

# OMAN NATIONAL MUSEUM, MUSCAT

Situated on a prestige site in the centre of Old Muscat, this National Museum sets out to showcase the cultural heritage of Oman from prehistoric times to the present day. The VIP Entrance faces down a new ceremonial boulevard to the Royal Palace and features a contemporary sundial water clock symbolising the country's key artificial irrigation system.

The main public entrance is via a garden court to the side of the building and leads on to a central Courtyard of the Regions - an air-conditioned triple-height space around which the galleries are arrayed. The Courtyard celebrates the many regional variations of indigenous Omani architecture. The surrounding permanent galleries are arranged on two levels. The ground floor galleries show the topography and cultural geography of the country, using audiovisual shows, interactive maps and exhibits telling the story of Omani life.

An Archaeological Timeline - a helical ramp giving an overview of 10,000 years of Omani prehistory and history - brings people up to the first floor galleries, showcasing each individual historical period, culminating in the story of modern Oman. Further galleries are devoted to artefacts from the Royal Collection, traditional crafts and fine art.

Other facilities include a 500m<sup>2</sup> temporary exhibition area, shop, courtyard cafe, corporate entertaining and VIP suites, schools area, seminar rooms and an 80-seat lecture theatre as well as curatorial, administrative and collections management facilities.



*Client*  
*Area*  
*Status*

Ministry of Heritage and Culture, Oman  
9500m<sup>2</sup>  
Ongoing (completion 2010)

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