

Stanford **TRAVEL/STUDY**

Emirates and Sultanates

March 16 to 29, 2022

The Arabian Peninsula has been steeped in mystery for centuries. Closed to Westerners for many years, the city-states of the United Arab Emirates, the Sultanate of Oman, and the State of Qatar offer a striking mosaic of contrasts. Gleaming modern cities and ancient villages, windswept sand dunes and soaring mountains, all bordered by blue skies and shimmering waters—these off-the-beaten-path lands continue to tantalize adventurers. Nowhere else do elegant veiled women in crystal-sleeved, designer *abayas* (long cloaks) and men in perfectly pressed *dishdashas* (robes) rub shoulders with camel herders, horse trainers and expats from around the globe. These exotic destinations, which run the gamut from traditional livestock markets to futuristic skyscrapers, await your discovery.

FACULTY LEADER

James Sheehan

James Sheehan, '58, is the Dickason Professor in the Humanities and professor emeritus of history at Stanford. His research focuses on 19th- and 20th-century European history, specifically on the relationship between ideas and social and economic conditions in modern Europe. His most recent book, *Where Have All the Soldiers Gone? The Transformation of Modern Europe*, examines the decline of military institutions in Europe since 1945. He is now writing a book about the rise of European states in the modern era.

About this program, Professor Sheehan states, “The Persian Gulf has it all: a fascinating natural environment, deep historical connections and a strategically vital role in American security policy. It is also close to the center of Islam, a spiritual and aesthetic world that I find increasingly fascinating.”

- Dickason Professor in the Humanities, Stanford University
- Professor emeritus, history, Stanford University
- Senior fellow, by courtesy, Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies, Stanford University
- Dean’s Award for Distinguished Teaching, Stanford University, 1993
- Walter J. Gores Award for Excellence in Teaching, Stanford University, 1993
- Guggenheim Fellow, 2000–2001
- Fellow, American Academy of Arts and Sciences
- BA, 1958, Stanford University
- MA, 1959, and PhD, 1964—both UC Berkeley

ITINERARY

Wednesday, March 16

Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE)

Upon arrival in Dubai, transfer to our hotel, centrally located along picturesque Dubai Creek in the lively neighborhood of Deira. RADISSON BLU HOTEL, DUBAI DEIRA CREEK (D)

Thursday, March 17

Dubai

Board an *abra* (water taxi) and cross Dubai Creek to the Bastakiya area to visit the Al Farooq Mosque, where staff from the Sheikh Mohammed Centre for Cultural Understanding accompany us and offer an excellent introduction to Islam. Enjoy a private lunch on-site. This evening gather for a welcome reception at our hotel. RADISSON BLU HOTEL, DUBAI DEIRA CREEK (B,L,D)

Friday, March 18

Dubai / Abu Dhabi

Travel to Abu Dhabi, the largest of the seven emirates and the country's capital. At the opulent Emirates Palace hotel, view an exhibition depicting the plans for Saadiyat Island, the flagship project of the city, whose goal is to develop a cultural sanctuary off its coast. On Saadiyat explore the Louvre Abu Dhabi, which was created as a cultural partnership between France and the UAE. After lunch drop by the Qasr Al Watan Palace, a working palace and home to the UAE Federal Supreme Council and Cabinet. It opened to the public in 2019 and is one of the few accessible presidential palaces anywhere in the world. End the day at the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque Center, UAE's largest and most ornate place of worship. RADISSON BLU HOTEL, DUBAI DEIRA CREEK (B,L)

Saturday, March 19

Dubai

Begin the day with a VIP access ride to the top of the world's tallest building, the Burj Khalifa, at more than 160 stories high. From here head to the Mall of the Emirates. Spend the afternoon at leisure relishing lunch and independent adventures. RADISSON BLU HOTEL, DUBAI DEIRA CREEK (B)

Sunday, March 20

Dubai / Sharjah / Al Ain

Drive to the Emirate of Sharjah, once the preeminent pearl-trading city in the Gulf. Survey the residential area of the traders from those days, whose former homes have been converted into small museums, each depicting a particular aspect of Arab and Islamic heritage. A highlight of this morning is the Sharjah Museum of Islamic Civilization, which includes 5,000 artifacts from almost all over the Islamic world. Continue to the oasis city of Al Ain and wander around the Hili Archaeological Park, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Admire the remains of an advanced Bronze Age civilization, including a tomb that's decorated with paintings depicting indigenous oryx and leopard, and at the small archaeological museum, inspect the distinct items that have been discovered here. Finish the day in AL Ain. MERCURE GRAND JEBEL HAFEET AL AIN (B,L,D)

