

Special Economic Zone DUQM

In 2011, the government of Oman established The Special Economic Zone Duqm (SEZD) to implement His Majesty's vision 2020 to reach social & economic development of the Wusta Region & diversify sources of national income in the country. Characterized by its enthusiasm, SEZD takes pride in what it has to offer to the world. It's prime location, political stability, natural resources, exceptional topography, and breathtaking scenery makes it an excellent choice for business and tourism.

Strategically located, SEZD stretches over an area of 1,745 square meters alongside 70 km of coastline on the Arabian Sea. Not only is it one of the largest economic zones in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA); but amongst the largest and most significant in the world. Duqm has a prominent location facing the Arabian Sea, where investors can gain access to high-density population markets in India, Pakistan & Bangladesh. Most international trade routes pass close to or through the port, making it a gateway to the Middle East, North & East Africa, & South Asia.

SEZD aims to become a hub for oil & gas based industries. Globalization has been made faster, cheaper and simpler by container shipping and tankers plying the Indian Ocean, where more than 50% of this traffic passes. Over 70% of the world's seaborne petroleum is transported along the coast of the Sultanate of Oman through the Indian Ocean to the Pacific. Additionally, SEZD's location makes it a logistical supply gateway for GCC states and a significant breakthrough in achieving GCC economic integration, particularly after launching the GCC train project, which will connect all GCC cities and ports.

In addition to its strategic location, the area surrounding Duqm is rich with oil, natural gas, and minerals in commercial quantities such as Limestone, Silica sand, Laterite, Basalt, Solar salt, and much more. These deposits can be mined, processed and exported out of Port of Duqm. Moreover, the abundance of marine resources along the Al Wusta coast makes Duqm a distinct & ideal location for fish processing, aquaculture, and related activities.

Subdivided into multiple areas, SEZD includes the Port of Duqm & dry dock, refining, heavy industry, petrochemicals area, fishing port and fish industries complex, Duqm airport, logistics services area, tourism area, light, and medium manufacturing, commercial, educational services, health care, and residential areas. SEZD's diversity offers so much to investors giving them

a variety of investment opportunities to select from such as sports facilities, mining, real estate development, shopping centers, private universities and institutes and many more.

Investment is made very convenient through the one-stop-shop as it provides all the necessary services and procedures in one location. The One-Stop-Shop provides all the data and information required, commercial registration services, issuance of land usufruct agreements, issuance of licenses & permits, visa applications, and more.

Furthermore, the multipurpose port of Duqm, with berths to handle high-load vessels, plays an essential role in stimulating the advancement of the Wusta region. It is an entry to the universal market, consisting of two 8.6 km breakwaters, a commercial berth of 2.3km, with a depth of 18 meters and an approach channel 19m deep. Duqm port is equipped with a world-scale dry dock, it is the second largest in MENA. It can repair ten ships at the same time, including tankers such as the ultra-large crude carriers (ULCCs). It is operated by Daewoo Shipbuilding, and Marine Engineering (DSME), a South Korean company and consists of two docks 410m in length, 95m, and 80m in width, 10m deep and 14m high.

Several mega-investments projects have been attracted to the facility, including the development of an oil refinery and petrochemical complex with a production capacity of 230,000 barrels per day, and the construction of A 250-km -long, 36-inch-wide pipeline to transport natural gas to Duqm industries from Saih al Nahiyda in Central Oman.

Additionally, Duqm is one of Oman's flagship tourism projects, quickly turning into a hot destination for tourists and investors. It offers diverse attractions including an 18 km coastline of beautiful sandy beaches, with hotels, guest houses and chalets overlooking the Arabian Sea. This hidden jewel also includes the Wadi Al Sayy natural park, Masirah Island, an Oryx preserve, and the Al Shuwyar fishing community.

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Duqm's unique topography is complemented by several areas of geological significance. Natural processes and historical human settlements have left behind artifacts and rock formations that give the development some of its most noticeable tourism value and local significance. The Rock Garden, a six square km space with unique sandstone and limestone formations.

SEZD has a bright future indeed ahead of it with countless projects that are yet to be established. The government is dedicated to providing a supportive environment for infrastructure and logistics, technology and innovation, and human resources development. SEZD provides an encouraging climate for foreign investment due to its location, varieties for investment, natural resources, and political stability.