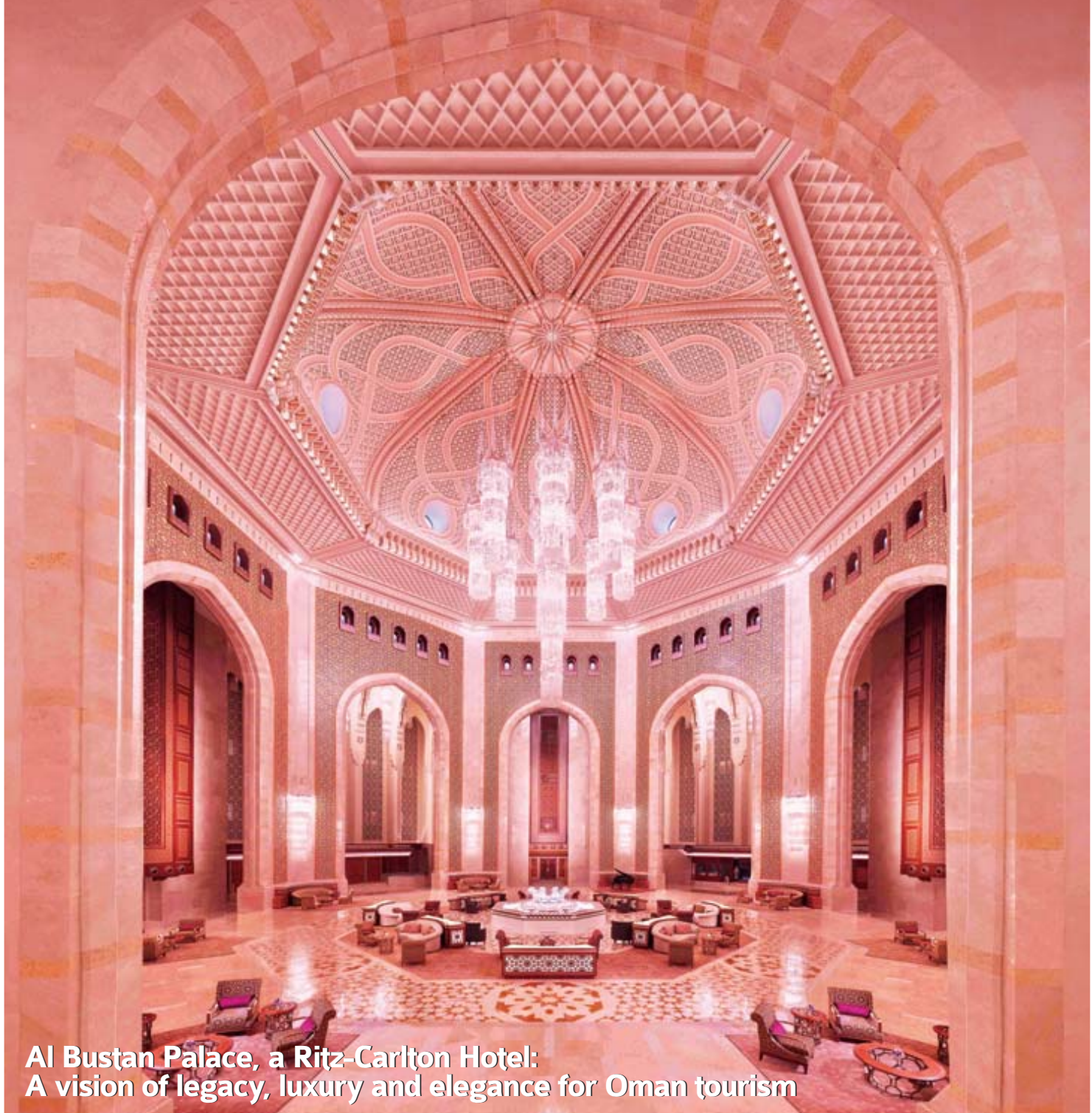


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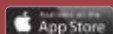
WINGS OF OMAN



**Al Bustan Palace, a Ritz-Carlton Hotel:
A vision of legacy, luxury and elegance for Oman tourism**

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Omani Vessels: On the Maritime Routes of Ancestors

The sewn-plank ship *Sohar* was named after Oman's historic seaport, and built in the maritime town of Sur, about 200 kilometres south-east of Muscat. In this "Treasures from the National Museum" feature, the National Museum's Director General, Jamal al-Moosawi, and the Head of Curatorial Unit, Moza al-Wardi, tell us more about this famous ship, and its journey from Oman to China. (With photography by Saleh al-Ruzaqi/The National Museum).

Model of *Sohar*

Materials: Cherry wood

Length: 2.3 m (Scale 1:15)

Period: 1433 AH/2012 CE

In 1400–01 AH/1980–81CE, the *Sohar* sailed from Oman to China, retracing the routes of early Islamic seafarers who had established what was at the time the longest sea-trading route in the world (9,600 kilometres). *Sohar* demonstrated that a sewn boat could



sail all the way to China. The original ship now stands on the roundabout near the al-Bustan Palace Hotel.

Ashraf bin Khalid al-Hamadani was the main model-maker for this replica of the historic ship *Sohar*. Similar to a previous model he made for the *Jewel of Muscat* project, the *Sohar* model has planks stitched together and frames lashed to the planks. Ashraf noted that he particularly enjoyed the challenge of measuring the full-size ship and calculating the correct scale of its components, as the *Sohar* represents such an important part of Oman's recent past.



The National Museum: Visitor Information

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The National Museum is open daily from 10:00am – 5:00pm (except on Fridays 2:00pm – 6:00pm). The ticket desk closes half an hour before the Museum's closing times.

