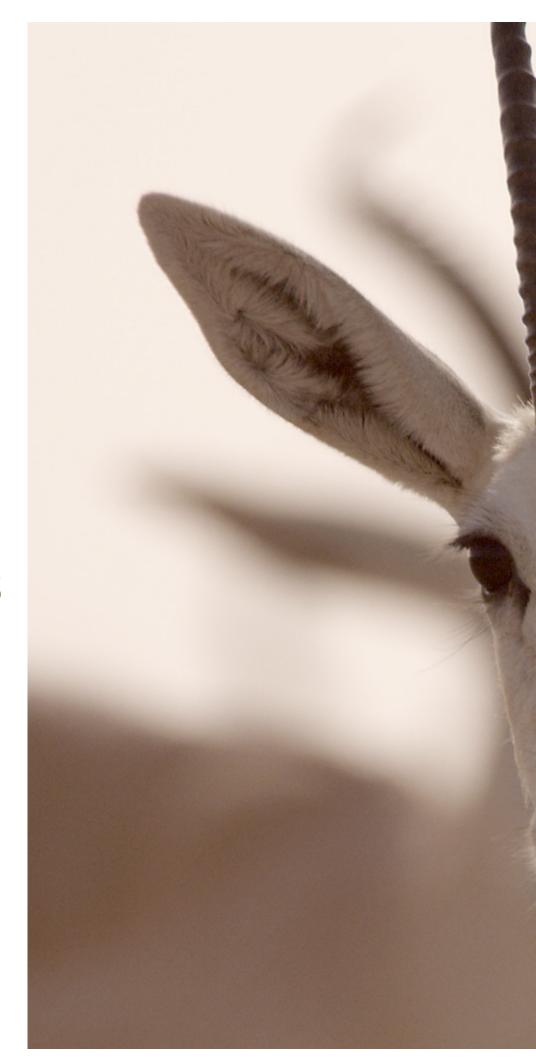


# UAE'S NATURAL WONDERS

www.moccae.gov.ae





ABU DHABI RESERVES



## AL WATHBA WETLAND RESERVE

#### **OVERVIEW**

A verdant sanctuary for the quintessential nature lover - the Al Wathba Reserve is Abu Dhabi's first protected wetland area.

Visit this man-made reserve and experience a unique amalgamation of wetlands, sabkhas (salt flats), fossilized sands and dunes that host more than 250 species of birds, 37 varieties of plants and an abundance of aquatic life. If you're lucky, you can even spot some striking congregations of plovers, stilts, a crested lark or the white-eared bulbul

We recommend you take the 1.5 kilometer or 3 kilometer walking trails that meander around the

reserve.

Take your time and experience the pleasure of sighting flamingos- as many as 4,000 live here. Should you opt for the 3 kilometer path, look for the halfway mark on the trail and stop by the bird watching spot to observe a graceful ensemble of the Greater Flamingo, astonishingly pretty in pink.

The Al Wathba Reserve is just beyond Mussafah on the Al Ain truck road. Follow the track and you'll arrive at the visitor center with friendly staff to greet and welcome you. The reserve is worth the -30minute drive from the capital and is a recommended escape from the usual chaos of city life.













Bird watching



Nature walk



Photography



Self-guided trails



Educational boards



Visitor experience center









Thursday & Saturdays

(1) From 8:00am to 4:00pm

Open to schools on Tuesdays

#### SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

Visitors are advised to carry

A Hat

Walking shoes

Adequate water supplies

#### ON-SITE POINT OF CONTACT

& Environment Agency Abu Dhabi 800555

#### LOCATION/MAP

O Located in the Al Gharbiya region, about an hour's drive from Abu Dhabi

#### SUGGESTED VISITING SEASON

Mid-October to mid-April

#### **ENTRY FEE**

Free Free

#### **WEBSITE**

www.ead.ae

#### PHOTOS AND VIDEOS

 $\mathscr{P}$  www.ead.ae/Pages/al-wathba-wetland-2.aspx







## AL MARZOOM HUNTING RESERVE (AL GHADHA)

#### **OVERVIEW**

The Al Marzoom Hunting Reserve takes you back to the period when falconry was the preferred and most popular gaming pursuit in the UAE. The first of its kind in the world, this reserve offers endless options to indulge in falconry and fishing, while taking in some precious nuances of Arab heritage and desert tourism.

