

# Bedouin Experience

## The Best of Both Worlds!

Diving trips and desert excursions – suggested itineraries



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DIVE WITH DANIEL & SARAH

## **'The best of both worlds'**

Since the opening of our diving centre, we have done our best to find the exact holiday in Nuweiba that will satisfy each of our guests individually. We are happy to listen to any of your individual requests and interests, and then make a custom made diving and safari plan for you, to visit all of the places that interest you personally. However, we recognise that many people prefer to be guided by the experience of those who know the local area intricately, as to which areas and activities are likely to be most enjoyable. We have found that there are a number of different diving and desert attractions that have proven to be almost universally popular, and which can be combined into different holidays. There is the option for both one and two week holidays to sleep overnight in the desert, or to visit each of the main attractions individually, so we have created a suggestion of two plans for each holiday time frame, to cover the most spectacular sites, exciting experiences and to provide the most individual experience possible. Each of these schedules is a suggestion based on our personal experience and our feedback from previous guests. We would be happy to create new tailored plans based on what you would like to see and do on your holiday. Please contact us at any time to discuss a unique plan for you and your family and friends.

## **The main desert safari and day trip locations**

### **White Canyon and Ein Khudra Oasis**



You will be collected early in the morning to begin this full day trip. You can drive directly to the top of the canyon, or stop by the roadside and continue to the entrance of the canyon by camel. From the top of the canyon, you will be accompanied on your one to two hour climb down to the Oasis, which is nestled at the bottom. Most of the canyon can be negotiated by walking, but there are some areas where it is necessary to make some relatively easy climbs and descents. The guide will show you and your group where to best put your hands and feet to make the journey as easy as possible. Guests who have disabilities that would prevent them from climbing, can be driven directly to the Oasis to await the rest of your group.

Arrival in the Oasis will be mid-morning, to prevent climbing and walking in the mid-day sun. Once in Ein Khudra Oasis, which offers a pristine and relaxing environment, you will be offered Bedouin tea and soft drinks, and a simple but delicious lunch will be served. You and your group will have the chance to explore the Oasis, where you can locate the source of their fresh water, see where they feed and water the camels, and examine the beautiful local scenery.

When this is undertaken as part of a one day trip, you will have the option of taking a two hour camel ride back to the jeep, to head home, or to be collected by jeep from the oasis. You should expect be back at the hotel in the late afternoon. When this is a part of a longer trip, you will continue from the Oasis onto your next destination where appropriate.



## Coloured Canyon



Coloured Canyon is located an hour and a half's drive away from Nuweiba. Depending on the time of year, you might need to depart in the early morning to avoid climbing in the mid-day heat, but in general, we would collect you around mid-morning. The Coloured Canyon begins with a descent into the start of the canyon on foot, and then a steady walk through the narrow, winding gulley to observe the myriad of different colours and formations naturally engraved into the rock face. The guide will show the most beautiful and spectacular rock and colour formations as you progress through the canyon, and plenty of time is allowed for photography. There are a few small obstacles to negotiate on route, which the guide will help you and your group through and under. Once you have reached the bottom of the canyon, there is a steep walk back up to the top of the mountain, where the jeep will be waiting. Along the route and at the end of the walk, there are rest stops with the opportunity to purchase soft drinks and Bedouin tea. The total climb will take two to three hours, and after a rest in the final Bedouin café, you will be returned to your hotel.

## Gebbel Makhroum

Gebbel Makhroum is one of the Sinai's most spectacular natural landscapes, where you will find naturally eroded caves and arches in the rocks, and a huge sand dune of soft golden sand. This area is known for its stunning natural beauty, and guests can spend hours exploring the different features of the land. Gebbel Makhroum is one of the best locations for guests and families to explore, and is a wonderful spot for setting up camp and enjoying the real peace and tranquillity of the desert.



## Gebbel Berga



Gebbel Berga is one of the Sinai's most stunning mountain plateaus. There is a significant amount of history in this area, where old stone piles left by the Roman's can be seen, and where Bedouins have slept and traveled for centuries. It is possible to view the mountain from the plateau, or to take the time to climb the mountain when you and your group wish to do so. The camel ride to Gebbel Berga offers stunning scenery ranging from long sand dunes, to winding camel paths and steep mountain climbs. As this area of the Sinai Desert is not normally reached after a single day, it offers an exciting glimpse into the real desert and the lives that the Bedouins lived for hundreds of years.

