

Kenya and Oman

Kenya Embassy, Muscat

The bilateral relations between Kenya and the Sultanate of Oman are deeply rooted in history, primarily founded on trade and cultural exchanges that date back centuries. Omani traders played a significant role as early pioneers in the trade routes along the East African or Swahili Coast. In Kenya, Omanis left a lasting legacy in the architecture, culture, familial relationships, and religious practices within the ten-mile coastal strip that now includes modern-day counties of Mombasa, Lamu, Kilifi, and, to some extent, Kwale. Kenya's national language Swahili is widely spoken in Oman underscoring the enduring relevance of Swahili as a cultural bridge between our two countries.

Formal diplomatic relations between the Republic of Kenya and the Sultanate of Oman were established in 1976, with the first Omani Ambassador presenting his credentials to the late President Jomo Kenyatta in 1976, however, in 1986, Oman closed its Embassy in Nairobi. It was not until July 2013 that the Embassy was reopened. On the other hand, the Kenyan Embassy in Muscat was officially inaugurated on 12th November, 2011, by the then Minister for Foreign Affairs, Hon. Moses Wetangula, and Hon. Yusuf Bin Abdullah Bin Alawi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Sultanate of Oman.

Since the establishment of embassies in our two capitals, our countries have witnessed a significant deepening of diplomatic engagement. This has resulted in a remarkable increase in collaboration across a wide spectrum of areas, including but not limited to trade, investments, tourism, and the preservation of our shared cultural heritage, forging a stronger and more enduring bond between us. On trade, Kenyan exports to Oman that include livestock, meat and meat products as well as horticultural products have steadily increased. The balance of trade however remains in favor of Oman which mainly exports oil and petrochemical products to Kenya.

Kenya's agriculture, manufacturing, technological and tourism sectors, along with its strategic position as a gateway to East Africa, offer compelling opportunities for Omani investors looking to diversify their investment portfolio. The Kenyan Embassy in Oman is dedicated to facilitating these opportunities, actively encouraging Omani investors to explore the wide range of investment options offered by our country. To foster bilateral economic partnerships that benefit both nations, the embassy serves as a pivotal link in promoting and facilitating investment prospects that contribute to the prosperity of Kenya and Oman.

Tourism between Kenya and Oman presents immense potential for growth. While family ties have historically driven tourism from Oman to Kenya, the Kenyan Embassy in Oman has been actively engaged in showcasing the breathtaking beauty and diverse landscapes of Kenya. Through promotional efforts highlighting our rich history, vibrant culture, and natural wonders, we anticipate a surge in tourism numbers. Omani nationals and residents are expected to explore Kenya's enchanting destinations, contributing to increased tourism-related exchanges.