

# EMBAHI SAFARI

## DESERT DWELLER

The Desert Dweller includes activities such as Camel Handling and Desert Survival, Land Navigation and involves an insight to the History and Culture of the Region and its people. Travelling through the Desert of Sinai is a spiritual and refreshing endeavour; its clean air enables one to recharge the soul. Base camps are set up on location and an approximate 50km of land will be covered, with two days spent residing with the local Bedouin tribe.

Each day consists of walking with the sun, enjoying an energy boosting breakfast and continuing the trek into areas of vastness and sand dunes, canyons, plateaus. Avoiding the hottest part of the day there will be a block of time each day for you to relax and absorb the ambiance of the environment or use for group discussions.

A further approx 3 hours trekking takes us to the locations chosen for our sleepover camps. This consists of Bedouin Tents made of woven camel or goat hair, rugs and mattresses. The heart of the camp is the fire and is a symbol of hospitality. Dinner is served around the fire, and evenings are enjoyed with tales from the elder Bedouins, music and singing.

Sleeping under the stars, with its breathtaking display of planets and constellations, recharges the soul and is a great way to end the day in the wilderness of Sinai.

*The aim of this safari is to offer an insight to the ways of the desert. Daily chores such as caring for the livestock, chickens, goats and camels: food preparation, and general camp duties. Other aspects include religious customs, use of herbal remedies and social behaviour.*

**DAY 1** - Depart Dahab 8:00 am by van, drive for 70km to the entrance of the desert. Here we will be met by the Bedouin tribe of the area, and equipment loaded on to camels. The Bedouin Sheikh of the area and his family are located at **Nawamis** village, the tombs of Nawamis are reputed back to some 5335 years and named from the Bedouins word for flies, these circular tombs were used by semi-nomadic people from northern Egypt, who worked in the mines of the Pharaohs. From here we shall head into the desert and set up our first camp at **Wadi Ghilim**, which will be after approx. 2 hrs. of trekking, dinner is served around the camp fire. We sleep under the stars in the open air or in a dome tent

**DAY 2** - After breakfast all equipment is loaded onto the camels and we move north east on route to Wadi Rum, where lunch is taken. We continue on towards Ein Hudra valley, we will descend into the valley from the superb location offering a great view. **Wadi Khudra** is a wide valley of sandstone mountains with a sculpture of the frozen rock created by wind erosion, the sand dunes at this area are in abundance and variety of wildlife throughout this region varies from the Desert Foxes, Gazelles, wild goats and the chirping of the wheatear birds. **Ein Hudra oasis** is an ideal location for base camp with spectacular surrounding desert to explore around the camp. The oasis is surrounded by a range of sandstone mountains and reddish cliffs, a small Bedouin settlement, garden of fruits in the middle of the desert: pomegranates, olives, lemons, figs and full of palm trees, all is growing in abundance with fresh water springs. An opportunity to see at first hand the traditional lifestyle of the desert nomads. Dinner is prepared and cooked on the open fire with another night in the million stars hotel.

**DAY 3** - Rising with the sun is always a good start for the day. After breakfast we will start the trek. All the aspects of Desert Survival can be absorbed from day to day, food preparation, camel handling and general desert orientation. Heading south through one of the oldest traveller's routs in the peninsula, a rocky pass, was used in the ancient times by different travellers passing the area (Nabateans 200 BC, Christian pilgrims in the forth century and the Arab pilgrims to

Mecca in the seventh century), after visiting the rock of inscriptions, we enter the colourful limestone area of **Mt. Matamir**, an area of mountains soaring to 1000 m high, sand dunes and narrow canyons. The view from the summit is spectacular, and is an option climb, while lunch is being prepared.

After lunch the trek continues on to **Wadi Zaranig**, an excellent location for meditation, due to its vast openness and levitated plateau's. Camp is set up, dinner served and settle down for an evening of relaxing and Sinai folktales.

**DAY 4** - After breakfast we trek further South, approx 1 hr, through the sand dune area of **Bir Safra**, which takes its name from the fresh water well. It is here that, our **Eco-lodge** has been set-up, the home to a family from the Bedouin Tribe Mezzaina. Bir, directly translated is "Well", and is a strong factor in choosing a location in which to settle. Daily life revolves around this point and is crucial to any base camp. We shall interact with the family members and adopt an understanding of their way of life and dealing with living in such an environment. A garden of fruits, plants and foodstuffs for the livestock has been cultivated on location, and you will have to opportunity to offer aid and knowledge to the project. Dinner is taken in the traditional ceremony of platters of food laid out and all persons sat around, eating from communal dishes. After dinner the evening is spent relaxing around the fire and going over the events and activities of the day.

**DAY 5** - The second day within our Eco-lodge, takes us further in depth of Bedouin life, their traditional and ancient values, and covering the duties of both men and women: bread making, beading and needlework, food preparation, and social gatherings where current affairs are discussed with the sheikh and the men of the tribe. After lunch we head off into the "**Lawrence of Arabia Desert**", an amazing expanse of diverse landscape, introducing, dunes, rock sculptures and a great stillness and panoramic view. Dinner is prepared and served around the camp fire, and we enjoy our last evening sleeping under the stars.

**DAY 6** - After breakfast we trek on the spectacular area of the **Dunes of Hadoudah**, the largest & highest dunes in the Sinai. Lunch is taken with in the valley and after relaxing we move towards the asphalt where we are transported back to Dahab.

*After this 6 Day Safari and Desert Dweller aspect, you will have learnt to appreciate that less is more, and gain a knowledge of the indigenous tribal people and their way of life. Such a program is ideal for many types of people, whether it's for the cultural experience, recharging the mind and soul, or just for the silence and peacefulness of the desert.*

## **Cost**

**290 euros/pers.**

**45 euro non refundable deposit per person required.**

The Tour is running for a minimum of 4 people, Embah will keep you informed of the availability with a minimum of 4 weeks notice.

Cost includes 5 nights in traditional Bedouin Camp, transportation, camels & cameleers, experienced desert guide, full board from lunch on day 1 to lunch on day 6, permissions & Bedouin Fees.

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