



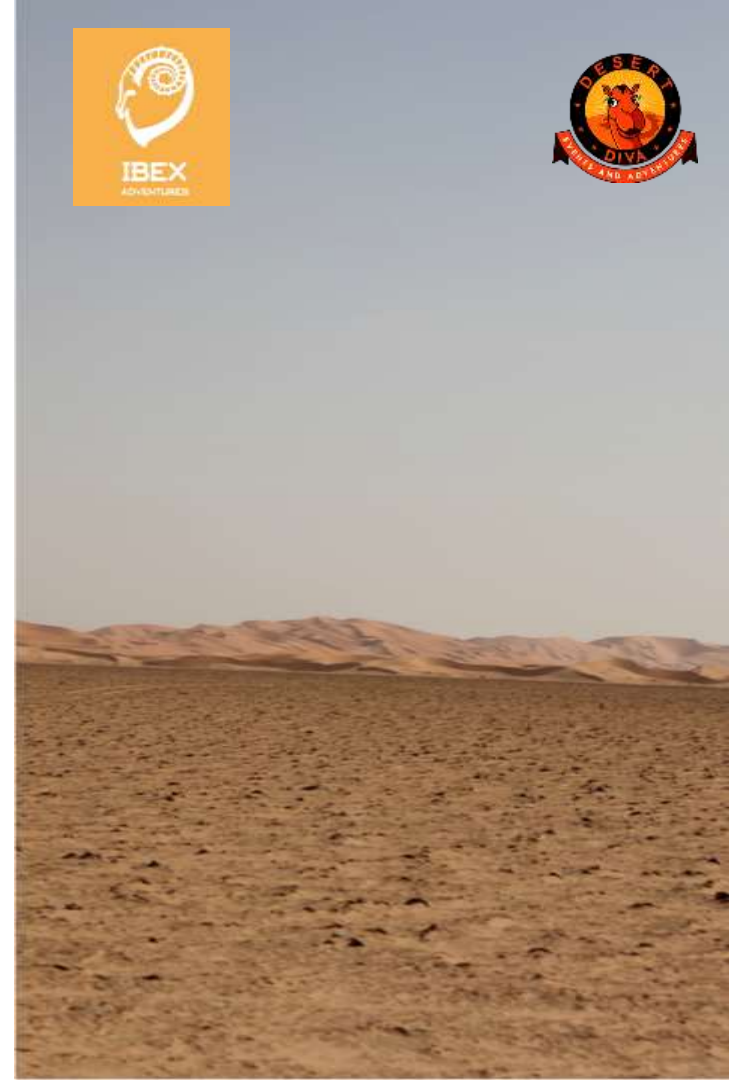
Rub Al Khali, Oman & Umm As Sameem

You are invited to accompany
Ibex Adventures & The Desert Diva
On Their Overland Expedition:
30th September-2nd October 2016

(To co-incide with Islamic New Year Holiday)

What is the Umm As Sameem?

- This translates from Arabic as “ The Mother of All Worries” or “The Mother of All Poisons”
- A massive sabkha (salt/gravel plain) in the Rub Al Khali (Empty Quarter) covering 5300 square kilometres
 - Mostly in Oman, but edging into KSA
 - Almost the size of Chicago - Population 3.5 million
 - Population of Umm As Sameem - Zero
- Home to much folklore, legend has it that whole herds of goats have been swallowed up by the sinking sands!
- Adrian Hayes, on his “In the Footsteps of Thesiger” expedition had to persuade his Arab companions to cross it with him!





There are many adjectives to describe Umm As Sameem

Isolated Mesmerizing Terrifying Forsaken
Barren Hostile Bleak Remote

No-one could argue that it is anything other than **DESOLATE**

Where is it?

- Rub Al Khali, Sultanate of Oman
- 21° North, 55° West
- Nearest Cities
 - Muscat – 340kms
 - Al Ain, UAE – 321kms
 - Riyadh, KSA – 1188kms
 - Ibri, Oman (closest town) – 195kms
- Nearest Petrol Station – 133kms
- GSM Coverage – Zero over most of the sabkah



Why Go There?

- Discover somewhere “different”
- Follow in the footsteps of Wildred Thesiger
 - Famous British Explorer who crossed the Rub Al Khali twice in the 1940s
 - The first European to See the Umm As Sameem
- Probably the most remote yet accessible place in Oman and the UAE
- Explore the unknown





NEVER, EVER, GO THERE ON YOUR OWN!

- No GSM cover, neither Omantel or Etisalat/Du Roaming
- Cars can get stuck in the “sinking sands” of the sabkah
- Even easy dune driving can lead to stucks
- Drivers or passengers can become ill or injured
- Cars can break down
- **Help is a walk of up to 60 kilometres away!**



What's to See?



