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Oman tourism sector draws 4 million visitors, spending tops RO 1 billion

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Oman's tourism sector recorded strong growth in 2025, welcoming around 4 million international visitors and generating more than RO 1 billion in inbound tourism spending.

According to the latest "Reality of Tourism in the Sultanate of Oman" bulletin issued by the National Centre for Statistics and Information, tourists stayed an average of 6.5 nights, while average spending per visitor reached around RO 256.

The country's hotels also recorded significant growth, with the number of guests exceeding 5 million in 2025, compared with around 3.5 million in 2018.

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School assemblies, national anthem to continue under new framework in Oman, confirms Ministry



The Ministry of Education has issued a clarification following discussions over the regulatory framework for morning orientation in schools, confirming that school assemblies, the national anthem and other educational practices will continue.

Oman accelerates AI drive with 91% growth in startups

Oman's artificial intelligence sector is witnessing strong growth, with the number of Omani companies operating in the field rising to 42 by the end of August 2026, compared with 22 companies last year, an increase of around 91 per cent.

The expansion comes amid growing national efforts to promote the use of artificial intelligence across economic and development



sectors, while creating new opportunities for innovation, entrepreneurship and young Omani talent.

Oman's Khareef season draws over 1.1 million visitors, up 8.6%



More than 1.11 million visitors travelled to Dhofar during the 2026 autumn season between June 21 and August 31, marking an 8.6% increase.

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The National Centre for Statistics and Information (NCSI) said the number of visitors reached 1,116,051, compared with 1,027,255 visitors during the corresponding period in 2025. Omani visitors accounted for the majority, with 816,719 visitors, representing 73.2% of the total. Dhofar also welcomed 183,861 visitors from GCC countries, while 115,471 visitors from other nationalities travelled to the governorate during the period.

Oman denounces attack on Saudi oil pipeline, reaffirms support for regional security

Oman has strongly condemned and denounced the targeting of a vital energy pipeline in the sisterly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

In an official statement released by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Oman reaffirmed its firm and unshakeable stance against such hostile actions. The Sultanate emphasized its absolute rejection of all attacks aimed at vital economic infrastructure and civilian facilities, regardless of the underlying motives or causes.

Reiterating its commitment to Gulf stability, Oman renewed its full solidarity with its brothers in Saudi Arabia. The Ministry voiced firm support for all measures taken by the Kingdom to protect its sovereign lands, safeguard its critical energy assets, and preserve its national security.



Oman targets new markets through Moscow food expo

Oman is set to participate in WorldFood Moscow 2026 with 16 Omani companies, as part of efforts to open new markets for national products and strengthen the competitiveness of the country's non-oil exports. The four-day exhibition will be held in Moscow from September 15 to 18 and is one of the major international platforms for the food and beverage industry, bringing together manufacturers, exporters, importers, distributors, retail chains and hospitality sector representatives.

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Oman tourism sector draws 4 million visitors, spending tops RO 1 billion

The figures highlight the tourism sector's strong recovery following the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact of growing public and private investment aimed at diversifying Oman's tourism offerings and improving the quality of services. The number of establishments operating in tourism-related activities exceeded 24,000 in 2025, marking growth of more than 40 per cent compared with 2020. Muscat accounted for the largest share of these establishments at 43.5 per cent, followed by Dhofar at

17.5 per cent and North Al Batinah at 11 per cent. Employment in the sector also continued to expand. The tourism-related workforce exceeded 182,000, while the number of Omanis employed in these establishments rose to around 32,000 in 2025, compared with approximately 28,000 in 2024 and 25,000 in 2023. Tourism's contribution to Oman's GDP at current prices increased to RO 1.135 billion in 2025, up 37.6 per cent from RO 825 million in 2018.

info@thearabianstories.com", "Nissar Edathum Chalil, Founder and Managing Director of Avicen and Avenzo Pharma, has been named 'Business Leader of the Year – Wellness' at the fifth TAS Oman Business Awards.", "The recognition celebrates Nissar's leadership and entrepreneurial contribution to the wellness and pharmaceutical sector, as well as his role in building and developing businesses focused on health and well-being.", "WINNER", "Nissar Edathum Chalil", "was recognised for his leadership, entrepreneurial journey and contribution to the wellness and pharmaceutical sector"]

‘Competition is taking ugly forms,’ says Russian President Putin

Russian President Vladimir Putin says economic competition is increasingly taking “ugly forms”, criticising sanctions, threats against transport routes and other measures he said were being used to pressure countries into following the interests of others.

