

What is the Explorer Belt?

The Explorer Belt is the challenge of a lifetime that is available to Explorer Scouts aged over 16 and members of the Scout Network.

It is a chance to undertake an international expedition over ten days that brings a real understanding of a different country, its people and way of life.

The Explorer Belt is often described as 'the antidote to the package holiday'. It is designed to help young people develop a real understanding of another country by travelling through that country, working as a small team to complete surprise projects, and meeting local people.

To complete the Explorer Belt, an Explorer Scout or member of the Scout Network must:

- plan and train for an international expedition as part of a small team
- travel to another country of their choice and travel through that country over ten days
- complete a major project of their own choice
- complete around ten smaller projects
- keep a notebook or diary during the expedition
- take part in a debriefing after the expedition
- make a presentation about the expedition.



Oman Observer Issue No. 1



The Leader Team

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'Explorer Belt 2018'

Oman

5th August – 19th August 2018



Greetings Everyone

Welcome to the first 'Oman Observer', the newsletter of the UK Explorer Belt to Oman 2018.

Over the next few months you will need to carry out your planning as a team - this will be challenging in itself as individuals are spread across the country. Please work out the best methods of communication to contact other members of your team and your mentor.

We held two 'launch' events in January to kick things off. Hopefully you were able to attend one or other. The launch material will be made available shortly.

Explorer Belt 2018 Co-ordinators
Mike Aston & Michael Worthy

Payment Schedule

Initial Deposit	£50.00
31 January 2018	£200.00
31 March 2018	£400.00
31 May 2018	£400.00
30 June 2018	£300.00

At this point payments are non-refundable but we have taken out insurance already so you will be covered for 'cancellation for cause'.

Please pay electronically to

Sort Code: 40-43-08
Account Number: 91419773

Please use your name as the reference for the payment.

Please send your cheque to
Explorer Belt 2018

Hertfordshire Scouts' County Office
Well End Activity Centre
Well End Road
Borehamwood
Hertfordshire
WD6 5PR

Please make cheques payable to

UK-Arab Region Active Scout Service Unit
and write the name of the participant on
the back.

Travelling in Oman

Currently there are no railways in Oman but a network of passenger and freight lines is being built by Oman Rail. This may well be the focus of one of your projects.

In the larger towns there are local buses (<http://mwasalat.om/en-us>) and between towns there are Intercity coaches (<http://mwasalat.om/en-us/Services/Intercity>) – prices are low e.g. Muscat to Sur (5 hours £8 single).

Oman has spectacular coastlines and a fleet of modern ferries ply between the various ports (<http://www.nfc.om/>). Additionally, it is possible to travel along the coast by traditional dhow'.

Taxis can be found in most towns and although some have been fitted with meters, many in the more remote areas have not – so you will need to negotiate. Oman Air operates domestic flights from Muscat to Khasab (Musandam peninsular) and Salalah in the south.



Insurance

All members of the expedition are covered by Unity Scout Insurance Services as follows:

- Personal Injury – up to £5,000
 - Medical and Emergency repatriation expenses - up to £10,000,000
 - Hospital stay benefit abroad - up to £400
 - Supplementary travel and accommodation expenses - up to £15,000
 - Personal Belongings - up to £1,000 (limit £250 for valuables/£250 any one article, pair or set)
 - Money - up to £1,000 for Scout Party leaders, £200 for other Insured Persons aged 16 or over and £150 if aged 15 or under
 - Credit Card Misuse - up to £1,000
 - Loss of Passport - up to £1,000
 - Disruption (Cancellation or curtailment) - up to £1,000 for any one journey (maximum £75,000 for all Insured Persons any one journey)
 - Travel delay - up to £60
 - Missed Departure - up to £500
 - Personal Liability - up to £2,000,000
 - Legal Expenses - up to £25,000
- Further details can be found at <http://www.scoutinsurance.co.uk/>

Things to think about

Decide on a team name. Maybe something related to the region.

- Find out as much as you can about Oman. Use the internet, or get "Lonely Planet" guides or similar from the library
- Think about your route. There are many different areas of the country to explore
- If you plan to use Youth Hostels, it may be cost-effective to join "Hostelling International"
- Major project. What interests you as a team that you can carry out as your project over the 10 days



Recommended Maps of Oman

Ministry of Tourism

1:1,300,000 ISBN 978-9-996913-62-4

Includes 15 detailed panels

£11.99 from Stanfords

12-14 Long Acre, Covent Garden,
London WC2E 9LP

www.stanfords.co.uk

Email: sales@stanfords.co.uk

Also has branches in Bristol and Manchester

Ministry of Tourism

1:1,250,000 ISBN 978-3-9811646-4-0

From <https://omanmap.org>

£9.95 (shipped from agents in Germany)

Also available on the App Store but beware cost of access in Oman on a mobile phone.

www.amazon.co.uk may have new or secondhand copies for sale.

Once you have decided to overnight in a village or town – a simple search on Google maps will offer you a street map of the location with English and Arabic street names and prominent buildings. Suggest printing out in UK before setting off.