

MERIDIAN GLOBAL INSIGHTS MISSION



UAE & OMAN



March 6–13, 2020



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United Arab Emirates and Oman | March 6-13, 2020

Meridian International Center will conduct its annual **Meridian Global Insights Mission** to the **United Arab Emirates and the Sultanate of Oman** on March 6-13, 2020.

This diplomatic mission offers delegation members an opportunity to cultivate a deeper understanding of the important relationships the United States has with both countries and gain unique insights into the region's dynamics, rich history, vibrant culture, and emerging ideas and reforms. Established nearly 50 years ago, the strategic alliance between the U.S. and the two countries has strengthened security efforts, entrepreneurial growth and innovation, and cultural understanding and tolerance.

Meridian has extensive relationships in the UAE and Oman through partnerships with their governments, Ambassadors and the U.S. Department of State on cultural and global leadership exchange programs. Through the Meridian Center for Cultural Diplomacy, Meridian has sent delegations to the UAE to explore the country's museum and arts infrastructure, and has partnered with the UAE Embassy in the U.S. on an exhibition featuring Emirati artists along with many other cultural events. Meridian has also welcomed several emerging leaders from the UAE and Oman through the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) and Meridian's custom training programs.

The 7-night/8-day trip will take delegates to the cities of **Abu Dhabi and Dubai, UAE**; and **Muscat, Oman and include a desert excursion**. A preliminary schedule is included on page 4, and details on confirmed activities and arrangements will be provided as the program evolves.

Current members of the Meridian Board of Trustees and Meridian Leadership Councils are invited to serve as delegates. For more information on last year's delegation to Morocco, please **click [HERE](#)**. Space is limited to 25 people; reservations will be confirmed on a first come, first served basis with a final deadline of October 1, 2019.



REGION OVERVIEW

Sitting at the border of historic trade routes, these two countries have stood at the gateway between the East and West for centuries. Today, the UAE and Oman play significant roles in the trade, defense, economic, and cultural affairs of the Arabian Peninsula.



United Arab Emirates

Established on December 2, 1971, UAE is a federation of seven emirates: Abu Dhabi (which serves as the capital), Ajman, Dubai, Fujairah, Ras al-Khaimah, Sharjah, and Umm al Quwain. The discovery of oil provided a boom in capital for the UAE, leading to sustained investment in education, infrastructure, and civil society that is evident today in the explosion of tourism, art, culture, banking and finance. The WorldExpo 2020 will provide Dubai an opportunity to showcase their modernized and futuristic view as leaders in economic trade against a background of traditional culture, architecture, and scenery.

Oman

Sharing a border with UAE, Oman enjoys a similar climate and rugged landscape with refreshing undisturbed views of luscious palms and traditional villages offset by dramatic mountain vistas. However, the capital city of Muscat holds jewels of culture highlighting traditional Bedouin hospitality and contemporary advancements exemplified by the Grand Mosque and the Royal Opera House Muscat. Oman has placed great emphasis on the modernization and development of the country's civic and economic structures since Sultan Qaboos Bin Said rose to prominence in 1970. The government plans to reduce oil dependency to less than 10 percent of the country's GDP in the next decade by developing tourism, real estate, investment, and renewable energy initiatives.



MISSION

The Meridian Global Insights Mission provides first-hand context of Meridian's mission of strengthening U.S. engagement with the world through the exchange of leaders, culture and ideas by:

- **Exploring** the important relationship between the United States and UAE and Oman by gaining greater insights into the region's history, politics, economy, culture, religious and civic issues
- **Encouraging** people-to-people exchange through interactions with UAE and Omani government, business, civil society and cultural leaders
- **Empowering** delegates to serve as citizen diplomats through thoughtful discussion and open exchange of ideas between participants and locals





SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

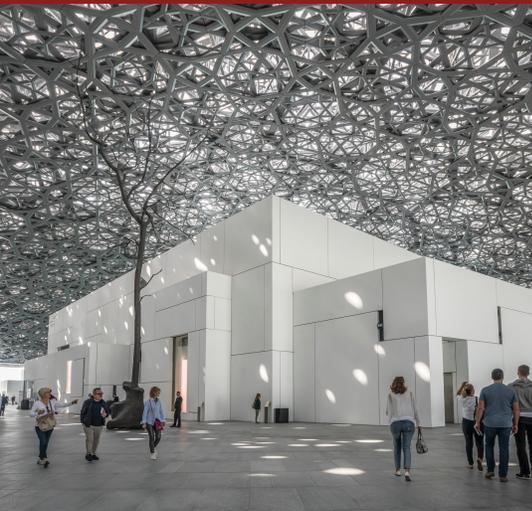
The 7-night/8-day trip will take delegates to the great capital and cultural cities of **Abu Dhabi, Dubai, and Muscat**.

