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OMAN Air has announced a slew of offers for agents, tour agents and travelling public as part of Salalah's Khareef Festival 2006 package.

At a press meet yesterday, Oman Air Country Manager Ghalib Salim Bawazir announced the packages, which include among others accommodation in hotels and apartments and options for car hire and excursions.

Speaking to the media, Bawazir said last year Qatar was the top selling station for Oman Air's Khareef packages."There was a 99% increase in revenue compared to our earnings the previous year," he said. As part of the Khareef package, Oman Air has launched a holiday package to Salalah, Bawazir pointed out.

"With its array of fringed beaches, five-star beach resorts and hotels, Salalah is now establishing itself as a round-the-year holiday destination," he said. Salalah offers a "great escape" from the heat of the GCC summer, Bawazir said.

The Khareef season starts in the first week of July and runs till August end. The Khareef festival is held every summer with lots of family entertainment, music and cultural performances to provide entertainment to the visitors.

This is a good opportunity for expatriates to enjoy the culture and festive atmosphere of Oman, particularly Salalah, he said. Oman Air's Khareef season holiday packages start from QR1575, which includes three nights hotel accommodation, breakfast, airport transfers and economy air ticket.

As part of the tourism promotion in Oman, the airline also organises holiday packages such as 'Oman Stopover' and 'Explore Oman beyond Muscat'.

Under the airline’s frequent flyer programme Sindabad, travellers are given among other things free tickets, upgrades, access to airport lounges, priority seat confirmation and additional free baggage allowances.

Oman Air operates daily non-stop flights from Doha to Muscat with convenient connections to several destinations.

For its daily Muscat flight, leaving Doha at 9.15pm, Oman Air offers convenient connections to Indian destinations such as Mumbai, Delhi, Kochi, Thiruvananthapuram, Chennai and Hyderabad.

Bawazir said the airline is planning to add either more flights to select destinations or is looking at the option of flying new destinations. In the Indian sector, it flies daily to Chennai, Kochi and Thiruvananthapuram, 10 times a week to Mumbai and five flights a week to Delhi and thrice a week to Hyderabad.

Besides Bawazir, Oman Air Airport Officer El Motaz Osman, Ali Bin Ali Travels, (Oman Air GSA) General Manager, Saeed al-Hajri, Sales and Ticketing Tourism Officer Junaid Fazali and District Sales Manager Suneer Mohamed Ali were also present.