**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**WELCOME TO OMAN**

With blue skies, warm weather and a typical 14 knots of wind from October to March, Oman is perfectly suited to host International Sailing Championships.

**WHY OMAN?**

Oman offers a purpose-built, Olympic-standard sailing events venue which was completed in 2010. Oman Sail is a government-sponsored initiative committed to the promotion of sailing to the population, and to young people in particular.

The purpose-built marina located immediately in front of the hotel offers first class facilities including boat storage, a well-stocked chandlery, launching and landing zones as well as a competitors’ village.

The Sultanate of Oman is the most attractive travel destination in the Arabian Peninsula. It boasts magnificent mountain ranges, breathtaking desert and a stunning coastline of 1,700 km. Its people are renowned throughout the region for their hospitality, generosity and natural warmth towards visitors of all nationalities. Situated on the south-eastern tip of the peninsula, Oman’s maritime history is long and proud. Oman’s strong commitment to the revival of its sailing heritage in the Gulf region makes it the perfect event location for world-class regattas.

Located approximately 100km north of Oman’s capital, Muscat, the proposed venue is Al Musaanah Sports City. Purpose built to host the 2nd Asian Beach Games in December 2010, Al Musaanah Sports City features Olympic-standard sporting facilities, an athletes’ village, an international broadcasting centre, a four star hotel, a 54 berth marina and a range of high quality restaurants and retail facilities.

Oman Sail will be responsible for the management of the Championships, both on the water and off. Our staff has a wealth of international sports event management expertise including the Extreme Sailing Series Asia: Muscat event, Sail Arabia The Tour, Mussanah Race Week and the forthcoming Laser World Championships in 2013.

A key responsibility for international staff is to ensure skills and knowledge transfer to their Omani colleagues, ensuring a sustainable management legacy from the Championships.

Regarded throughout the sailing world as one of the most innovative sailing projects in recent history, Oman Sail has one core objective – to use the sport of sailing as a vehicle to contribute to the development of Oman and Omanis. Since its establishment in 2008 Oman Sail has been working to inspire the nation to engage in the modern sport of sailing. Amongst other achievements Oman Sail has sent the first Omani non-stop around the world, won the coveted Extreme Sailing Series, established Oman’s first sailing schools in which over 8,000 children have been introduced to sailing and assembled a state of the art MOD 70 and 105’ trimaran in the Sultanate.

**OMAN AT A GLANCE**

One of the most attractive travel destinations in the region, Oman is located on the south-east corner of the Arabian Peninsula with a coastline of 1,700km from north to south.

Three seas border it, the Arabian Gulf, Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea. It has a total area of approximately 309,500km2, which makes it the third largest country in the Arabian Peninsula.

Known for its traditional hospitality, Oman makes you feel right at home from the time you arrive, until the moment you leave. The local Omanis are very friendly and always willing to help. English is widely spoken although sometimes in a very basic form.

Oman’s topography many tourists; the Sultanate has a diversity of topographical features consisting of:

The coastal plain, the most important area representing about 3% of the total land area.

The mountains, covering approximately 15% of the land mass; the main mountain range is the 10,000 foot Al Hajar which runs from Musandam in the North to the extreme limit of the Arabian Peninsula, Ras Al Had.

Sands and deserts occupy the remaining area; these include two large sand deserts - the Wahiba Sands known as Rimalat Al Wahiba and part of the Empty Quarter (Rub Al Khali).

Oman is known for its tropical climate but is still subject to seasonal changes. From October through to April, Oman has a lovely climate, with a mean average temperature of 23ºC. Combine that with warm seas, amazing landscapes and welcoming people and you can see why tourism in Oman is on a steep incline.

**WEATHER CONDITIONS**

Captain Chris Biggins, Former Skipper,

As former skipper of the Sultanate’s sail training vessel, Shabab Oman, Captain Chris Biggins has more than 20 years’ experience of the weather conditions that are likely to occur on the regatta race course.

“With the rugged Omani landscape dramatically falling away into the sea, it influences the wind direction which is predominantly a land-sea breeze. With a progressive build-up of wind during the early morning, Omani sailors do most of their racing in moderate and stable 10 to 14 knot breezes. Al Mussanah enjoys a stable tropical / sub-tropical weather system which can occasionally interrupt the land sea breeze pattern. However these pressure ridges have become extremely rare in recent years.

“Strong winds known as a shamal can blow from time to time. ‘Shamal’ means North in Arabic although it usually blows at an angle of 325 degrees (north-westerly direction) along the coast. The shamal season is November to February although they can occur at other times. A shamal can be short lived or can set in for some days. In winter the wind is cold and blows from crystal clear skies, anything up to 30+ knots.”

Oman weather & climate averages

[Average minimum temperature – 20 ºC

Average maximum temperature – 26 ºC

Average Temperature – 23 ºC

Average Precipitation / Rainfall – 18mm

Wet days – 3

Average Sunlight Hours / Day – 11Hrs

Average thermal breeze – 14 Knt