



Country Profile: Oman

The Sultanate of Oman, a land of great natural beauty on the southeast corner of the Arabian Peninsula, has a long and proud heritage. With a population of 2.6 million, Oman has seen rapid economic and social development in the past three decades. A monarchy governed by Sultan Qaboos bin Said, the country does not have political parties or a legislature, although a bicameral representative body (the lower house of which is directly elected) provides the government with advice and reviews draft legislation. While Oman is traditionally Islamic and Islam is the state religion, Omanis have for centuries lived with people of other faiths. Non-Muslims are free to worship at churches and temples built on land donated by the Sultan. The economy is largely dependent on the production and export of oil and natural gas, but is becoming increasingly more diversified. Excellent tourist facilities are available in the major cities of Muscat, Salalah, Sohar, and Nizwa and can increasingly be found elsewhere in the country. Travelers may wish to visit the Sultanate's tourism web site at <http://www.omantourism.gov.om/> for more information. Travelers may also wish to read the Department of State [Background Notes](#) on Oman for additional information.

COUNTRY OVERVIEW

Country Name:	Oman
Continent:	Asia (Middle East)
Capital City:	Muscat
Boundary Countries:	Saudi Arabia, UAE, Yemen
Recommended Hospitals in Capital:	Al Musafir Specialized Medical Clinic (Ruwi), Al Rimah Medical Centre (Ruwi), Al Shatti Hospital (Muscat), Apollo Medical Centre (Al Hamriya), Aya Clinic (Wadi Kabir), Muscat Private Hospital (Al-Khuwair), Royal Hospital (Seeb)
Main Cities:	Muscat, Ruwi, Duqm, Sur, Nizwa, Suhar, Matrah, Ibri, Raysut, Salalah
Country Size:	212,460 sq km
Population:	3,102,229 note: includes 577,293 non-nationals

COUNTRY GENERAL INFORMATION	
Language:	Arabic (official), English, Baluchi, Urdu, Indian dialects
Currency:	Omani rial (OMR)
Predominant Religions:	Ibadhi Muslim 75%, Sunni Muslim, Shi'a Muslim, Hindu
National Holidays:	Birthday of Sultan QABOOS, 18 November (1940)
Economic Status:	Oman is a middle-income economy in the Middle East with notable oil and gas resources, a substantial trade surplus, and low inflation. With a population of 2.5 million, Oman has seen rapid economic and social development in the past three decades. The economy is largely dependent on the production and export of oil and, increasingly, natural gas.
Security:	Royal Omani Armed Forces: Royal Army of Oman, Royal Navy of Oman, Royal Air Force of Oman (Al-Quwwat al-Jawwiya al-Sultaniyat Oman, RAFO)

US Presence:	U.S. Embassy in Muscat P.C. 115 Madinat Al Sultan Qaboos Muscat, Oman Telephone: (968) 2464-3400
Major Airports:	Airports: 137, Airports w/paved runways: 6 Muscat International Airport (MCT/OOMS)Muscat Airport, Oman, PO Box 1, Seeb Airport, Muscat CPO 111, OMAN Tel: +968 (0)519210, +968 (0)519310Fax: +968 (0)510122, +968 (0)510707Customs, hours: 24 hours Tel: +968 (0)519528Fax: +968 (0)510163

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