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Salalah Souk

This was an ideal introduction to Salalah and the surrounding Dhofar region; this tour offered and carry of images and experiences with a visit to the New Salalah Souk, where you can buy perfumes, curios, and souvenirs. Then we drove to the ancient ruins of the Palace of the legendary Queen of Sheba (Khor Rouri), believed to have been the hub and harbor for the shipping of frankincense for export to the rest of the Arabian Peninsula. A view of the Taqah Castle, nestled in the hear of a coastal Dhofari town famed for its pottery, silver work, and other artisan industries. The tour was rounded off with a visit of Ain Razat springs, a natural underground spring amidst the tranquil lush mountains.

Khor Rouri (Palace of the Legendary Queen of Sheba)



Khawr Rawrī or Khor Rori is a bar-built estuary at the mouth of Wādī Darbāt in the Dhofar Governorate, Oman, near Taqah. It is a major breeding ground for birds, and used to act as an important harbour for frankincense trade when it was an open estuary. Wikipedia







Arabia

Peninsula in Asia

The Arabian Peninsula, or Arabia, is a peninsula in Western Asia, situated northeast of Africa on the Arabian Plate. At 3,237,500 km², the Arabian Peninsula is the largest peninsula in the world.

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Taqah Castle





Razat Springs













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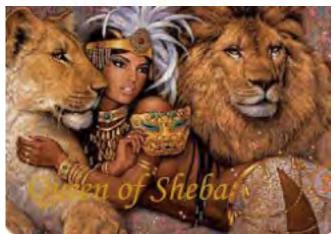




The Queen of Sheba is a figure first mentioned in the Hebrew Bible. In the original story, she brings a caravan of valuable gifts for the Israelite King Solomon. Wikipedia

Parents: Queen Ismenie, Agabos

Children: Menelik I





IMPORTANT TO KNOW

RISK OF PIRACY

We would like to inform you that on April 20 and April 21, the following restrictions will be applied:

- Deck 7, external deck will be closed

The following areas will be closed after sunset:

- All external decks
- Le Grand Bleu Pool and La Grotta Azzurra Pool
- MSC Aurea Spa and Gym
- Sahara Buffet & Cafeteria
- T32 Disco
- Mini and Youth Club

We kindly ask all our guests to switch off external lights and close windows and balconies curtains.



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Oman shares land borders with Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen, while sharing maritime borders with Iran and Pakistan.

The coast is formed by the Arabian Sea on the southeast, and the Gulf of Oman on the northeast. The Madha and Musandam exclaves are surrounded by the United Arab Emirates on their land borders with the Strait of Hormuz (which it shares with Iran) and the Gulf of Oman forming Musandam's costal boundaries. Muscat is the nation's capital and largest city. From the 17th century, the Omani Sultanate was an empires, vying with the Portuguese and British empires for influence in the Persian Gulf and Indian Ocean. At its peak in the 19th century, Oman influence and control extended across the strait of Hormuz to Iran and Pakistan, and as far south as Zanzibar. When its power declined in the 20th century, the sultanate came under the influence of the United Kingdom. For over 300 years, the relations built between the two empires were based on mutual benefit. The UK recognized Oman's geographical importance as a trading hub that secured their trading lanes in the Persian Gulf and Indian Ocean and protested their empire in the Indian sub-continent.











IMPORTANT INFORMATION PLEASE READ CAREFULLY



Dear Guest,

Your safety is our number one priority. We would like to draw your attention to the following security procedure, which will ensure your safety and peace of mind during our cruise. While sailing between Salalah and Aqaba, from the evening of April 20 until April 22, we will be travelling through areas considered at risk of piracy and, as such, are under the control and protection of International Naval Forces.

MSC Magnifica has officially communicated our transit in the area, and military authority in charge will follow our route. Specialised personnel are also on board, ready to react instantly to potential threats. For your safety, we ask you to take note of the following colour coded procedures, announced over the interphone:

- BLUE CODE means that a suspected vessel has been spotted and that crew will start procedures to evacuate external decks.
- ORANGE CODE means that the concern is real and that crew members will invite you
 to leave the external decks immediately and to come inside.
- **RED CODE** means that there is an emergency. In this occurrence, you will be required to follow the indications of our trained crew.

We also inform you that on April 20 and April 21, the following restrictions will be applied:

- Deck 7, external deck will be closed during the entire day

The following areas will be closed after sunset:

- All external decks
- Le Grand Bleu Pool and La Grotta Azzurra Pool
- MSC Aurea Spa and Gym
- Buffet Sahara & Cafeteria
- T32 Disco
- Mini and Youth Club

We kindly ask all our guests to switch off external lights and close windows and balconies curtains. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

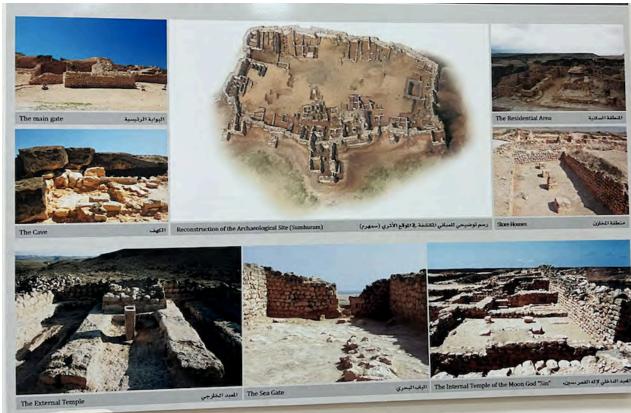
Sincerely,

for R.

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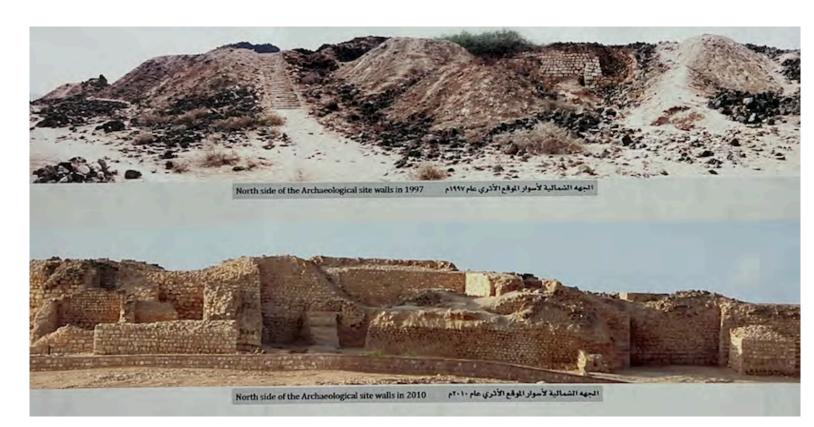




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