MY Oman Explorer
FAQ

Before or after the safari

From which port does the liveaboard start? To which airport do I have to travel?

1. Best of Daymaniat - Fahal and Bandar Khayran: From/To Sifah (Muscat Airport - MCT)

During the summer (April/May) and autumn (September to November), the Oman Explorer operates in the Muscat region. These tours start and end in Sifah, where the ship anchors opposite the Extra Divers dive center in Sifah.

2. Hallaniyat Islands: From/To Mirbat or Hasik (Salalah Airport - SLL)

During the winter season (December to March), the ship is stationed in southern Oman. This tour follows the coastline to the Hallaniyat Islands, one of the most remote and diverse diving areas in the Sultanate.

3. Transfer Trip (Best of Oman) Sifah - Mirbat / Mirbat - Sifah

The Oman Explorer transfer trip offers guests a comprehensive insight into the incredible diversity of Oman. IMPORTANT: Please note that a multi-stop flight is required. The distance between Mirbat and Sifah is too far for a land transfer!

For all departure ports the transfers to the nearest airport are included (approx. 70 min. drive).

When is check-in or check-out on the ship?
Please note check in time on Oman Explorer is at 14 o'clock. Check out latest at 9am.

Muscat trips: If you arrive before 9 AM in Muscat, you can have breakfast (till 10.30am) and use the Pool at Sifawy Hotel for a fee (currently 10 OMR, to be paid on spot). In case you are interested to use the pool at Sifawy Hotel, we recommend carrying your bathing togs in the hand luggage, as the bags are normally transported to the vessel right away. At 2pm we will pick you up at the hotel reception for the check-in on Oman Explorer.

Salalah trips: If you arrive before 9.30 AM in Salalah, we recommend booking a day room in one of the hotels near Salalah airport (e.g. Salalah Gardens Hotel).

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

One-week trips are normally scheduled from Saturday to Saturday. Regularly the arrival in the port of Sifah or Mirbat is on Friday - morning or around noon (please note that the departure and arrival of the ship in Sifah depends on the tide).

How am I received at the airport or do I come to the ship?

Our driver will be waiting for you in the arrival hall with a sign saying "Extra Divers/Oman Explorer." The transfer to the port takes approximately 70 minutes, depending on the departure location.

Alternatively, we can also arrange a pickup from a hotel in Muscat (for Daymaniyat tours) or a hotel in Mirbat (for Hallaniyat tours).

When will my passport and flight details be needed?
To apply for the diving permit with the authorities, we require your date of birth, nationality, and flight details at the time of booking (for last-minute bookings, no later than 10 days before departure).

Please also let us know if you:

- Need rental equipment or a 15L tank
- Have any food intolerances or allergies

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Diving

Which dive training do I need?
You need an AOWD or Open Water with Deep Certification. Important is that you can already dive safely, and so should have at least 30 dives under your belt.

Is there a minimum number of dives I need?
You should have at least 30 dives, in order to feel comfortable during the dives.

Do I need a dive computer?
Yes, diving with a computer is mandatory. If you need to rent a computer, please let us know in advance.

How many dives are offered per day?
In general, 3 to 4 dives are offered per day, including night dives (no diving on arrival and departure day, ON Friday there are 1-2 dives offered).

Are night dives offered?
Yes, we have nice spots for night diving. Please note that at the Daymaniyat Islands night diving is not allowed between May and October.

Is there nitrox on board?
Yes, Nitrox costs OMR 22,- per person/week (30-32%). Nitrox courses are available (please book in advance).

Is one accompanied by dive guides when diving?
Before each dive, a detailed briefing takes place, with a drawing of the diving area (except if it is an exploration dive).

A guide will happily accompany you. The ship has normally (a maximum of) 2 dive guides who are familiar with the area.

Are diving courses offered on board?
It is only possible to do a Nitrox course on board. The price for the Nitrox course is OMR 45,- plus OMR 25,- certification fee per person.

What is the max. Depth and max. Dive time?
30 meters, 60 minutes. Decompression dives are not allowed for your own safety.