In this 200 square kilometers protected park, visitors can spot hundreds of stunning Houbara bustards and karawan, a small desert bird. Falconers can also hunt rabbits. Hunters can choose to take their prey home or cook them at the campsite.

A visit to the reserve can be rounded off with camel rides, and some rest and relaxation at the campsite specially built for families and individuals. Seasoned hunter or a starter in this sport, the Al Mazroom Hunting Reserve promises an incredible experience to visitors, residents, and falconers.

Please be informed that Al Marzoom Hunting Reserve provides falconers with an opportunity to practice their passion within the framework of sustainable hunting, in accordance with the hunting regulations in the emirate of Abu Dhabi.













Hunting



Guided tours around the reserve



Camping



Traditional cooking











Open seven days a week

Hunting is permitted in the morning and afternoon

#### **ENTRY FEE**



AED 500 for access to the reserve

AED 5000 should you opt for transport, accommodation, food, hunting guide, and one prey; an extra fee will be charged for the second prey

Free admission for children under eight

#### LOCATION/MAP



Located in the Al Gharbiya region, about an hour's drive from Abu Dhabi

#### SUGGESTED VISITING SEASON



During hunting season, from mid-November to mid-February

#### ON-SITE POINT OF CONTACT

& Environment Agency Abu Dhabi 800555

#### **WEBSITE**



www.almarzoom.ae

#### PHOTOS AND VIDEOS



& www.almarzoom.ae/#media

### ARABIAN ORYX RESERVE

#### **OVERVIEW**

A visit to the UAE isn't complete without a glimpse of the rare Arabian Oryx. Declared extinct in the wild in the '70s and classified as endangered in 2011, the Arabian Oryx can now be seen in hordes at the dedicated Arabian Oryx Reserve in Abu Dhabi.

And the credit for making Abu Dhabi home to the largest group of Arabian Oryx in the world goes to the rulers of the emirate. Thanks to their efforts, the Arabian Oryx Reserve is now the habitat of more than 800 species.

Look out for the animals wandering around in the rocky desert and sand

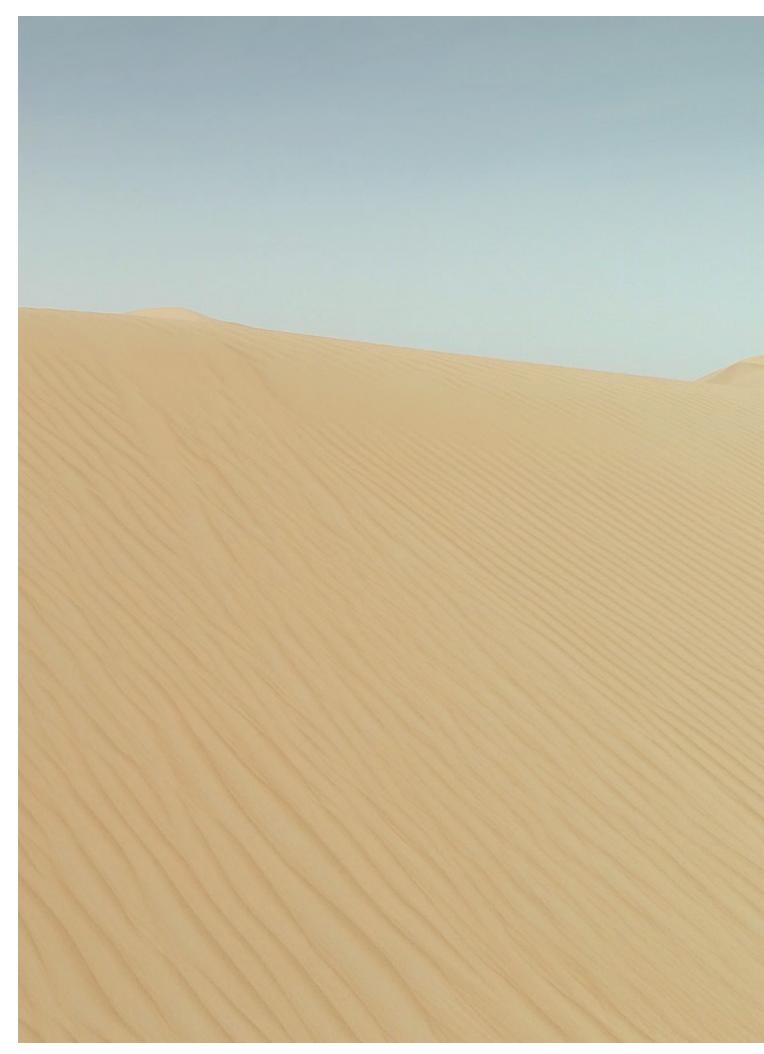
dunes. You will be amazed at the diversity of different animals such as deer, foxes, desert rats, hares, reptiles, and birds.

