



THE ARABIAN LEOPARD CHALLENGE

WELCOME PACKAGE

Sept 28-30

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INTRODUCTION

Husaak Adventures announces an activity for true adventure seekers and nature and animals lovers: the Arabian Leopard challenge. Jebal Samhan in Dhofar is a mountain that rises dramatically 1000 meters above the ocean and once a year this mountain undergoes an amazing transformation. Making it home to more wildlife than anywhere else in Arabia. Join us and have fun with other adventure seekers and hiking/running/walking enthusiasts. The challenge is to safely run/walk 50 KM through a variety of eco systems in 1 day. A 3,000 USD prize will be divided to the first male and female participants who reaches the finish line. The terrain is a variety of dirt roads, paved road and soft sand and slope is mainly downhill

NOTE: This event is open for everyone regardless of your fitness level. You can be a super athlete aiming for the full 50 KM running or a nature lover who wants to walk and take photos. There are exit points every 10 KM.

ABOUT JEBAL SAMHAN

Jebel Samhan Nature Reserve is a nature reserve in Dhofar, Oman. It has an area of 4,500 square kilometers (1,700 sq mi) and has no permanent population. It has the largest population of wild Arabian leopards (scientific name: *Panthera pardus nimr*) which has been listed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List since 1996 as fewer than 200 wild individuals were estimated to be alive in 2006. In a study conducted between 2011 and 2015 around the Dhofar mountains, it was estimated that there are around 44 to 58 wild Arabian leopards left in Oman.

Jebel Samhan is one of the major mountain ranges in the administrative district of Dhofar, whose highest peak reaches 2,100 meters. Jebel Samhan has many levels that are traversed by deep and narrow mountain passes, some of which are up to a thousand feet deep.

In the plain of Jebel Samhan, different plant species such as Acacia and Frankincense trees grow. The narrow mountain passes are poor in water, but there are numerous streams that serve as an important source of water for most of the animals living here. In addition to the Arabian leopards are many other mammals native to these mountains, including the Arabian gazelle, foxes, the Nubian goat, Cape hare, rock hyrax, Indian crested porcupine, desert hedgehog and several bird species. Occasionally, the Arabian leopard might prey on domestic livestock. They are usually smaller and lighter than its African relatives. Other predators found in the reserve, include caracal, striped hyena and Arabian wolf.

WHERE IS JEBAL SAMHAN?

Jebel Samhan located about ~50 KM from the city of Salalah and in the Southern side of the Arabian Peninsula. The mountain rises dramatically from the ocean creating a wall that, when combined with the summer monsoon, creates an isolated green micro-climate.



ABOUT THE CHALLENGE

The walk/run is total of a 50 km one way mainly downhill. The hike takes you through 3 different ecosystems starting from the rugged plateau of Jebal Samhan with very little vegetation that lasts for about the first 12 km before the terrain transitions very quickly to the lush green part of Jebal Samhan which will last for about 36 km downhill. The path ends along the Indian ocean on the beach for the last 6 km. You will be transferred from the end of the point to the Rotana resort by car or bus.

The terrain is easy and mainly downhill. The first section is a dirt road and the longest section is along the pavement and last section on the beach sand.

Therefore, trail running shoes are recommended. However normal running shoes will suffice as well. If you are competing for the prize, you can finish the trail in about 4 hours. If you want to take your own time, you will finish in 8-10 hours.

THINGS YOU NEED TO CONSIDER WHILE ON THE MOUNTAIN:

- 1. BREATH PROPERLY:** Try to breath from both your mouth and nose as you run, the air is clean and probably the cleanest in the region so enjoy it and get the most out of it.
- 2. MUSIC:** Your favorite music could be very motivating, If you would like to listen to your music, we highly recommend you to bring your headphones and listen to music, especially if you are feeling tired, but avoid bringing loud speakers and disturb other hikers/runners.

SAFETY NOTE: If you decide to use your headphones and will be listening to music while hiking, we highly recommend you lower the volume so you can hear guides or other hikers' warnings or whistles if you wander off the trail.

- 3. TRASH:** Please **collect all your garbage** (Plastic bottles or any other garbage), keep it with you and dispose of it back at the camp. This place is clean and pristine and we would like to keep it that way. **REMEMBER**, take nothing but memories, leave nothing but footprints.
- 4. RECOMMENDED SHOES:** Trail running shoes are recommended. However normal running shoes will suffice as well. We do not recommend boots with ankle support if you are planning to run. However, if you are planning to walk the trail then it should be a good choice.
- 5. WATER:** Continuously drink water and do not wait until you are dehydrated. You will have 3 liters of water with you which should be enough for going up and down in 12 hours period (We will have more water bottles at the start point so feel free to grab an extra bottle as you leave the camp).

THE CHALLENGE ROUTE:

As illustrated in the map below there will be 10 stations along the way (5 KM apart) with Husaak guides with medic support moving between the stations to help you or answer your questions.

