

Camping In The Mussandam

How To Do It!

Why The Mussandam?

The Mussandam Peninsula is dramatic and un-spoilt, with breathtaking natural scenery. Mussandam is dominated by the Hajar Mountains and it is sometimes referred to as the “Norway of the Middle East” as the jagged mountain cliffs plunge directly into the sea and the coastline features many inlets and fjords.

The countryside ranges from mangroves, sea level sabkha (salt-flats), gravel plains and desert to stunning mountain scenery and the famous ‘fjords of Arabia’, where the mountains plunge steeply into the clear waters of the Strait of Hormuz. As the mountains gain altitude and drop impressively into the Straits of Hormuz, you will see ancient settlements and rock carvings and abandoned tombs.

A trip to Mussandam is a trip you’re not likely to forget in a hurry.



How To Get There...

Directions From Dubai

- 1 Take Emirates Road, through Sharjah and past Ajman
- 1 Go straight until Emirates Road ends in an roundabout in Ras Al Khaimah (RAK)
- 1 Go right (1st exit) at the roundabout (fill up at petrol station here)
- 1 At the Clock Tower roundabout, turn right (1st exit)- Khuzam Road
- 1 Head past RAK Hotel
- 1 Go straight over the next roundabout
- 1 Then straight on past the golf course on your left
- 1 Go across the first set of traffic lights
- 1 Take a left at the next set of traffic lights- Oman Road
- 1 Continue straight, leaving RAK and follow signs to Shams
- 1 There are plenty of road works in the section between RAK and Shams
- 1 Go past a village called Galilah
- 1 At the first roundabout in Shams, go right (1st exit)
- 1 Follow the main road to your left
- 1 Be careful for stray children, goats, sheep, dogs, etc.
- 1 You will reach the sea again
- 1 Continue straight to the UAE/Oman border
- 1 After the border, follow the main road...it is windy and great!
- 1 Drive past lovely castles...there are lots of beaches you can camp on along this road- some have shelters and water tanks
- 1 If you are feeling adventurous there are sites that can only be reached by off- roading
- 1 First site: The Hidden Cove: At the top of one hill after about half an hour past the border is a big yellow villa
- 1 Turn off the road left and onto the gravel track and follow down the mountain...very slowly! You must have a 4 x 4 to attempt this route as it is very steep and very bendy!
- 1 Journey time- Dubai to RAK- 1 hour
- 1 RAK to the border- 1 hour
- 1 Border crossing 1/2 hour- 1 hour
- 1 Border to campsites 1/2 hour
- 1 Border to Khasab town 1 hour



Campsite Etiquette!



What To Take...

For sleeping:

- 1 Tents
- 1 Blankets
- 1 Pillows
- 1 Blow up mattress
- 1 Beach Mats

For eating:

- 1 Charcoal, firewood, matches, firelighters
- 1 Portable Bar B Q or grills with handles
- 1 Tin Foil
- 1 Plastic dinner set & Bar B Q prong set
- 1 Cutlery
- 1 Frying pan and pan
- 1 Kitchen roll
- 1 String
- 1 Rubbish bags
- 1 Cool boxes & ice packs
- 1 Food - e.g. steaks, kebabs, potatoes, corn on cobs, bread, fruit, marshmallows, chocolate, breakfast stuff...whatever you fancy really!
- 1 Water- small bottles and a big 5 gallon drum that you can buy a hand pump for.

For comfort:

- 1 Wet Wipes- Life saver!!!!
- 1 Sun screen
- 1 Bug spray
- 1 Torches
- 1 Games
- 1 Towels
- 1 Toilet tissue
- 1 Chairs
- 1 Table

Camping gear can be bought from ACE, Carrefour, LuLu Centre and the Sun, Sea & Sand camping shop at the petrol station on Beach Road, Jumeirah.

For Your Car...

- 1 Insurance for Oman- get this in advance- your policy may already cover this. If not you can buy this coverage from any insurer- for around 200 AED.
- 1 Tow Rope & Spade
- 1 First Aid Kit
- 1 Check tyres, oil, water
- 1 Fill up with petrol at Ras Al Khaimah

Bits of Paper you will need:

- 1 Passport
- 1 Vehicle Registration Card
- 1 Oman Car Insurance Document

You are exiting the UAE and entering Oman so you will need to take your passport with you!

When you reach the border point you need to park your car and go into the building on the left which is the UAE exit facility- take all passports and documents with you. If you are going on this trip on a public holiday it is advisable to arrive early to avoid massive queues.

Once your exits have all been processed you then get back in your car and drive through the check point.

You then pull in to the side on the right and get out and go to the smaller Omani entry booth in the central part of the road- here you will be given a card to fill out ...you need all your documents for this part too...some people have to pay for an entry visa some don't- it's around 20 AED- they take AED or Omani Riyals.

The next step is the customs vehicle inspection point... after that you are in the Mussandam!

When Should You Go...?

Anytime from October to April and the weather will be great- it does get chilly at nights in the Winter though so take warm blankets with you and cosy up round the camp fire. Remember to leave your campsite clean and clear!

1 If other people are camping already when you arrive don't pitch your camp too close to theirs...there is plenty of room for everyone! Do say hello to your fellow campers though- it's part of the fun!

1 Collect all your rubbish throughout your stay and take with you when you leave- there are bins along the road that you can stop and leave your rubbish at.

1 You may get a visit by the local fishermen or some goats- they are just being friendly!

1 Don't have loud music blaring from a stereo all day and night if there are other people camping- they may be there for the peace.

1 Take care with your fire- burning embers can float in the air and set tents on fire.... make sure you don't make your fire too near your own tents or anyone else's.

1 Bathroom trips...go for a walk and find a nice rock to hide behind and do as nature intended! Put your tissue in bags to dispose of later!

1 Use existing sites and tracks and minimise damage to the natural environment.

1 Clean up your campsite before leaving. This includes the grill & fire pit