Thursday, March 5	Departure from the United States
Friday, March 6	Arrival to Abu Dhabi, UAE
Saturday, March 7	UAE
Sunday, March 8	UAE
Monday, March 9	Group flight to Muscat, Oman
Tuesday, March 10	Oman
Wednesday, March 11	Oman
Thursday, March 12	Group flight to Abu Dhabi, UAE
Friday, March 13	Departure from Abu Dhabi, UAE

DELEGATION EXPERIENCES

Delegates will experience breathtaking sights and authentic cultural encounters of this unique region. Some highlights of the delegation include: **Louvre Abu Dhabi, Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque, NYU Abu Dhabi, Dubai Miracle Garden, Historic Omani Dhows, Sultan Qaboos Mosque, Muscat Opera House**

LOUVRE ABU DHABI

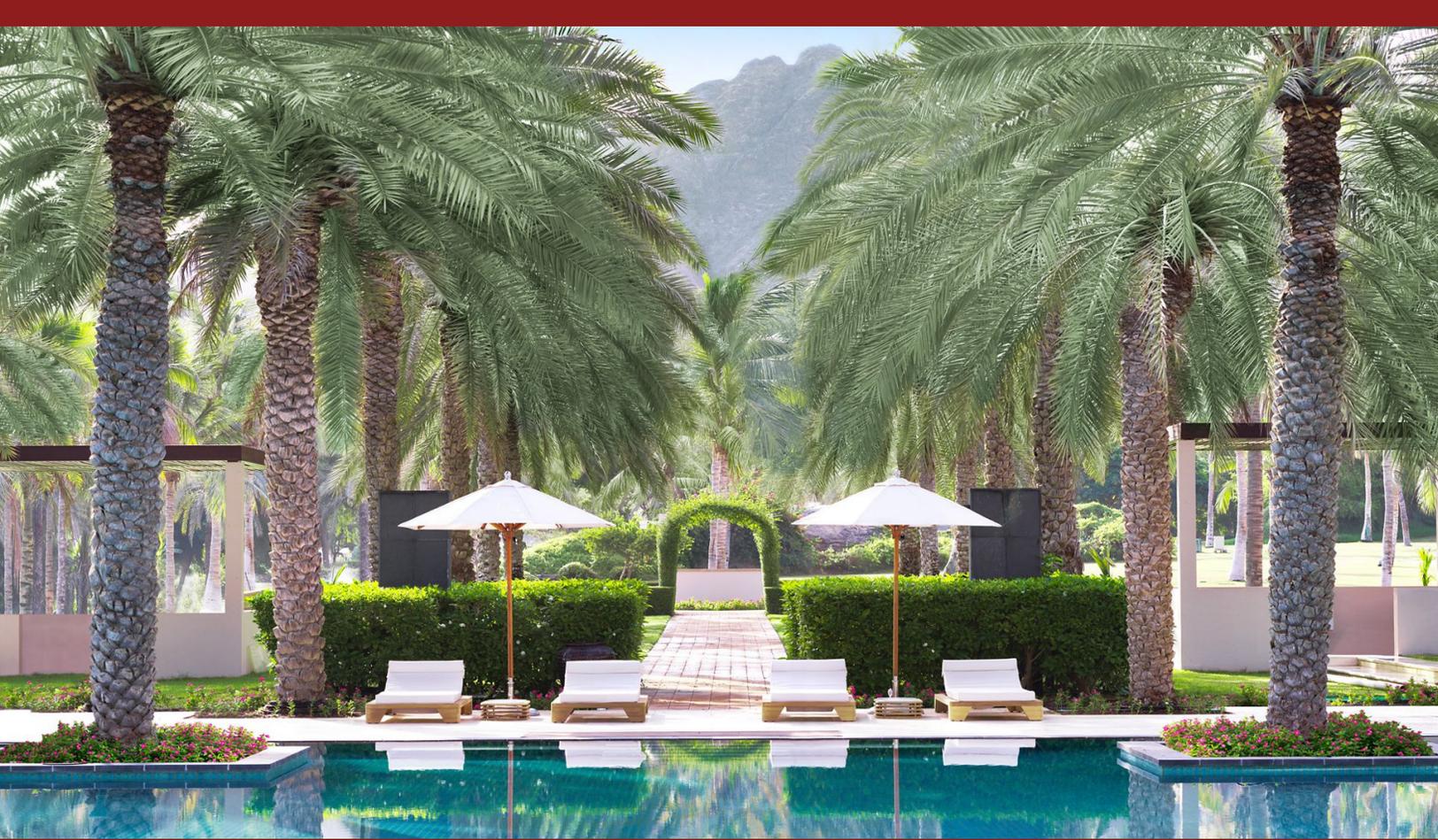


SHEIKH ZAYED GRAND MOSQUE



VIEW FROM TRADITIONAL OMANI DHOW





MISSION EXPENSES & ACCOMMODATIONS

The cost of the trip is \$8,000 per person based on double hotel occupancy or \$9,500 per individual based on single hotel occupancy. This includes all first-class accommodations, airport transfers and in-country transportation, meals, gratuities. Delegates are responsible for the cost and arrangement of their own airfare to and from UAE and Oman.

Space is limited to 25 people. The deadline for reservations is October 1st; initial travel deposit (40%) will be due to our partner travel company, Pangburn International, upon registration. Each additional deposit (30%) will be due November 15th and February 1st. For additional information, please contact: Rebekah Nantz, 202-939-5876, rnantz@meridian.org

TRIP ACCOMMODATIONS



Emirates Palace Abu Dhabi
West Corniche Road
Abu Dhabi, UAE



Al Bustan Ritz Carlton
Al Bustan Street
Muscat, Oman