## Mount Sinai



Mount Sinai is known in Arabic as Gebbel Moussa, and is one of the most religiously significant sights in Egypt. All three monolithic religions consider this the site of significant acts in their history. The climbing of Mount Sinai is not only for those who value its religious significance, but also for those who will appreciate the breathtaking scenery and sunrise, uniquely seen from the top of the mountain. It is best to climb the mountain in the late evening or over night, to be on top of the mountain in time for the stunning sunrise. On a clear day, from this

exciting vantage point, you can see as far as Elait in Israel. The climb takes between three and four hours, depending on the fitness of those climbing. Each group will have one guide who will stay with them from the start of the climb, until you have all finished in the Monastery. You can either climb the mountain following the path that the Monks have carved into the stone, or by taking a separate gentler path, which can be climbed on camel. Both routes require the final few hundred steps to be climbed on foot. After the night spent on top of this mountain, which is where Moses is said to have received the ten commandments from God, you will climb down the mountain, and the historically and religious buildings and areas will be highlighted for you. The journey down is always made on the steps, to ensure all areas of the mountain are seen.

Please note that you are responsible for your own dinner before leaving, and to take your own food for breakfast and lunch if required, as well all drinks. You are also responsible for your own rental of blankets and mattresses on the top of the mountain if you wish to use them.

## St Katherine

It is possible to visit the Monastery of St. Katherine either in the morning after watching the sun rise from the top of Mount Sinai, or as a separate day trip. The Monastery is not open every day of the week, and only in the mornings, so the exact schedule for when the trip can be planned would depend on the day of arrival and departure of your guests. The Monastery has a number of interesting features, even for those for whom the religious significance is not importance. In the Monastery it is possible to see the Burning Bush, the bell tower, a significant collection of historical and religious texts and even the Monks busy with their daily work. Guests should allow up to 3 hours to explore the Monastery and the surrounding area. It is possible to climb a few of the surrounding mountains as well as take a camel ride at the foot of Mount Sinai.



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## Bedouin Dinner



A Bedouin dinner is not just the chance to sample the delicious, fresh cooking traditionally used by the Bedouin tribes of the Sinai, but is a wonderful opportunity to experience the natural beauty of the desert as darkness descends and the stars light up the sky. You will be collected from any Nuweiba hotel or camp for a single evening in the desert, (unless making an overnight camp, in which case food will be prepared at the camp site where you will also sleep.) and taken into the local mountains. The exact location chosen will depend on the weather and wind, and the group size. You will be brought to the meal site when there is still light to enjoy the mountains by, before watching the sun set and the moon rise, and the emergence of the millions of stars. As the darkness grows, the purple of the Milky Way becomes breathtaking. The cooking will be done in front of you and if you

have questions about the process, the details will be explained to you. Food will be prepared according to the participants' preference, usually chicken and/or fish, (although goat, sheep and beef are also possible, as are vegetarian alternatives, on special request) with rice, tahina, salad and Bedouin bread. Bedouin tea will also be available all evening, as will soft drinks. If you and your group would like alcoholic beverages, you will need to bring these yourselves.



Of course there are many more destinations in the Sinai Desert. Please visit our website [www.bedouin-experience.com](http://www.bedouin-experience.com) regularly for news and updates, to receive information on destinations not listed here, and to get informed about local events like Bedouin Weddings, our unique Camel Riding School, as well as the popular Bedouin Camel Races.

## **7-day Scuba diving and desert safari combinations**

### **With overnight desert stay**

- Day One – Arrival and beach relaxation. Depending on arrival time, an extra day's diving could be possible.
- Day Two – Diving day one.
- Day Three – Diving day two.
- Day Four – Overnight excursion to White Canyon and Ein Khudra Oasis, by camel and jeep. The afternoon can be spent relaxing and exploring the surroundings of the Oasis and enjoying renowned Bedouin food and hospitality. Bedouin Dinner will be cooked in the evening in the Oasis for you, and the night will be spent in the Oasis, under the stars.
- Day Five – After waking in the Oasis, you carry on by camel to visit Gebbel Makhroum and the surrounding desert and enjoy delicious Bedouin lunch in the desert. The group will then make their way back to the jeep, and return to the hotel.
- Day Six – Final day's diving, either in Ras Mumlah, when the divers' ability is suitable, or in another local dive site when not.
- Day Seven – Day on the beach, and the morning can be spent visiting St. Katherine's Monastery when there is time and interest.

### **Without overnight desert stay**

- Day One – Arrival and beach relaxation. Depending on arrival time, an extra day's diving could be possible.
- Day Two – Diving Day one.
- Day Three – Trip by jeep and camel to White Canyon and Ein Khudra Oasis, with lunch in the Oasis. Return to the hotel in the afternoon.
- Day Four – Diving in either in Ras Mumlah, when the divers' ability is suitable, or in another local dive site when not.
- Day Five – Day trip to Coloured Canyon, return early afternoon.
- Day Six – Final day's diving and Bedouin dinner in the desert.
- Day Seven - Day on the beach, and the morning can be spent visiting St. Katherine's Monastery when there is time and interest.

