

The Sultanate of Oman

Business Travel Guide

Compiled by:

Embassy of Switzerland in Oman

Muscat, September 2025

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE

The Sultanate of Oman is a country located on the south-eastern coast of the Arabian Peninsula known for its rich history, vibrant culture, and stunning landscapes. Oman is a popular destination for tourists and business travellers alike. The country has a well-developed infrastructure, making it accessible for international travellers, and its modern cities are complemented by scenic natural areas.

Business Visa Information

For those traveling to Oman for business purposes, it is essential to understand the visa requirements:

1. Visa-free entry:

- a. **Eligibility:** 100 countries and regions including Switzerland are exempt from entry visas for stays up to 14 days.
- b. **Requirements:**
 - i. The visitor must hold a passport valid for no less than six (6) months.
 - ii. Must have a return ticket, a confirmed hotel reservation, health insurance, and a sum of money that will enable him to bear the burden of living during his stay in the Sultanate.
 - iii. The person will be allowed to stay in the Sultanate for a period of (14) days, which cannot be extended or transferred to any type of residence visa.
 - iv. The husband, wife, and children benefit from this facility, even if they are not nationals of the country.

Detailed info on <https://www.fm.gov.om/visitors/entry-visas/>

2. Tourist / Business Visa:

- a. **Eligibility:** This visa is issued to foreign nationals who intend to visit Oman for tourism, business meetings, conferences, or other business-related activities.
- b. **Validity:** The visa is typically valid for up to 6 months, with the possibility of multiple entries.
- c. **Duration of Stay:** Holders can usually stay for up to 30 days per visit.
- d. **Requirements:**
 - i. Valid passport with at least 6 months of validity remaining.
 - ii. Completed visa application form.
 - iii. Recent passport-sized photograph.
 - iv. Letter of invitation from an Omani company or sponsor.
 - v. Proof of travel arrangements (e.g. flight itinerary).
 - vi. Payment of the visa fee, which typically ranges from OMR 20 to OMR 50 (approximately USD 52 to USD 130), depending on the type and duration of the visa.

3. Activities Requiring a Work Permit:

- a. Any foreign national intending to engage in employment or work-related activities in Oman must obtain a work permit. This includes:
 - i. Long-term employment.
 - ii. Consulting services.
 - iii. Technical or professional services.
- b. **Work Permit Requirements:**
 - i. Valid employment contract from an Omani company.
 - ii. Medical examination certificate.
 - iii. Educational and professional qualification certificates.
 - iv. No-objection certificate (NOC) from a previous employer in Oman (if applicable).
- c. **Application Process:** The employer in Oman usually handles the work permit application on behalf of the employee. The process involves approval from the Ministry of Manpower.

Detailed info on <https://evisa.rop.gov.om/#>

Transfer from the airport to the city center:

Upon arrival in Oman, most international travellers land at **Muscat International Airport (MCT)**, which is the main gateway to the country. The airport is approximately 32 kilometres (20 miles) from the city centre of Muscat.

• Taxi:

- Taxis are the most common and convenient means of transportation from the airport to the city center.
- The cost of a taxi ride to the city center typically ranges from OMR 10 to OMR 15 (approximately USD 26 to USD 39), depending on the time of day and traffic conditions.
- Taxis are available 24/7 at the airport, and the journey takes about 20 to 30 minutes.

• Airport Shuttle Services:

- Some hotels offer complimentary shuttle services for their guests. It is advisable to check with your hotel in advance to arrange this service.
- Free to OMR 5 (approximately USD 13), if not complimentary.

- **Car Rentals:**

- Several car rental companies operate at Muscat International Airport, offering a range of vehicles for hire.
- Rental prices vary based on the vehicle type and duration of the rental. Expect to pay from OMR 12 to OMR 30 (approximately USD 31 to USD 78) per day.
- Renting a car provides flexibility for those planning to explore the city and surrounding areas at their own pace.

- **Public Transportation:**

- Oman's public bus system, operated by Mwasalat, connects the airport to various parts of Muscat.
- Bus tickets cost between OMR 1 and OMR 2 (approximately USD 2.60 to USD 5.20).
- Buses run at scheduled times, and while this is the most economical option, it may be less convenient due to the limited-service frequency.

HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

Mandatory and recommended vaccinations: Visitors to Oman should be immunised against all normal childhood diseases, as well as Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, Typhoid, and Rabies. In some cases, travellers coming from regions with active Polio outbreaks might be required to present a Polio vaccination certificate.

Mandatory medical insurance: Oman requires all visitors to have valid medical insurance that covers them for the duration of their stay. The insurance should cover emergency medical expenses, including hospitalization and repatriation. This requirement applies to both tourists and business travellers.

Other mandatory health requirements: Travelers may be required to complete a health declaration form before or upon arrival. This form typically asks for information on recent travel history, health status, and contact details.

Useful Websites regarding Traveling with Medicine to the Sultanate of Oman:

- Ministry of Health, Medications & Travel: <https://www.moh.gov.om/en/media-center/news/medications-travel/>
- Muscat International Airport, Security Screening & Prohibited/Restricted Items: <https://www.muscatairport.co.om/content/security-customs>

Travelers on medication, which comes under banned "Narcotics Drugs", need to have a medical prescription from their doctor certified by the Ministry of Health in their respective countries and further attested by their Omani Embassy or consulate, before the medication can be brought into the country. They also must declare it to customs on arrival.

PUBLIC SECURITY / RECOMMENDED PRECAUTIONS

Oman is widely regarded as one of the safest countries in the Middle East, with low crime rates and a strong emphasis on public security. The Omani government maintains a robust law enforcement presence, ensuring the safety of both residents and visitors. However, as with any international travel, it is advisable to exercise standard precautions, such as safeguarding personal belongings, avoiding unlit or isolated areas at night, and staying informed about local laws and customs. Overall, Oman offers a secure environment, but being aware of your surroundings and respecting local norms will contribute to a safe and enjoyable experience.

You can find more information on the following link for FDFA Travel Advice page of the Sultanate of Oman: <https://www.eda.admin.ch/countries/oman/en/home/travel-advice/current-situation.html>

It is important to note that business can slow down in July and August along with the month of Ramadan.

Ramadan is the holiest month of the Islamic Calendar. Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset during Ramadan. During Ramadan, government offices and most businesses have shortened hours, though many shopping malls and restaurants operate well past midnight.

NATIONAL TRADE FAIR CALENDAR

The dates of the main trade fairs can be obtained from: <https://ocecom/Whatson>

COMMUNICATION: TELEPHONE AND INTERNET

The Sultanate of Oman's country code is: +968

Local SIM card can be bought at: airport, shopping malls, and retail outlets throughout the country.

Important phone numbers:

Police	9999
Fire department	9999
Medical emergency	Ministry of Health Hotline: 24441999 Royal Hospital: 24599000 or Khoula Hospital: 22503625

Oman has a stable and reliable cellphone network, with extensive coverage across most urban and rural areas, provided primarily by Omantel and Ooredoo. Both carriers offer 4G LTE services nationwide, and 5G networks are being rapidly expanded, particularly in major cities. Travelers can expect consistent signal strength in most populated areas, though coverage may be weaker in some remote regions.

Regarding internet use, while Oman offers reliable broadband and mobile internet services, there are some government-imposed restrictions. Certain websites and online services, particularly those related to pornography, gambling, or deemed politically sensitive, may be blocked. Additionally, Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) services like Skype and WhatsApp calling have historically faced restrictions, although recent years have seen some loosening of these controls. For unrestricted access, some residents and visitors opt to use virtual private networks (VPNs), though it is important to be aware of local laws regarding their use.

ELECTRICITY SUPPLY

Electricity plug and socket: Type G



The voltage in Oman is 240 V with a frequency of 50 Hz.

METHODS OF PAYMENT

National currency in the Sultanate of Oman is the Omani Rial (OMR). The Omani riyal is pegged to the US dollar and is freely convertible.

Exchange rate as of September 17, 2025: CHF 1 = OMR 0.485.

When entering or leaving the country with (Omani Rial) OMR 5,000 or more in cash or other monetary instruments, the money must be declared in writing to the custom office.

Tipping in Oman is not as common or obligatory as in some other countries, but it is appreciated.

