

ESCAPE INTO THE CLOUDS

Nestled atop the idyllic Jebel Akhdar, the recently renovated Sahab Resort and Spa allows guests to step back in time



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Jebel Akhdar

Have you ever wondered what it is like to sit among mulberry trees and sip tea as the clouds literally descend on you? The majestic sights of the surrounding rugged mountains and terraced plateaus where the famed Damask roses bloom heighten the euphoria. It is like entering Enid Blyton's fantasy world, where children step into a magical realm with green trees, clouds and colourful sunsets.

Nestled on the Saiq plateau, the recently renovated Sahab Resort and Spa, managed by Al Nahda, is an invitation to step back into history. At its entrance, a 2mn year old fossilised tree greets you. Inside, although the boutique resort has been brushed up to a new design, its stonewalls with embedded fossils remain intact. This gives the indoor restaurant an elegant set-up especially during the day.

The resort opens up to one of the most magnificent views in Jebel Akhdar. The outdoor patios are filled with local herbs and flora that uplift the landscape of the property. At every nook and corner, you will find wildflowers and shrubs that have sprouted through crevices in the ground. The renovations have been done around the shrubs and trees to maintain the rich touch of history at the resort, according to a staff member. Planted along the walkways are Yas plants - a native herb of great value sought after for its medicinal and beautifying properties.

The resort also has an olive garden planted right near the outdoor dining area. Centuries old mulberry trees grow outside some of the rooms, adding a therapeutic touch to the outdoor patio. Sunsets (and sunrises for the brave who can wake up early) are enchanted from this vantage point.

The design in each of the 25 rooms in the hotel is influenced by local art and Omani culture, and includes modern amenities for a comfortable stay. The rooms are situated at angles from where guests enjoy sunsets, sun-



A mulberry tree forms an archway at the entrance of a room and (right) the lobby area of Sahab Resort and Spa



rises and the starry night sky. The resort has two multi-cuisine restaurants - one indoor and the other outdoor - which serve mouth-

watering delicacies. The menu has been crafted to offer foods to be ideally enjoyed atop this mountain haven. One of the chef's specials - Mountain Poppers, a crispy serving of cheese and jalapenos shaped like mountains - is a delicious example of this and is highly

recommended. Guests can enjoy this on the vast stretch of the pool deck with afternoon tea.

Wellness is indoctrinated into the DNA of the resort and the best place to experience this, apart from the natural setting of the place, is Al Nahda's



(Top) The rooms are equipped with modern amenities and designed with local art; (left) the patio of Uru Spa looks out to a herb garden; and (left, inset) fossilised stones embedded in the walkways of the resort

award-winning Uru Spa. At 2,000m above sea level, the treatments can be enjoyed at the highest point in Oman. The deep tissue massages with their bespoke aromatic oils - called 'cloud' - extracted from Damask rose and Yas are relaxing and invigorating at the

same time. Ideal for a weekend getaway to escape the heat of Muscat, the Sahab Resort and Spa is the epitome of cosiness and invigoration. Guests will hardly want to go out but for those who wish to venture out into Jebel Akhdar, there are villages in the vicinity for cultural excursions. Also for the adventurous, there are trekking routes along the mountain that the resort's staff members can provide assistance with.

With its idyllic location, rich history, natural elements and friendly staff, the resort is one of the few places in Jebel Akhdar that offers an experience of a magical getaway into a place that might as well be a fantasy land.