

# 2017 IKA FORMULA KITE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS MUSCAT, SULTANTE OF OMAN



## **Information:**

The Sultanate of Oman combines sea, mountains, desert, ancient culture and contemporary cosmopolitanism with a warm welcome. The country prides itself on its authenticity, traditions and welcoming approach to visitors.

The Sultanate of Oman is a country with an enormous wealth of natural attractions, a fascinating culture and history spanning 6,000 years, stunning landscapes and warm, welcoming people. Straddling the Indian Ocean and offering a coastline of 3,165km, Oman offers a truly authentic taste of Arabia.

One of the many highlights of any trip to Oman is a tour of its atmospheric and vibrant capital, Muscat, voted Arab Tourist Capital 2012. First-time visitors to Muscat are often stuck for words to describe its enchantment. It is a perfect blend of old and new, enjoying a dramatic setting with mountains on one side, the Indian Ocean on the other and is home to luxury hotels, spas and three 18-hole golf courses.

## PLACES TO VISIT IN AND AROUND MUSCAT

- The Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque is an exceptional example of Islamic architecture.
- The famed Mutrah Souq is one of the oldest and most magical markets in Oman.
- The Royal Opera House Muscat is Oman's premier venue for musical arts and culture. It was officially opened in 2011 and reflects contemporary Omani architecture and can accommodate 1,100 people.
- A visit by dhow or charter yacht to Bandar Khayran where a series of tidal creeks and high-sided sandstone fjords are home to sea eagles, herons, sea rays and turtles.
- The Hawiyat Najim sinkhole and Wadi Shaab. Wadis are dramatic rocky gullies carved out by seasonal floodwaters and the sinkhole is a 40m wide crystal clear pool. The water is extremely deep and is linked to the sea via an underwater tunnel.
- The Jebel Akhdar and Nizwa. Nizwa is one of the oldest cities in Oman at the base of the Western Hajar Mountains and boasts one of the most important souqs in Oman. From here the Jebel Akhdar Mountain rises to a height of 2,980 meters and is famous for its wide plateau close to the summit. It is a two-hour trip from Muscat and can only be undertaken by four-wheel drive.
- The Wahiba Sands offer the most beautiful desert camping areas in the Sultanate over an area of up to approx 10,000 square kilometers.

## DID YOU KNOW

- National Geographic and Lonely Planet declared Oman and Muscat 'must-see' destinations in 2012.
- Oman is rated one of the best dive destinations on the planet with a beautiful underwater world teeming with life, secluded coves, sandy beaches and desert islands.
- The population of Oman is 3,300,600 including foreigners who account for 600,000 people. Arabic is the national language, but English is widely spoken.
- Oman has a total area of approximately 309,500km<sup>2</sup>, which makes the Sultanate the third largest country in the Arabian Peninsula.
- The Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque prayer carpet is the second largest single piece of carpet in the world; it contains 1,700,000,000 knots and weighs 21 tonnes. It took four years to produce and includes 28 different colours.
- The main mountain range in the country is the Al Hajar that runs from Musandam in the North to the extreme limit of the Arabian Peninsula, Ras Al Hadd. The country's highest peak is Jabal Shams at 3,004m (10,000ft).
- The two main sand deserts are the Wahiba Sands known as Rimalat Al Wahiba and the Empty Quarter (Rub Al Khali).
- Oman is known for its tropical climate but is still subject to seasonal changes. In the coastal areas summer is hot and humid while in the Interior it is hot and dry. The higher mountains such as Al Jabal Al Akhdar (Green Mountains) and Jabal Shams (Sun Mountain) enjoy a moderate climate throughout the year. The monsoons bring rain to the southern coast of Oman especially around the area of Salalah.
- The high season is the winter months. From October to April Oman has a lovely climate; the average temperature is 23C.

## EVENT INFORMATION

Event Dates: 19<sup>th</sup> November 2017 – 24<sup>th</sup> November 2017

Event Location: Al Mouj Beach

Event Registration Date: 19<sup>th</sup> November 2017

For more information, please refer to the NOR.



## VISA INFORMATION

Most nationalities can purchase a temporary visa on arrival. Please refer to website to see if you are eligible for this <https://evisa.rop.gov.om/>

For assistance on VISA's please email [feras@omansail.com](mailto:feras@omansail.com)

## ACCOMMODATION

### OPTION 1



**Hotel - WANASA HOTEL**

**(no bar but alcohol can be brought in from outside)**

**Single Room- 25 OMR**

**Double Room- 30 OMR**

**Location: 5 minutes' drive to venue**

**Contact: Mr. Anis Khan**

**[anis@wanasahotel.com](mailto:anis@wanasahotel.com)**

### OPTION 2 (BRAND NEW HOTEL)



## **Hotel - MYSK HOTEL**

**(no bar but alcohol can be brought in from outside)**

**Single Room- 45 OMR**

**Double Room- 45 OMR**

**Location: at venue**

**Contact: Mr. Ali Saad**

[ali.saad@myskhotels.com](mailto:ali.saad@myskhotels.com)

## **OPTION 3**



**Hotel – Holiday Inn**

**(has a licenced bar)**

**Single Room- 60 OMR**

**Double Room- 60 OMR**

**Location: 8 min drive to venue**

**Contact: Miss. Hazel Ruth**

[hazel.ruth@ihg.com](mailto:hazel.ruth@ihg.com)

**\*transfers to event venue to be arranged by Oman Sail**

**\*transfers to hotel from airport to be arranged by participant (all hotels offer transfers)**

**\*all prices are per night and in Omani Rials net**

**\*availability depends on first come first serve basis**

**\*airport transfers can be arranged with hotel for a small charge**

**\*please contact hotel directly for booking and mention "IKA EVENT" to obtain above rates.**

**FOR FURTHER ENQUIRIES OR QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT FERAS ASQUL AT**  
[feras@omansail.com](mailto:feras@omansail.com)