

THE SOCIETY FOR ASIAN ART PRESENTS

Through the Mihrab: Exploring Islamic Art and Architecture, Past and Present *Dubai, Doha, Sharjah, Abu Dhabi and Oman with scholar, Bruce Wannell, March 13 to 27, 2015*



Most known for their abundance of oil, the Gulf States also have a remarkable cultural and artistic heritage. They are home to architectural masterpieces, past and present, fascinating archaeological and historical sites, as well as world-class museums which display magnificent collections of ancient Islamic painting, calligraphy, pottery, embroidery, and jewelry.

In addition to visiting these architectural, archaeological, and historical sites and museums, we also will visit private art collections and art galleries and will be VIP guests at Art Dubai, a prestigious International Contemporary Art Fair. In Dubai (United Arab Emirates), experience a guided architectural walking tour, participate in Art Dubai activities and visit private art collections. Fly to Doha, Qatar, and visit the Museum of Islamic Arts (MIA), welcomed by the Museum Director. Explore the Old Souk (market) through its maze of alleyways and dine aboard a traditional Arab dhow. In Abu Dhabi, capital of the UAE, marvel at the unique contemporary architecture, an intriguing interpretation of Islamic designs crafted in modern materials. Meet with the Director of the Saadiyat Island Story Exhibition. In Sharjah and Al Ain, visit art collections, meet local residents and explore impressive buildings and ruins.

Situated on the Arabian Peninsula, Oman is a blend of the new and the old, as evidenced by its architecture, its attitudes, and its customs. It is a land of majestic forts, imposing castles, and palace ruins. As we travel through the country, we will see traditional village life, stark majestic mountain ranges, a vast expanse of desert and sandy beaches. Shopping for traditional crafts in vibrant markets offers an opportunity to interact with local people. Scholar, Bruce Wannell, will accompany our SAA group throughout the trip, enriching our visit to this fascinating region with his expertise, insights, and enthusiasm.

Synopsis of the Study Tour

Dubai - 6 nights

Art Week Galleries Night
The Ismaili Centre
Collectors Circle Preview of Art Dubai
Art Collection: Farhad Bakhtiar
Jumeirah Creekside Hotel art collection
SIKKA Art Fair, showcasing Emirati art

Doha - 2 nights

Old city, Souk Wakif
Architectural tour
Museum of Islamic Arts
Katara Cultural Village
The National Museum of Qatar

Sharjah - day visit

Tour of Sharjah Biennale
The Barjeel Art Foundation and
Maraya Art Centre

Abu Dhabi - day visit

Traditional camel market
Saadiyat Island Story Exhibition tour
Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Mosque



Al Ain - 1 night

Al Ain National Museum, Archaeological
Parks, Oases and the Al Jahili Fort

Nizwa - 2 nights

Jabreen, Nizwa and Bahla Forts
New Souk
Pottery Factory
Villages of Al Hamra and Tanuf

Muscat - 3 nights

Wadi Bani Awf
Nakhla Fort
Grand Mosque
Ministry of Heritage and Culture
Bait Zubair Museum
Bait Muzna Art Gallery
Muttrah Souk
Bait al Barandah, Al Alam Palace and
Qantab Village

SAA is now a vendor of CSA Travel Protection Insurance 800.348.9505 www.csatravelprotection.com Producer Code: 20100719

You are able to purchase trip insurance which will repay all non-refundable costs for cancelling this trip for ANY reason.

This must be purchased at the time of your initial deposit.

Join SAA members and renowned Islamic scholar, author, and linguist, Bruce Wannell, on our exciting journey to the Gulf, exploring Islamic art, architecture, and culture in Dubai, Doha, Abu Dhabi, Sharjah and Oman.

Arrive in Dubai; then fly to Doha for an orientation lecture. Go on a walking tour in the old city, Souk Wakif and an architectural tour of Doha. Visit the Museum of Islamic Arts, the foremost museum of Islamic art in the world. Visit Katara Cultural Village before returning to Dubai.

Take an architectural tour of Dubai, guided by Dubai-based architect, Richard Wagner. This tour will cover major developments and architectural contributions by prominent development firms, as well as a visit to "At the Top" Observation Deck at Burj Khalifa Tower, designed by Skidmore Owings & Merrill. Have first access to and an exclusive preview of Art Dubai Fair and enjoy a private tour of the Fair led by its Director, Cyril Zammit. Visit the Ismaili Centre.

