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## Khasab Excursions

You may decide that you want to pre-book some sightseeing and leisure activities to enable you to get the very best out of your chosen holiday destination. With this in mind Oman Air Holidays offers you a variety of optional excursions that are pre-bookable when you make your holiday reservation.

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### City Tour of Khasab (Half Day)

Muscat offers the visitor a unique opportunity to witness a modern commercial center existing in harmony with its traditional culture. With its natural harbor, Muscat means 'Anchorage' and lies in natural volcanic bowl. Our tour of the Grand mosque\*(except Friday) and Bait Al Zubair Museum (except Friday) is a brief introduction that traces Oman's history and development. Drive along the waterfront cornice visiting the Fish market and the colorful mattrah souq. We proceed for photo stop to magnificent Al Alam Palace, official palace of his Majesty Sultan Qaboos, flanked by the 16th century Portuguese forts mirani & jalali.

Visit to the restored Portuguese Fort of Khasab. In its prime it was famous for supplying the Portuguese troops with fresh water, dates and fish. A central tower predates the rest of the low walled fort, also the arrival of the Portuguese in the 16th Century. Oman's Imam Nasir bin Murshid Al Ya'rubi managed to regain control of the coast in 1644. The fort itself was renovated in the 17th century and was used as a strategic outpost, and again restored in 1989-92. Today this fort has a Museum where many Omani handicraft items are displayed. Visits to the old and new souk offer the opportunity to bargain for a souvenir or two, including the Musandam axe, known as a 'jerz,' or the clay incense burner, its decorations unique to Musandam. The Iranian souk is still a bustling trade zone. The tour also includes the nearby villages of Qadah and Tawi. The village of Qadah is set inside a deep bay, with palm trees and mountains overshadowing it. Behind Qadah is Tawi, where there are prehistoric rock carvings depicting camels, ships and warriors, said to be more than 2000 years old.

### **4WD SAFARI to Jebel Harim (Half Day)**

Tour is by 4-wheel drive vehicles (closed and air-conditioned). Driving is partially on winding mountain roads.

Guests on this adventure tour will be able to enjoy some of Oman's most stunning sceneries. Board your

4-wheel drive vehicle and get ready for an exciting and breathtaking trip to Jebel Harim (translated as the Mountain of Women). Jebel Harim, which translates as the „mountain of women“ and at 2000m the highest peak in Musandam. The mountain takes its name from the days when local women would retreat to caves up here in order to avoid being carried off by pirates or rival tribes while their menfolk were away on extended fishing or trading expeditions. The actual summit is home to a radar station monitoring shipping way below in the Straits of Hormuz and is out of bounds, although there are superb all-round views from the road, with breathtaking views back to Khasab and onwards towards Dibba. Many of the rocks up here are also studded with superbly preserved fossils, offering the remarkable sight of ancient submarine creatures – molluscs, fish, clams and numerous trilobites – now incongruously stranded near the summit of one of Arabia“s highest mountains. .

Our mountain safari tour Buckle up for a 4x4 adventure to 6,000 feet above sea level. From Khasab city, we“ll drive up into the mountains of the Musandam Peninsula, making pit-stops at viewpoints along the way. The village of Sayah is on the cards, too. This picturesque hamlet tumbles down the hillside, and is still occupied by desert-dwelling Bedouin people. The settlement is famous for its ancient petroglyphs – 3,000-year-old paintings splattered on the rock face.

The return drive takes you pass Khawr Najid a stunning sea view point overlooking to Indian Ocean and then driver to Al Khalidya nature park before concluding your adventure trip back at Khasab.

## **Dhow Cruise (Half Day)**

✘ The Khor Sham is a sheltered, 17 km long Fjord. The water is crystal clear and calm, very inviting for snorkelling or swimming. The mountains rise out of the sea and reflect back on the water. There are almost always dolphins playing and following the boats as they cruise around the villages:

## **City Tour Khasab(Half Day)**

✘ This half-day excursion provides an introduction to parts of the Musandam Peninsula and its capital of Khasab.

Khasab Fort Visit this picturesque stronghold built in the 17th century by the Portuguese seeking dominion over the maritime trade in the Strait of Hormuz. The fort was erected to prevent attacks from the sea. Teak wood from India was used for its construction and the roof was fashioned from a mix of palm leaves and clay. Within its low, crenellated walls, the fort contains a large central tower which is thought to pre-date the fort itself. The structure you see today is the result of extensive restoration work carried out in the late 20th century. The fort’s location offers excellent views and photo opportunities.

Wadi Tawi - drive to Wadi Tawi where one could see the pre-historical rock paintings depicting camel, ship, warrior etc.

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