



## HIKING IN OMAN

### OMAN – MOTHER NATURE WITHIN THE CITY LIFE

Beauty Has An Address! You will never know it in literal sense till the time you visit Oman. Coming to Oman was a professional decision and never did I know that I would fall in love with the place and it's people so much. Every corner of the country has a hidden beauty and surprisingly it's still unexplored which makes the place more fascinating for any nature lover. The country still holds its beauty in raw, natural form. Considering the place as a desert country would be an understatement.... this place is uniquely blessed with desert to wadis, mountains to secret waterfalls, and green plantations to meadows, all of these surrounded by a stunning coastline with beautiful beaches. Wait a minute! I haven't shared with you the best part yet!!!! The best part is all

these picturesque places are spread all over the country and also in very close proximity of the capital city Muscat. Which means one does not need to travel a long way to reach any of these exotic locations. In a week's vacation a traveler can get the essence of the different landscapes of the country and get rejuvenated. Recently, I did a hike at Wadi Al Khoud which is about 30 minutes drive from Muscat. Since summer is approaching, few of my friends decided to go on a short hike early in the morning. Weather was perfect, not too sunny or humid.....we reached the starting point of the hike right before the sunrise. The trail is well marked from the beginning to the end which makes it easy even for a person new to the place. Crossing small meadows of various heights and watching the sunrise was truly an eternal feeling. We crossed some of the bicycle lovers during the trail. Wadi Al Khoud hike is perfect for beginners who wants to experience the joy of hiking. While in the trail you can come across some beautiful wild flowers, I wish I knew their names..... but nevertheless what's in a name, they were the pretty little things which made the trail even more interesting. There is a point where the trail stops at a long ladder going down from one of the mountain edges. One by one we took the ladder to climb down the mountain and the beginners will surely feel the thrill while climbing down. After crossing the meadows and the ladder the hike ends at a small wadi. What a perfect end of the hike ... by the time Sun was at its full glare and we started feeling the heat. Sitting by the fresh flowing water with your feet inside it was absolute bliss. The Wadi is surrounded by tall plants ( kind of tall grasses ) which were giving us the desired shade from the Sun. Kids will surely enjoy sitting by the wadi and watching the small fishes playing in the crystal clear water. This place is specially recommended for people who would love to start hiking but have never tried before, a hike which one can easily do with kids, family and friends. It is also perfect for travellers visiting this beautiful country on a short vacation. Stretched across 3 kms and ideally done within one and a half hour, the time may vary according to individual stamina and the size of the group. Please note that when Mother Nature has such an abundance to offer, it's our responsibility to keep it clean and neat.