

Timeline

April 2018 – Presentation of Draft Plans

Please arrange to meet as a team in a location to suit you and let your mentor know. If it is not possible for everyone to get together, hopefully at least two team members can meet and others can be brought in via conference call

**** IMPORTANT - Please let your mentor know details of your meeting time and location as soon as possible ****

June 2018 – Training camps

Provisional dates of 2nd/3rd June (North) and 30th June/1st July (South)

- Present your final plans
- Test out equipment that you plan to take
- Get to know some of the other teams

August 2018 – Explorer Belt

Saturday 4th August 2018 – Flights depart from GLA TM(14:15) and LHR T5 (19:55).

Allow plenty of time to get to your respective airport

Sunday 5th August 2018 – Arrive Muscat (03:30 and 06:25).

Transfer to central base.

Meet local Scouts and acclimatise. Accommodation will be arranged by central team

Monday 6th August 2018 – Explorer Belt starts

EXPLORER BELT

Friday 17th August 2018 – Explorer Belt ends.

Be back at central base in Muscat by 18:00. Accommodation will be arranged by central team

Saturday 18th August 2018 – Debrief sessions. Meal out for all teams. Accommodation will be arranged by central team

Sunday 19th August 2018 – Transfer to airport to catch flights (08:15 and 10:55). Arrive LHR T5(13:15) and GLA TM(19:50)

September to December 2018 - Presentations

Please arrange to present your experiences to your local Groups and Districts, and invite mentors, core team members and local dignitaries



Oman Observer Issue No. 2



The Leader Team		
Michael Worthy Expedition Oman Co-ordinator 07879 603256 mworthyuk@btinternet.com	Mike Aston Expedition Mentor Co-ordinator 01707 658644 mike@kcited.demon.co.uk	Peter Atkins Expedition Treasurer 07770 210390 twochimsny@aol.com
James Sanderson Health & Insurance 07968 829967 sanderson.jsd@gmail.com	Dave Simpson Travel 07799 072079 dave.a.simpson@outlook.com	



‘Explorer Belt 2018’

Oman

4th August – 19th August 2018

Flight Details

Departing from Glasgow

Outbound

Flight EK028 (Emirates)
Departs Glasgow (GLA) Terminal M
Saturday 04 August 2018 14:15
Arrives Dubai (DBX) Terminal 3
Sunday 05 August 2018 00:45

Flight EK866 (Emirates)
Departs Dubai (DBX) Terminal 2
Sunday 05 August 2018 02:15
Arrives Muscat (MCT)
Sunday 05 August 2018 03:30

Inbound

Flight EK863 (Emirates)
Departs Muscat (MCT)
Sunday 19 August 2018 10:55
Arrives Dubai (DBX) Terminal 2
Sunday 19 August 2018 12:00

Flight EK025 (Emirates)
Departs Dubai (DBX) Terminal 3
Sunday 19 August 2018 14:55
Arrives Glasgow (GLA)
Sunday 19 August 2018 19:50

If you have any questions about travel/passports please contact Dave Simpson.

Safety and Security

- Each team has between 3 and 5 members balanced so that there are at least two of the same gender under-18s / over-18s in separate teams
- Although an Islamic nation, Oman is liberal in its treatment of women and many hold senior positions in education, the arts, engineering and government.
- The routes, timing and overnight stops of the teams are established and checked by mentors in the UK before departure.
- Leader support teams strategically placed around Oman and UAE in suitable vehicles for the terrain.
- **All teams must text in to the control HQ in Oman between 18:00 and 19:00 every day.**
- Teams are visited by a leader support team at least three times during the 10 days.
- Teams to make contact immediately if issues arise or need to change itinerary
- A 24-hour emergency number in Oman is available to all teams.
- We are working closely with the Oman Scout & Guide organisation
- We are always aware of possible instabilities in the Arab world – Oman and the UAE are the more peaceful currently but we regularly check the FCO travel advice and take any necessary action. In the event of a major disturbance, we would move the whole expedition to another country.
- A risk assessment document is being maintained from now until the completion of the expedition.

Departing from London

Outbound

Flight BA079 (British Airways)
Departs London Heathrow (LHR) Terminal 5
Saturday 04 August 2018 19:55
Arrives Muscat (MCT)
Sunday 05 August 2018 06:25

Inbound

Flight BA080 (British Airways)
Departs Muscat (MCT)
Sunday 19 August 2018 08:05
Arrives London Heathrow (LHR) Terminal 5
Sunday 19 August 2018 13:15

Passports

- Passports must have at least 6 months validity at the time of departure.
- A scanned copy of the passport open at the photo pages to be emailed to Dave Simpson (dave.a.simpson@outlook.com) asap, but no later than 30th April 2018.

Islam at a Glance

The word Islam means 'submission to the will of God'.

Islam is the second largest religion in the world with over 1 billion followers. The 2011 UK census recorded 2.7m Muslims which is around 4.8% of the population.

Muslims believe that Islam was revealed over 1400 years ago in Mecca, Arabia.

- Followers of Islam are called Muslims.
- Muslims believe that there is only One God.
- The Arabic word for God is Allah.
- According to Muslims, God sent a number of prophets to mankind to teach them how to live according to His law.
- Jesus, Moses and Abraham are respected as prophets of God.
- They believe that the final Prophet was Muhammad.
- Muslims believe that Islam has always existed, but for practical purposes, date their religion from the time of the migration of Muhammad.
- Muslims base their laws on their holy book the Qur'an, and the Sunnah.
- Muslims believe the Sunnah is the practical example of Prophet Muhammad and that there are five basic Pillars of Islam.
- These pillars are the declaration of faith, praying five times a day, giving money to charity, fasting and a pilgrimage to Mecca (at least once).
- Virtually all Omanis are Muslims, of whom three quarters follow the Ibadi School of Abd-Allah ibn Ibadh,.
- Christians and Jews have historically been able to practice their own religions openly in Oman.
- 93% of the population follow Islam
- 6.5% (almost all from other countries) are Christians



Payment Schedule

Payments already made	£250.00
31 March 2018	£400.00
31 May 2018	£400.00
30 June 2018	£300.00

At this point payments are non-refundable but we have taken out insurance already so you will be covered for 'cancellation for cause'.

Please pay electronically to

Sort Code: 40-43-08
Account Number: 91419773

Please use your name as the reference for the payment.

Please send your cheque to

Explorer Belt 2018
Hertfordshire Scouts' County Office
Well End Activity Centre
Well End Road
Borehamwood
Hertfordshire
WD6 5PR

Please make cheques payable to

UK-Arab Region Active Scout Service Unit
and write the name of the participant on the back.