Is the diving done by boat or by zodiac?
Diving is done by our 2 zodiacs or from the dive platform. Most dive sites are only a short boat ride away by zodiac.

Which tanks are on board?
12 litre aluminum tanks with DIN valves. Inserts are available for INT first stages.

15 litre tanks can be rented on request for 15 OMR per person/week.

Do I need a dive insurance?
Yes, a diving insurance is mandatory for the 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 rafts

Navigation: radar, GPS, compass, radio, depth gauge

Satellite phone

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What is the water temperature?
The water temperature ranges between 20-30 degrees Celsius and depends on the time of year and the dive area. Due to thermoclines and currents the temperature can vary up to 10 degrees from day to day and in different depth on the same day.

Daymaniat trips: Surface temperature in the summer months usually are 26 to 30 degrees Celsius. While in fall and spring they are normally around 22 to 24 degrees.

Hallaniyat trips: The water temperature in winter ranges usually around 24-26 degrees Celsius. In April it can be as warm as 28 and in October it can even drop below 20 degrees.

Are there strong currents?
A few dive sites can have currents. Normally, the currents are light in Oman. In general, however, you should have some experience in drift diving on a safari.

How is the visibility?

Visibility can vary between 5 and 20 meters due to the nutrient-rich water and because of thermoclines, but the large schools of fish provide adequate compensation.

Diving equipment

Which diving equipment do I need?
Besides weights and tanks, you may bring everything else along or rent equipment (pre-booking required). The rental gear is subject to the local dive Centers where we operate: Extra Divers Sifah and Mirbat. Our tanks are equiped with DIN valves, but tank connection is possible with DIN or INT first stages. There is no need for adapters, inserts for INT are present.

Compulsory – Equipment and documentation for each diver is:

- Diving certificate
- Logbook
- Diving medical examination (up to 40 yrs of age - valid for 24 months, over 40 years - valid for 12 months.). Alternatively, you can fill out a medical questionnaire.
- Complete diving equipment including dive computer
- Surface buoy
- Own lamp for night diving

Which diving suit do I need?
Almost all our guests are diving in long wet suits. For most people a 5 mm wet suit with a shorty on top or a vest under the suit is fine. However, since the perception of cold is very different for human beings, a 7 mm suit is recommended for more sensitive divers.

Is there rental equipment on board?
Equipment rental is possible for an additional fee (for rates please refer to the rental rates of our Extra Divers centers in Sifah or Mirbat – according to the starting port of the trip). Please reserve necessary extra equipment during booking process already in advance.

Is sidemount diving possible?
Yes, but you need to bring your own rigging set for this. If you like to dive with two tanks, the surcharge would be OMR 15 per week.

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Are double tanks offered?
No.

Which valves (DIN / INT) are available?
Both DIN and INT valves are available.

Are there storage options for my camera?

The ship has two large sinks for rinsing your camera with fresh water. There is only little storage space for cameras. Big cameras we store in a box with a towel to protect the camera.

Ship

What happens when I arrive on board?
You will be greeted by the Cruise Director and the staff, install yourself and get familiar with the ship. After that a boat briefing will follow.

Which meals are offered?
We serve three meals during the day in form of buffets, plus snacks and fresh fruits.

Kindly be aware that the availability of vegan and gluten-free food options in Oman is relatively limited in comparison to the wide variety found in Europe, the UK, and the USA. Although our kitchen is committed to accommodating your guests' dietary requirements, it's essential to understand that the product selection is limited.

Which drinks are served?
We carry a selection of various drinks such as Coca Cola, Sprite and Diet Coke. Also beer and wine are sold. The "refreshment corner" offers water, tea, coffee and juice at any time. Coffee, tea, water and juice are free of charge. All other drinks are recorded on a list and will be billed at the end of the trip.

What should be noted in the cabin?
Cabins are used for sleeping and refreshing. All cabins have their own AC and bathroom. Please do not throw the used toilet paper or other hygienic products into the toilet under any circumstances, but use the containers set up for this, as otherwise blockages of the toilets can occur.

