Preface	5
The landscapes of Jabal Akhdar and Jabal Shams	6
Climate and landscape in ongoing change	9
The subterranean waterworld of Al Hoota Cave	14
Dripstone treasures deep in the mountain	27
Life underground	36
Limestones and fossils	42
Africa and Asia – a permanent continental collision	47
Discovery, exploration and research	52
The Interior – treasure chamber of culture and tradition	57