

## Wadi El Rayan Protected Area

Covering an area of 1759 km<sup>2</sup>, Wadi El Rayan is comprised of two man-made wetlands formed by the flooding of a desert depression. In winter, the lakes teem with waterbirds, while the desert offers scenic landscapes including limestone escarpments, sand dunes, and a rare example of an uninhabited Saharan oasis. Several threatened animal species are found here, as well as internationally known marine fossils. Its proximity to Cairo makes Wadi El Rayan a popular destination for recreation, education and scientific research. Many people come to enjoy the waterfalls, swim in the lake and learn about the area at the visitor centre.

## Wadi El Hitan World Heritage Site

Forty million years ago, Wadi El Rayan was submerged under the ocean. Whales and other marine species lived and died in this ancient sea. Their remains are preserved today as fossils and can be seen in the park's open air museum. In 2005, UNESCO designated Wadi El Hitan (Valley of the Whales) as a World Heritage Site in recognition of the unparalleled intact skeletons of primitive whales present there, as well as the remnants of 19 other vertebrates, shells and various marine life.

## The Springs Oasis

Historically this oasis was a major gateway to the Western Desert caravan routes into El Fayoum. You can walk into this pristine oasis and climb the nearby mountain for spectacular views of the Sahara Desert.

## Birdwatching

Designated as an Important Bird Area (IBA) by BirdLife International, Wadi El Rayan is home to a large number of exotic waterbirds. Bird watching hides have been set up at prime locations to observe resident and migrant species.

## 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.
- leave any garbage.
- drive off of marked tracks or on vegetation.
- use sound systems.
- camp outside of designated areas.
- use wild plants for firewood.
- intrude on cultural sensitivities.

## Accommodation

Camping in designated areas.  
Zadal Mosafer Guesthouse: (084)682-0180  
Helnan Auberge: (084)671-2730  
Panorama: (084)683-0757

## Visiting hours

Ticket office: 8:30 am - 5:00 pm every day.  
Visitor centre: 11:00 am - 3:30 pm every day.  
Park office: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm every day.

## How to get there

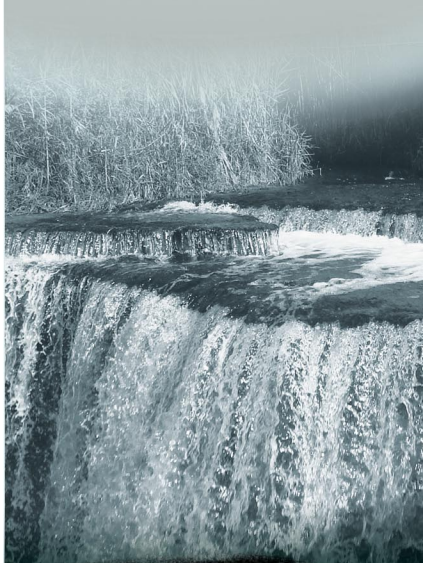
By private car or taxi: 2 hours south on Fayoum Desert Road to Tunis, then south to main gate. Allow 45 minutes drive from main gate to Wadi El Hitan.



To contact Wadi El Rayan park office:  
Tel./Fax: (084)683-0535



Welcome to  
**WADI EL RAYAN**

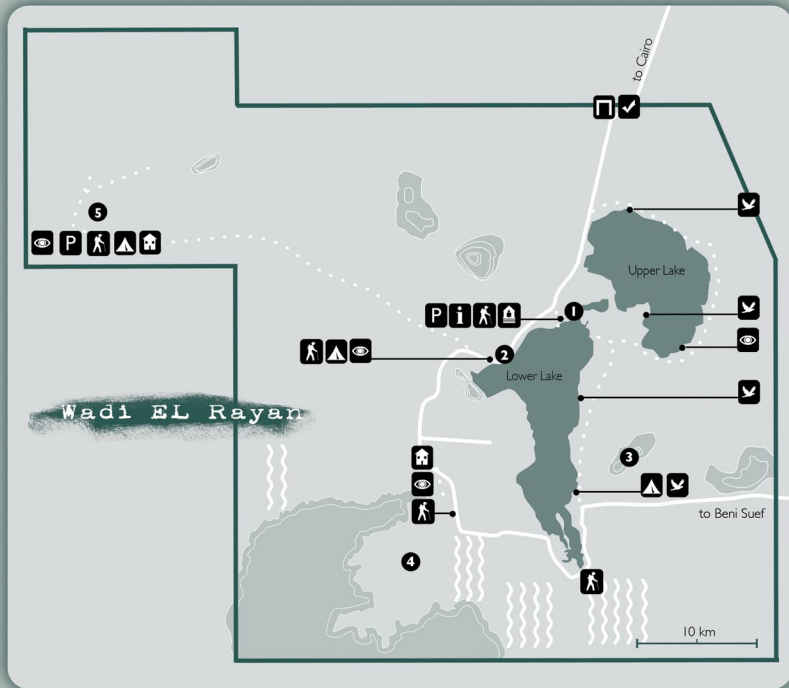


**Discover Nature!**





-  Park office
-  Outpost
-  Tickets
-  Visitor centre
-  Main gate
-  Camping area
-  Parking
-  Birdwatching site
-  View point
-  Hiking



### Main Attractions

- 1** Waterfalls and beach
- 2** EL Mudawara Mountain
- 3** El Mashagiga Mountain
- 4** Springs Oasis
- 5** Wadi El Hitan  
(Valley of the Whales)

