

# Oman, Oh Man!

## Overview

# Oman's location – Notice the countries and seas around it.

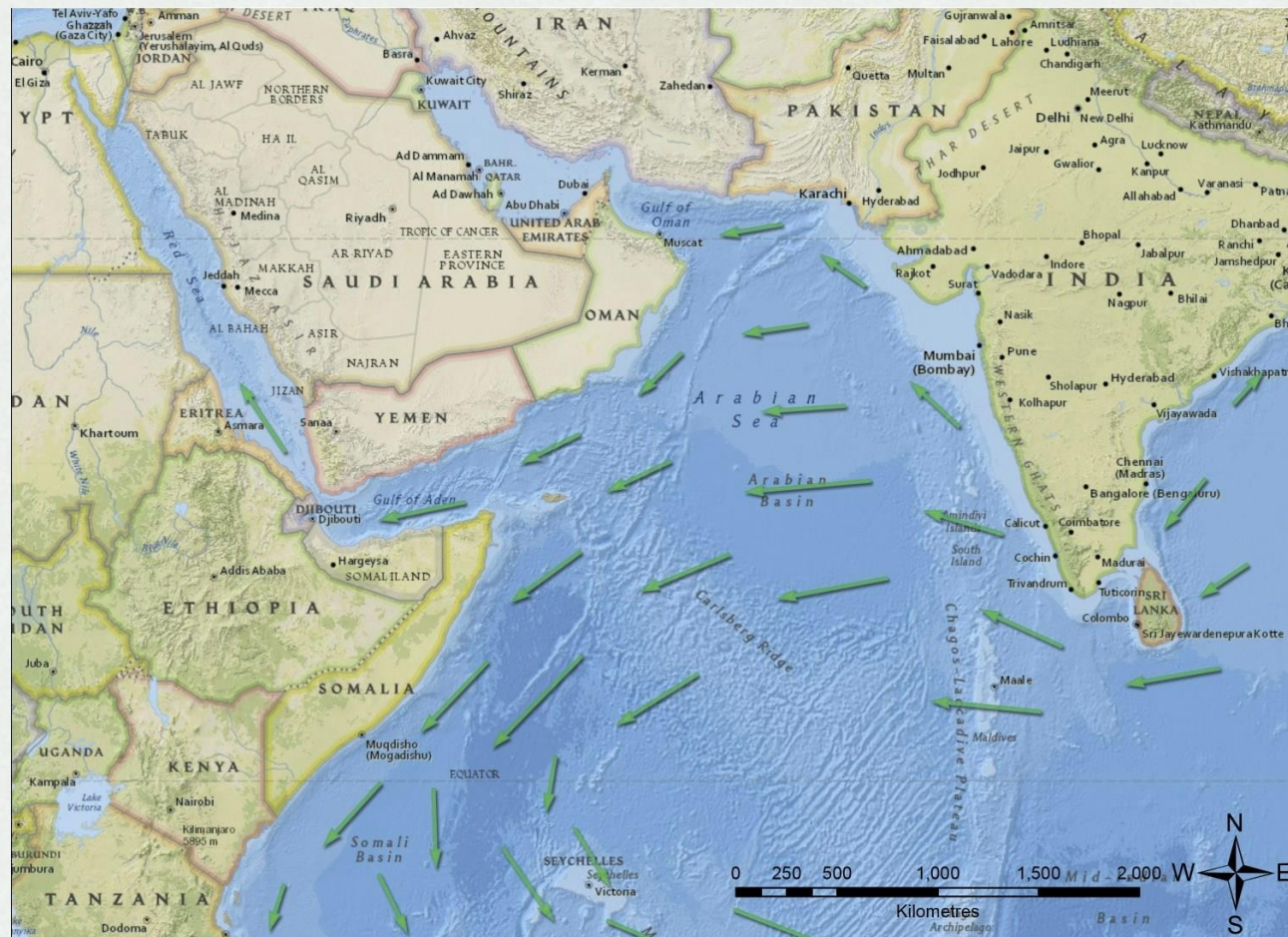


Omanis were a trading people,  
who traveled by dhow  
throughout the Indian Ocean.





A factor which helped trade:  
winter monsoon currents made  
it easy to go south/west.

