



OMAN AIR  الطيران العماني

WINGS OF OMAN

The in-flight magazine of Oman Air | April 2019 | Your Copy To Keep

Discover Oman: The Magic of Musandam

“Luxury and adventure with Atana Musandam”

Global Travels: Manchester! | Out and About: “Art of Perfumery” on Al Jabal Al Akhdar

f facebook.com/omanair | t twitter.com/omanair | i instagram@omanairofficial | y youtube.com/omanair | Download Oman Air FREE App

Available on the
App Store

GET IT ON
Google play

Civilisation of Magan: Remarkable relics from Ra's al-Jinz, Ra's al-Hadd and Ja'alan

During the Magan period (c. 2500–2000 BCE), villages and graveyards dotted the coast between present-day Sur and al-Ashkharah. Excavations at Ra's al-Jinz, Ra's al-Hadd and Ja'alan on the easternmost edge of Oman have brought to light remarkable vestiges of the Magan Civilisation – which the National Museum showcases here in this “Treasures from the National Museum” feature...

At Ra's al-Jinz, a large village of mud-brick houses overlooking a deep bay was inhabited by several hundred individuals. The organisation of the village was probably based on large family groups, in the traditional Arabian way of life, and it was here that the oldest known incense-burner was found. Imported materials and objects found at the site, including bitumen and pottery from Mesopotamia (Iraq), jars from Indus (Pakistan and India) and stone vessels from Baluchistan and Iran attest to extensive interchange with other cultures. Local exports included soft-stone vessels, shells, pearls and other marine products, as well as cosmetic powders.

Harappan jar

The black-on-red painted decoration on this jar is typical of the Harappan pottery production of the Indus Valley Civilisation in the 3rd millennium BCE. It includes alternating peacocks and trees, sun motifs and intersecting circles. Chemical analysis confirms that the jar originated in the region now known as Gujarat, in western India. Although such jars were used primarily for shipping foodstuffs, their elaborately painted motifs imbued them with a perceived preciousness beyond their functional worth.



Excavated: Ra's al-Jinz
(South ash-Sharqiyah Governorate)
Origin: Indus Valley Civilisation
Materials: Painted earthenware
Period: 2,500–2,500 BCE
(Middle Bronze Age)

Incense burner (*majmar*)

Excavated: Ra's al-Jinz (South ash-Sharqiyah Governorate)

Materials: Limestone

Period: 2,500–2,000 BCE (Middle Bronze Age)

The discovery of this locally-made incense burner at Ra's al-Jinz confirms the importance of incense in Oman in the Middle Bronze Age. When the burner was found, it still contained traces of fire residue. It had been left alongside another (broken) burner, suggesting that incense burners may have been common objects in daily life at this time. Local residents assisting with the excavation immediately identified the find as an ancient *majmar* (incense burner) – the oldest anyone had ever seen.



Beads

Excavated: Bat (ad-Dakhiliyah Governorate) and Ra's al-Jinz (South ash-Sharqiyah Governorate)

Origin: Indus Valley Civilisation

Materials: Gold and silver

Period: 2,500–2,000 BCE (Middle Bronze Age)



The National Museum: Visitor Information

Telephone: (+968) 22081500

Facebook: NationalMuseumOman

Twitter: NM_OMAN

Instagram: NM_OMAN

E-mail: booking@nm.gov.om

The National Museum is open daily from 10:00am

– 5:00pm (Friday timings 2:00pm – 6:00pm).

The ticket desk closes half an hour before the Museum's closing times.