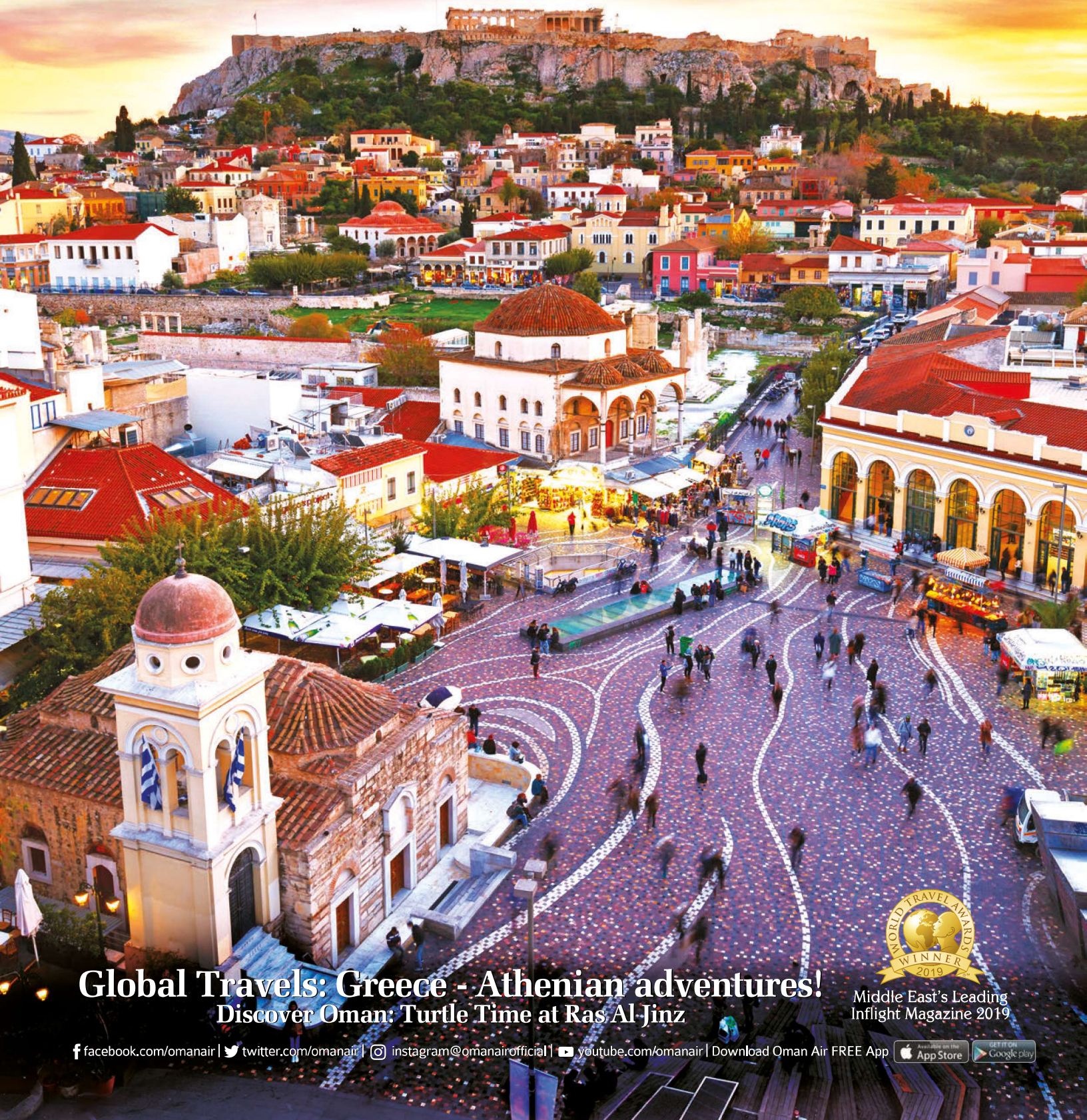


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# Rasulid Gravestones

## National Museum treasures...

**This month, the National Museum looks at three marble gravestones that date from the Rasulid era and were originally located in a cemetery in the Rabat district of present-day Salalah.**

The stones were probably produced in Khambhat (medieval Cambay), a monsoon port city on the west coast of India located only one month's sailing distance from Dhofar. The Rasulids (*Banā Rasāl*) were a Muslim dynasty that ruled Yemen in the 7th–9th centuries AH/13th–15th centuries CE and extended their influence north-eastward as far as Dhofar, which was governed by a side branch of the family. Known for their enlightened leadership, the Rasulid sultans established complex administrative systems in support of commerce and trade, including frankincense, and Dhofar prospered for almost two centuries under their rule.

### **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.**

### **Gravestones**

These two stones – a headstone and footstone – belonged to the grave of Sultan al-Wathiq Nur ad-Dīn Ibrahim Ibn al-Malik al-Muthaffar, the son of the Rasulid Sultan of Yemen, ruled Dhofar from 692 AH/1293 CE until his death on 20 Muharram 711 AH/8 December 1311 CE. Analysis of the two stones reveals a complicated history of manufacture and re-carving, and indicates that they originated in western India

**Location:** Dhofar

Governorate

**Origin:** Khambhat,

Gujarat (India)

**Materials:** White marble

**Period:** 711 AH/1311 CE

(Rasulid Sultanate)

**On loan from the**  
Victoria and Albert

Museum,

London, (UK).







### Gravestone

This headstone marked the grave of Shaikh Muhammad Abi Bakr (d. 714 AH/1315 CE), and has been identified with a certain Shaikh Abi Bakr whose shrine was visited by Ibn Battuta during his visit to Dhofar in 730 AH/1329 CE. It is a rare example of a Khambhat-style gravestone produced in advance, during the lifetime of the person it was intended for, and then completed upon his death.

**Location:** Dhofar Governorate

**Origin:** Khambhat, Gujarat (India)

**Materials:** White marble

**Period:** 714 AH/1315 CE (Rasulid Sultanate)

**On loan from the Victoria and Albert Museum, London, (UK).**

