood movies to mobile phones

FEATURES

Data both blessing and curse for mobile telecoms



About 10 percent of mobile users account for 80 percent of the data traffic.

Russian Lada gets Chinese rival on Cuban roads

Cubans show their love for Ladas by making them a showcase for creativity.



Pilgrim slumps on swine flu fear hits Saudi tourism



Saudi plans new health centers and to import 10 million doses of vaccine.

High tech may pinpoint Antarctica sea rise risks

Climate change is turning Antarctica's ice into one of the biggest risks for coming centuries.



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TECHNOLOGY

Sony opens electronic bookstore to self-publishers

WASHINGTON: Sony opened its electronic bookstore to would-be authors Tuesday in a partnership with two self-publishing companies.

