Afaaq

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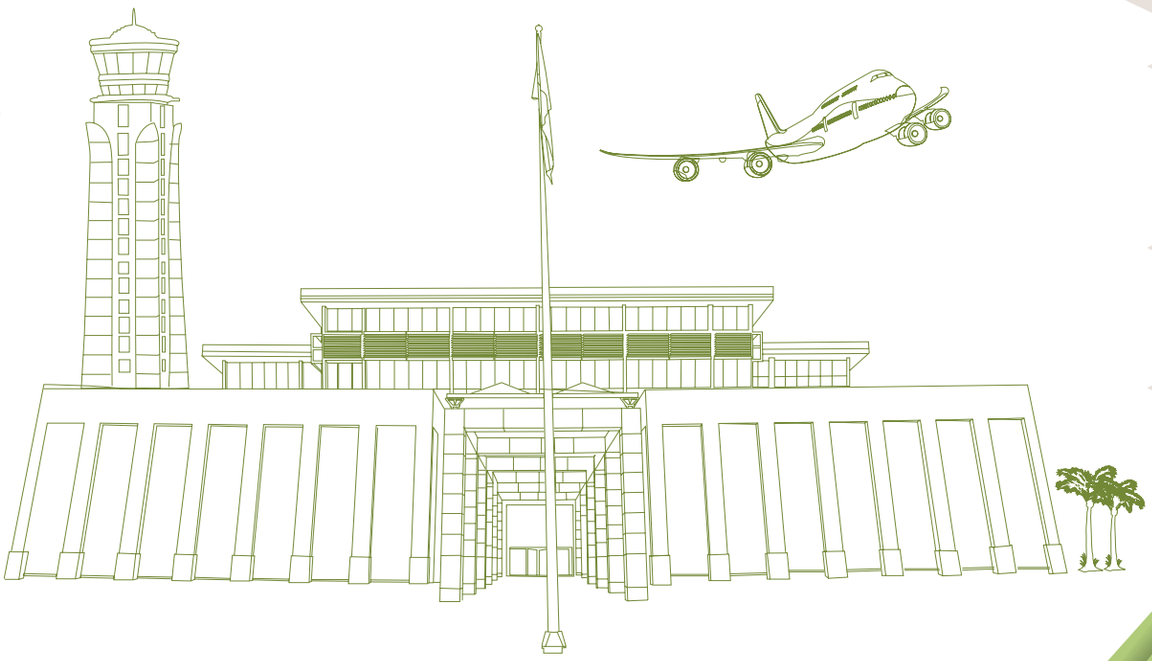

Afaaq

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Afaaq

Afaaq leaflet is issued by the Media and Communication Department at the Directorate of Strategic Planning at The Public Authority for Civil Aviation (PACA) in the Sultanate of Oman. It is a bridge to communicate with the Authority's staff and those who are affiliated to the world of aviation. Which come as an experimental leaflet is equivalent with its electronic version that we put in your hands. Afaaq carries a variety of topics that aim to spread awareness, knowledge, and provide the latest developments of global skies.

The Media and Communication Department is keen to promote PACA's identity to ensure its sustainability and raise awareness about the vision, mission and objectives of the Authority. Likewise, it's an endeavour to define the Authority's role, and its activities and competencies through effective communication. It also seeks to build strategic partnerships with local and international media to promote the Authority, and strengthen its relations with the sectors, partners and all segments of society to serve the objectives of PACA. As well as, managing the Authority's official website and social media accounts, the department also communicates via traditional and modern media mediums to apprise the society of PACA's news and activities.

It is a pleasure for us to receive your comments and suggestions on the Afaaq Experimental prospectus trough the social media.

Aviation and Prohibited Baggage

Many travelers are surprised by the ban on boarding because of the danger to the safety of passengers and aircraft, forcing passengers to leave their belongings before boarding the plane, some of which may be valuable or important to the passenger.

Therefore, all passengers must be fully aware of what prohibited baggage are, in order to avoid all kinds of problems while traveling. IATA has established several items that are prohibited to carry, which may cause damage to the aircraft, or endanger the lives of its passengers, such as: compressed toxic flammable and inflammable gases (e.g. Aerosol), fireworks, ammunition, swords, knives, explosives, incendiary materials, chemical reagents, active and radioactive substances (e.g. toxic substances, and magnetic materials), bags with alarms or lithium batteries.

It is also prohibited to transfer all lithium battery-related materials for security and safety reasons, including all devices, semi-professional or professional, commonly referred to as Air Wheels, Mini Segway, Hoverbeds or Solo wheels.