The largest Sabkah in Oman!

Kilometre after kilometre of rough dark mud which in the afternoons are the launch pads for dust devils- vortexes of sand propelled upwards by hot air



Wildlife

The Umm as Sameem is not as barren as you may think
You are likely to encounter the odd bird or insect, or even see fox tracks



Red Dunes

The imposing red dunes which surround the sabkah rise up to 100 metres. Due to multi-directional wind, they form into huge massifs nicknamed "starfish dunes"



Driving

- **Easy, mainly track based**
- **4WD/AWD essential, 4x4 even better**
- **Extremely remote – vehicles must be in tip-top condition!**



Beyond the Umm As Sameem

- **The Rub Al Khali continues for hundreds of kilometres southwards in Oman and westwards through KSA**
- **Easy track and sand dune driving immediately to the South – and we will explore this on the second day of our trip**





Expedition Itinerary Day One Friday 30th September

- **Meet near the Ibri Oasis Hotel from 1000hrs-1100hrs**
 - **Arabic Coffee and Dates will be served**
- **1100hrs – Move off in convoy**
- **1300 hrs (approx.) – lunch at the Rub Al Khali Sign**
 - **Packed lunch provided for those who have opted for food package**
- **1345 hrs – continue our drive towards the Umm As Sameem**
- **1430 hrs – cross the Umm As Sameem**
- **1700 hrs – arrive at campsite**
- **1830 hrs – campfire**
- **2000 hrs - dinner**



Expedition Itinerary Day Two Saturday 1st October

- **Explore the southern part of the Umm As Sameem**
- **Split into two convoys**
 - **AWD/4WD cars will take a track based route**
 - **4x4s will do some gentle dune bashing**
- **Lunch Stop**
- **Further Driving and Exploring**
- **Return to Camp**
- **Special "Omani" Meal**



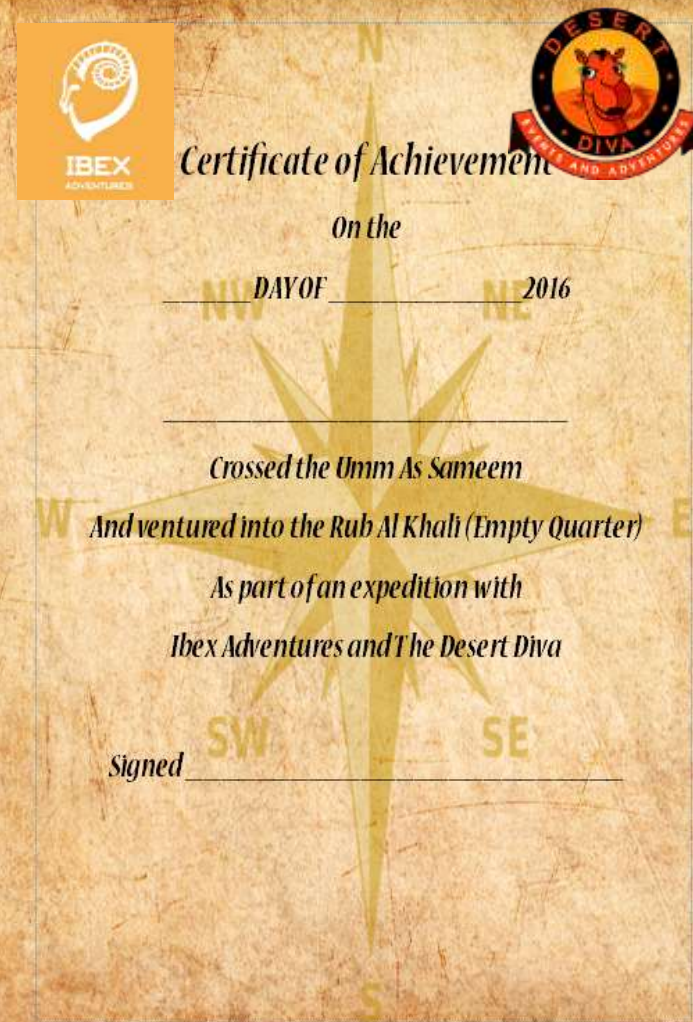
Expedition Itinerary Day Three Sunday 2nd October

- **Breakfast**
- **Break Camp**
- **Return to Road by 12 noon approx**
- **We will join Road 31 at Al Ghaba**
 - **Small Town**
 - **Petrol Station**
 - **Resthouse**
- **Head home – or maybe even further afield in Oman?**
 - **Al Ain – 393kms (approx. 3.5 hours)**
 - **Masairah Island Ferry – 240kms**
 - **Muscat – 320kms**
 - **Sur – 400kms**
 - **Salalah – 695kms**