There will also be a receiving team at the end point who will take a photo of you with your flag/time of arrival (Only GCC flags are available).



CHALLENGE SUMMARY:

- Start point at Samhan base camp (1500 m)
- Hike/Walk/Run down to the Ocean.
- Total distance ~50 KM down.
- Different fitness levels are welcome
- 10 Guide stations along the path
- Exit point every 5 KM
- You can stop and take the shuttle at any point
- Provided food, beverage, backpacks, t-shirts, map, Husaak Medal).



CHALLENGE RULES (PLEASE READ CAREFULLY):

- All participants should stay on course and check-in at EVERY GUIDE STATION for your safety – Guide stations will have at least 1 guide at all times.
- Participant's number will be recorded every time they pass by a guide station.
- First male/female participant to arrive to the end point without skipping stations or riding in a shuttle will qualify for the \$1500 cash prize each.
- For the winner to qualify for the \$1500 cash prize, they must have their number checked-in at every guide station to make sure they stayed on the approved hike path.
- As the guides close their station and go to the next one, they will sweep every participant on the trail to the next station.
- As the guide reaches the next station, the guide will cross check the names of participants that left those stations with the people that are coming back from the closed station with him. If anyone is missing, the guide will report back to the base camp and start the search.
- Guides will be provided with emergency horn in case someone is severely injured or in a position where he/she needs urgent help. Doctors will be available on the trail and in some stations.
- Flags of all 6 GCC countries (Kuwait, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar and Bahrain) will be available at the last station. Please feel free to bring your country flag with you for a picture if you are not from any of the countries above.

SKIPPING STATION: If you are tired and want to skip stations but not exit, you can wait for the shuttle going around to jump in it, but the moment you get in the shuttle you will be disqualified for the prize. The shuttle can take you to the station of your choice if it is on his way. The shuttle will pick up people only if it its heading down. Riding the shuttle or using any means besides walking or running will disqualify you from winning the first-place prize.

STATIONS CLOSING TIME

The race will start at 6:30 AM on Friday and participants will start making their way to the bottom. However, there is a closing time for each station and each participant are requested to do their time keeping for when to stop and exit. Please as you exit make sure to check out from the stations as you go down. No participants can be behind any of those stations after the stated closing time.

STATION NUMBER	DISTANCE FROM CAMP (KM)	CLOSING TIME
1	5	8:00 AM
2	10	9:00 AM
3	15	10:00 AM
4	20	11:00 PM
5	25	12:00 PM
6	30	02:00 PM
7	35	03:00 PM
8	40	04:00 PM
9	45	05:00 PM
10	50	07:00 PM

UPON ARRIVAL AT THE AIRPORT

One week before the event, you will be contacted by one of our team members to get your arrival timing into Salalah. The meeting point is Salalah Airport where you will see our rep with Husaak sign in the arrival terminal.

Bus Schedule from Salalah Airport

Based on your arrival time, you will be allocated to your bus to Jebal Samhan. There are 4 scheduled busses heading to Jebal Samhan on Thursday.

The scheduled bus timing is per the following:

Bus #	Leaving Salalah Airport	Estimated Arrival At Cloud Camp in Jebal Samhan
1	2:00 PM	4:00 PM
2	4:00 PM	6:00 PM
3	6:00 PM	8:00 PM
4	8:00 PM	10:00 PM

If you are stopping in Muscat:

If your flight is via Muscat and you have a long layover, let us know in advance as you can have access to the Husaak Center to rest if you don't want to stay in the airport. The Husaak center is 15 minutes from the airport and typical taxi fare is 10 OMR.

