

## Siwa Protected Area

The Siwa Protected Area covers 7800 km<sup>2</sup> of the Western Desert. Encompassing key natural and cultural heritage sites and important ecological corridors, the area extends from the Libyan border in the west to the Qattara Depression in the east, and from the Diffa Plateau in the north to the Great Sand Sea in the south. Although rain is rare, local groundwater gives origin to springs, small lakes and wetlands. These nourish enough vegetation to make Siwa one of the remaining strongholds in the Western Desert for several rare, endangered and endemic species such as the slender-horned gazelle, dorcas gazelle and fennec fox.

## Berber Community

The people of Siwa and Qara oases living around their ancient fortified towns are thriving Berber communities inhabiting this region from time immemorial. A strong sense of identity and relative geographical isolation has safeguarded their culture, traditional values, folklore and architecture.

## Ancient Culture

In Siwa Oasis, the 5<sup>th</sup> century BC temple to Amun of Thebes on Aghurmi Hill housed the famous oracle visited by Alexander the Great to gain approval for usurping power as Pharaoh. Within the protected area, archaeological relics from early Pharaonic and Greco-Roman periods are found in some of the most remote areas, providing vivid testimony that even within this extreme environment human communities and civilizations have survived and prospered.

## Western Desert

Shaped over millennia, an extraordinary array of desert forms is displayed from immense and constantly moving sand dunes to flat plains, stony plateaux and rugged, rocky cliffs. For adventurers seeking an "extreme desert experience", Siwa continues to be a departure point for deep desert exploration in the tradition of historical expeditions lead by Prince Kemal El Din, Ahmed Hassanein Bey and László Almásy.

## Parks Egypt mission

To maintain a well-managed, representative system of parks conserving natural resources, contributing to sustainable economic growth and providing education, inspiration and enjoyment for all.

## Visitor code

### Check and follow safety precautions.

Please do not:

- disturb or damage animals and plants.
- collect or damage fossils, rocks or geological features.
- drive off of marked tracks or on vegetation.
- leave any garbage.
- use sound systems.
- use wild plants for firewood.
- intrude on cultural sensitivities.

## Accommodation

Numerous hotels and ecolodges from high-end to backpacker's in the town of Siwa.

## Visiting hours

9:00 am - 5:00 pm.

## How to get there

By private car, bus or taxi:  
from Cairo - 800 km.  
from Mersa Matrouh - 305 km.

Permission from local authorities and a 4X4 vehicle needed to enter the park.



To contact Siwa park office:  
Tel: (046)460-0870  
Fax: (046)460-0871

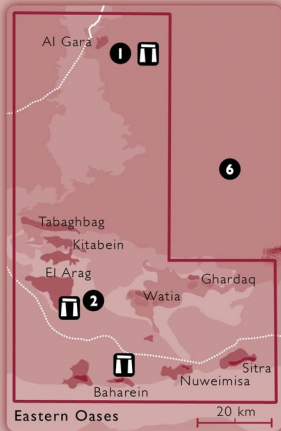
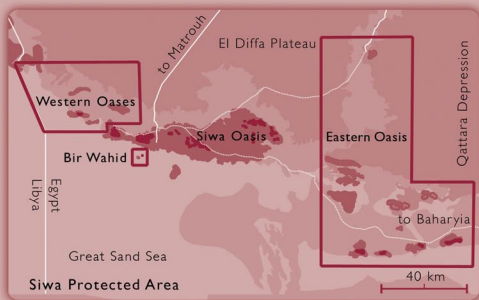
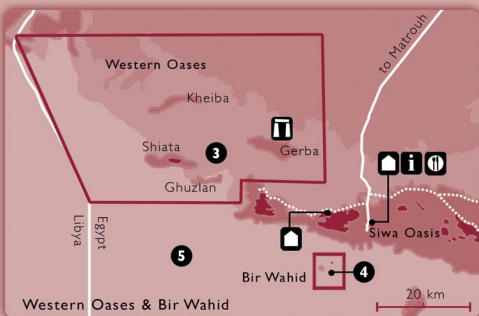
Produced with the support of Italian Cooperation.



Welcome to  
**SIWA**



**Discover Nature!**



### Main Attractions

- 1** Al Gara
- 2** Eastern Oases  
El Arag  
Baharein  
Nuweimisa  
Sitra  
Tabaghbag
- 3** Western Oases  
Shiata  
Gerba
- 4** Bir Wahid hot spring
- 5** Great Sand Sea
- 6** Qattara Depression

**SIWA**

