

OMAN AIR الطيران العماني

WINGS OF OMAN



"Around the World with ROHM"
Royal Opera House Muscat: 2018/2019 Season!

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Treasures from the National Museum: Relics of the Ming dynasty voyages to Oman

Zheng He (Hajji Mahmūd Shams ad-Dīn) was a Chinese Muslim Admiral who commanded the largest fleet of ships of the Ming dynasty. Zheng voyaged to Oman on more than one occasion, and in this edition of *Wings of Oman*, the National Museum's Director General, Jamal al-Moosawi, and the Head of Curatorial Unit, Moza al-Wardi, showcase a selection of relics from these expeditions – as well as a model based on ocean-going Chinese trading junks from the period. (With photography by Saleh al-Ruzaqi/The National Museum).

Zheng made seven voyages between 807 – 837 AH/1405 – 33 CE, reaching Southeast Asia, India, East Africa and the Middle East. The Chinese fleet anchored at Muscat and Dhofar around 815 – 818 AH/1413 – 15 CE, and at Dhofar (al-Baleed) in the years 823 – 824 AH/1421 CE, and 834 – 835 AH/1431 CE.

Model of an ocean-going Chinese junk

Origin: Made by Carlos Montalvão. (This model is based on several works related to the oldest ocean-going Chinese trading junks).

Materials: Birch wood (*Betula*), brass, linen and canvas

Length: 2.4 metres (scale 1:30)

Period: 1435 AH/2013 CE





Bowl
Local origin: al-Baleed (Dhofar Governorate)
Origin: China
 Porcelain with celadon glaze
 769–1054 AH/1368–1644 CE
 (Ming Dynasty)



Coin
Local origin: al-Baleed (Dhofar Governorate)
Origin: Minted in China
Materials: Copper
Period: 5th – 6th centuries AH/
 11th – 12th centuries CE (Sung Dynasty)

Cup
Local origin: al-Baleed (Dhofar Governorate)
Origin: China
Materials: Glazed porcelain
 (Chinese Batavian Ware)
Period: 12th century AH/18th century CE
 (Qing Dynasty)



Bowl
Local origin: al-Baleed (Dhofar Governorate)
Origin: China
Materials: Glazed porcelain
Period: 905 – 1054 AH/1500 – 1644 CE (Ming Dynasty)



The National Museum: Visitor Information
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**The National Museum is open daily
 from 10:00am – 5:00pm
 (except on Fridays 2:00pm – 6:00pm).
 The ticket desk closes half an hour
 before the Museum's closing times.**