

JUST BACK FROM *Oman*



WHO: **DIGITAL EXECUTIVE EDITOR ARABELLA BOWEN** DURATION: 6 DAYS SOUVENIR: ORNAMENTAL DAGGER

“My husband and I do an epic trip once a year, and Oman’s promise of soft adventure, Middle Eastern hospitality, and extraordinary natural beauty fit the bill perfectly. In Muscat, we explored the **Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque**, agog at its Persian rugs and Swarovski crystal chandelier, before succumbing to jet lag beside the pool at the **Chedi Muscat** resort. We’d designed the trip around a night in the desert—organized by Hud Hud Travels—and it did not disappoint. Even the drive to get there was memorable, cutting through barren backcountry on roads barely wide enough for our 4x4. At one point, our driver turned into a sunbaked parking lot and suggested we go for a swim; to our amazement, the stunning **Bimmah Sinkhole** lay beneath us. The sun was setting as we reached our private camp in the soft red dunes of the **Wahiba Sands**. We chilled out in a candlelit Bedouin tent and then ate lamb shank under the stars. We were completely unplugged—no Wi-Fi, no cell service—the only sounds the breeze in the sand and the tinkling of bells affixed to our tent flaps. The next day, we switchbacked up to the dramatic **Alila Jabal Akhdar**, our hotel for the last two nights. We’d planned to go hiking in the surrounding mountains when we arrived. Instead, a Hendrick’s gin cart beckoned by an infinity pool overlooking a deep gorge. Hiking could wait another day.”

ARABELLA BOWEN