Monday, March 21

Hatta / Sohar, Oman / Nakhal / Muscat

This morning journey to Sohar, reputed to be the home of Sinbad the Sailor and described by 10th-century travel writer Ibn Hawqal as "the wealthiest town in Oman." Although little remains of Sohar's storied past, the great fort still looms large above the port city. Drive past volcanic hills to the village of Nakhal, where you can find many impressive fortresses. Arrive in Oman's capital city, Muscat, this evening and transfer to our hotel. GRAND HYATT MUSCAT (B,L,D)

Tuesday, March 22

Muscat

For centuries, Oman dominated the maritime trade in the Indian Ocean and ruled an empire that extended from India to Zanzibar. Observe how Muscat has retained much of its traditional architecture and beauty while it makes great strides toward modernization. Explore the Mutrah Harbor and the newly opened National Museum before attending a briefing at the U.S. Embassy. Return to our hotel this afternoon after stopping at the Royal Opera House Muscat, which was designed by the same architects behind the Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque. GRAND HYATT MUSCAT (B,L)

Wednesday, March 23

Muscat

Begin the day at the Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque, whose main prayer hall features a Persian carpet covering 4,343 square meters and an eight-ton central chandelier made of Swarovski crystals and more than 1,000 lights. At the Omani Heritage Gallery meet with Sheikha Al Habsi, who has been involved in a project to revive traditional Omani crafts. Dinner this evening is at leisure. GRAND HYATT MUSCAT (B,L)

Thursday, March 24

Muscat / Nizwa

Depart Muscat en route to the 17th-century Jabrin Fort. Originally built as a palace, the structure was later fortified but still retains royal embellishments including beautiful hand-painted ceilings. Walk through the narrow streets of the mud-brick village of Al Hamra, whose well-preserved, Yemeni-style houses are some of the oldest in Oman. Visit Bait Al Safah, a small museum located in a traditional home that provides insight into what life in the village was once like. Travel to the UNESCO World Heritage site of Bahla. Recently restored and opened to visitors, the ruins of the immense fort are a remarkable testament to the prosperity of the area from the 12th to 15th centuries. Check in to our hotel in the oasis town of Nizwa, once the medieval capital of Oman. GOLDEN TULIP NIZWA (B,L,D)

Friday, March 25

Nizwa

Today experience Nizwa's weekly cattle and goat market, where buyers sit in a circle as sellers, young and old, parade around, steering or carrying their offerings. Wander among men wearing the traditional *dishdasha* (robe) and *kumma* (embroidered cap) or *mussar* (turban) and Bedouin women in leather masks with henna-decorated hands bidding on livestock or simply gossiping and watching the proceedings. Stroll through the souk (market) and around Nizwa Fort, which served as a combination palace, seat of government and prison for 300 years. Rove through Al Hoota Cave, full of stalactites and stalagmites and home to a fragile underground ecosystem that includes fascinating blind, transparent fish dwelling in a subterranean lake. GOLDEN TULIP NIZWA (B,L,D)

Saturday, March 26

Nizwa / Muscat / Doha, Qatar

Return to Muscat early this morning in time to catch our flight to Qatar. Ruled by the Al Thani family since the mid-19th century, Qatar is one of the smallest—and richest—countries in the world. Upon arrival in the capital city of Doha, drive to Education City, a 2,965-acre campus comprising branches of several prominent U.S. universities that enroll several thousand students from Qatar and other Gulf

countries. Enjoy lunch there before heading to the Qatar National Library and ending the day at Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art. JW MARRIOTT MARQUIS CITY CENTER DOHA (B,L)

Sunday, March 27

Doha

Marvel at the impressive I.M. Pei–designed Museum of Islamic Art, considered one of the world’s greatest collections of Islamic art, textiles and rugs. After lunch drive to the Aspire Zone, a unique sport, sports medicine, research and education destination for the international sports industry. Finish the day at the Pearl-Qatar, one of the largest real estate developments in the Middle East. It is an impressive island off the coast of Doha’s plush West Bay District. This evening explore the Souk Waqif before dining there. JW MARRIOTT MARQUIS CITY CENTER DOHA (B,L,D)

Monday, March 28

Doha

Attend a briefing at the U.S. Embassy followed by a trip to the National Museum of Qatar. This museum opened in March 2019 and is a stunning new architectural highlight along Doha’s waterfront. JW MARRIOTT MARQUIS CITY CENTER DOHA (B,L,D)

Tuesday, March 29

Doha / Home

Transfer independently to the airport for flights home. (B)

INFORMATION

Covid-19 and Travel

With travel requirements and local Covid-19 conditions changing weekly, travel protocols for our program will be shared with confirmed travelers closer to departure. To read more about Travel/Study’s general approach to ensuring traveler health and safety, visit our [Covid-19 Travel page](#).

