

## St. Katherine Protectorate

At 4350 km<sup>2</sup>, St. Katherine Protectorate is one of Egypt's largest protected areas and boasts its highest mountains. Full of religious and culturally significant places of global importance, highlights include Mount Sinai, the 4th century Monastery of St. Katherine and numerous pre-historical sites. In 2002, UNESCO declared 640 km<sup>2</sup> of the northern part of the St. Katherine Protectorate a World Heritage Site.

## Flora and Fauna

This arid mountain area supports a surprising diversity of flora and fauna. Of the 472 plant species here, 19 are endemic to Sinai and 115 have known medicinal value. You can find 27 mammal species such as the endangered Nubian ibex, dorcas gazelle, Arabian wolf and striped hyaena. Most commonly seen are hyrax and the spiny mouse. Over 36 reptile species are known to live here ranging from small geckos to large desert monitors and spiny tailed lizards.

## Bedouin

St. Katherine Protectorate is home to 7000 bedouin from seven different tribes who play a vital role in supporting the protectorate as community guards, guides and hosts for ecotourism. The bedouin have long standing conservation ethics controlling the use and protection of trees and pastures. Ancestors of the local Jebalia tribe were brought from Macedonia in the 6th century to help build and protect the monastery. Over the centuries a deep and mutually beneficial relationship has endured between these people and the monks.

## Visitor Centre

Visit the visitor centre at the entrance of Wadi El Dir to learn more about St. Katherine Protectorate and its extraordinary natural and cultural treasures. A selection of four trail guides is available at a nominal price.

## 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 rocks or geological features.
- drive off of marked tracks or on vegetation.
- write, paint or carve graffiti.
- leave any garbage.
- use wild plants for firewood.
- intrude on cultural sensitivities.

## Accommodation

Bedouin: Al Karm Ecolodge, Desert Fox Camp, Sheikh Moussa and Moonland.

Private: a variety of 2, 3 and 4 star hotels.

## Visiting hours

Ticket office: 24 hours every day.

Visitor centre: 9:30 am - 1:00 pm every day.

Protectorate office: 8:30 am - 3:30 pm every day.

St. Katherine Monastery: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm.

Closed Sunday, Friday and religious holidays.

## How to get there

By private car, bus or taxi from Cairo: 550 km.

By private car or taxi from Sharm El Sheikh: 250 km.



To contact St. Katherine park office:  
Tel/Fax: (069)347-0332/3

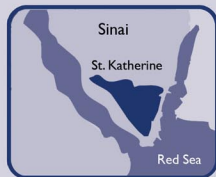
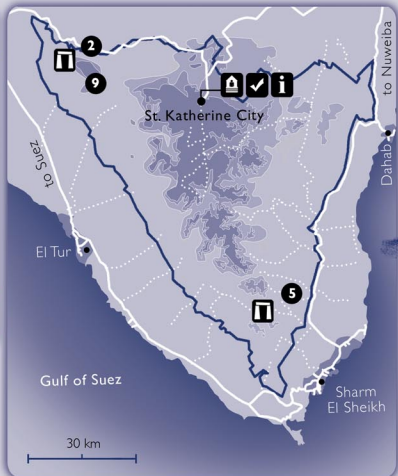
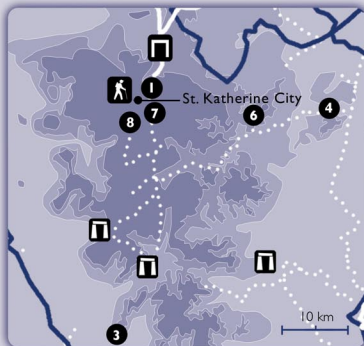
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Welcome to  
**ST. KATHERINE**



**Discover Nature!**



### Main Attractions

- 1** St. Katherine Monastery
- 2** Feiran Oasis
- 3** Wadi Isla
- 4** Wadi Nasb
- 5** Wadi Mandar
- 6** Blue Valley
- 7** Mount Sinai
- 8** Gebel Katherine
- 9** Gebel Sirbal

## St. Katherine