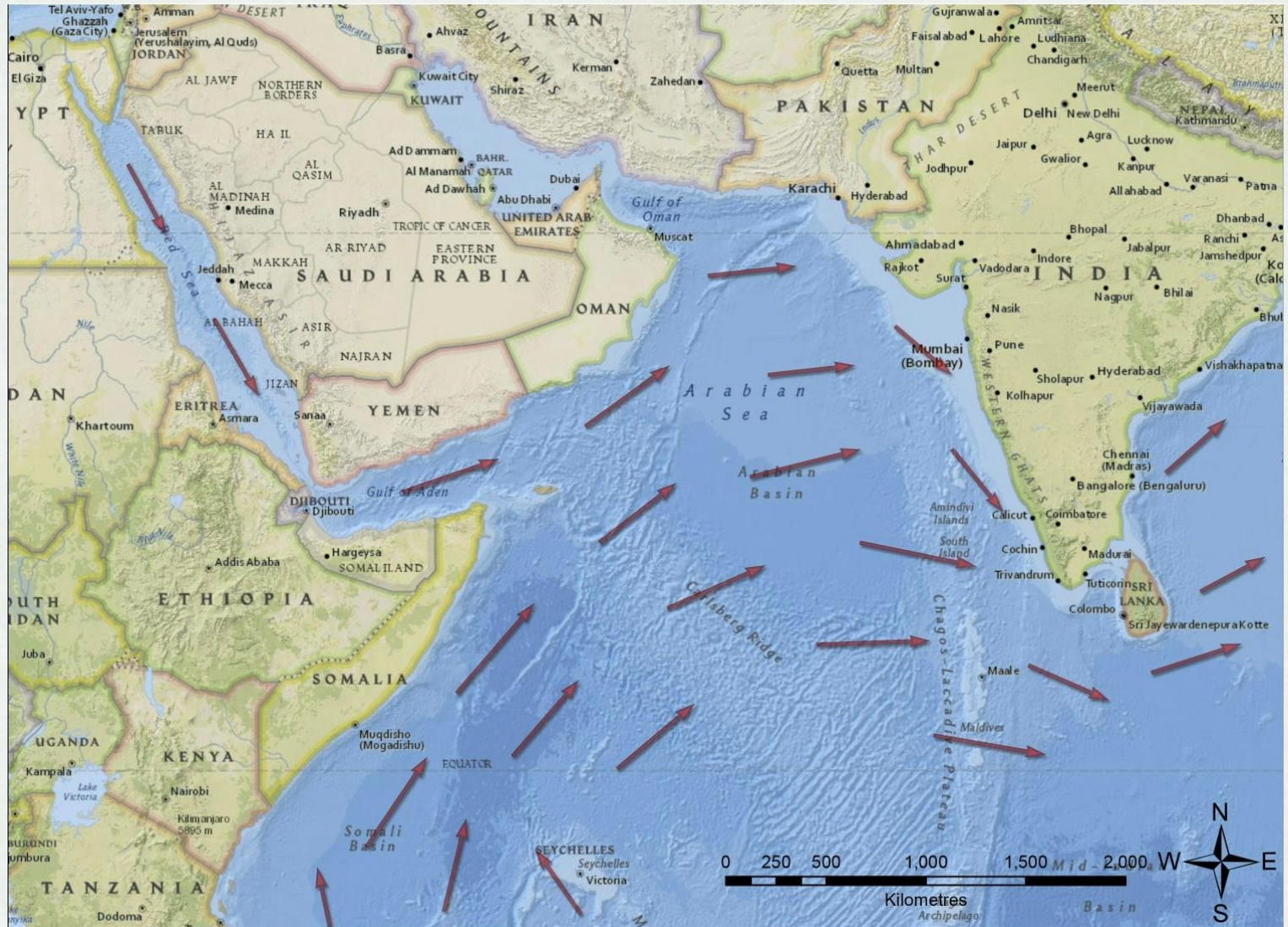


# So during the winter, Omani ships sailed:

- down to East Africa to trade with the civilizations along the Swahili coast
  - » OR
- home to Oman from trading expeditions to India or China



