

Rediscovering Oman's antiquity



PAST PERFECT: Ruins of a village at an archaeological site discovered by the team.

Searching for signs of tsunamis and ancient life, a team of **adventure scientists finds over 20 archaeological sites in Oman**

MRUDU NAIK

mrudu@timesofoman.com

MUSCAT: Three international adventure scientists from the Canada-based 'Adventure Science' group, who recently went to the remote part of Musandam peninsula in Oman, searching for signs of tsunamis and ancient life, have instead come across over 20 interesting archaeological sites.

In an interview with *Times of*

Oman, Dr Simon Donato, team leader (who is a geologist, tsunami expert and endurance athlete) said, "We did not find any evidence of preserved tsunami deposits. The beaches are exceedingly rocky and from our excavations and surveys we were unable to identify any deposits. Searching for archaeological sites, however, was very successful and we found well over 20 sites that are not catalogued or known to science (at least outside

of Oman)," he pointed out. "We hiked into remote regions with no roads or trails, found structures, preserved pottery, ancient (older than 500 years) pottery. It was incredible, and like walking back through time. The quality of the structures and preservation truly begs more attention from the government," he noted.

"There is a significant opportunity to market this region as an adventure travel destination if properly excavated. We used GPS and took many photos and video clips from the trip. All sites were documented, although we did not excavate or collect."

Dr Donato assembled his team that included Dr Richard Rothaus (Ph.D archaeology and tsunami specialist), and Jim Mandelli (experienced endurance athlete) in 2010. **>B2**

THREE NOT TO MISS

SALALAH FEST

1 The Salalah Festival this

TOURIST PLAN

2 Wadi Bani Kharus, in the

GREEN BRIGADE

3 The Oman Green Awards