Passengers should also inform the check-in staff when carrying a smart bag. Smart bags refer to those registered or portable luggage containing lithium-ion batteries, engines, power cases, GPS, Bluetooth, or Radio Identification Segments (RDF).

The prohibited baggage is classified according to the following:

Checked-In Prohibited Baggage

Such materials are prohibited in the shipping bag and must be placed in the hand bag only, such as dry or lithium batteries. If you want to put your laptop in your bag, remove the battery and take it with you - the same applies for medicines.

Onboard/Cabin Prohibited Baggage

Such baggage should be taken as shipping luggage and must not be carried on as onboard. These include: liquids or gel of more than 100ml, sharp objects, shears, knives, chiller, nail scissors, spoons and forks, sewing needles, razor blades, and screwdrivers.

Forbidden Baggage

These include: fireworks, explosive materials, ammunition or sulfur bars, insecticides, toxic substances, weapons, and certain prohibited substances such as drugs.

Medical Supplies

Carrying medical supplies requires the appropriate certificates and approvals. Such materials include: medical needles and agricultural grains, and liquids larger than 100ml and intended for carrying in the bag (preferably sealed).

Autism and

Although the experience of travel is exciting and enjoyable for the family, some have become uncomfortable and unpleasant to travel due to having a family member with autism. The fear of experiencing painful memories and not being able to think about flying again make the family hesitant and anxious.

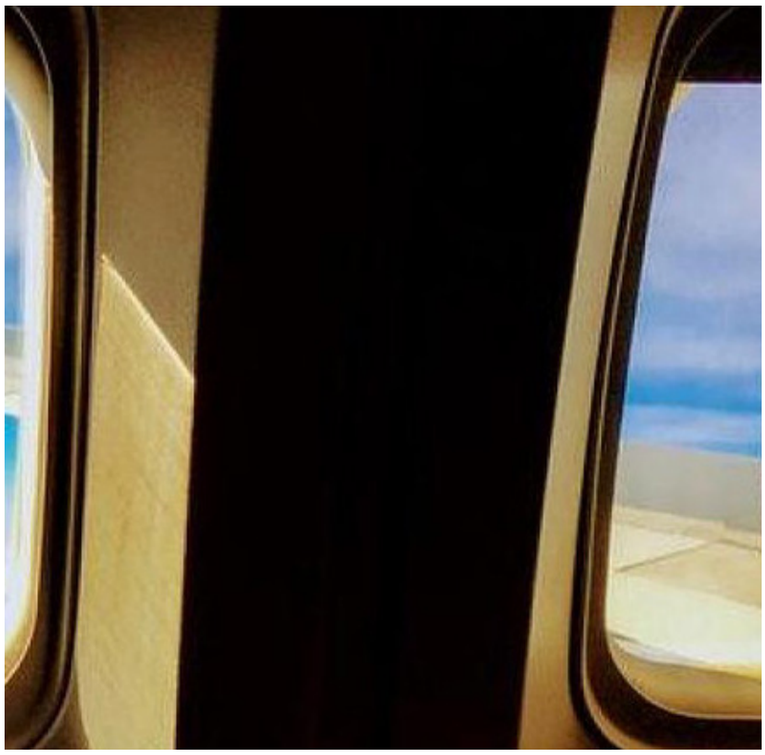
Travelling experience might be challenging for some autistics and their families because of the change in their daily routine, travel procedures, exposure to sounds and lighting at the airport, in addition to long waiting hours before and during the trip. These may cause undesirable behaviour, including ear pain, vomiting, and severe sensation that may be accompanied by crying and screams that may cause discomfort to some of the passengers on the plane. Children with autism also face psychological difficulties during trips. Autistic children also face psychological difficulties during travel, so guidelines and precautionary measures that facilitate the travel process.

The crew must pay extra attention to make the experience of travelling with people with special needs a delightful experience for them and travellers too. Children with autism need to stay in an environment that makes them feel safe and comfortable.

Fatima Al-Balushi, a statistician from the Ministry of Transport and Communications,

spoke to us about her travelling experience with an autistic son. She said "I can fully understand that the most significant burden is on the family to prepare the child for the travel experience before the journey. However, airlines can cooperate and make the trip easier." She also suggested providing sorts of entertainment for the child or assigning certain chairs for the autism family in the plane according to their needs and requirements. She also added that "Offering some videos which simulate the travel experience and the related procedures. Besides, providing the whole family with a simple explanation before the actual flight in the airport for what might be

Travel Experience



expected in terms of procedures and waiting hours.

The studies indicate that autistic children need to be in a safe and comfortable environment Travelling is a physical burden, especially during the long journey and to distant countries, even for healthy people — as a result of having seated on the plane and the airports for long hours. Therefore, the airport and travel facilities should be used to ease the travel experience of an autistic child.