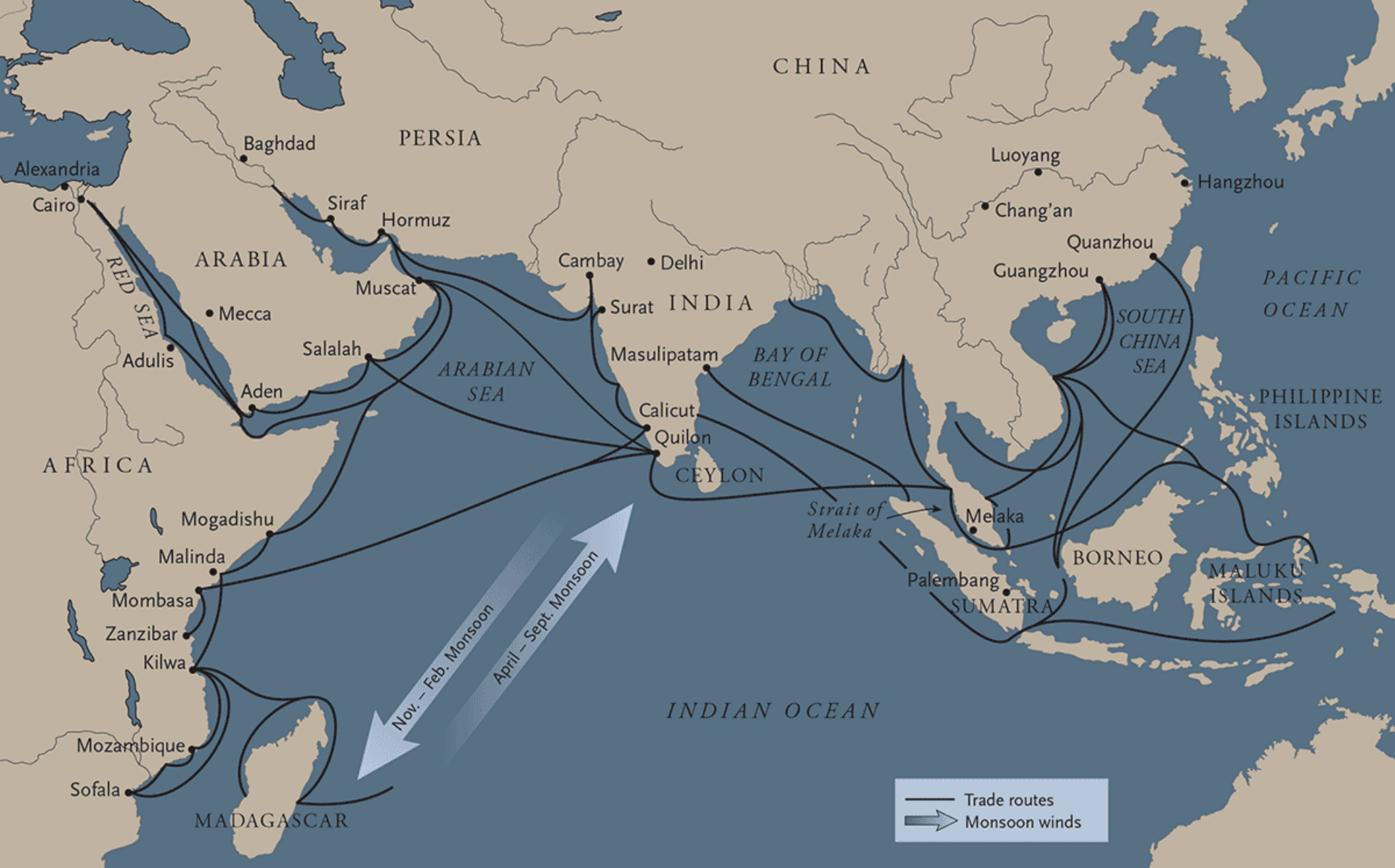
# Summer monsoon currents made it easy to go north/east.



# So during the summer, Omani ships sailed:

- over to India or China to trade with those civilizations
  - » OR
- home from trading expeditions along the Swahili coast of East Africa







Oman, historically, has a close relationship with Zanzibar. They were even one country for several centuries!



# Facts about Oman, Part I

- Language: Arabic
- Religion: Ibadi Muslim (with a minority of Sunni Muslims)
- Long history of trade – openness to other cultures/ideas

# Facts about Oman, Part 2

- Government: Sultanate
  - Sultan Qaboos has ruled since 1970.
  - He is a modernizing ruler, who has used oil revenues to develop the country.
  - Omani councils have a concept of “shura” or consensus – rather than competition - in rule.
- Today: Oman strives to maintain good relations with (and even mediate between): the rest of the Arab world, Iran, and the U.S.



## Traditional Omani men's clothes (professional dress)





## Traditional Omani women's clothes



# Oman is traditional but modern

- Oil money (more limited than in some surrounding countries) was put into developing a modern *infrastructure*: roads, plumbing, air-conditioning, etc.
- But Oman celebrates its traditional dress and architecture.
- Oman is also “cosmopolitan” – with a long tradition of interaction with other cultures. <sup>14</sup>



# Omanis tend to be religious but tolerant of other beliefs.

- Omanis dress in a conservative Islamic style, don't eat pork or drink alcohol, and fast during the month of Ramadan.
- Oman allows non-Muslims to practice their own religions freely.
- Omanis expect non-Muslims to dress modestly and respect Muslim traditions, BUT they don't require or expect them to dress or behave like Muslims.

# Americans are welcome there.

