

Muscat, Muscat Governorate, Oman

Gateway to Arabia's most welcoming nation — Muscat blends 16th-century Portuguese forts, one of the world's great mosques, and a labyrinthine frankincense souk all within a short ride of the pier.

Docked (Port Sultan Qaboos) Typical call: 8-10 hrs Omani Rial (OMR) Arabic (English widely spoken) Modest dress required

📅 MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: _____	Arrive: _____	All aboard: _____
Excursion: _____	Notes: _____	

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Alongside at Port Sultan Qaboos, Muttrah district. Shuttle bus to port gate (walking through port not permitted).

Best For: Souks, Islamic architecture, wadi hiking, dhow cruises, desert day trips.

Walk to Muttrah Souk: ~15 min (1 km) from port gate along the waterfront; or take the ship's shuttle.

Don't Miss: Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque — one of the world's largest; open to non-Muslims mornings only.

Getting around: **Taxi** OMR 2–5 (~\$5–13) to Muttrah; OMR 5–10 (~\$13–26) to Royal Opera House area · **Rideshare** not available · **Hop-on hop-off** Big Bus Tours

TOP THINGS TO DO

- **Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque** — One of the largest mosques in the world, open to non-Muslim visitors weekday mornings.
- **Muttrah Souk & Corniche Walk** — One of Arabia's oldest covered markets, laced with the scent of frankincense, myrrh, and rose water.
- **Old Muscat — Al Alam Palace & Portuguese Forts** — A 10-minute taxi ride brings you to the ceremonial heart of Oman.
- **Wadi Shab & Bimmah Sinkhole** — Full-day adventure along the coast road south of Muscat.
- **Wahiba Sands Desert Safari** — Venture into the red dunes of the Sharqiyah (Wahiba) Sands for 4x4 dune bashing, camel riding, and a visit to a Bedouin camp.

BEST WALKS

- **Muttrah Corniche & Souk Loop** 2.5 km · 1.5-2 hrs · Easy — From the port gate, walk left along the waterfront promenade past colourful dhows to Muttrah Souk.
- **Old Muscat Stroll** 1.5 km · 1 hr · Easy (taxi to start) — Take a taxi to Old Muscat (Al Alam Gate), then walk the palm-lined boulevard past Al Alam Palace and along the sea wall toward Al Jalali Fort.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

🌤️ CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)				🌅 DAYLIGHT & 💰 MONEY	
Mon	High	Low	Rain	Apr 5:45AM–6:27PM · Jun 5:19AM–6:54PM · Aug 5:42AM–6:39PM · Sep 5:53AM–6:09PM · Oct 6:03AM–5:40PM	
Apr	93°	78°	1d		
Jun	101°	87°	0d		
Aug	98°	84°	0d		
Sep	96°	82°	0d		
Oct	92°	78°	1d		