The airport lights are delicate for some autistic children, which may cause undesired behaviour. Some airports have distinctive signs carried by passengers with special needs. Thus, to make it easy for security to identify disabled people and to be allowed to pass through the custom gates, especially when the disability is unclear, special seats must be reserved for them.

The parents or the guardian of an autistic child must follow a set of procedures that facilitate the process of travel. For example, preparing the child for the travel experience by all the offered means such as watching planes and cabin pictures, hearing aeroplane sounds until becoming familiar with them.

A bracelet with printed child's name, adequate information and telephone numbers of the family, including the phrase "not speaking" should be placed on the child's wrist or appropriate place. Furthermore, the child's photograph should be placed in the handbag or purse if necessary. Also bringing familiar and lovely things to the child from his home may make him, or her feel more at ease.

World Airports

New Istanbul Airport

The new Istanbul Airport (Grand Istanbul Airport) is located in the European part, overlooking the Black Sea. The airport was built in a unique and authentic style representing the heritage of Istanbul and its cultural splendor. Istanbul Airport has been renovated three times, and the airport in its new terminal offers the latest facilities and modern air transport services with the highest international standards. The airport is planned to be the largest airport in the world, with a capacity of 150 million passengers annually.

The main reason for the construction of the new Istanbul Airport is the lack of capacity at Istanbul's airports, such as the Ataturk International Airport in the European section of Istanbul, which has a capacity of about 37 million passengers annually, and the Sabiha Kuchken airport in the Asian section of Istanbul with a capacity of about 13 million passengers annually . The four stages of the new Istanbul airport are due to be completed by 2023. This huge project will contribute significantly to the promotion of international trade and economic development; and the Republic of Turkey will be the center of the global trade movement.

The new airport has a large area of about 150

million passengers, and it is hoped that it will reach 200 million passengers by the end of its fourth stage. There are 165 bridges for passenger, an indoor area of 1.5 million square meters, parking for 7,000 vehicles, 6 independent landing lanes, and 16 parallel runways, while the capacity of the aircraft positions is about 500 aircraft.

The airport includes 3 high-tech buildings, a flight control tower, VIP lounges, upscale hotels, hospitals and emergency centers, a prayer mosque, conference centers, 4 airport buildings, 8 terraces, a state palace, electricity, water, and waste treatment facilities.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan opened Istanbul's new airport on October 29, 2018, and President Erdogan's administration launches the new airport as the "Century Project", “placing Turkey on the list of the 10 most powerful economies in the world" President Erdogan, said. On June 22, 2018, Erdogan's presidential plane carried out the first landing at the airport.

The new Istanbul airport is seen as an economic threat to many countries, because the airport's operational plans indicate that it will dominate the traffic of passengers at regional and international airports, including: Dubai Airport in the Middle East, Frankfurt in Germany and Heathrow Airport in Britain. The Economist reported in 2017 that the establishment of the new Istanbul airport will pose the greatest threat to European air transport, because of its strategic location linking the east of the globe to the west, and north to the south. It is expected to control the airport traffic in the three continents of the world: Asia, Africa, and Europe.

World Airports

Kuala Lumpur Airport

Kuala Lumpur Airport (KUL) is a major centre for air transport in Asia, particularly in Southeast Asia. It is the main airport in Malaysia, which officially opened in 1998. Kuala Lumpur Airport is located in Sepang District, south of Slagur Province, approximately 60km from the capital Kuala Lumpur. It is ranked 13th among the busiest airports in the world in 2006. On the other hand, it is ranked as the seventh most busy airports in Asia. It was also given a 4-star by SkyTrax, along with Zurich Airport and Amsterdam Schiphol Airport.

The airport covers an area of 100km^2 and has been built for four and a half years and cost about $3.5 billion. It is one of the largest airports in the world. The main construction plan of the Kuala Lumpur International Airport involves the building of five runways, two buildings linked to two separate halls to serve the passengers on three-stages. The first phase consists of the development of the main building connected with a passengers hall enough to accommodate 25 million passengers and the establishment of two integrated runways.

Kuala Lumpur Airport consists of two main sections. The first section is composed of the passenger terminal, which has five floors and

includes various airline counters, luggage cargo, restaurants and shops. The other part is the departures and arrivals building allocated for the travel gates and includes duty-free, restaurants and passengers lounge. The two sections are connected by a suspended train to travel between them.

The airport offers many services such as banks, currency exchange, taxi offices, mobile phone desks, information and tourism offices, free internet access inside the airport and many others. Also, the Kuala Lumpur International Airport has two distinct types of hotels. They are an Airside Transit Hotel) for in-transit convenience and long-term periods, and an outdoor hotel (Cathay Pacific Hotel) for those who wish to stay near the airport.