Acceptance of methods of payment:

	everywhere	almost everywhere	limited	not accepted
Cash (national currency)	☐	☒	☐	☐
Cash (USD or EUR)	☐	☐	☐	☒
MasterCard	☐	☒	☐	☐
Visa	☐	☒	☐	☐
American Express	☐	☒	☐	☐
Diner	☐	☐	☐	☒
Apple Pay	☐	☒	☐	☐
Google/Samsung Pay	☐	☒	☐	☐
Omantel "eFloos"	☐	☐	☒	☐
Bank Transfers	☐	☒	☐	☐

Cash is widely used, especially in smaller shops, markets, and rural areas. Credit and Debit Cards are accepted in most places, including hotels, restaurants, and larger stores. Government transactions, only credit or debit cards are accepted.

DOMESTIC TRAVEL, LOCAL TRANSPORT

The most commonly used kind of public transport is taxis. The quality of the services is good. In case of several trips to different locations, we usually recommend hiring a car for the day.

Taxi fare for a 15 minutes journey: OMR 2-3

Main ride hailing apps: Otaxi and Yango

Main method of payment for taxi: cash payment or cash/card through the ride-hailing app

Car rental with/without a driver can be arranged at numerous companies:

- Europcar Oman: www.europcar.com.om - Driver available on request.
- Budget Rent a Car Oman: www.budgetoman.com - Driver available on request.
- Avis Oman www.avis.com.om - Driver available on request.

ACCOMMODATION, TEMPORARY OFFICE SPACE

Accommodation

Muscat offers a wide range of accommodation options, from luxury hotels to serviced apartments and budget-friendly hotels. Major international hotel chains, such as the InterContinental, W Muscat, Grand Hyatt, Radisson Blu, Ritz-Carlton, Radisson and Shangri-La are available, offering high-end amenities and services. For longer stays, serviced apartments are a popular choice, providing more space and facilities like kitchens and laundry services. Airbnb and similar platforms also offer a variety of short-term rental options throughout the city.

Temporary Office Space

Muscat has several options for renting temporary office space, which is ideal for business travelers or companies looking to establish a short-term presence in the city. Coworking spaces like Regus, The Office, and Nasmo offer flexible rental agreements ranging from daily to monthly. These spaces typically include amenities such as high-speed internet, meeting rooms, and office equipment. Additionally, some hotels offer business centers and meeting rooms that can be rented on an hourly or daily basis, providing a convenient option for temporary office needs.

LANGUAGES USED FOR BUSINESS

The official language is Arabic, although English is widely spoken in business circles, particularly in the urban areas. Generally, correspondence with the Omani ministries and official organizations is in Arabic.

BUSINESS PRACTICES

Tips for initiating business contacts

Establishing personal relationships is key. Networking and introductions through mutual contacts are highly valued.

Scheduling Meetings:

Most Omani business people are familiar with Western business practices, but traditional local habits still exist in Oman. In some cases, it is not possible to make appointments from outside of Oman.

Business attire:

Dress conservatively. Omani men typically wear a dishdasha (traditional white robe) or a suit, while Omani women wear modest clothing, such as an abaya, often with a suit or formal dress underneath.

Introducing yourself:

Use formal greetings like "As-salamu alaykum" (peace be upon you) or "Marhaba" (hello in Arabic). Exchange business cards with both hands, and address individuals by their titles and surnames.

Building trust and personal relationships:

Personal relationships are essential for finding and keeping a partner. Agreements generally require significant time and follow-up before finalisation, be patient.

Offering and accepting gifts and invitations:

Gifts are habitual and are appreciated, especially when representing the other culture (i.e., Swiss chocolate without alcohol).

Sensitive topics:

Avoid discussing politics, religious practices, and gender issues to prevent any potential discomfort or offense.

BUSINESS RISKS

Fraud Risk: Generally low, but as with any country, vigilance is advised. Financial institutions and businesses should take standard precautions to mitigate fraud risk.

Corruption: Oman has a relatively low level of corruption compared to some other countries. For the most recent Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) data, visit Transparency International.

Currency Volatility: The Omani Rial (OMR) is relatively stable, partly due to its peg to the US dollar. Currency volatility is generally low, but businesses should stay informed about any economic changes that could impact exchange rates.

Legal Certainty: Oman has a well-established legal framework, but the legal system can be complex, particularly for foreign businesses. It's advisable to consult local legal experts to navigate the regulatory environment effectively.

See following link for the CRC risk classification of the Oman:

<https://www.oecd.org/content/dam/oecd/en/topics/policy-sub-issues/country-risk-classification/crc-crc-current-english.pdf>

Swiss Export Risk Insurance SERV insures political and *del credere* risks involved in exporting goods and services.