Size

This trip is limited to 34 travelers. Single accommodations are limited.

Cost*

\$10,695 per person, double occupancy

\$12,995 per person, single occupancy

*Stanford Alumni Association nonmembers add \$300 per person.

Included

- Educational program with lecture series and predeparture materials, including an education resource list and travel information
- Services of our professional tour manager to assist you throughout the program
- All tours and excursions as described in the itinerary
- Gratuities to guides and drivers for all group activities
- 13 nights of deluxe hotel accommodations
- 13 breakfasts, 11 lunches and 8 dinners

- Economy class airfare from Muscat to Doha
- Welcome and farewell receptions
- Transfers and baggage handling on program arrival and departure days
- On-tour quarantine-related trip-cancellation, -interruption and -delay insurance coverage
- General medical, accident and evacuation insurance

Not Included

- Your personal flights to Dubai and from Doha on the program
- Passport and visa fees
- Immunization costs
- Meals and beverages other than those specified as included
- Independent and private transfers
- Nonquarantine-related trip-cancellation, -interruption and -delay insurance coverage
- Baggage insurance
- Excess-baggage charges
- Personal items such as internet access, telephone calls, laundry and gratuities for nongroup services

Air Arrangements

You are responsible for booking and purchasing airfare to the start location and from the end location of the program. These air purchases are NOT included in the program cost. To assist you in making these independent arrangements, we will send you details with your confirmation materials on when to arrive and depart.

What to Expect

We consider this program to be moderately active. Most of our touring is done by motor coach and on foot. Daily excursions involve one to three miles of walking on city streets, which are, in some cases, uneven or cobblestone. In some instances, such as museums, archaeological sites and forts, guided tours require climbing up and down several flights of stairs and standing in one place for 20 to 30 minutes at a time. Stairs may not have handrails, and elevators are limited. Participants must be physically fit, active and in good health. We welcome travelers 15 years of age and older on this program.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Eligibility

We encourage membership in the Stanford Alumni Association as the program cost for nonmembers is \$300 more than the members' price. The nonmember fee is waived for anyone traveling as a paid guest of a current member, as well as for emerita or emeritus faculty and staff. To purchase a membership, call (650) 725-0692 or visit alumni.stanford.edu/goto/membership.

Deposits, Payments and Cancellations

A \$1,000-per-person deposit is required to reserve space on this program. Final payment is due 120 days prior to program start. Deposits and any payments are refundable, less a \$500-per-person cancellation fee, until 120 days prior to program start. After that date, refunds can be made only if the program is sold out and we resell your place(s), in which case a \$1,000-per-person cancellation fee will apply.

Insurance

Stanford Travel/Study provides all travelers who are U.S. or Canadian citizens with general medical, accident and evacuation coverage, as well as on-tour quarantine-related trip-cancellation, -interruption and -delay insurance coverage, under our group-travel insurance policy. Our group policy is intended to provide minimal levels of protection while you are traveling on this program. You may choose to subscribe to optional nonquarantine-related trip-cancellation, -interruption and -delay insurance coverage and/or baggage insurance. Information offering such insurance will be included in your confirmation materials. The product offered includes special benefits if you purchase your insurance within 14 days of receiving your welcome email.

Responsibility

The Stanford Alumni Association, Stanford University and our operators act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and exercise every care possible in doing so. However, we can assume no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity in connection with the service of any automobile, motor coach, launch or any other conveyance used in carrying out this program or for the acts or defaults of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the program. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, force majeure or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger, as tour rates include arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to make such alterations to this published itinerary as may be deemed necessary. We reserve the right to cancel any program prior to departure, in which case the entire payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part. We also reserve the right to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the program. No refund will be made for an unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. Baggage is carried at the owner's risk entirely. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not on board their plane or conveyance. Neither the Stanford Alumni Association, nor Stanford University, nor our operators accept liability for any carrier's cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable ticket in connection with the tour. Program price is based on rates in effect at the time the brochure is published and is subject to change without notice to reflect fluctuations in exchange rates, tariffs or fuel charges. As a condition of participation, all confirmed participants are required to sign an Assumption of Risk.

California Seller of Travel Program Registration #2048 523-50