## 14-day Scuba diving and desert safari combinations

### With overnight desert stay

- Day One – Arrival and beach relaxation. Depending on arrival time, an extra day's diving could be possible.
- Day Two – Diving day one.
- Day Three – Diving day two.
- Day Four – Diving day three.
- Day Five to Day Eight – Four-day desert excursion, by camel (and jeep if requested). Camel to White Canyon, Ein Khudra for lunch, camel to the area of Gebbel Makhroum for dinner and sleeping. In the morning, visit Gebbel Makhroum, and begin the camel ride to Gebbel Berga to arrive on the third day, and return to the waiting jeep and the hotel in the fourth day, through some stunning wadis and mountain scenery.
- Day Nine – Day of relaxation and recovery on the beach.
- Day Ten – Diving day four. Depending on the guests' requirements and diving experience, this day can be spent diving in Ras Mumlah, or on a local dive site, or as the first day of the Ras Mumlah overnight camp.
- Day Eleven – Diving day five – This day can be either the second day of the Ras Mumlah camp, or a day's diving on the local dive sites.
- Day Twelve – Day of relaxation on the beach or an extra day of diving. Depending on your departure time, the plan for days thirteen and fourteen can be brought forwards to today.
- Day Thirteen – The day can be spent relaxing on the beach or exploring the local area. At 10.00 pm approximately, guests will be collected to climb Mount Sinai. The night will be spent sleeping on top of the mountain.
- Day Fourteen – Guests will be awoken by the guide in time for the sun rise, and will then descend the mountain and visit St Katherine's Monastery, before returning at lunchtime to the hotel.

### **Without overnight desert stay**

- Day One – Arrival and beach relaxation. Depending on arrival time, an extra day's diving could be possible.
- Day Two – Diving day one.
- Day Three – Diving day two.
- Day Four – Diving day three.
- Day Five – White Canyon and Ein Khudra Oasis, with lunch in the Oasis, returning in the afternoon.
- Day Six – The day can be spent relaxing on the beach or exploring the local area. At 10.00 pm approximately, you will be collected to climb Mount Sinai. The night will be spent sleeping on top of the mountain.
- Day Seven – You will be awoken by the guide in time for the sun rise, and will then descend the mountain and visit St Katherine's Monastery, before returning at lunchtime to the hotel.
- Day Eight – Day of rest and recovery on the beach.
- Day Nine – Diving day four. Depending on your requirements and diving experience, this day can be spent diving in Ras Mumlah, or on a local dive site, or as the first day of the Ras Mumlah overnight camp.
- Day Ten – Diving day five – This day can be either the second day of the Ras Mumlah camp, or a day's diving on the local dive sites.
- Day Eleven – Day trip to Coloured Canyon
- Day Twelve – Day trip to Rainbow Canyon or to Dahab's Blue Hole for snorkelling and to spend the afternoon shopping and relaxing in Dahab.
- Day Thirteen – This day can be spent either relaxing on the beach or with a final day of diving. In the evening, Bedouin dinner will be arranged.
- Day Fourteen – A final day of relaxation on the beach before leaving for home, when flight schedules allow.

### **Additional information**

**Prices** for these seven and fourteen day long trips are available on request, as the price can vary significantly depending on the number in the group and other factors. Usually the costs are about 35,- Euro per day, all-inclusive.

**Beach days** do not need to be spent in relaxation when this is not required! They can also be used for exploration of the local town, (Nuweiba City, the Dahab-like Tarabeen Beach promenade, the Port), or for any of the additional one day trips we offer (Pharoes Island etc), and day trips to Dahab and the Blue Hole, snorkelling on the Swisscare reef, additional diving etc, as best suits the individual guests.

**When sleeping overnight** in the desert, guests have the option to either pay to keep the hotel room, (for stays that would become 6 nights rather than over 7 this normally makes sense), or release the room and store things with the relevant hotel or camp when possible. Guests need to be aware that they may be given a totally different room on their return.

**It is possible** to use any of these organised schedules and plan diving courses in place of normal daily diving days. Open Water Diver courses require four planned days of diving, but can be completed in three days as a fast track course. An Advanced Open Water diver course requires two days of diving. Other courses and specialities can also be scheduled in on request. When possible we would re-schedule the holiday to allow the whole course to be completed in one series.

**These are only suggestions** of possible schedules. We can tailor any ideas you have to create a unique program based on your guests' needs and flight schedules.

**It is of course possible** to plan diving only holidays, or those with diving safaris of two or three days in the Ras Mumlah Diving Camp.

Explore the beautiful Sinai Desert on your personal  
Bedouin Experience!