

OMAN SET TO BECOME THE REGIONAL HUB FOR GEOGRAPHICAL TEACHING AND RESEARCH

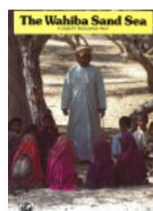
With soaring sand dunes, spectacular mountains reaching up to 10,000 feet, frankincense covered uplands, a coastline stretching more than 1800 miles, new cities being built as logistics hubs, warm hospitality and a rich culture and heritage going back some 5,500 years – Oman is a geographical paradise. Despite this long list, a lack of knowledge and educational resources has meant few teachers use Omani case studies to illustrate their topics.

Outward Bound Oman hopes to change this situation thanks to some exciting new projects over the next two years, with prestigious partners such as the Geographical Association, Royal Geographical Society, Institute for Outdoor Learning and Royal Scottish Geographical Society. Through the launch of the Discovering Oman project and Desert Study Pack, geography teachers from Key Stage 2 through to A-Level will gain access to a series of innovative, curriculum-linked, Oman-focussed, online resources, while Oman will hopefully obtain the international recognition it richly deserves.

Discovering Oman will be the first to launch. In the new year, seven teachers from across the UK and British School Muscat will take part in a week-long fieldwork trip here in Oman. They will be gathering data on many geographical topics (both physical and human), to help create engaging lesson plans that will be launched for Key Stage 2 and 3 students in September 2018. A year later a second field trip will take place, with the focus being resources for the teaching of GCSE and A-Level students.

The second project, the **Desert Study Pack**, will also be launched a year from now. Unlike Discovering Oman, this is not a new project. Its aim is to update a 1980s arid environment study carried out by the Royal Geographical Society in Oman's Sharqiya desert. Turned into a resource for schools at the time, it was, for a while, used by geography teachers - including our very own General Manager, Mark Evans. Unfortunately, forty years of rapid development across the Middle East have taken their toll on the validity of this study today, but with the cumulative effects of climate change, increasing desertification, population pressure, the global boom in tourism, pressure on water resources etc, it is perhaps more important than ever that this study be brought up to date, so we properly understand these vast empty spaces and particularly man's effect on them.

We very much hope you will share this exciting educational news with your geography-teaching colleagues, so they can look out for these resources on our website in due course.



[Desert Study Pack](#)

 [Download](#)

NEW OBO WEBSITE LAUNCHED

If you get a moment, please visit our recently re-launched website www.outwardboundoman.com and browse the new content. There are some great short videos that will give you a better understanding of who we are, what we do and where we operate. Entitled 'People', 'Process' and 'Place' (both desert and mountain) you will find these videos on the Home page or under the Courses tab. If any of you struggle to convince school administrators of the value of outdoor education, you will also find some helpful data under the 'Impact' tab. Lastly, keep an eye on the 'Learning' section for links to all the exciting new educational content mentioned previously.

Who we are

In 1941, Outward Bound started the philosophy that 'there is more inside you than you think', and we have made it our mission to help people discover and develop their potential to care for themselves, others, and the world around them through challenging experiences in unfamiliar, outdoor settings.

From seaside to mountain top, desert to jungle, remote and untouched spaces to urban wildernesses closer to home, Outward Bound challenges more than 250,000 participants around the world each year to step out of their comfort zone, and partake in a unique, eye-opening outdoor adventure. We pride ourselves on offering transformational journeys that encourage participants to push their mental and physical limits, and discover their true potential.



What we do

Our methodology of experiential learning has been refined over more than 75 years, enabling us to work with people from both inside and outside of Oman, to help them become more confident, more effective and more capable at school, college and in the workplace.

In addition to our work with young people, we deliver training and professional development programmes for a growing number of leading companies in the region, as well as bespoke leadership and team development courses.



OUTWARD BOUND INTERNATIONAL SAFETY REVIEW

Almost every school that contacts us these days asks about risk assessments and insurances, as expedition leaders have to navigate their way through an increasing number of administrative hurdles to get approval for trips. Fortunately, such information is easily available at OBO and we are happy to share it with you. Not only do we have both public liability and personal accident insurance, but all of our operating areas are risk assessed and reports updated each year in February. In addition to this, as part of our licence with Outward Bound International, we must undergo a biennial safety audit. In our last report we were rated as highly competent in 12 out of 14 evaluation categories with the remainder being competent with minor recommendations. In some areas we have even been held up as a beacon of best practice for other OB schools to follow. Our current licence is up for renewal at the end of this year, so in October we will be welcoming Mr Iain Peter, Executive Director, OBI, to Oman to conduct our next audit. We are confident all of our instructors, processes, documentation and equipment will measure up to his high expectations, but just like our 'plan, do, review' instructional philosophy, we are equally open to learn from his review and plan for a safer future.

Official Opening by UK's Prince Andrew 1st October, 2017



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