

Oman Explorer



Before or after the liveaboard: From which port does the liveaboard depart?

1. Best of Daymaniat – Fahal and Bandar Khayran: from/to Sifah (Muscat Airport – MCT). In summer and fall, the Oman Explorer cruises in the Muscat area. These tours begin and end in Sifah (the ship anchors across from the Extra Divers dive center in Sifah).
2. Hallaniyat Islands: from/to Mirbat or Hasik (Salalah Airport – SLL). In winter, the ship is stationed in southern Oman. The tour travels along the coast to the Hallaniyat Islands.
3. Transfer Trip Sifah – Mirbat / Mirbat – Sifah: The Oman Explorer's transfer trip offers guests on board a comprehensive glimpse into the diversity of the Sultanate of Oman. The trip from the port to the airport takes about 70 minutes.

When is check-in and check-out on the ship?

Please note that check-in is at 2:00 p.m. Check-out is at 9:00 a.m.

Muscat Departures:

If you arrive in Muscat before 9:00 a.m., you can enjoy breakfast (until 10:30 a.m.) and use the pool at the Sifawy Hotel for a fee (currently 10 OMR, payable on site). At 2:00 p.m., we'll pick you up at the front desk for boarding.

Salalah Departures:

If you arrive in Salalah before 9:30 a.m., we recommend booking a day room at a hotel near the airport (Salalah).

When does the ship return to port at the end of the safari?

One-week trips generally take place from Saturday to Saturday. The ship usually arrives at the port of Sifah or Mirbat on Friday—either in the morning or around noon (please note that in Sifah, the ship's departure and arrival times depend on the tides).

How will I be met at the airport, and how do I get to the ship?

Our driver will be waiting for you in the arrivals hall with a sign that says "Oman Explorer." The drive to the port takes about 70 minutes, depending on the port of departure.

When do you need my passport and flight information?

To apply for the diving permit with the authorities, we need a copy of your passport and your flight times when you book your trip (for last-minute bookings, no later than 1 week before departure).

Diving

What diving certification do I need? You need an AOWD certificate or an Open Water with Deep training. It is important that you are already a confident diver and have completed at least 50 dives.

Is there a minimum number of dives I need?

Liveaboard trips are all about diving. That's why you should have at least 50 dives, and your last dive should have been within the last 12 months.

Do I need a dive computer?

Yes, diving with a computer is mandatory. If you don't have your own dive computer, you can rent one on board with advance notice and for a fee.

How many dives are there per day?

Generally, 3 dives per day are offered, and, if possible, 1 night dive (except on the first and last days at sea of the liveaboard). There is no diving on the arrival and departure days.

Are night dives offered?

Yes, night dives are offered regularly.

Is nitrox available on board?

Yes, the standard nitrox blend (approx. 30–32%) is used on board and offered to certified divers for a fee per person per week. A nitrox course can also be taken on board (by prior arrangement).

Are divers accompanied by dive guides?

A detailed briefing with a map of the dive site is conducted before each dive (unless it is a reconnaissance dive). There are usually two dive guides on board, and the group is typically accompanied by one dive guide. Experienced divers may also dive independently as a buddy team after consulting with the guide. Solo diving is not permitted.

Are diving courses offered on board?

A Nitrox course can be taken on board. The price for the Nitrox course is OMR 45 plus an OMR 25 certification fee per person.

What are the maximum depth and maximum dive time?

30 meters, 60 minutes. Decompression dives are not permitted for your own safety.

Do we dive from the boat or from a dinghy/Zodiac?

Diving takes place either from one of the two Zodiacs or from the dive platform. Most dive sites are only a few minutes away from the ship.

What types of tanks are available on board?

We dive with 12-liter aluminum tanks (DIN/INT connection). 15-liter tanks are available upon advance reservation for a fee of OMR 15 per week.

Do I need diving insurance?

Yes, dive insurance is mandatory for this trip. We recommend DAN or Aquamed.

Are there any special safety systems on board?

First aid: emergency kit, oxygen, defibrillator; Safety: fire extinguishers, life jackets, life raft; Navigation: radar, GPS, compass, radio, depth gauge; Satellite phone.

What is the water temperature like?

Generally: The water temperature ranges from 20 to 30 degrees Celsius and depends on the season and the dive site. Due to thermoclines and currents, the temperature can vary by up to 10 degrees from day to day and at different depths on the same day. Daymaniat Tours: The warmest surface temperatures, ranging from 26 to 30 degrees, are typically found during the summer months; in the fall and spring, temperatures are usually between 22 and 24 degrees. Hallaniyat Tours: The water temperature in the winter months is typically between 24 and 26 degrees Celsius. In April, it can reach up to 28 degrees, and in October, the temperature can drop below 20 degrees.

Are there strong currents?

There may be currents at a few dive sites. Currents in Oman are generally mild. However, you should generally have some experience with drift diving when going on a safari.

What is the underwater visibility like?

Visibility can vary between 5 and 20 meters due to the nutrient-rich water and the thermocline. However, the many schools of fish attracted by the plankton-rich water make up for the reduced

visibility.

Diving Equipment

What diving equipment do I need?

Please bring your own diving equipment (exception: tank and weights). Equipment can also be rented with advance notice. Rental prices are based on those of the local dive centers where we operate: Extra Divers Sifah and Mirbat.

Mandatory equipment and documents for every diver are: tique

Diving certification, logbook, complete diving equipment including a dive computer, surface marker buoy, personal flashlight for night diving, and a diving medical examination (up to age 40—valid for 24 months; over age 40—valid for 12 months). Alternatively, you can fill out a medical questionnaire.