To help you get a glimpse of history, reach out to the guided tours at the reserve and know all about the Arabian Oryx and its major role in the UAE heritage.













Explore the reserve



Spot the Arabian Oryx and a host of other animals









Currently not available

#### ON-SITE POINT OF CONTACT

Environment Agency, Abu Dhabi 800555

#### LOCATION/MAP



Located in Umm Al-Zamul, south of Abu Dhabi

#### SUGGESTED VISITING SEASON



Throughout the year

#### **ENTRY FEE**

Security clearance regired for entry

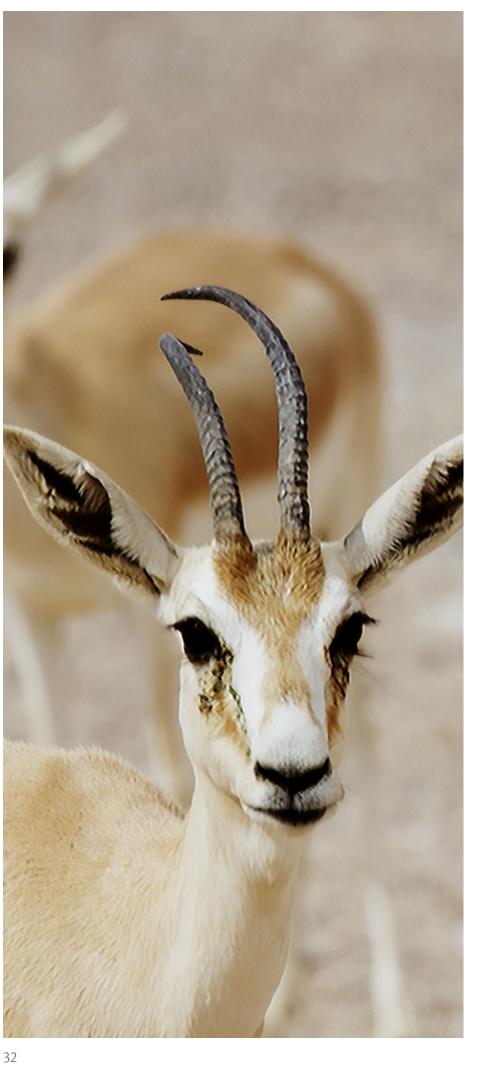
#### **WEBSITE**



www.ead.ae

#### PHOTOS AND VIDEOS









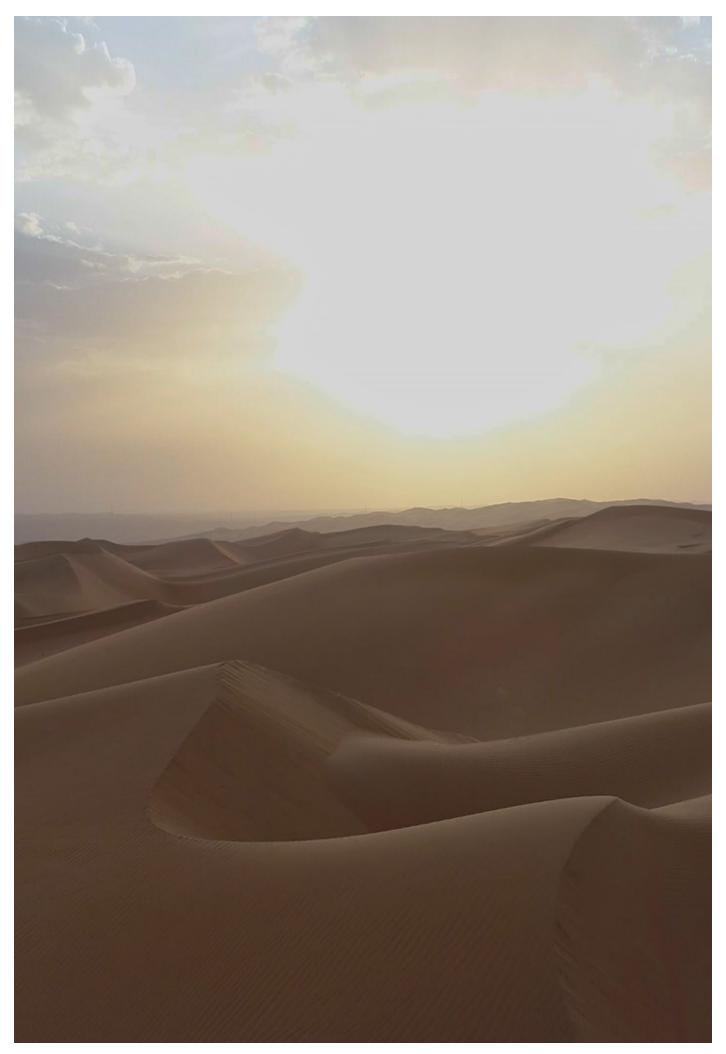
