



## Cities in Oman

- Population of Oman: 3,001,600 (July 2005 estimate includes 577,300 expatriates)

The Sultanate of Oman is in the northeast part of the Arabian Peninsula. Most of the population lives along the coastal lowland, where many are involved in fishing and tourism. Major products include petroleum, dates, citrus fruit, incense, and mineral oil. Sultan Qaboos bin Said has ruled the country for the past 35 years, giving Oman a stable government and modern infrastructure.

**Muscat** (population: 514,000)

The capital of Oman is Muscat. Omanis from all over the country come here for education, for government services, for medical treatment and for economic reasons. A large percentage of the population are foreigners, including engineers, specialists, university teachers, and skilled workers.

**Salalah** (population: 186,000)

Salalah is in a fruitful area about 600 miles southwest of Muscat. Every autumn, thousands of visitors come for the Khareef festival to celebrate the monsoon. There are several Christian denominations in this city.

**Sohar** (population: 135,000)

Sohar is said to be home of Sindbad, the famous Omani seafaring hero. It is considered a conservative city with a traditional lifestyle. Many of the older generation are unschooled.

**Nizwa** (population: 85,000)

Nizwa is in the mountains about 50 miles west of Muscat. For centuries, it has been a famous center for handicrafts, craftsmen and the arts. However, it is also a center of superstition and the occult. Silver amulets manufactured in Nizwa are worn in many parts of the Arab world.

**Sur** (population: 75,000)

Sur is the least-evangelized Omani city, and is situated in the eastern point of Oman. Historically it is known for its famous shipyards, from which the famous Omani dhows sailed as far as China. Today ships are still being built and repaired in Sur.



## Pray

- ⊕ In Oman, 75 % of the population follow Ibadi Islam, which is usually considered heretical by Sunnis. Ibadis believe that they are the "true" Muslims, making them resistant to conversion to Christianity. Pray that God will bring breakthroughs.
- ⊕ Omanis are friendly and hospitable, but it is not easy to have a deeper conversation with them because they are restrained and consider it impolite to discuss religious questions. Pray for the Holy Spirit to open hearts for conversation.
- ⊕ There are many Christians among the foreign workers in Oman. Pray that their light will shine (Matt 5:14).