

we all need a home



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Oman Mutrah, the Port of Oman's Capital

Mutrah, the port for Oman's capital Muscat, is linked by history and trade to Europe and India. Despite the building of a "cornice" roadway for cars in the 1970s, and the new Shia mosque in the 1990s, the seafront evokes an earlier time, when Oman's legendary Sindbad the Sailor plied these waters. For three years in the 1980s, I passed this way twice a day going between home and office. When I returned in 2004 the Mutrah seafront showed me that Oman, now a thoroughly modern nation, remains determined to preserve its rich cultural heritage. The *dhow* at anchor and the traditional architecture, even in new buildings, are beautiful reminders of a bygone era.

--Charles Cecil, *Ambassador to Niger, 1996-99*

Oman (Sultanate of Oman)

Capital Muscat

Population 3,418,085 (2009 est.)

Life Expectancy 74.16 years

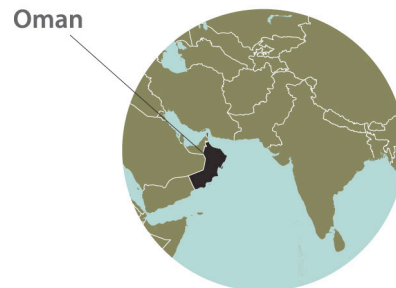
Literacy 81.4% (undefined)

Languages Arabic (official), English, Baluchi, Urdu, Indian dialects

Religions Ibadhi Muslim 75%, other (includes Sunni Muslim, Shi'a Muslim, Hindu)

Government monarchy

Source: *The World Factbook, 2009*



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