[Products for exporters](#)

[Product for service providers](#)

[Products for financial institutions](#)

The full range of services and products offered by SERV can be obtained at www.serv-ch.com.

IMPORT OF SAMPLES AND CATALOGUES

In Oman, you can use an ATA Carnet for the temporary importation of samples and catalogues, which allows you to bypass customs duties. The ATA Carnet, valid for up to one year and covering multiple entries, must be obtained from your home country's Chamber of Commerce before exporting. While customs duties are generally exempt for promotional samples and catalogues, proper documentation is crucial. This includes detailed descriptions and proof that the items are not for sale. For seamless processing, consulting a local customs broker or trade expert in Oman is recommended.

USEFUL LOCAL WEBSITES, ADDRESSES, EMAIL AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Business news	www.omanobserver.om www.timesofoman.com	+968 24 735 035 +968 24 745 600	info@omanobserver.om editor@timesofoman.com
Customs hotline	www.customs.gov.om	+968 24 757 666	info@customs.gov.om
Ministry of Commerce, Industry, and Investment Promotion	www.moci.gov.om	+968 24 690 000	moci@omantel.net.om

ADDRESSES OF EMBASSY AND CONSULATES OF SWITZERLAND

Embassy of Switzerland in Oman

Villa 1366, Way 3017
Shatti Al Qurum , Bareeq Al Shatti
P.O.Box 210
Muscat 103
Sultanate of Oman
+968 2496 7670
muscat@eda.admin.ch
www.eda.admin.ch/muscat

Embassy of Switzerland in Riyadh

Diplomatic Quarter
P.O. Box 94311
Riyadh 11693
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
+966 11 488 12 91
riyadh@eda.admin.ch
www.eda.admin.ch/riyadh

Opening times:

Office Hours: Sun – Thu 09:30 – 15:30

Opening times:

Office Hours: Sun – Thu 08:00 – 11:30

(All consular matters for Swiss nationals or residents in Oman are handled by the consular department at the Embassy of Switzerland in Saudi Arabia.)

ADDRESSES BILATERAL, NATIONAL AND LOCAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Oman Chamber
of Commerce and
Industry (OCCI)

www.chamberoman.om

+968 24 848 888

info@chamberoman.om

Oman-
Switzerland
Friendship
Association

info@omanswiss.org

+968 24527724
+41 79 323 88 64

www.omanswiss.org

ADDRESSES OF THE EMBASSY AND CONSULATES OF THE SULTANATE OF OMAN IN OR FOR SWITZERLAND

Embassy of Oman in Switzerland

Blumlisalpstrasse 19

3074 Muri B. Bern

Switzerland

+41 31 950 27 50

bern@mofa.gov.om

www.mofa.gov.om

Opening times:

09:00 – 15:30

Consulate General of Oman in Geneva

3A, Chemin de Roilbot

1291 Chambésy

Geneva

Switzerland

+41 22 758 96 60

missionoman@bluewin.ch

Opening times:

09:00 – 15:30

Disclaimer: By using this document, the user agrees to this usage policy and the disclaimer. The use of information is expressly at user's own risk and responsibility. We do not assume any liability or guarantee that the information provided in this document is up to date, correct or complete. Nor do we assume any liability for loss or damage caused by downloading and using our information and content.

The document may contain also various links leading to third-party websites or documents. We assume no responsibility for any loss or damage sustained by the user as a result of any violation of legal requirements by third parties linked to this document. In addition, we assume no liability or guarantee for the content of third-party websites or documents that can be accessed from this document.

Copy right: The information published in this document comes from a wide variety of sources. These include third parties. The user may use the published information and content for his / her own purposes. Commercial distribution of the information and content to third parties is not permitted without the express written consent of the respective rights holder.

We may unilaterally change this usage policy and the disclaimer at any time without specific notification.

Date September 17, 2025

Author: Embassy of Switzerland in Oman

Author's address: Villa 1366, Way 3017, Shatti Al Qurum, Bareeq Al Shatti, P.O.Box 210,
Muscat 103, Sultanate of Oman
Phone +968 2496 7670
Fax +968 2460 3298
muscat@eda.admin.ch
www.eda.admin.ch/muscat