Alice: The First Electric Air Carrier

The international news agency, Aviation Aircraft, revealed for the first time a prototype of the Alice electric plane at the Paris Air Show this year. The aircraft was manufactured using less harmful technologies and was designed to transport passengers on regional routes.

The aircraft, dubbed Alice, was a radical reform of the cost, experience and environmental impact of regional travel. The impact of air travel on the environment has become one of the main reasons that call for pro-climate campaigns in various responsible countries and decision-makers to limit them. Airlines have long sought solutions and methods to address emissions and costs through new designs and less harmful technologies.

"The cost of our plane, Alice, is a fraction of the cost of conventional aircraft, but it will redefine regional travel for people and will mark a new era for a quieter, cleaner and less expensive flight," said Bar Yohai, Chief Executive Officer.

The company also said it would target busy routes such as Paris to Toulouse in France, Oslo to Trondheim in Norway and San Jose to San Diego in the United States. The first commercial customer will be Cape Air, one of the largest independent regional airlines in the United States, serving 35 cities there and in the Caribbean.

Following pilot flights this year and adoption, Aviation said it plans to start operating the aircraft for commercial use in 2022.

This achievement has provoked many international companies to compete in the production of clean electric aircraft and reduce travel costs. Scientists in Russia are now busy developing new technology that will produce super-powered aircraft engines. This technology will produce very powerful engines, which means that the new aircraft that will depend on them will have very powerful capabilities in addition to being clean and environmentally friendly.

Last year, Wright Electric unveiled a project to manufacture short-range electric aircraft, which will initially be flown from London to Paris (approximately 400 km) over the next few years. The plane, which is being developed, will be able to carry 150 people and fly up to 480 kilometers, without fuel, reducing the cost of travel significantly.

Aviation Around the World

What Do you Know About the Recently Shutdown Max Boeing 737 Aircraft?

The crash of the Boeing 737 Max 8 aircraft of the Ethiopian Airlines has received widespread international attention, especially after the second time that this type of aircraft has been subjected to a tragic and fatal crash, in which all passengers and flight crew died.

On October 29, 2018, a Boeing 737 Max 8 jet crashed into the Sea of Java just 12 minutes after taking off from Soekarno Hatta International Airport in Jakarta, Indonesia, flight 610, which was an internal flight to Debati Amir Airport in Bangkal Penang, Indonesia. All 189 passengers aboard the plane died because of the crash. It was the first fatal flight accident of a Boeing 737 Max.

Immediately after this incident, Boeing issued an operational guide to help airlines to understand how to deal with faulty cockpit readings. On March 10 2019, an Ethiopian Airlines flight 302, a Boeing 737 Max 8, crashed six minutes after taking off. Where the flight was scheduled from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia to Nairobi, Kenya, all 149 passengers and eight crew members died.

According to information, the plane was a modern version with only 4 months old. The Boeing 737 Max is the new version of the Boeing 737 family which developed by Boeing. The main change in the Max is the broader and more efficient use of the LEP-1 engines used in the Max 8 and Max 9 models. Since the first shipment of the 737 Max in 2017, the Boeing Company received more than 5,000 orders for this model from more than 100

customers.

Airlines have begun to turn into the 737 Max series for their ability to travel longer distances and consume less fuel compared to other models. Boeing plans to add two new models to the 737 Max series, the Max 7 and Max 10, and to make them available for commercial services in 2019 and 2020. Because of the Lib engines, which were used on the 737 Max aircraft at a higher and advanced point for the wing compared to the 737 old models, it destabilized the axis of the aircraft when taking positions at high angles of the face. Boeing has designed a system to enhance manoeuvrability (MCAS) to compensate for the resulting imbalance. In the case of a disturbance in front-facing sensors, the system begins to dive in an imprecise manner, and the crew cannot deal with it. This defect is the only failure point for this system if the crew is not trained to handle the situation correctly. The Federal Aviation Administration has studied possible solutions to these defects and prepared better training programs for pilots.

The New York Times reported that at least two Boeing 737 Max pilots in the United States filed complaints with the authorities about the autopilot system as the front of the plane suddenly dropped after two or three seconds of operation. Although the crashes in Ethiopia and Indonesia were limited to the Boeing 737 Max 8, the no-fly resolution issued by most countries also included the Max 9 model.

The difference between the two models is the size. The Max 8 is about 130 feet wide and can accommodate 200 seats. Whereas, Max 9 is about 10 feet tall and can accommodate 220 passengers. The Max 9 is the least common; 41 out of 387 Max aircraft have been sold and delivered to different airlines. In response to this incident, PACA quickly issued a decision to suspend the operation of Boeing 737 Max aircraft to and from all Sultanate's airports.

