Muscat, Sultanate of Oman

Program is conducted in English

Dance at a village wedding, drink camel milk with a Bedouin while chatting in Arabic, and discuss the implications of the Oman-U.S. Free Trade Agreement with an Omani government minister. Be up close and personal to the life and traditions of an ancient desert culture undergoing rapid modernization. Explore how Oman’s Renaissance of rapid development has moved the country into the top spot on the world development chart, even as it seeks to maintain its ancient culture and deeply-rooted tribal traditions.

Courses:

Arabic language (3 credits)
Study Arabic, one of the fastest growing languages learned by students in the U.S. Known for its fascinating complexity, it is a language of literature, poetry and elegant calligraphy. Arabic also is a language that encompasses deep and abiding cultural traditions, making its study a rich and rewarding learning experience. Arabic language will be offered at two levels (beginner and intermediate). Learn Modern Standard Arabic (MSA) and Omani dialect, taught by Omani instructors who are native Arabic speakers and experienced in teaching Arabic as a Foreign Language (3 credits).

Oman: Managing Modernity, Translating Traditions (1 credit)
Learn about the history, culture and present-day political and socio-economic structure of the Sultanate of Oman. Students will be introduced to Oman’s ancient cultural and political history, as well as to its tribal routes and customs, and the “Renaissance” that has enabled Oman to gain recognition as a progressive, tolerant and modern nation. Faculty are from the Center for International Learning. Click here for course syllabus.

Excursions:
Two trips to interior Omani towns and villages, including one overnight stay in Bedouin tents in the Sharqiya desert. Travel includes staff guides knowledgeable of the local culture, bus transportation and room and board.

Photos

NY departure and return dates: January 1-25, 2013 (arrive Muscat on January 2).

Housing: Shared housing in hotel (triple/quad suites).

Notes:
• Classes are scheduled Saturday to Wednesday (the Omani weekdays).
• Travel during class time is prohibited.

Program Costs: [as determined by Queens College]