

WINGS OF OMAN

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"Ancient, modern, magnificent"

Must-see Oman: Stroll along Muttrah Corniche!

Landmark Luxury: Kingdom of Bahrain travel treasures



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Bait Fransa

The Sultanate of Oman and France are two nations that share a long and rich history. In the Sultanate of Oman, evidence of this can be seen and felt in many places, but none more so than at Bait Fransa – the “House of France” – in Muscat’s Old Town district.

Situated between al-Bab al-Kabir and the old Muscat sūq, Bait Fransa (literally ‘House of France’) was reputedly built as a residence for Sayyidah Ghaliyah bint Salim al-Busaidiyah around 1226–36 AH/1830–40 CE.

Based on a classic, two-storey square plan, it featured elegant rooms and a decorated balcony overlooking a tranquil inner courtyard. In 1311–12 AH/1894 CE the building was offered to the first French Consul in Muscat, and it subsequently served as a consulate and a residence for a succession of 13 French heads of mission.

Bait Fransa underwent extensive restoration in the 1410s AH/1990s CE and is now a museum dedicated to the history of Franco-Omani relations. The museum was inaugurated by His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said and François Mitterrand, the President of the French Republic, on 24 Rajab 1412 AH/29 January 1992 CE.

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. Please note! Ramadan timing is from Saturday to Thursday (10:00am – 3:00pm), and the Museum will be closed on Fridays.

