



Owain Raw-Rees,
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Sightseeing

In addition to the Old City on a brief visit your should include a trip out to the Imam's Palace in Wadi Dahr – about half an hour drive out of Sana'a – superb scenery and a most impressive building. Back in town there are two museums on Liberation Square – the National Museum and the Military Museum both well worth a visit.

Souvenirs

- Agate – Yemen is renowned for the best agate in the world and a couple of nice pieces can be made into superb cufflinks – available in the Samsarat Al Nahas building – try the Arabia Felix store.
- Clothing – pashminas by the score and some 10% to 15% cheaper than those available in Riyadh – the highest quality ones – thread through your wedding ring - cost about \$75 or SR280. Locally manufactured shamaghs start at \$3 or SR11. The local sarongs or foutahs start at about \$10 or SR7 – look for the locally manufactured examples from Shabwa or the Hadhramaut made from two strips of material sewn along the middle.
- Daggers - traditional daggers or janbiyas - antique and new are readily available, indeed there is an area of the souk dedicated to the manufacture and sale of new janbiyas – worn everyday as part of male attire. The older daggers are usually of silver and worn from embroidered belts embellished with various silver accoutrements such as buckles and buttons.
- Food stuff – small sweet raisins – superb, large dried chillis, occasionally grilled locusts and of course qat – the very mildly narcotic leaf which most of Yemen chews.



- Lanterns - Locally made hanging lanterns from Bashir Sa'ad Al Muhtadi's store on the second floor of the Samsarat Al Nahas building.
- Silver - Vast amounts of traditional silver jewellery is available – bracelets, necklaces and rings. Indeed you are spoilt for choice. Probably one of the best places to visit is World Friend managed by Kamal Rubaih – excellent English and quality items – not perhaps the cheapest location but some of the nicest and best examples of good local silver – try for the older items with a maker's mark indicative of the previous generation of Jewish silversmiths.

If you fancy a longer stay contact Marib Travel & Tourism The General Manger Kaid Al Khayat and his son Shakib will be delighted to arrange a tour and provide a driver - www.marib-tours.com