Enjoy a Curator's private tour of Sharjah Biennale and meet with Sheikh Hoor Al-Qasimi, Director/Curator of the Sharjah Art Foundation. Visit Sharjah's Barjeel Art Foundation and Maraya Art Centre.

In Abu Dhabi, visit the traditional camel market, tour The Saadiyat Island Story Exhibition and meet with Hoda Kanoo, Founder of Abu Dhabi Music & Arts Foundation (ADMAF). See the Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nayan Grand Mosque. Tour Emirati art at the SIKKA Art Fair in Dubai, founded by Dubai Culture and Arts Authority.

See Al Ain, Abu Dhabi, the "Garden City of the Gulf." Visit the prehistoric / pre Islam Beehive Tombs at Bat and at Al Ain Village in Abu Dhabi. Visit the proto-historic sites of Qubur Juhha.

In Nizwa, Oman, visit 17th c. Nizwa Fort. See the New Souk complex, which has been sensitively designed using Omani fort architecture and elegant Islamic arches. Stop at a pottery factory

and the old Bahla Fort with its approximate 7 mile wall. Explore the old farming village of Al Hamra, with its traditional falaj system of irrigation. Visit the old village of Tanuf, known for its seasonal waterfalls. After a stop at Wadi Bani Awf, visit Nakhal Fort.

In Muscat, Oman, visit the Grand Mosque and the Ministry of Heritage and Culture to learn more about the history and heritage of Oman. Visit Bait Adam Museum, Bait Zubair Museum and Bait Muzna Art Gallery. Walk through one of the oldest souks in Oman, Muttrah Souk, with its narrow alleys and exotic fragrances of sandalwood and frankincense. Visit Bait al Barandah, one of the historical and cultural sites in Muscat, known also as the House of Naseeb. Enjoy a photographic stop at Alam Palace, the

ceremonial palace of His Majesty, Sultan Qaboos. Al Alam Palace is flanked by two Portuguese forts, Jalali and Mirani. Head to Qantab Village for a farewell dinner at Omani House, which is over 100 years old. Changes in the itinerary, accommodations, and transportation schedules or site visits may occur. Please bring a flexible attitude!

Dubai, Doha, Sharjah, Abu Dhabi and Oman
\$6,880 per person Single Supplement \$1,350

Tour price includes

- Airport/Hotel/Airport transfers.
- Airfare Dubai - Doha - Dubai.
- Accommodation based on double occupancy on bed and breakfast basis.
- Meals as mentioned in the itinerary (B: Breakfast, L: Lunch and D: Dinner).
- English speaking guide throughout the tour.
- Transportation in a private air-conditioned bus.
- Site entrance fees and gratuities.

Tour price does not include

- All visas currently obtainable on arrival, for UAE (currently \$100.00) and Oman entry visa (currently \$54.00) {all subject to change}.
- Airport transfers if not arriving/departing on specified flights. International airfare NOT included.
- Dayrooms or extra hotel overnights if necessary.
- Any meals other than specified above.
- Expenses of a personal nature.
- Travel Protection Insurance.

For more information or a detailed itinerary, please call
Spiekermann Travel at 1 800 645 3233
or the Society for Asian Art at 415 581 3701

THE SOCIETY FOR ASIAN ART PRESENTS: Through the Mihrab: Exploring Islamic Art and Architecture, Past and Present

RESERVATION FORM

I would like to reserve _____ spaces (s) for the Dubai, Doha, Sharjah, Abu Dhabi and Oman trip.

Enclosed is a deposit of \$500.00 per person, in the total amount of \$_____.

Please make check payable to Spiekermann Travel.

Applications will be accepted by mail only and inclusion will be based on postmark date.

Your deposit is refundable up to 90 days prior to departure less a \$250.00 per person administration fee.

Room Arrangements

- Single Supplement
- Double Occupancy
- I would prefer a roommate, but will pay the single supplement if one is not available

Air Arrangements

- I plan on making my own air reservations and will send you my flight itinerary when complete
- I will call you to assist me in purchasing my tickets

IMPORTANT NOTE: Trip begins in Dubai and ends in Muscat
Portions of this tour are very strenuous.

Personal Information:

Last Name: _____

First Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Daytime Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Send application to: the Society for Asian Art, 200 Larkin Street, San Francisco, CA 94102

A confirmation letter, a declaration & waiver form and travel insurance application will be mailed to you upon receipt of your deposit. CST: 2046776-13 – Trip cost is based on 20 participants – Some touring is strenuous