Expedition Keepsakes

- Take Photos
- Collect Sand
- Pick up some salt crust
- All guests will receive a certificate of achievement



Join our Expedition: Guide Only

- We will meet you at Ibri and convoy you, along with the rest of the group, through the Umm As Sameem and the Northern extremes of the Omani Empty Quarter
- Your guides have visited the area a number of times, are first aid trained and carry satphones
- They are expert offroad drivers and navigators
- Price includes special Omani style meal on Saturday evening
- We will have a communal campfire each evening
- Price excludes petrol, food and drinks with the exception of the Omani dinner on Saturday, UAE exit fee, Oman visa

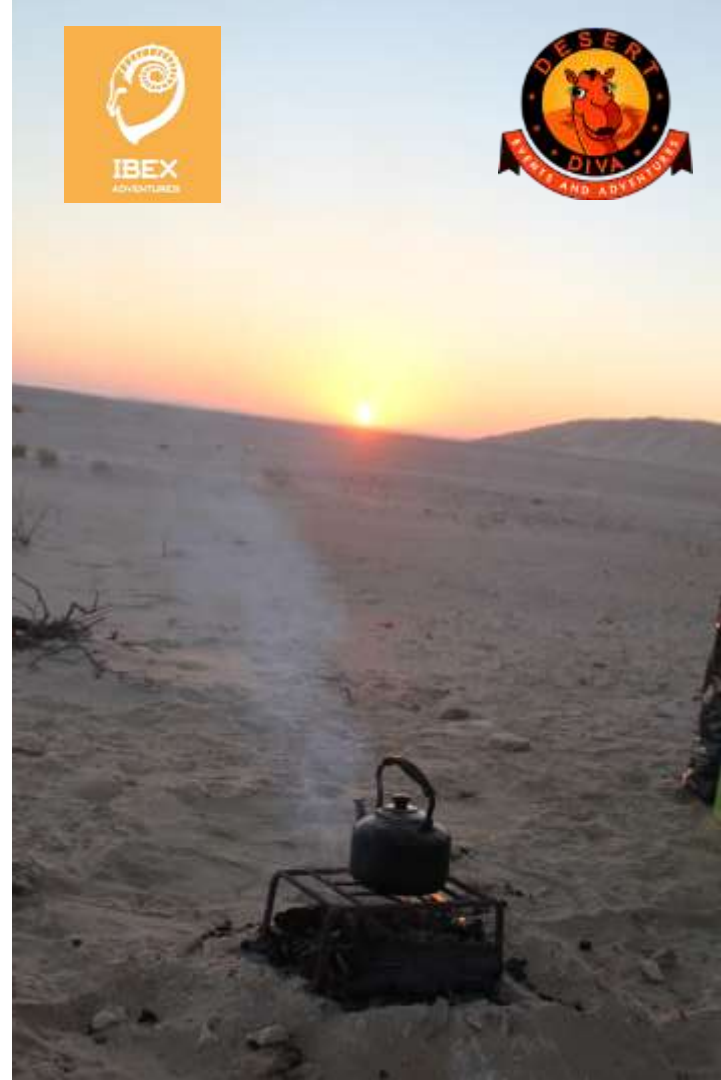
- Price Per Person – 560AED
- Special Early Bird Discounted price

Only 450AED Per Person



Join our Expedition: Guide Plus Food

- Guide Only Package PLUS
- All food
 - Welcome coffee and dates
 - 2 x packed lunches
 - 2 x breakfast
 - 1 x bbq dinner
 - 1 x special Omani meal
- Price excludes petrol and soft drinks/water outwith meal times, UAE exit fee, Oman Visa
- Price Per Person – 1070AED
- Special Early Bird Discounted price
- **ONLY 850AED Per Person**



Join our Expedition: Guide Plus Food Plus Hire of All Camping Equipment

- As Guide Plus Food Package PLUS
- Hire of camping equipment
 - tent, air mattresses, sheet, pillow, blanket,
 - camping chair, torch/light
- Price excludes petrol, UAE exit fee, Oman visa

- Price Per Person – 1500AED
- Special Early Bird Discounted price

ONLY 1200AED Per Person





Book Your Place on our Accompanied Self Drive **Expedition**

Umm As Sameem and Rub Al Khali
30th Sep – 2nd Oct 2016

Register your interest by contacting Marina, aka The Desert Diva
on 050 9478 563 or email marina@desertdivaevents.com

To qualify for Early Bird Booking Discount, bookings must be made and paid for no later than Tuesday 20th September