

issued by Oman's foreign mission within one week of application, and were also allowed to enter the country by road (EIU, 1995; MEED, 16 June 2000). Despite the minimal attention given by the Omani authorities to the tourism industry until the early 1990s, during the years 1985–93 the Omani tourism industry expanded by an impressive rate of 12.5% on annual average (WTO, 1994). It should be emphasized, however, that this change in visa regulations was not a by-product of other governmental aims (as had happened in the past), but was aimed specifically at encouraging non-GCC tourism