

OMAN - 1998 article by Vincent Moens

{Muscat & Oman -70} Location : Arabian Peninsula – Status : Independent from British protection 1965 – Plates : Officially issued – Oval : none – ISO : OM – Area : 212,457 km² – Capital : Muscat – Population : 1,6 m – Vehicles : 220,000 – First Reg'n : unknown – Drive on the right.

06/2001 update : New serie



1998 Series

The previous series was introduced early in 1986, and the various vehicle types have plates of different color. The plates are separated into five boxes by lines, but actually contain six elements : the top three in Arabic and the bottom three in western characters. To the left is a serial number of up to five digits, to the right the country name OMAN, and in the center is a code denoting the district.

Black on yellow : Private vehicles – White on red : Taxis – Black on white : Self-drive rentals – White on black : Commercial vehicles.

A : Musqat (Musqat) – B : Batinah (Suhar) – D : Dhakhiliya (Nizwa) – DH : Dhahira (Al Buraymi) – J : Junabiah {Dhofar} (Salalah) – M : Musandam (Al Khasab) – MCT : Capital area (Musqat) – SH : Sharqiya (Sur)



12736 : Pass plate from Musqat (exp. 11/95)



21820 : Pass plate from Junabiah (exp. 02/95)



21292 : pass plate owned by members of Majlis Ashura "Consulative Conclil" (exp. 12/95)



2193 : taxi from Batinah (exp. 02/96)



2036 : self-drive rental from Musqat (exp. 01/96)



2803 : commercial vehicle from Musandam (exp. 07/95)

From 1986 motorcycle plates have been divided into three, wholly in Arabic script; the district code separated by a vertical line from "Oman" above a serial number. Privately owned motorcycles have black on yellow plates but it is not known if any other colors are used.



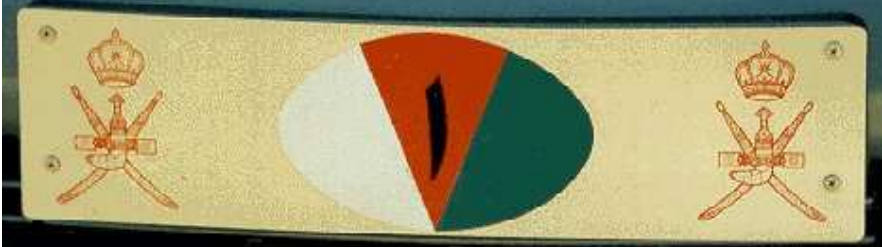
1484 : motorcycle from Musqat (exp. 08/95)

Agricultural vehicles have black on green plate in the same format than the general use plates but with the word TRACTOR in place of the district.



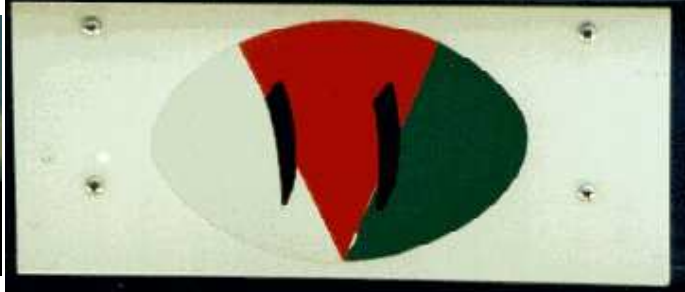
668 : agricultural vehicle

The Sultan of Oman has a gold plate with a large oval in the middle in white, red and green colors and the number "1" in Black Arabic script, and two large red Omani shields at each end.



1 : Sultan of Oman

Royal family vehicles have white plates with a large oval in the middle in white, red and green colors and a number between 10 and 99 in black Arabic script.



11 : Royal family vehicle.

Royal court affair vehicles have plates with white, red and green horizontal bands, with a black Arabic serial number.



104 : Royal court affairs vehicles





1698 : Royal guards vehicles

Royal Guards plates are in white on maroon with a serial number from 1000 to 9999, the royal court emblem in gold on maroon in a large green circle, and three letters, all in Arabic script.

Diplomatic plates are colored white with black lettering : C.C. or C.D., "Oman" in Arabic, the consular corps or diplomatic corps in Arabic on the upper line, the registration in western characters, OMAN in western script and the registration in Arabic at the bottom. The registration consists of a number denoting the Embassy (details not known), an oblique stroke, and a serial number.



23/1 : Diplomatic vehicle

Government and ministry vehicles have white plates with, in red, a serial number under "Oman", all in Arabic script.



19693 : Government vehicle

Military vehicles have black plates with a white Arabic serial number; this is prefixed or suffixed by a colored panel bearing a crossed swords device : White on Red : Army - White on Light blue : Air Force - White on Dark blue : Navy - Red on White : unknown (this plate also bears a small black yellow serial number at the upper right corner of the plate).



271 : Army



16399 : Air Force



15374 – 41 : Royal engineers Corps

Heavy army vehicles have plates with green, red and green vertical bands, with a white Arabic serial number and a yellow border.



931 : Army heavy vehicle

Vehicles purchased for subsequent export have white on dark blue plate in the same format than the general use plates but with the word EXPORT in place of the district. . The registration consists of a serial number, an oblique stroke, and a two numbers denoting the year.

Trade plates are white on green and dived in three : a serial number at upper left, a hyphenated number at lower left (Year – month of expiring) and "Oman" over "trade" at right, all in Arabic script.



948 : Trade plate (Exp. 07/94)

Road maintenance heavy vehicles have white plates with red numbers and a colored shield of the ministry of transportation and a yellow border. They also have an additional white plate with a red number denoting the road in a yellow circle.



2662 : Muscat Municipality, 4th district (Road maintenance heavy vehicle)

Government and military officials have plates with green, red and a third vertical bands, with a yellow Arabic serial number and a yellow border. The third band is bearing a special device : Three vertical bands of green, white and red colors : Type unknown - Yellow on white with two numbers in a circle : Type unknown - White with a red crescent and crossed swords : Ambulance - White with a green palm tree : Type unknown - Golden anchor on dark blue on white : Navy.



2008 : Diwan of the Royal Court



3057 : Diwan of the Royal Court



2108 : Diwan of the Royal Court, medical services



1562 : Diwan of the Royal Court, gardening services



2195 : Official navy

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