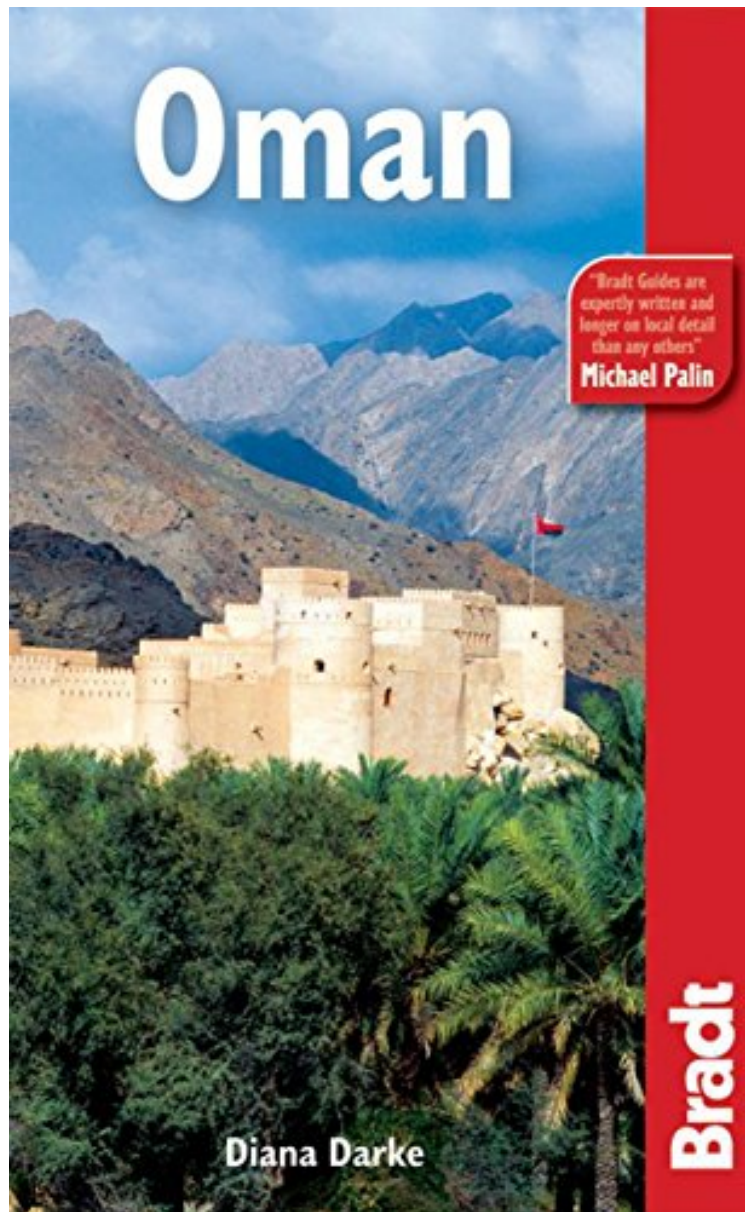


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Oman, 2nd: The Bradt Travel Guide

Diana Darke

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Diana Darke : Oman, 2nd: The Bradt Travel Guide before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Oman, 2nd: The Bradt Travel Guide:

20 of 22 people found the following review helpful. Useless - Unless You Are Another Wealthy Expat!By Laszlo WagnerDespite claiming to be written for expats and backpackers alike, this book is one of those poorer quality Bradt

guides that were written only with wealthy expats and maybe package tourists in mind. There is extensive info on sights and endless lists of very expensive, upmarket accommodation options and tour-operators - even those hotels put into the "budget" category often costing over 100 USD/night! There is almost NO information whatsoever on public transport in the country. The author listed some companies running buses to the UAE and to a grand total of four (4!) Omani cities in the introduction chapter, and then gives no information at all about how to get to destinations she describes without your own car (which she obviously has and can't imagine living without) throughout the rest of the book. Such is her ignorance of public transport that the locations of bus stations and shared taxi stands are not even marked on the town maps! As for the shared taxis, the true workhorses of Omani transport serving most towns throughout the country at fixed, low fares, she won't even tell you of their existence - never noticed them herself, maybe??? About crossing the country's border with Yemen, she claims it is impossible as the border is closed. In reality it has been open for many years, with regular buses connecting the two countries - but you wouldn't know from this book. Activities? Oman has an excellent system of marked trekking trails in various parts of the country, one of its main highlights actually, but this book won't tell you a thing about any of them. So if you are an expat living in Oman and looking for info on where to drive your car for the weekend, this book may be OK for you. Anyone planning to explore this fascinating country on their own should look elsewhere - I found the 66 pages on Oman in Lonely Planet's Arabian Peninsula guide contained far more useful, practical info than this entire 280 pages long book. That book gives fares and details of buses and shared taxis, and hints on camping and other important tips for budget travellers, too. 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Extensive Local Travel Information By wpl I'm a former Peace Corps volunteer in Oman, 1974-1976 (before they got wealthy). I'm planning a return visit there and found the the Bradt Guide quite useful. I worked in the interior: Ibra, Buraimi, Sohar, Nizwa, Bahla. The book refreshed and supplemented details about the interior. I checked out the Lonely Planet Oman guide from my local library and will supplement that budget travel information with the greater local depth here.

In a region notorious for religious extremism, turbulence and unrest, Oman stands out as an oasis of calm and composure. If you think of Oman as an arid land of desert and oil, its time to open the pages of this book and discover a very different country rich in nature reserves, world-class diving sites and archaeological wonders. Oman is a place of awe-inspiring natural landscapes: mountains, ravines, cliffs, canyons, desert and coastline under an incessant Middle Eastern sun. Diana Darke leads you through the coasts, plains and mountains of this spell-binding sultanate. Brimming with up-to-date information on restaurants and bars, hotels, sports facilities and trip itineraries, this guide has everything for the traveller who wants to explore the land beyond the myth. Browse the perfumes and spices in the souks, cheer on a camel race, visit the Queen of Sheba's Palace or camp with the Bedouin under the stars. You'll probably want to stay for 1,001 nights. Beautiful photography with clear information of where to go, where to stay and what to do. A reader review.

Beautiful photography with clear information of where to go, where to stay and what to do. A reader review.