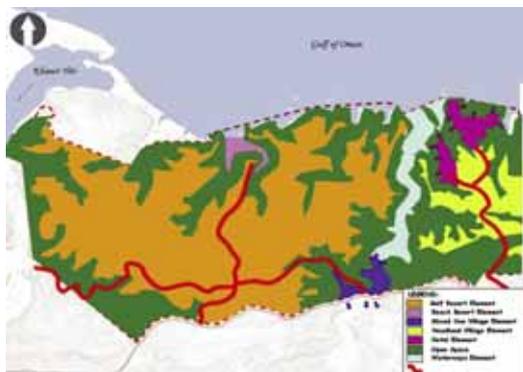


# The top 15

## Projects that will change the face of the country

Despite the fact that Oman is just beginning to cash in on the region-wide building craze, the Sultanate has not wasted any time when it comes to attracting major investors to fund mega-projects. The sheer volume of projects in development and under construction in the country right now is stunning, especially when considered in the context of Oman's recent history. A decade ago the country's construction and real estate industries might easily have been described as sleepy and provincial, but not anymore. Today developers are erecting enormous towers and drawing up entire cityscapes from what used to be barren deserts and empty coastlines. While there is no doubt that Oman's recent development has been motivated in part by the awe-inspiring projects going up in Dubai and the other emirates, the Sultanate is taking a slightly different approach, focusing on environmentally friendly projects that are aimed not so much at the average tourist, but at the refined luxury traveler, adventure seeker or family-oriented holidaymaker.



Yenkit

**Developer:** Yenkit Tourism Development

**Cost:** \$2bn

**Expected completion:** TBA

The development will be located south-east of Muscat. In addition to four five-star hotels, 1400 residential villas and 1900 residential apartments, it will have an 18-hole golf course and sports facilities.



Blue City

**Developer:** Al Sawadi Investment and Tourism

**Cost:** \$15-20bn

**Expected completion:** 2020

Blue City will be located approximately 100 km outside of Muscat and house over 250,000 residents. It will contain commercial and leisure facilities including resorts, five-star hotels and golf courses.



Omanage

**Developer:** Journey of Light

**Cost:** \$1.6bn

**Expected completion:** 2011-12

**Omanage** will feature a unique cultural theme park named the Landmark, which will include seven pearl-shaped buildings and exhibition halls. It will also have hotels, restaurants, parks and residential space.



Salam Sports and Leisure Resort – Shinas

**Developer:** Sama

**Cost:** \$1bn

**Expected completion:** 2012

Salam Sports and Leisure Resort will house four hotels – including two five-star – as well as serviced apartments. Additional facilities include a shopping center, a 150-berth marina and an 18-hole golf course.



Tilal Al Khuwair

**Developer:** Al Madina Real Estate

**Cost:** \$1bn

**Expected completion:** Grand Mall-2009; Project-2011

Located in Muscat, this commercial and residential development will be for shopping, entertainment and work. The 350,000-sq-metre facility will include the Muscat Grand Mall and a five-star hotel.



Salam Yiti

**Developer:** Sama Dubai and Omran

**Cost:** \$1.6bn

**Expected completion:** 2011

The Yiti resort will have three five-star hotels, 400 villas, 1000 apartments and 720 townhouses. Other facilities included a souk retail centre, an 18-hole golf course, a marina, a beach and community facilities.



Al Khyran Resort

**Developer:** AlArgan Towell Investment

**Cost:** \$30m

**Expected completion:** 2010

Located 17 km east of Muscat, this project will be developed as an exclusive hotel on 13.74 ha of wilderness landscape on an enclosed bay. The project will include an 82-room hotel, central facilities and a spa.



The Wave

**Developer:** Waterfront Investments (Omani government) and Majid Al Futtaim Investments

**Cost:** \$2.4bn

**Expected completion:** 2013

The only project to be developed in Muscat, it will feature over 4000 residential units, an 18-hole Greg Norman golf course and a 300-berth marina.



Green Acres

**Developer:** Radiance International (Al Ishraq International) and Transmit Nanvang Engineering

**Cost:** \$500m

**Expected completion:** 2013

The largest recreational development of its kind in the region, the complex will include residential areas, hotels, a golf academy and other activities.



Salalah Beach

**Developer:** Muriya (Oman Tourism Development Company and Orascom)

**Cost:** \$200m

**Expected completion:** TBA

Salalah Beach will be in the southern Dhofar region and will include five hotels, 538 villas, 1000 apartments and features restaurants, retail stores and a marina.



Jebel Sifah

**Developer:** Muriya (Oman Tourism Development Company and Orascom)

**Cost:** \$200m

**Expected completion:** TBA

Jebel Sifah will be located 45 km from Muscat and will include four hotels, 450 villas and 500 apartments, restaurants, retail stores and an 18-hole golf course.



Ras Al Hadd Resort

**Developer:** Qatari Diar

**Cost:** \$164m

**Expected completion:** TBA

This eco-friendly resort will be built on the coast close to Sur and is inspired by the natural environment with an emphasis on sustainability. It will include hotels and villas and will cover an area of 2m sq metres.



Muscat Hills Golf and Country Club

**Developer:** Sayyid Kais bin Tarik Al Said

**Cost:** \$400m

**Expected completion:** 2009

The luxury resort located in Muscat will feature a five-star hotel, an 18-hole championship golf course, 140 luxury villas, 29 luxury three-storey apartment blocks, a retail area and other recreational facilities.



Al Duqum

**Developer:** The Omani government

**Cost:** TBA

**Expected completion:** from 2010

Al Duqum is strategically located close to international shipping lanes and will include a dry dock, a crude oil export terminal, downstream industries, an airport, a free zone and commercial developments.



Port of Sohar Expansion

**Developer:** Port of Sohar

**Cost:** TBA

**Expected completion:** TBA

The Port of Sohar is located in the north-east and is close to the UAE. It serves as an industrial centre. Expansion will increase the port's size from 2000 ha to 6000 ha. It is managed as a partnership.