Other countries have also responded and banned flights of this type of aircraft in their airspace and airports such as; United States, France, Germany, Austria, Ireland, Britain, UAE, Kuwait, Egypt, Ethiopia, Singapore, China, Indonesia, South Korea, Mongolia, Australia, Brazil, Argentina, Mexico, Morocco, Turkey, Malaysia, India, Russia and Japan. As a result, Boeing, the world's largest aircraft manufacturer, lost billions of dollars from its market value, with a 5% drop in its share at closing and retreat of13.5% during the trading.

Boeing expressed a deep sadden by the deaths of passengers and crew on Ethiopian Airlines Flight 302; the 737 Max 8. "We express our sincere sympathy to the families and loved ones of the passengers and crew," said Boeing, the manufacturer of the 737 Max aircraft. "We are ready to support the Ethiopian Airlines team, and a technical team from Boeing will head to the crash site to provide technical assistance under the supervision of the Accident Investigation office in Ethiopia and the US National Transportation Safety Board."

Green Airports for a Safer Environment

Green airport are currently viable and favored, mainly due to their contribution to protect the environment, reducing and saving long-term operating expenses, and providing significant investment opportunities for many areas of civil aviation. It also promotes growth in other service sectors associated with airports, including modern technologies, solutions and systems that operate these airports, as well as several industries and sectors related to the aviation industry, and provide airports with their needs.

These airports require huge financial investments, and significant changes in the design processes of airports themselves, and the materials used in the construction. They are environmentally friendly in many ways, including, their method of operation, their energy sources, their effectiveness, their use of clean energy, their contribution to the increase of green spaces, and pollution reduction.

Some examples of green airports in the world:

Beijing Airport, China

The Passenger Terminal is one of the most sustainable buildings in the world. It includes a wide range of passive environmental design concepts such as: south-east-oriented sunroofs that help maximize the heat gained from early morning sunshine, which maximizes energy utilization. As for the construction process, the building was designed with a mechanism to make the most of the performance of building materials chosen based on their local availability, efficiency and affordability, as well as low purchasing costs. It is remarkable that this building was designed and

constructed in just four years. Designed under a single roof to connect the building, the straight sky openings aim to help determine trends and allow daytime access, which in turn changes from red to yellow depending on the progress of passengers across the building.

Kuwait Airport, Kuwait

The design is well suited to the climate of the country, one of the world's hottest climates, and the design has been implemented using local models and materials. The building is characterized by a three-dimensional design. It consists of three wings identical to the exit gates. The length of each interface is 1.2km and all facades are launched from a large central space 25meters high.

Stansted Airport, UK

The service distribution systems exist within the "logs" that extend beyond the vault on the ground floor of the main square. These trees carry a lightweight roof umbrella that prevents rain from entering and allowing light to enter. The main arena is entirely dependent on natural light, except in cloudy days. Continuous light changes provide a poetic dimension, providing great economic and energy benefits, which is half the cost of any passenger operating building in Britain.

Queen Alia Airport, Amman, Jordan

Queen Alia Airport serves about 8 million passengers a year and is classified as a medium-sized regional airport.The main purpose behind the concept of green airports is to make maximum use of sunlight and reduce heat from its rays at the same time. Foster has designed a roof made of recycled piezones, covered with solar panels, equipped with roof openings that allow sunlight to enter the building, so that these rays collide with a light surface with light colored material, which helps to reflect the light towards the ceiling by spreading the natural light inside the vacuum. The outdoor open spaces are derived from the concepts of local Arab architecture and contribute to the environmental strategy of the terminal. As a way to celebrate the tradition of family gathering at the airport, the front yard has been expanded to provide a green space with tree-lined seats where family members can assemble to bid farewell or receive their passengers.

Bologna Airport, Italy

Despite its small size, this airport also follows the concept of a large canopy in its design, with similar ideas for Queen Alia Airport, such as the building's light weight, the roofed structure and vertical windows that enter sufficient amount of natural lighting while protecting the main hall from direct sunlight. In addition, the internal space of the appropriate size, which reduces the temperature increases and reduces natural lighting to the appropriate extent, and also limits the solar barriers or ceilings of thermal gain and stabilizes the moisture rate to the natural level. The airport also uses devices to mitigate air conditioning, as well as the use of an effective system for the collection and use of rainwater.