Russian President Vladimir Putin criticised Western sanctions and other forms of economic pressure on Friday, saying global competition was increasingly taking “ugly forms” and accusing governments of using restrictions and threats to advance their interests.

Speaking at the Leaders’ Session of the BRICS Business Forum in New Delhi, Putin said such competition was no longer confined to economic measures.



“Sometimes competition is taking some ugly forms,” Putin said. “This ugly form is something we see even at the state level, at the government level.”

Putin cited the

destruction of pipelines, attempts to block international transport corridors, the seizure of maritime vessels and what he called “illegal restrictions” as examples.



Xi Jinping arrives in India for BRICS Summit, talks with Modi on agenda

Chinese President Xi Jinping arrived in the Indian capital on Saturday for the 18th BRICS Leaders’ Summit, being hosted by India on September 12 and 13.

Xi travelled to New Delhi at the invitation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, according to China’s state-run Xinhua news agency. Xinhua earlier confirmed that the Chinese leader had departed Beijing to attend the two-day summit.

Ebola outbreak worsens in DR Congo, cases top 7,000

The Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo has crossed 7,000 confirmed infections, as the deadly virus continues to spread across the country and reaches a seventh province.

According to the latest figures, the number of confirmed cases has risen to 7,022, with the outbreak now extending to South Ubangi province in northwestern DR Congo. The death toll has climbed to 3,398, underscoring the severity of what has become the country’s largest Ebola outbreak on record.



Iran confirms Oman meeting to unlock Hormuz shipping route

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian says regional foreign ministers will meet on Monday as Tehran and Muscat push for an agreement to establish a joint shipping route through the Strait of Hormuz.



Iran and Gulf Arab states are set to hold talks in Oman on Monday over shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, with Iranian President

Masoud Pezeshkian confirming plans for a regional meeting aimed at establishing a maritime route between Iran and Oman.

Oman Triathlon League's second round concludes in Al Musannah

Second round draws strong local and international participation across Olympic, Sprint and junior categories.

The second round of the Omani Triathlon League concluded at Barceló Resort in Al-Musannah, bringing together athletes from Oman and abroad for a highly competitive day of racing across the Olympic, Sprint and junior categories.

The event was held under the patronage of His Excellency Sheikh Badr bin Nasser Al-Farsi, Governor of Al-Musannah, and witnessed close contests that remained fiercely competitive until the final metres.

In the men's Olympic category, Hashem Al-Farsi claimed first

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place, followed by Saeed Al-Maamari in second and Mohammed Al-Rahbi in third.

In the women's Olympic competition, Britain's Arlene secured first

place, while compatriot Lauren finished second. Oman's Reem Al-Harhi took third place, marking a strong Omani presence in the women's field.

UAE fans get another chance to watch Cristiano Ronaldo live at AFC Champions League opener



Cristiano Ronaldo is set for another high-profile appearance in the UAE as Al Nassr travel to face Al Ain in their AFC Champions League Elite opener at Hazza bin Zayed Stadium on September 15.

The Saudi champions will take on the UAE giants in Al Ain at 8pm, with the fixture confirmed on Al Ain's official schedule as the club's next AFC Champions League Elite match.

Siniakova, Townsend clinch US Open women's doubles crown

Czech star Katerina Siniakova and American Taylor Townsend lifted the US Open women's doubles crown on Friday, overcoming a difficult opening set to secure a 5-7, 6-0, 6-2 victory over Ashlyn Krueger and Robin Montgomery at Arthur Ashe Stadium.



Morocco PM calls out football chief over 2030 World Cup final claim

Akhannouch says decision on showpiece match must respect Spain and Portugal as FIFA keeps venue undecided.

Morocco's Prime Minister Aziz Akhannouch has publicly rebuked the country's top football official after he declared that the 2030 FIFA World Cup final would be played near Casablanca, despite FIFA having made no such decision.

Royal Moroccan Football Federation President Fouzi Lekjaa said at a political party event that the province of Benslimane would have the "honour" of hosting the final, intensifying competition among the tournament's three main co-hosts, Morocco, Spain and Portugal.



