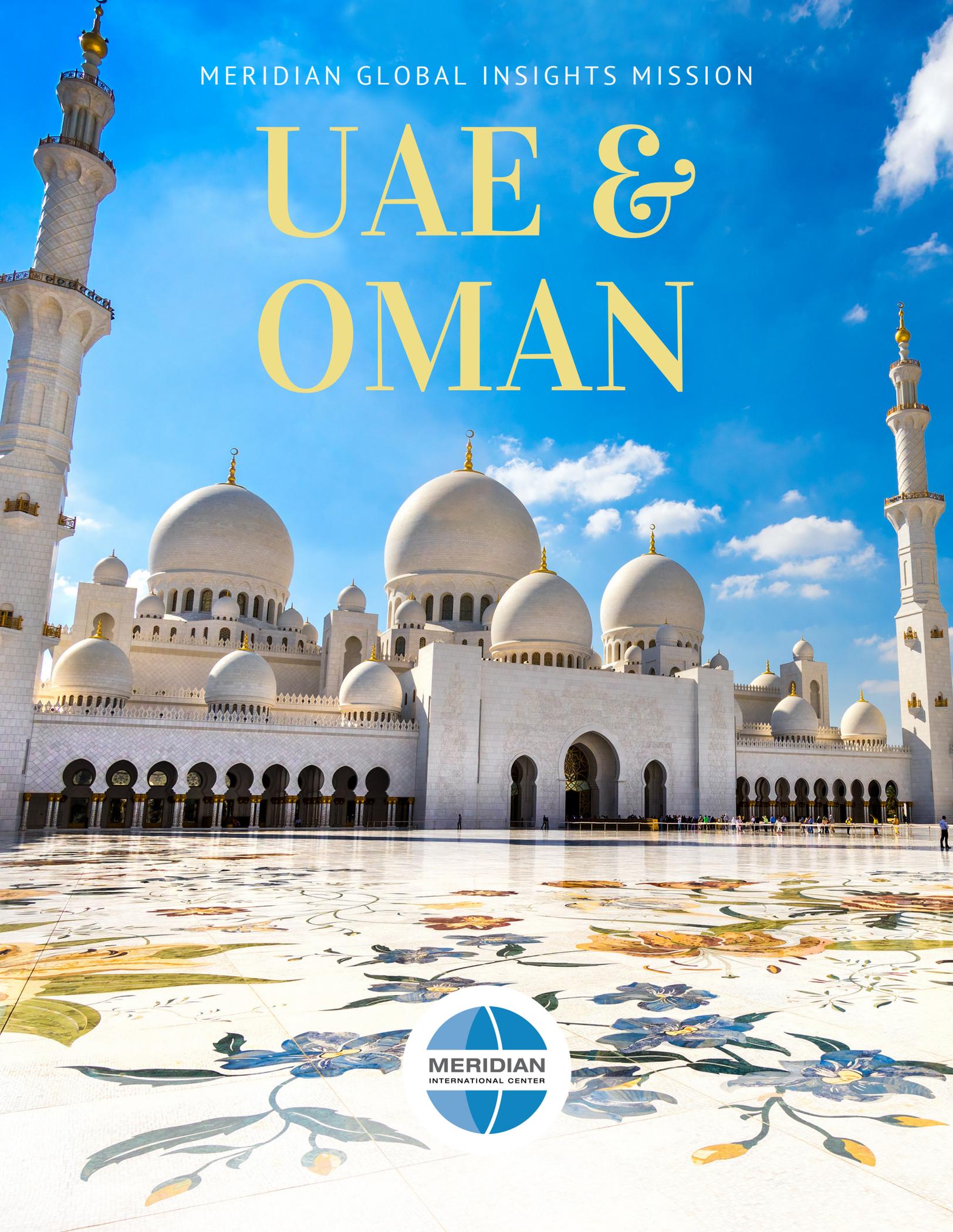


MERIDIAN GLOBAL INSIGHTS MISSION

UAE & OMAN





OVERVIEW

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 through the countries' key regions offers delegation members an opportunity to cultivate a deeper understanding of the importance of the transnational relationships and gain unique insights into the region's rich history, vibrant culture, and emerging ideas and reforms.

The United Arab Emirates and the Sultanate of Oman play significant roles in the trade, defense, economic, and cultural affairs of the Arabian Peninsula. Sitting at the border of historic trade routes between the East and West, these two countries have stood at the gateway. 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.

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.

The 6-night/7-day trip will take delegates to the capital and cultural cities of **Abu Dhabi and Dubai, UAE**; and **Muscat, Oman**. Prior to the Mission, delegation members will convene at Meridian International Center in Washington D.C. to participate in a preparatory briefing with Meridian's leadership team. A preliminary schedule is included and details on confirmed activities and arrangements will be provided as the program evolves in late 2019 and early 2020.



PURPOSE

The **Meridian Global Insights Mission** provides delegation members a unique opportunity and first-hand context of Meridian's mission of strengthening diplomacy and U.S. engagement with the world through the exchange of people, ideas and culture by:

- **Exploring** the important relationship between the United States and Morocco, one of our country's oldest allies, by learning about the region's history, politics, economy, culture, religious and civic issues;
- **Encouraging** people-to-people exchange through interactions with UAE and Omani government and business leaders as well as civil society leaders, scholars and historians;
- **Empowering** delegates to serve as citizen diplomats to further the global reach of Meridian International Center through strategic dialogue, thoughtful discussion, and the open exchange of ideas between participants and locals.





MISSION EXPENSES & ACCOMMODATIONS

The cost of the trip is \$7,000 per person or \$12,000 per couple. 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. The deadline for reservations is October 31st; 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 15th. For additional information, please contact: Natalie Jones | (202) 939-5550 njones@meridian.org

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**, with an optional finale to **Nizwa** and the **Mountains**.

Friday, March 6	Arrive Abu Dhabi, UAE
Saturday, March 7	Full day of meetings in Abu Dhabi, UAE
Sunday, March 8	Fully day of official meetings and tours in Dubai, UAE
Monday, March 9	Full day of meetings in Abu Dhabi, UAE
Tuesday, March 10	Group travel to Muscat, Oman . Afternoon tours in the city.
Wednesday, March 11	Meetings and tours in Muscat, Oman
Thursday, March 12	Meetings and tours in Muscat, Oman
Friday, March 13	Depart from Muscat International Airport, Oman

