

DNHG Trip to Masirah Island
Friday May 22, 2015

Maximum: 20 people

We are organizing a long weekend trip to Masirah Island in Oman, from Friday 22nd of May to Sunday 25th of May, 2015.

General Information

Masirah is an Indian Ocean island off the east coast of Oman. The population is estimated at 12,000. It contains an Omani air base and a fish factory, as well as a few small settlements.

As the island has recently appeared on the travellers' radar, it remains a relatively virgin haven of authentic Omani country life and still relatively secluded turtle-nesting area. This idyllic quietness and simplicity of the island might soon end when the announced bridge to connect Masirah to the mainland will be built and so it is great to explore the island before any changes take place.

Masirah is famous for turtle watching but also one can enjoy shelling, birdwatching, swimming and snorkeling, kiteboarding and surfing (it is often very windy).

The rugged terrain of the island and surrounding rough coastline has led to the appearance of several wrecked dhows on the beaches of the island, most of them well preserved by the salt water and intense heat.

Suggested Programme:

Thursday May 21 :

Start from Dubai through Al Ain - Mezyad border (afternoon/evening)

Overnight in Hotel in Nizwa

From Dubai to Nizwa: 400km - 4 hrs drive

Friday May 22:

Arrival at Masirah ferry at midday

Ferry to the Island

From Nizwa to Masirah: 500 km, 5 hrs approx (depending on ferry)

Please note that due to the long drive we will not drive in convoy. You can choose the time and pace to reach Masirah that is convenient for you. We will meet in Masirah on Friday afternoon.

For the rest of Friday:

Meeting on the island in the afternoon. Brief exploration of the closest beaches and dinner in the town.

Early morning (3am) turtle watching in order to enjoy the experience with the dawn light.

Saturday May 23:

A tour around the island (coastal road). We will stop at the beaches for snorkeling and swimming, shelling, dolphin watching (hopefully) and birdwatching. A day of beach-hopping and exploring. Picnic lunch on the beach.

Dinner in town after dinner turtle watching.

Sunday May 24:

We will explore the centre of the island, a rocky elevated area with archaeology and fossils. The rest of the day is free for individual explorations.

Monday, May 25:

Morning - start of the drive back to Dubai. 900 km, 9 hrs.

Ideally you should have a few full days on the island but those who can't stay till Monday(or longer) can return on Sunday.

Accommodation on Masirah:

There are different options available from free camping (no cost) to camping in an organized camping site with facilities (25 AED per person per night) to staying in a modest hotel (300 AED for twin/double room with breakfast). Due to the unpredictable weather and night turtle watching the hotel option is recommended.

Given the limited options and availability of rooms on Masirah Island, we recommend that you confirm and book as soon as possible.

Approximate Estimated cost:

UAE exit tax and Oman visa 80 AED per person

Ferry 260 AED for the car with the driver + 60 AED each additional person

Hotel 4 nights (from Thu to Mon): 150 AED per person sharing; total 4 nights - 600 AED

Lunches and dinners

Petrol

Optional activities on the island that might require additional fee.

To confirm, please send an email to Konstantina Sakellariou at Konstantina_Sakellariou@yahoo.gr, copying also Sonja Lavrencic at lavson@gmail.com.

Please specify the number of people, date of return, lodging preferences.

Konstantina will not have frequent access to internet till the 21st of April, so you might expect some delay in replies.