

Wadi El Gemal National Park

A vast wilderness of 7450 km², Wadi El Gemal National Park stretches from jagged mountains to the depths of the Red Sea. Although rain falls irregularly every few years, this is one of the most richly vegetated areas in the Eastern Desert. Endangered species here include the ibex, and one of Egypt's largest gazelle populations roams freely. Off shore, sea grass beds sustain green turtles and dugong, and spectacular fringing coral reefs host some of the greatest diversity of marine life on the Red Sea coast. Strands of jewel-like islands shelter important populations of breeding birds. In fact, 10% of the world's sooty falcons nest on Wadi El Gemal Island.

Antiquities

In Pharaonic and Roman times, one of the most important trade routes crossing the desert between the Red Sea and the Nile River Valley ran through this area carrying the wealth of Arabia, Africa and India inland from the port of Berenice. Here you will still find remnants of watchtowers, fortresses and watering stations. The region was also extensively mined for gold, gemstones, granite and imperial porphyry near Sikeit and Nukrus. Emerald Mountain, which lies within the park, was the only source of this precious gem in the entire Roman Empire.

Ababda Bedouin

From time immemorial, the local Ababda Bedouin were known as skilled herders, camel breeders and guides for merchant and pilgrim caravans. Their desert tracking skills are legendary and many still lead a nomadic lifestyle. Ababda territory is relatively rich with Acacia trees, testifying to the tribal prohibition of cutting live trees and protecting specific areas from abuse. Indigenous dwellings called Khisha are simple structures made of branches covered with goat hair or palm leaf mats. The Ababda are a hospitable people, so enjoy a cup of their delicious Jabana coffee, but please don't take photos without permission.

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

Always check and follow safety precautions.

Please do not:

- collect or damage rocks or geological features.
- leave any garbage.
- drive off of marked tracks or on vegetation.
- fish, hunt or feed the fish.
- write, paint or carve graffiti.
- pollute the water sources.
- disturb turtle nesting sites.

Accommodation

Fustat Wadi El Gemal: (012)100-1109

Shams Alam Hotel: (012)244-4931

Visiting hours

Between sunrise and sunset.

Camping and night visits with permission from rangers.

How to get there

By private car, bus or taxi:
from Hurghada - 400 km.
from Mersa Allam - 80 km.



To contact Wadi El Gemal park office:
Tel./Fax: (065)344-5981/372-0227

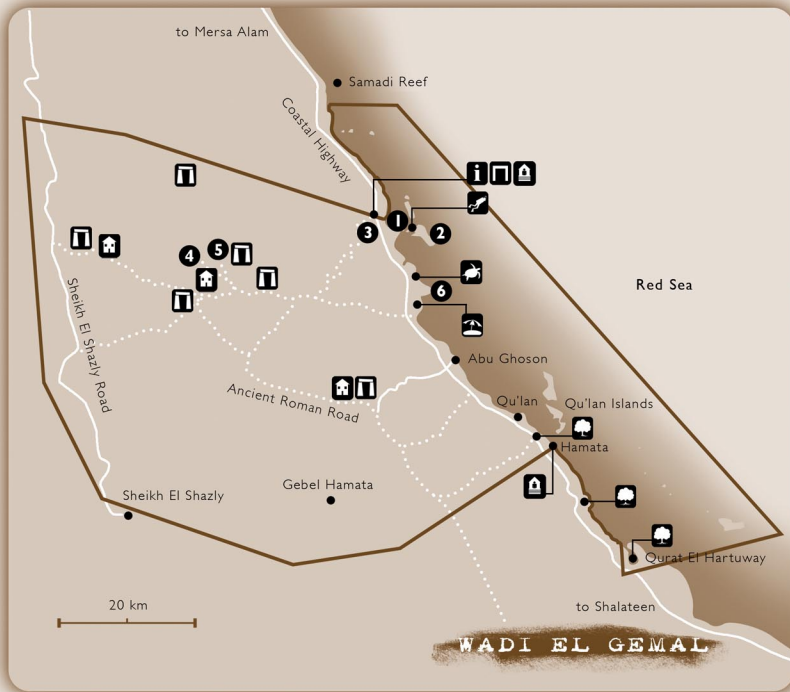


Welcome to
WADI EL GEMAL



Discover Nature!





Main Attractions

- 1** Ras Baghdadi
- 2** Wadi El Gemal Island
- 3** Beit Ababda
- 4** Nugrus
- 5** Sukait
Temple of Isis
Roman emerald mine
- 6** Ras Hankorab