Clouds Seeding

Water scarcity is the main concern for most people and is a significant problem for countries suffering from a lack of rainfall. Therefore, science and scientists need to find a solution to this problem in the light of climate change and drought risks. Numerous scientific studies and researches have been carried out to find possible solutions to address the low groundwater levels and low rainfall. One of the solutions that have been developed is Clouds Seeding.

Clouds Seeding increases the clouds precipitation by using chemical substances that stimulate clouds to drop their latent water content. The idea of this relies on triggering the clouds through modifying their microscopic structure by inoculating them hygroscopically with salts, especially chlorides of sodium, calcium and potassium (Hygroscopic). Alternatively, using frozen carbon dioxide or "dry ice" (Glaciogenic) which acts as nuclei that attracts water vapour to condense or freeze on it, thereby increasing precipitation.

The Hygroscopic seeding increases the fusion of water droplets in warm convective clouds. Whereas, the Glaciogenic Seeding enhances the snowfall in cold clouds. However, the subject of

Clouds Seeding remains controversial among scientists.
The methods used in the process of Clouds Seeding vary between ground and air methods. The former method is performed by using anti-aircraft and special ground generators that produce ionic emitters or other chemical molecules which are in turn transported to the clouds by the wind. The latter method is implemented through the use of aircraft equipped with flares to seed the clouds.

The applied seeding mechanism in Oman is the ground ionization technique, which is carried out through the release of negative ions in the atmosphere by the Clouds Seeding stations distributed over Al-Hajar Mountains. It has been implemented since 2013 as part of a plan to deal with the water scarcity. The idea of this technology is based on the use of the ionization feature to enhance the amount of rain by fusing negative ions with suspended dust particles and water vapour carried by rising air currents. There are currently 12 Clouds Seeding stations in the Sultanate distributed over mountains which are characterized by the formation of cumulus clouds and auxiliary meteorological factors for precipitation.

In contrast, seeding techniques can be applied for the opposite purposes, for example: preventing heavy rainfall on some agricultural areas to keep crops from being damaged, and reducing or stopping the formation of hails and fog in crowded airports to facilitate takeoff and landing operations.

Several factors must be available for the successful Clouds Seeding for rain enhancement:
- The existence of convective clouds.
- The presence of certain amount of uplift loaded with water vapour.
- Complete Seeding mechanism on time.
- Seeding of an adequate amount of chemicals catalyst sufficient for precipitation.

Although recent scientific researches indicate that Clouds Seeding might increases precipitation by about 30%, these experiments face many challenges and require years to prove their success. However, it is one of the reliable method to contribute to enhace rainfall.

Suggested International Tourist Destinations

Mauritius

Mauritius Island is located in the Indian Ocean, near Madagascar and east of Africa. The island is considered a dream land that is visited by toursist from all countries of the world. In 2012, the island was named the best and most beautiful tourist destination in the world. It has many beautiful beaches for tourists to enjoy and indulge in their attractiveness and beauty. Some of the most popular attractions are the Trou aux Cerf Volcano, the Kassala Nature Park, the Gangua Talo Lake, the Land of Seven Colors and Black River Gorges. landscape, is one of the most popular attractions, such as: Trou aux Cerf Volcano, the Kassala Nature Park, the Gangua Talo Lake, the land of Seven Colors and Black River gorges.

Iceland

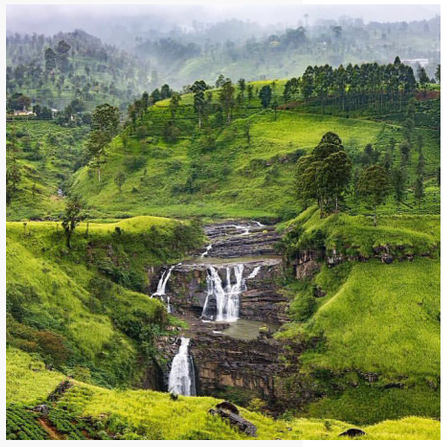
Iceland or the land of ice and fire has become a new tourist destination for seekers of calmness, nature and relaxation. Iceland is a unique city with different terrains from the rest of Europe, combining wildlife, active volcanoes, hot springs, waterfalls and snow caps. One of the most beautiful attractions is the Jokalsarlon Glacier, the Golden Way and the Vattnagokul National Park, Europe's largest glacier. The most beautiful tourist attraction to Iceland is the Blue Lagoon, it is one of the best hot springs in the world. It is an opportunity to relax in a lake where steam outflows and is surrounded by black lava rocks.

