

[DNHG visit to Salut Archaeological Site in Oman on Feb 16 -17, 2018](#)

DNHG is organizing a weekend visit to Salut, one of the most important Iron Age fortified sites in Oman. Once the excavation is complete the plan is to develop it into an archaeological park.

The first survey of the site was made by the Harvard Archaeological Survey in the Sultanate of Oman in 1973 and later the British Archaeological Expedition as well as the Birmingham Expedition's team. Salut is currently under excavation by Italian archaeologists (the Mission of the Pisa University IMTO – Italian Mission To Oman), who are annually excavating the site since 2004. As usual every winter IMTO representatives will be on the site in February and thanks to Paola we have managed to agree a guided visit to the site for DNHG.

Salut is a fortified Iron Age site (1300-600 BC) located at the western foot of the Al-Hajar mountains, within a vast archaeological area that shows the development of a civilization from the Bronze Age to the Iron Age. The Islamic Period occupation is also testified.

The historical importance of the Salut is linked directly to the beginning of the Omani history, related to the coming of the first Arab tribes from Southern Arabia to present territory of Oman. The Arab penetration in Persian sphere of influence caused a fight that marked the end of Achaemenid presence in Oman. This story is based on the semi-legendary battle between Malik Bin Fahm, leader of the Azd people, and the Iranian troops in the plain of Salut.

*The archaeological relevance of Salut resides in its developed monumental architecture, a massive mud bricks and stone blocks building, the only known for this chronological period in the Eastern Arabia peninsula. The large amount of artefacts revealed during excavations (stone and bronze tools, pottery vessels, ritual objects and snake representations) are very similar to what we have from contemporary Iron Age sites along the coast of the Gulf, in the U.A.E. interior and eastern Oman (Shimal, Qarn Bint Saud, Dibba, al-Qusais, Lizq and the sites in the Samad area), with more precise correspondences with sites like Rumeilah, Bithna, Masafi, Hili 14, Muweilah and **Tel Abraq**.*

We will be able to visit the higher parts of the site, Husn Salut, the Iron Age tower as well as the shrine and the Beehive Tombs on the ridge of Jebel Salut. We will have the privilege of getting the first hand explanations from the Italian archaeologists themselves, giving us an excellent insight into the history of Salut and its historical importance. We should have the opportunity to see some of the finds, such as arrows, ceramics with snake motives, stone vessels, etc. before they are packed off to the museums.

[We will start from Dubai early on Friday morning \(Feb 16\) and drive to Bahla, where we will stop for lunch and visit one of the historical forts in the area. Overnight in hotel or camping. Saturday \(Feb 17\) morning we will visit the Salut site. Lunch will be packed lunch at the site.](#) Return later in the afternoon/evening – individually. A detailed agenda will be sent in due course.

4WD is required. Valid passports and Omani car insurance are required.
(An e-visa can be obtained on line, details can be found in the December Gazelle).

The trip is limited to **5 cars - 20 people.**
For Paid up DNHG members only!

If interested, please contact Sonja at lavson@gmail.com