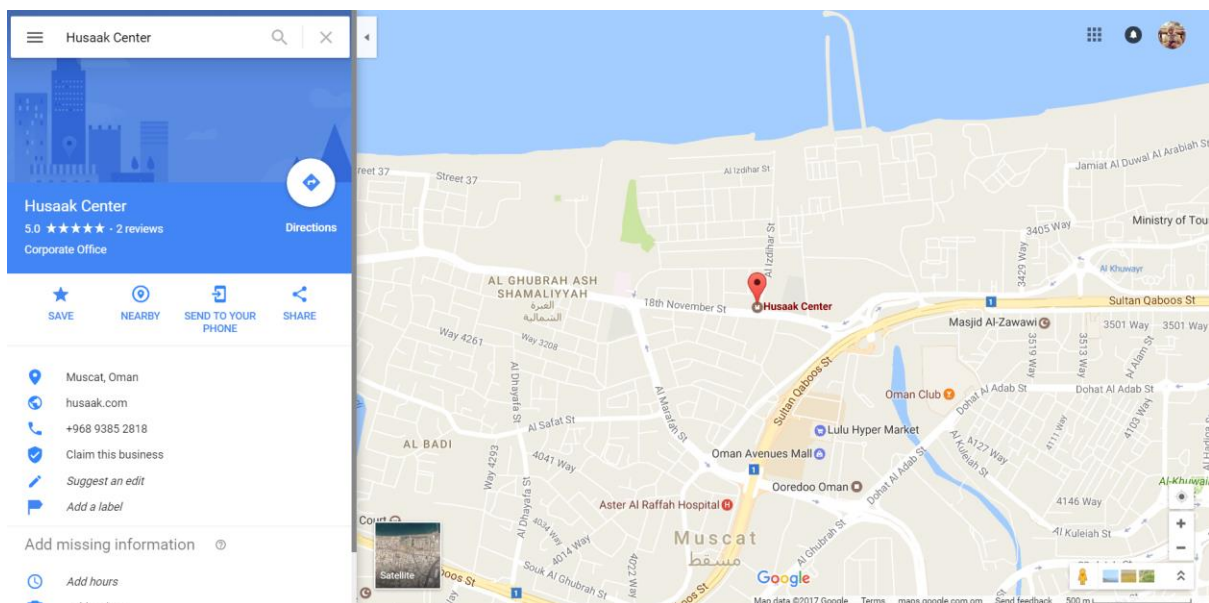
Husaak Center location:

House #3

Intersection of 18th of November and Al Izdehar St

By the Bangladesh School

You can find it also on google map by searching Husaak Center.



UPON ARRIVAL AT THE CLOUD CAMP

You will be greeted and welcomed by the challenge team (Husaak, Ministry of tourism, and ProVision). Ask for the registration table where you will be allocated to your tent:

Once you register you will be given your Challenge Welcome Bag which includes:

1. Your Challenge bib.
2. Map of the trail with the stations and closing time on it.
3. A small bag that you can use on the hike to carry water bottles and your food.
4. Arabian Leopard Challenge T-Shirt

Each participant will have a single tent for themselves. The tent can fit 2 people however each person will have a tent of their own where they can keep their bag and personal stuff with them.



BEFORE YOU START THE RACE:

Before the start of the walk/run we request all the participants to pack their bags and tag them with their names and tag number and place them at the bag collection section in the camp (There will be a sign). The bags will be transferred to Rotana resort where you will collect them when you check in Friday afternoon.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Carry your ID (passport or ID) at all times, you will be required to show it at the resort when you reach.

WHAT SHOULD YOU CONSIDER BRINGING WITH YOU?

There are **3 ESSENTIAL** items you **MUST** bring with you. However, the other items are nice to have but not must and will be good to have around the camp area. Remember, on the hike, anything you take with you is an extra weight you need to carry!

Essentials:

- Trail running shoes or running shoes (This is required for all participants).
- Headlight with batteries.
- Sleeping bag – (Sleeping Mat is recommended)

Nice to have:

- Sunglasses
- Sun screen
- Camera
- Hat/Bandana
- Towel
- Pair of sandals or walking shoes for the camp
- External chargers
- Light rain jacket
- Jacket/Sweaters/Fleece

FOOD & BEVERAGE:

All meals are included as part of your package as per the following

NOTE: ALCOHOL IS NOT PERMITTED DURING THE ENTIRE EVENT. PLEASE BE CONSIDERATE OF THE LOCAL CUSTOMS

- Full buffet dinner on Thursday & grills will be served Friday nights.
- Light breakfast will be served Friday & full breakfast on Saturday morning.
- Lunch/Snack will be provided for all challenge participants on Friday in the stations.
- No alcohol is served or allowed during the event

NOTE: Feel free to bring your own Snacks/Nuts/Energy Bars/Dates. The lunch and snacks will be provided in the stations so if you are slow you might be hungry on your own. We highly recommend you bring your own favorite snacks.

EVENT SCHEDULE:

Day	Time	Event
Thursday	4:00:00 PM - MIDNIGHT	Arrival & Registration
	7:00 PM	Dinner
	10:30 PM	Last Dinner Serving
	MIDNIGHT	Sleep
Friday	5:00 AM	WAKE UP & GET READY
	6:00 AM	Gathering
	6:15 AM	Welcome Speech
	6:30 AM	Start of the march
	7:30 PM	Dinner & Winner Announcement
	10:00 PM	End of Event
Saturday	6:30 AM	Wake up
	7:00 AM	Breakfast
	9 AM	Start departing Rotana Resort *
	10-12 PM	Arrival to Salala Airport**

****NOTE: The buses will take participants to Salalah airport from the Rotana Resort. So if you have a very early or very late flight, you will have to arrange your own taxi on Saturday.**

CONTACTS:

ROYAL OMANI POLICE: **9999**

Husaak Adventures HOTLINE (Will be active starting THURSDAY 27th 6 AM to SATURDAY 29th 6 PM): **+968 93852818**

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