

CARS AND OUTDOORS

SUR THING

The breeze off the sea adds to the quiet pleasures of walking around the harbour at Sur in the evening. Boats and lights on the new bridge all add to the atmosphere.



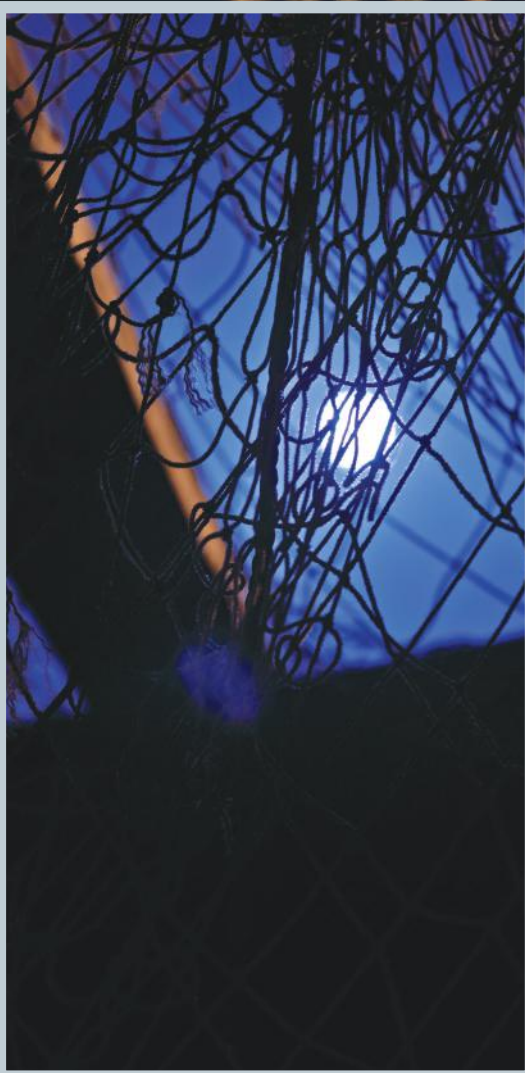


Destination

SUR
in the night

The port town is not necessarily on the must visit list, but the harbour at night is a pleasure for the senses, says Jerzy Wierzbicki





I was born in a port town and it's probably for this reason that Sur has a special attraction for me.

Last weekend, I decided to visit Sur during the night of the full moon and take some shots of the Al Ayjah harbour. Madness? Maybe.

I brought only one camera with two fixed lenses – a wide angle and a short telephoto. I double-checked to make sure the tripod was in the car because it's essential for night shots.

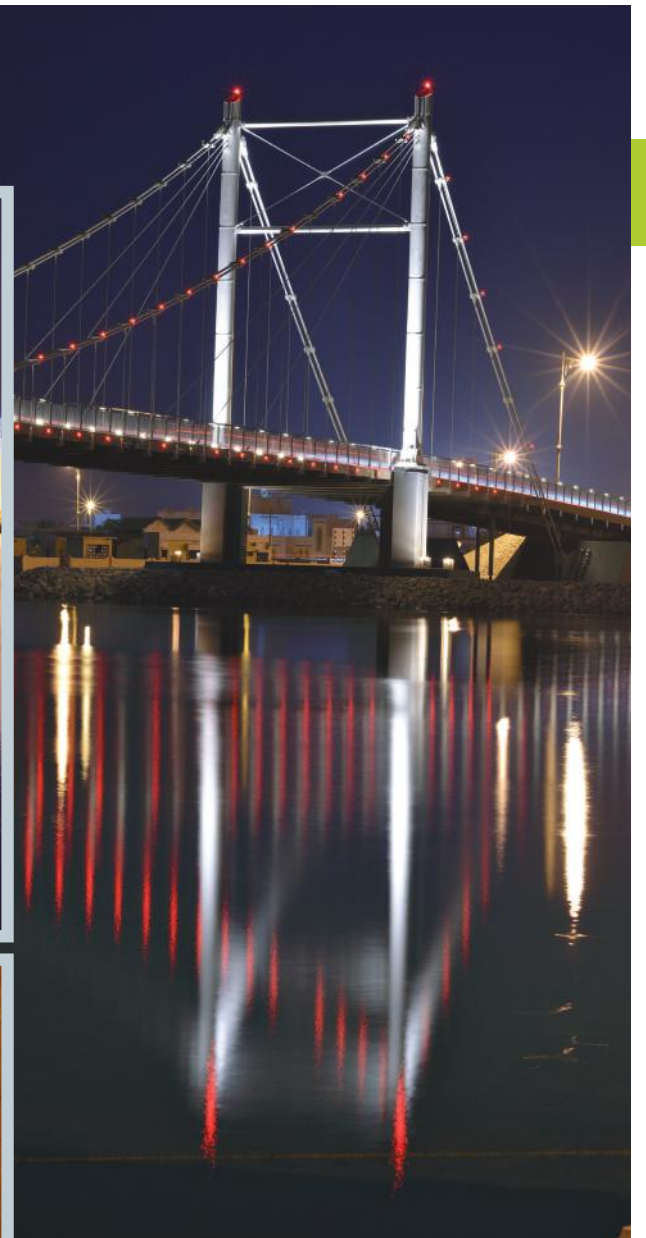
After driving along and watching the sunset over the mountains, with my dog Tropp sitting beside me, I reached Sur at dusk.

I waited until it was dark and the moon was high in the sky. The port was empty. Everyone had gone home to their families, including the fishermen. The working boats lay still on the banks of the harbour.

I set up my tripod next to the big watchtowers at the end of the port to capture Sur at night.

A breeze rolled in off the sea making for perfect conditions. I took my first shot of the streetlights shining from the main road, exposed for about half a minute – which is long enough for a night cityscape.

The artificial light mixed with the moonlight



produced an attractive effect. The white orb cast a powerful radiance so I had to change my position, moving my tripod next to two large wooden boats anchored in the port.

With a long exposure, I was able to capture the slight movements of the boats due to the wind and small waves. The sodium lamps in the port cast an intense yellowish pall over the place, adding atmosphere to the images.

The minaret of the mosque beside the port was illuminated green, making a fine contrast against the moonlight and the dark blue sky.

The last location I really wanted to photograph was the new bridge connecting the centre of Sur with the Ayjah port.

The red lights of the bridge and the bright yellow street lamps were reflected in the harbour's water making a kind of tricolour in the bay – an ideal subject for some long exposure shots.

Sur harbour is a good place to visit at night in the summer, when it benefits from the sea air and is not too hot. There are some tourist facilities for visitors, including a new hotel with a good restaurant.

Whether you take photographs or not, the 260 kilometre trip down the new highway is definitely worth the effort. ■

HOW TO GET THERE

Head down the coast on the new highway for 260 kilometres and you will reach Sur.

GPS location of the Ayjah port N22°33'54 E59°32'25

TRAVEL GUIDE