Seychelles

Seychelles is one of the most beautiful islands in the world and has a large number of nature reserves. Seychelles consists of 115 islands, the largest island is Victoria and includes the most famous resorts and hotels in the world. Citizens of the Arab World do not need a visa to enter it. It is also one of the most important tourist destinations for leisure seekers, activities and adventures such as climbing, jungle exploration, boat trips and water sports. The most important places to visit are the Morne Seychelles National Park, Mahe Island, Sunset Beach and the Museum of Natural History. Other popular destinations include: Morne Seychelles National Park, Mahe Island, Sunset Beach and the Museum of Natural History.

Sri Lanka

A country of scenic nature, adventures, fascinating diversity and the jewel of the Indian Ocean. Sri Lanka has many cultures and religions and its people are friendly and loving. Sri Lanka is characterized by its tropical climate. One of the most important tourist attractions is Kandy, a cool, quiet mountainous area that includes elephants and Lake Kandy. Norlia, one of Sri Lanka's most beautiful cities with a pleasant climate, is the island of Bentota, a beautiful island of turtles and coasts.For adventure and wildlife enthusiasts, visit the Yala National Park, one of the world's most famous safari where visitors can see tigers and wildlife closely. The southern coast is the best place to see blue whales closely.



South Korea

South Korea possesses the most important elements of tourism, combining its ancient history, nature and technological progress. It is a unique destination for those looking for new spots to visit around the world. South Korea's capital, Seoul, is one of the most important tourist destinations, with museums, palaces, open-air cabins and skyscrapers. Among the most important tourist attractions in Seoul are: Myeongdong Street, the most important commercial street, featuring the most important stylish and fashion brands, the traditional Bakhchun Village, Changdok Palace and Namisium Island, known as Winter Songs. Busan is the second largest city after Seoul, which houses temples, ancient buildings and charming beaches. One of the most famous islands in South Korea is Jeju Volcanic Island, where it combines isolated beaches, tranquil beaches and green spaces to relax.

Tourist Destinations in Dhofar Governorate

Springs

Dhofar Governorate is characterized by various springs in the mountain strip and on the edge of the mountains. According to statistics by the Department of Water Resources Management in Dhofar, there are about 360 water springs around the province, which are either permanent that flow throughout the year, or seasonal that flow depending on the availability of the aquifer stock. The autumn is the primary source of for these springs. Popular springs include: Garzeez Spring, Arzat Spring, Sahlnot Spring, Athom Spring and Tabraq Spring.

Caves

Caves are a natural tourist appeal that characterizes the province of Dhofar, where it attracts those who love adventures and exploration. One of the most famous tourist caves are:

Teeq Cave is approximately (170) thousand cubic meters in size, and the tourist can reach it by the underpasses, which can be seen from the high way which is overlooking the magnificent scenes and pit of Ateir and its waterfalls.

Al-Marnef cave is another attraction, characterized with a glamourous view of the Arabian sea where its giant boulders can be seen embracing the clouds amidst the fog in the autumn. It is located in Almaghseel Beach which is known for its natural fountains. It attracts flocks of tourists, particularly in the autumn season where the movement of the water is active flowing through the rocky cavities.

Valleys

Valleys are spread across Dhofar Governorate, most of them descend from the mountains.The most important of them is Wadi Derbat. It is one of the most beautiful and famous valleys in Dhofar and its beauty accentuates even more during autumn season. When the rainfall is above average, water descends from the mountains forming beautiful waterfalls with a height of about 1,000 feet. Wadi Sahlnoot is another attractive valley which is distinguished for its brilliant green grass and its beautiful nature. You can enjoy looking at its beautiful green lands while driving in its windy roads.

Al-Baleed

Al-Baleed Archaeological Park is one of the most famous tourist attraction in Dhofar Governorate.

It has splendid architecture that dates back to thousands of years, it is located in a beautiful area which is surrounded by a creek, ideal for a sightseeing boat trip. You can also visit Laban Land Museum, which contains a precious heritage of archaeological evidence of the past establishment of the distinct human civilization in Dhofar.