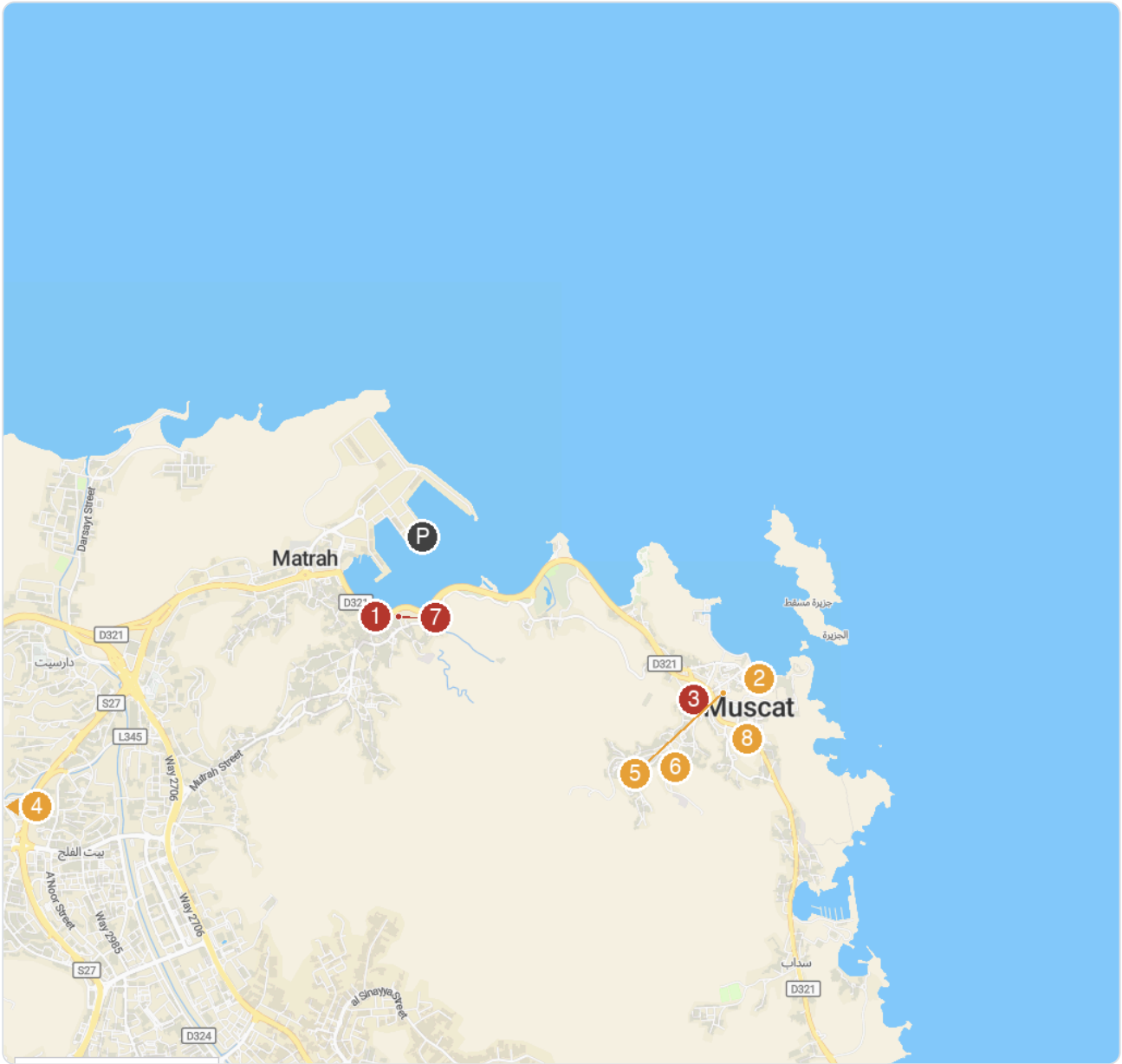
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Dress modestly. Oman is conservative — cover shoulders and knees. For the Grand Mosque, women need a full abaya and headscarf (available to borrow at the entrance). Men in shorts may be turned away.
- Carry some Omani Rials. The OMR is a strong currency (1 OMR ≈ \$2.60 USD). Souk vendors prefer cash; larger restaurants accept cards. ATMs are available near the Corniche.
- Heat is real, even in winter. Muscat sits in the Persian Gulf heat corridor. October–April is pleasant (25–30°C); May–September is punishing (40°C+). Stay hydrated, wear sunscreen, and plan outdoor activities for morning.
- Bargain in the souk — gently. Muttrah Souk prices are negotiable. Start at about 60% of the asking price and be friendly about it. Fixed-price shops and malls don't bargain.
- Grand Mosque hours for visitors: Saturday to Thursday, 8 AM–11 AM only. It's closed Fridays and during prayer times. One of the few mosques in Oman open to non-Muslims — well worth the taxi ride.
- Agree taxi fares upfront. Muscat taxis don't use meters. Ask your ship's staff for a fare guide — typical rates are ~10 OMR/hr. Ride-hailing apps (OTAXI, Marhaba) are an alternative with fixed prices.

Muscat, Muscat Governorate, Oman — Port Map

cruiseports.org

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



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| 1 Mutrah Souq | A bustling traditional Omani market for goods and souvenirs. | 2 Al Alam Palace | The Sultan's ceremonial palace, a modern architectural marvel. |
| 3 Bait Al Zubair Museum | A private museum showcasing Omani heritage, culture, and artifacts. | 4 Sri Krishna Temple, Muscat, Oman | A historic Hindu temple dedicated to Lord Krishna. |
| 5 Omani and French Museum | A museum detailing historical Omani-French relations and diplomacy. | 6 Shri Shiv Mandir | A historic Hindu temple dedicated to Lord Shiva. |
| 7 Mutrah Corniche | A scenic waterfront promenade perfect for walks and views. | 8 National Museum (Oman) | Oman's flagship museum showcasing the nation's heritage and history. |
| P Cruise port / terminal | | | |