



# Ramsar Sites Information Service

## Annotated List of Wetlands of International Importance

# Oman

3 Ramsar Site(s) covering 213,876 ha

### Al Ansab Wetland

Site number: 2,406 | Country: Oman | Administrative region: Bousher  
Area: 54 ha | Coordinates: 23°33'47"N 58°19'42"E | Designation dates: 22-03-2020  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Al Ansab Wetland is an artificial wetland 15 kilometres from the centre of Muscat. The connected water treatment facility releases treated water into a series of surrounding ponds. This process provides a water source otherwise unavailable in the surrounding desert, creating a habitat for 305 recorded species of resident and migrating birds. Threatened species, including the endangered Egyptian vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*) and steppe eagle (*Aquila nipalensis*) as well as the vulnerable common pochard (*Aythya ferina*) and sooty falcon (*Falco concolor*), occupy the wetland. It serves as a tourist destination for birdwatching and also provides educational opportunities as a long-term monitoring site. Haya Water manages the site.

### Qurm Nature Reserve

Site number: 2,144 | Country: Oman | Administrative region: Muscat - the Capital City of the Sultanate of Oman  
Area: 106.8 ha | Coordinates: 23°37'12"N 58°28'41"E | Designation dates: 19-04-2013  
[View Site details in RSIS](#)

Qurm Nature Reserve is located in the Qurm neighbourhood in the heart of the capital city of Muscat, facing the Gulf of Oman at the foot of the Hajar Mountains. The Site is internationally important as it supports one of the largest areas of natural mangrove forests along the east coast of the Arabian Peninsula as well as in the Oman Sea ecoregion. The mangroves provide natural control against tropical storms and cyclones that regularly affect the city, play a critical role in shoreline stabilization, and maintain water quality by retaining stormwater run-off. In addition, the mangroves sustain the rich biodiversity of the biogeographic region by supporting essential ecological processes for over 40 fish species. These fish include a number of high-valued commercial species that are already under considerable pressure from intensive commercial fishing in the Oman Sea. The Site also supports 194 species of birds, 27 species of crustaceans, and 48 species of molluscs. It is a popular nature observation and outing venue for tourists and Muscat city residents, and it is being developed into the first conservation/education site in the city with a state-of-the-art visitors' centre. In addition to its recreational and educational values, Qurm Nature Reserve is home to archaeological remains of fishing activities that might have taken place more than 4,000 years ago.

## Wetlands Reserve in Al Wusta Governorate

Site number: 2,529 | Country: Oman | Administrative region: Al Wusta Governorate

Area: 213,714.9 ha | Coordinates: 20°32'31"N 58°24'25"E | Designation dates: 25-10-2023

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site lies within the Al Wusta Wetlands Reserve and covers about 80% of the Reserve's area. It features coastal waters with rare marine vegetation, alkaline lakes and marshes, coral and bivalve reefs, mangroves, and "sabkha", which are intertidal flats with mineral deposits formed by seawater evaporation. The Barr Al Hikman peninsula occupies the largest area of the Site and has a coastline of about 160 kilometres. The Site is highly biodiverse and hosts about 80 threatened species and several endemic plants and animals, including the spurge *Euphorbia riebeckii*, the Omani spiny-tailed lizard (*Uromastix thomasi*), the green sawfish (*Pristis zijsron*) and the spotted guitarfish (*Rhinobatos punctifer*). About 24% of the endangered Arabian Sea subpopulation of humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) are found in the Site. It also shelters more than 1% of the biogeographical population of 23 bird species, and some 465,000 individual waterbirds are present here annually. The coastal waters of Barr Al Hikman have extensive seagrass beds, mangroves and reefs that provide critical habitat for about 40 fish species including sharks and rays. The only prawn fishery in the country is also situated in this area.