What should be considered in the salon?
Here you'll find a library, lounge area, fish ID books, refrigerators with chilled drinks and a TV for the evening briefings and movies.

May I smoke on board?
Yes, but only outside on designated places.

Can I sleep on the deck of the ship?

Yes, however please note that nights can be chilly. Also please bring your own sleeping bag for that.

Which language is spoken on board?
English

What is the voltage? Which sockets are available?
The standard voltage on the boat and in the cabins is 220 V. Outlets are European standard. There are no adaptors available on board so please make sure to bring one if required.

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Are there towels on board?
Yes. Towels for the cabin and the sundeck are available on board.

Are hair dryers in the cabin?
Yes.

Are there bathrobes on board?
No.

Is there WIFI on board?
Yes, WiFi is included in the price. However, the reception and signal strength depend on the ship's location. At many dive sites further from the mainland, there is no WiFi signal or phone reception.

On Hallaniyat tours, WiFi and phone reception are usually available only on the first two days (Saturday & Sunday) and the last two days (Friday & Saturday) of the trip.

Which windows have the cabins (portholes, etc.), can the windows be opened?

The downstairs cabins number 1-6 downstairs have portholes that cannot be opened. Cabins 7-10 upstairs have portholes which can be opened, also you may open the door for fresh air. The Master cabin has two windows which can be opened in addition to the cabin door.

Is there an air conditioner in the cabin, is this individually adjustable?
All cabins have air conditioning which is individual adjustable. Also, the cabins have 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

What does the dive safari include?
Airport or alternative hotel transfers (only on arrival and departure days), full board, water, coffee, juice, tea, and diving (2-4 dives per day, except on the first and last day of the safari).

What is not included in the price?

- Visa for Oman: Approximately 20 OMR. For stays of less than 14 days, a visa is usually not required. Please note that all guests are responsible for complying with visa and entry requirements.
- Dive permit of 4 OMR (due per diving day), 12 OMR per day while diving at the Daymaniat Islands (2-3 days of the tour)
- Nitrox 22 OMR per week, 30 OMR for 9 nights / 33 OMR for 10 nights trips
- 15l tank 15 OMR per week
- Port fees & fuel surcharge for all trips
  2026: 150 Euro for all 7 night trips / 170 Euro for all longer trips
  2027: 160 Euro for all 7 night trips / 180 Euro for all longer trips
- Beverages: Soft drinks like Coke/Fanta 1 OMR each/Beer 2 OMR for 0.5l can of German beer/Wine (red & white) 3 OMR per glass.

How can I pay on board?
The additional costs on board **cannot be paid by credit card**. Please pay cash in USD, EURO or Omani Rial. Please note we only take us dollars not older than 2010.

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How much tip is appropriate?
We believe that tipping is voluntary and should be based on the quality of service. Once on board, you will quickly notice how hard the crew works and that your safety and satisfaction are their top priorities. Many of our guests choose to give a gratuity of around 5-10% of the cruise cost, sometimes even more. However, we want to emphasize that this is entirely voluntary!

Tips are accepted in cash only.

If you are ever dissatisfied with any aspect of your experience, please let us know!

Are land excursions offered?
No.

Is there medication on board?
Yes, but only for minor injuries/sickness. If you need specific medication you need to bring this yourself.

Which clothes should I bring?

Remember to bring sunglasses, sun cream and a hoodie/hat to cover your ears. During the winter month, we recommend bringing a pair of long pants and a jumper.

Is it possible to extend the stay after the safari?
Combine your liveaboard experience on the Oman Explorer with a hotel stay, land tours or one of our Extra Divers dive centers in Oman!

Can I book two safaris in a row?
Yes. Please talk to your travel agency.

Contact number in case of emergencies or flight delays

Oman Explorer (Megan): +968 772 86 144

Please also contact the headquarter via email: liveaboard@extradivers.org

October 2026, subject to change.