What kind of wetsuit do I need?

Almost all of our guests dive in full-length wetsuits. For most guests, a 5-mm wetsuit with a shorty or a bottom vest is sufficient. However, since people's sensitivity to cold varies greatly, a 7-mm wetsuit is recommended for more sensitive divers. Ultimately, each diver must decide for themselves which wetsuit is best suited for them.

Is equipment available for rent on board?

Equipment rental is available for an additional fee. Please refer to the rental rates at our Extra Divers centers in Sifah or Mirbat—depending on the trip's departure port. Please reserve the necessary equipment during the booking process.

Is sidemount diving possible?

Yes, but you'll need to bring your own rigging set. If a second tank is required for sidemount diving, it costs an additional OMR 15 per week.

Are twin tanks available?

No.

Which valves (DIN/INT) are available?

All tanks are equipped with mono DIN valves. INT adapters are available.

Is there storage available for my camera?

The boat has two large water basins for rinsing the camera with fresh water. There is very little storage

space for cameras. We store large cameras in a box with a towel to protect them.

Ship

What happens when I arrive on board?

You'll be welcomed by our Cruise Director and his crew, stow your diving gear and luggage, and familiarize yourself with the ship. You'll also receive a boat briefing.

What meals are provided?

Delicious and hearty meals are served three times a day buffet-style. Snacks and fresh fruit are also included in the price.

What drinks are served?

We carry a selection of beverages such as Coca-Cola, Diet Coke, and Sprite. Beer and wine are also available for purchase. The "refreshment corner" offers water, tea, coffee, and juice at all times. Coffee, tea, water, and juice are included in the price. All other beverages are listed and will be billed at the end of the trip.

What should I keep in mind regarding the cabin?

The cabins are for sleeping and relaxing. All cabins have their own air conditioning and private bathroom. Please do not flush used toilet paper or other hygiene items down the toilet; instead, use the designated bins, as flushing these items can cause the toilets to clog. Smoking is prohibited in the cabins.

What should I keep in mind in the salon?

Here you'll find a library, a lounge area, fish identification guides, refrigerators stocked with cold beverages, and a TV for briefings. Smoking is prohibited in the salon.

Am I allowed to smoke on board?

Yes, but only outside and in designated areas (you'll receive more information during the boat briefing).

Can I sleep on the ship's deck?

Yes, but please note that the nights can be cool. Please bring your own sleeping bag.

What language is spoken on board?

English

What is the voltage? What types of outlets are available?

The standard voltage on the boat and in the cabins is 220 V. The outlets conform to the European standard.

Are there towels on board?

Yes. Both shower towels and towels for the sun deck are provided.

Are there bathrobes on board?

No.

Is there a hair dryer in the cabin?

Yes.

Is there Wi-Fi on board?

Yes, Wi-Fi is available on Daymaiyat tours and included in the price. Reception and signal strength depend on the ship's location; at many dive sites farther from the mainland, there is no Wi-Fi signal or cell phone reception!

What kind of windows do the cabins have (portholes, etc.), and can the windows be opened?

The cabins on Lower Deck (Nos. 1–6) have portholes that cannot be opened. Cabins 7–10 on the Upper Deck have portholes in the bathroom that can be opened. The master cabin has two windows that can be opened in addition to the cabin door.

Is there air conditioning in the cabin, and can it be adjusted individually?

All cabins have individually adjustable air conditioning and wall-mounted fans.

What kind of beds are there in the cabins?

The master cabin has a double bed; all other cabins have single beds.

General Information: What is included in the liveaboard trip?

Airport transfer, full board, water, coffee, juice, tea, and diving (3–4 dives per day, except on the first and last days of the liveaboard).

What additional costs are involved?

Visa for Oman: approx. 20 OMR. Please note that the visa must be purchased online before arrival. For trips lasting less than 14 days, a visa is usually not required. All additional costs such as a diving permit, nitrox, port fees & fuel surcharge, beverages/soft drinks such as Coke/Fanta, alcoholic beverages, and

rental equipment.

How can I pay on board?

Additional costs on board cannot be paid by credit card. Please pay in cash in USD, EUR, or Omani rials. Please note that we can only accept U.S. dollars issued in 2010 or later.

How much is an appropriate tip?

We believe that tips are voluntary and should be based on the quality of service. Once you're on board, you'll quickly realize how hard the crew and dive guides work and that your safety and satisfaction are our team's top priorities. Many of our guests tip 5–10% of the cruise price, sometimes even more. We want to emphasize that this is entirely voluntary! Tips are accepted in cash only. If you are ever dissatisfied with our service, please let us know. We will then do our best to resolve the issue as quickly as possible.

Are there any shore excursions?

No, shore excursions are not available.

Are there any medications on board?

Yes, but only for minor injuries or mild illnesses (e.g., pain relievers, motion sickness medication, etc.). If you need specific medications, you must bring them with you. Of course, we have a comprehensive first-aid kit on board.

What kind of clothing should I bring?

Remember to bring sunglasses, sunscreen, and a hoodie or hat to cover your ears. In winter, we recommend packing long pants, a sweater, and a jacket.

Is it possible to extend my stay after the safari?

Why not combine your stay on the Oman Explorer with a hotel stay or a visit to one of our Extra Divers dive centers in Oman!

Can I book two safaris back-to-back?

Yes. Please speak with your tour operator.

Emergency contact number or in case of flight delays:

Sifah: Extra Divers / Sifawy Hotel +968 97259099 or Oman Explorer Cruise Director (Ali): +968 7111 5439. In case of an emergency, please also contact our head office via email: liveaboard@extradivers.org

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