

# Salalah's newest abode

Known for its tropical climate and frankincense traditions, the beautiful south Oman coast has a new resident that is also the coast's first five-star spa resort

**N**estled between coconut plantations and a beautiful white sandy beach bordering a blue sea that glistens under the sun, the Al Baleed Resort Salalah by Anantara is a welcome oasis on the stunning south coast of Oman.

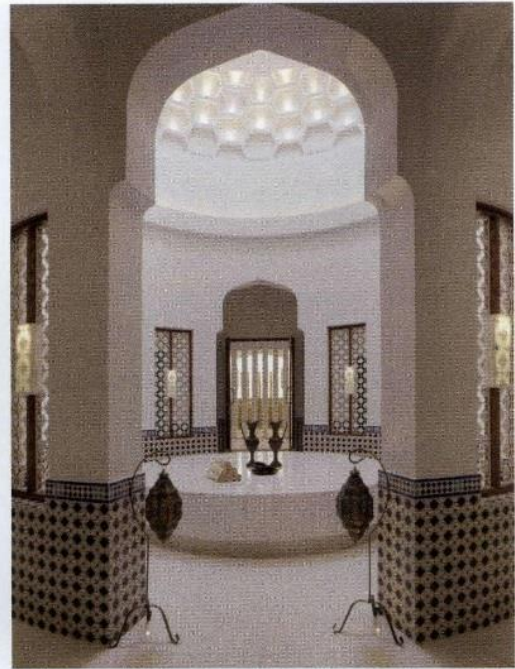
Inspired by the traditional villages of Dhofar, the hotel reflects traditional Omani design with the main whitewashed building representative of the fort that would have traditionally housed the village sheikh. Beside mammoth wooden doors, a frankincense-tree logo – designed in collaboration with Sultan Qaboos Said al Said, ruler of Oman – welcomes guests.

Dotted among 750 coconut palms lie 88 one- and two-bedroom villas, each boasting traditional Omani-style flat roofs. Throughout the resort, recessed walls that would once have been used to store supplies are adorned with local antiques and artwork, and a whole host of water features, mimicking the ancient falaj irrigation system, are present throughout.

Take your pick from dramatic views of the ocean from the Premier Sea View Rooms or, if privacy is your forte, opt for a Garden View Villa where you'll be completely secluded and can enjoy sunning yourself on a private terrace complete with huge cabana and private pool. For sunset views like no other, the Beach View Villas are the ideal choice.

Once you're checked in, have a think about what you want to see and do. If you're seeking adrenaline-fuelled fun then try your hand at wadi bashing, hiking or head out on a 4x4 exhibition with one of the local experts to discover ancient villages. Get out on the water for a dolphin-spotting trip or catch marlin, tuna and saltfish with a fishing trip on the ocean. For





something more relaxing, enjoy paddleboarding or kayaking along calm blue seas or join a sunset yoga session on the beach. For history fans, the fascinating Museum of The Frankincense Land and historic Al Baleed archeological site is right next door.

If relaxation is key, head to the Anantara Spa, where Thai roots are combined with Arabian culture to create a selection of timeless revitalising treatments. Embrace local customs by opting for the frankincense ritual, where two therapists will utilise the sacred Omani essence to transport you to a state of pure relaxation. Otherwise, visit the huge Arabian hammam, where traditional tellaks are on hand to guide you through this age-old tradition.

Kids and teens will be in their element thanks to dedicated clubs where daily activities include the likes of beach camping, movie nights and treasure hunts; the little ones even have their very own miniature sunloungers.

When it comes to cuisine, options are excellent. Try all-day dining at Sakalan for freshly baked breakfasts, lavish lunches and delicious buffet dinners. Al Mina is a Mediterranean-inspired terrace restaurant where nightly entertainment by the in-house band accompanies seriously tasty bites. Meanwhile, Asian delights are on offer at Mekong. For something truly special, try a Dining by Design experience – staff will create a table and seating out of sand on the resort's pristine beach before escorting you to dinner, via the light of flaming lanterns, where you'll then be served mouthwateringly fresh seafood and Arabic delicacies to impress.

Discover all the beauty of Oman's most precious jewel with a stay at Al Baleed Resort Salalah by Anantara. *Find out more at [salalah.anantara.com](http://salalah.anantara.com)*

