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Treasures from the National Museum: The Diba Hoard

The “Diba Hoard” is the name given to a remarkable collection of objects which is shedding new light on the egalitarian foundations of tribal society in Oman. Here, the National Museum’s Director-General, Jamal al-Moosawi, and the Head of Curatorial Unit, Moza al-Wardi, tell us the story behind this fascinating discovery. (With photography by Saleh al-Ruzaqi/The National Museum).

The hoard itself consists of thousands of precious objects recently discovered at a collective grave site in Diba, on the eastern edge of the Musandam Peninsula. The corridor-like grave measured 14.75 metres in length and 3.5 metres in width, and contained the remains of at least 188 individuals. Found within and around the grave were bronze and soft-stone vessels, daggers, bracelets, beads, arrowheads and medallions dating from the Early Iron Age (circa 1,200–300 BCE).

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 (except on Fridays 2:00pm – 6:00pm). The ticket desk closes half an hour before the Museum’s closing times.



Beaker

Origin: Diba (Musandam Governorate)

Materials: Soft-stone

Date: 1,200–800 BCE (Iron Age)



Swords

Origin: Diba
(Musandam
Governorate)

Materials: Bronze
Date: 1,200–800 BCE
(Iron Age)



Daggers

Origin: Diba
(Musandam
Governorate)

Materials: Bronze
Date: 1,200–800 BCE
(Iron Age)



Medallions

Origin: Diba (Musandam Governorate)

Materials: Shell (*Conus*)

Date: 1,200–800 BCE (Iron Age)

