

Oman Drilling Project: An Ancient Seabed Holds Secrets in the Search for Life on Other Planets

The Oman Drilling Project is a multi-national investigation into the Samail Ophiolite, the world's largest, best exposed, and most studied subaerial block of oceanic crust and upper mantle. Scientists, including members of the NASA Astrobiology Institute's Rock Powered Life team, are extracting and examining borehole samples from key locations within the ancient seabed to follow the journey of carbon from atmosphere to beneath the earth.

The Oman Drilling Project video (<https://youtu.be/kLLCEPKling>), produced by the Deep Carbon Observatory, provides a view of the landscape, the science, and the exciting potential discoveries that will increase our understanding of microbial ecosystems within extreme environments and the origins of life in the universe. Scientists Alexis Templeton (PI of Rock-Powered Life) and Peter Kelemen (a member of the Rock-Powered Life team) provide narration.



Above: Alexis Templeton examines a borehole sample.
Left: Scientists at the site of Samail Ophiolite. Image credits: Deep Carbon Observatory