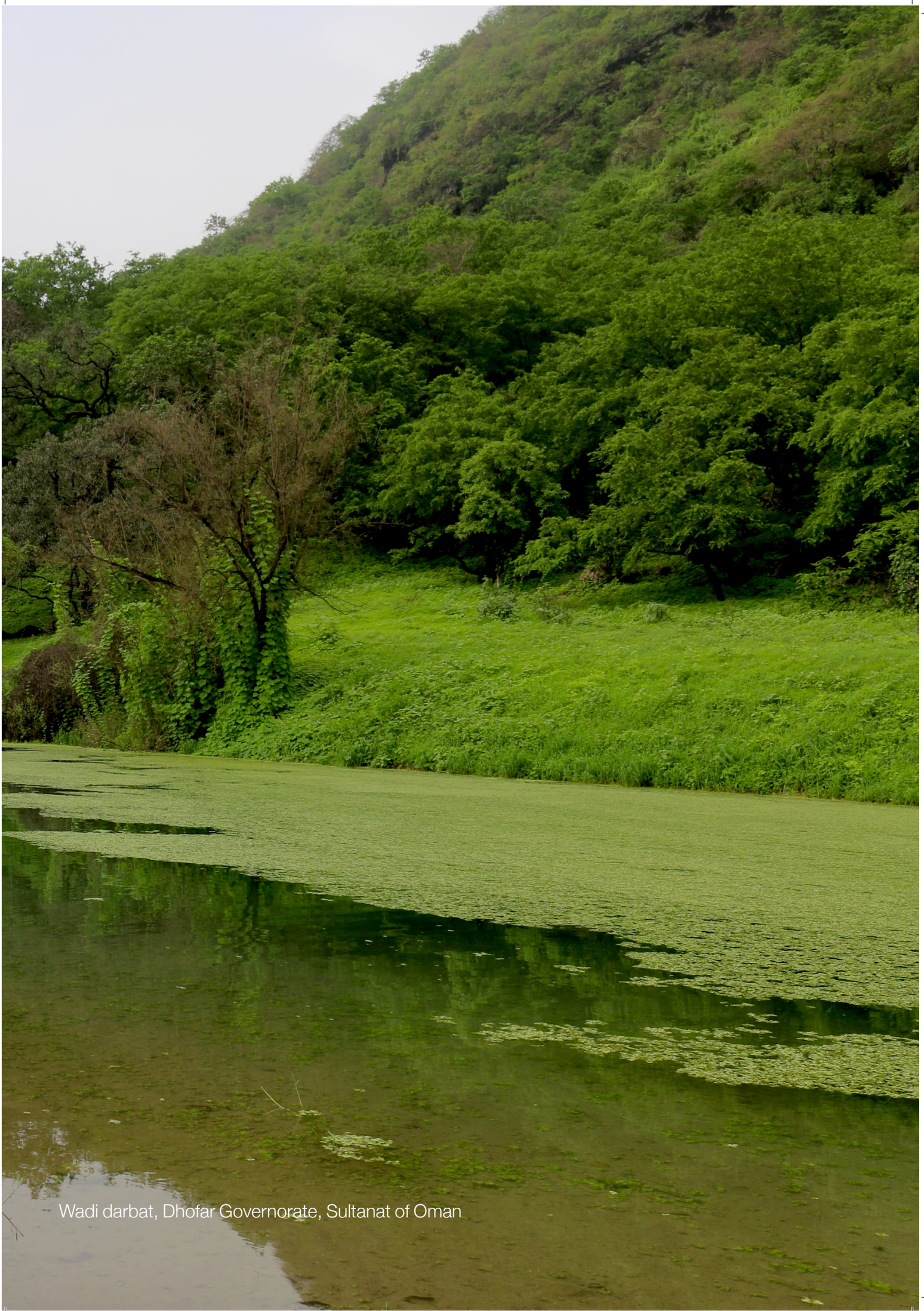
Atier Pit

Atier Pit, also called the Bird's Well, is one of the deepest natural melted pits in the whole world. It is considered a natural refuge for birds which are local and migratory, making it ideal for wildlife photographers. In addition, at very close proximity there is Tiq Cave, which can be seen from the top of Atier Pit. The area is full of waterfalls, narrow paths, water streams, birds and various biological life in many with its many colours and tales.

Autumn Phenomena (Khareef Salalah)

The most important feature of the Sultanate's climate during summer is the phenomenon of autumn in the southern part of the country overlooking the Arabian Sea. This is caused by continuation of the monsoon winds of the south-west, which works to displace water in the form of horizontal water currents towards the south-east or what is also known as Ekman transport. This amount of sea water creates a cold upward current from the depth of the sea to the surface, where the bays of the coast stretching from Ras al Hadd to Dahlkot are cooler than the Arabian Sea. The water surface temperature around these bays is 22 to 24°C. The Arabian Sea surface temperature ranges from 28 to 30°C.

Due to the coldness of these waters, it cools the air layer near the surface of the water, which leads to condensation of water vapor, resulting in clouds and fog in the lower air layers. These then drifted to the land due to the blowing of the south-western wind. The unique province of Dhofar coast surrounded by a mountain range, which helps to capture this type of low clouds and fog that aid in forming drizzle and overcast weather. The drizzle may sometimes extend to the southeast coast, especially in the early morning. The south eastern coast is moderately warm during the summer, making it an ideal potential resort as its shaded with clouds for the most of the day.



Wadi darbat, Dhofar Governorate, Sultanat of Oman