## AL DELFAWEYA RESERVE

#### **OVERVIEW**

With its variety of flora and fauna, Al Delfaweya Reserve is a rich celebration of the region's biodiversity. Sand sheets with perennial herbs and mega-dunes make it a perfect place for dune-bashing and desert exploration.

To enjoy peace and and fresh air, a visit to the Al Delfaweya Reserve is a must.





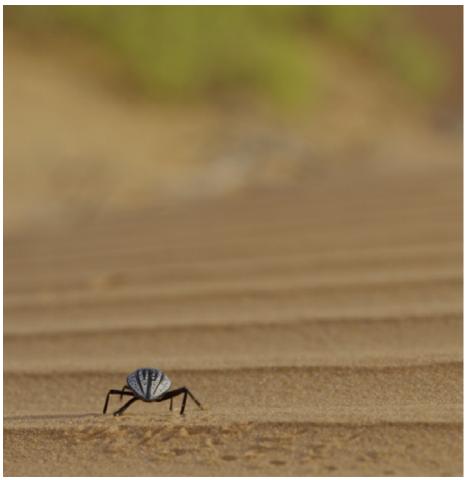






To be confirmed









In official working hours, the visit requires the approval from Environment Agency Abu Dhabi

#### SAFETY REQUIREMENTS



To be confirmed

#### ON-SITE POINT OF CONTACT

& Environment Agency Abu Dhabi 800555

#### LOCATION/MAP



© goo.gl/maps/U5R9jxURh722

#### SUGGESTED VISITING SEASON



From October to April

#### **ENTRY FEE**

To be confirmed

#### **WEBSITE**

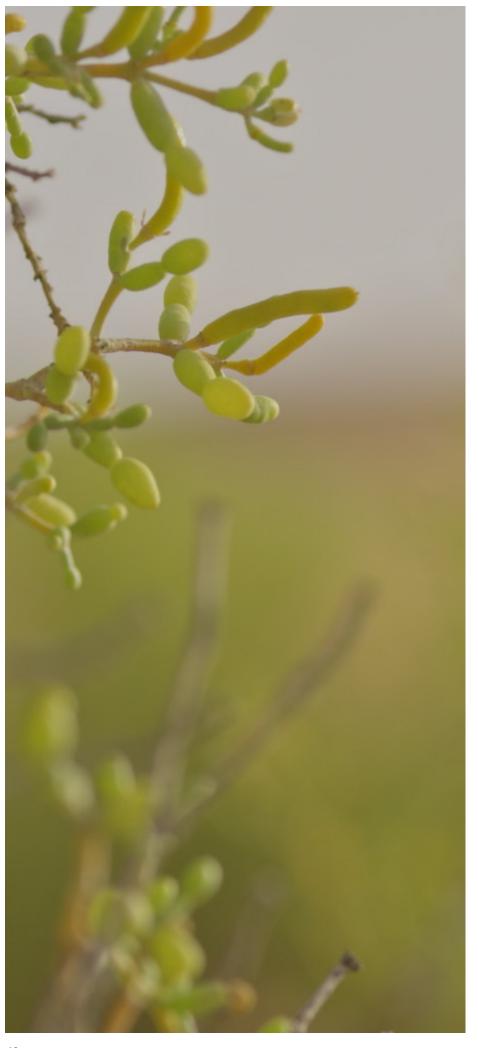


www.ead.ae

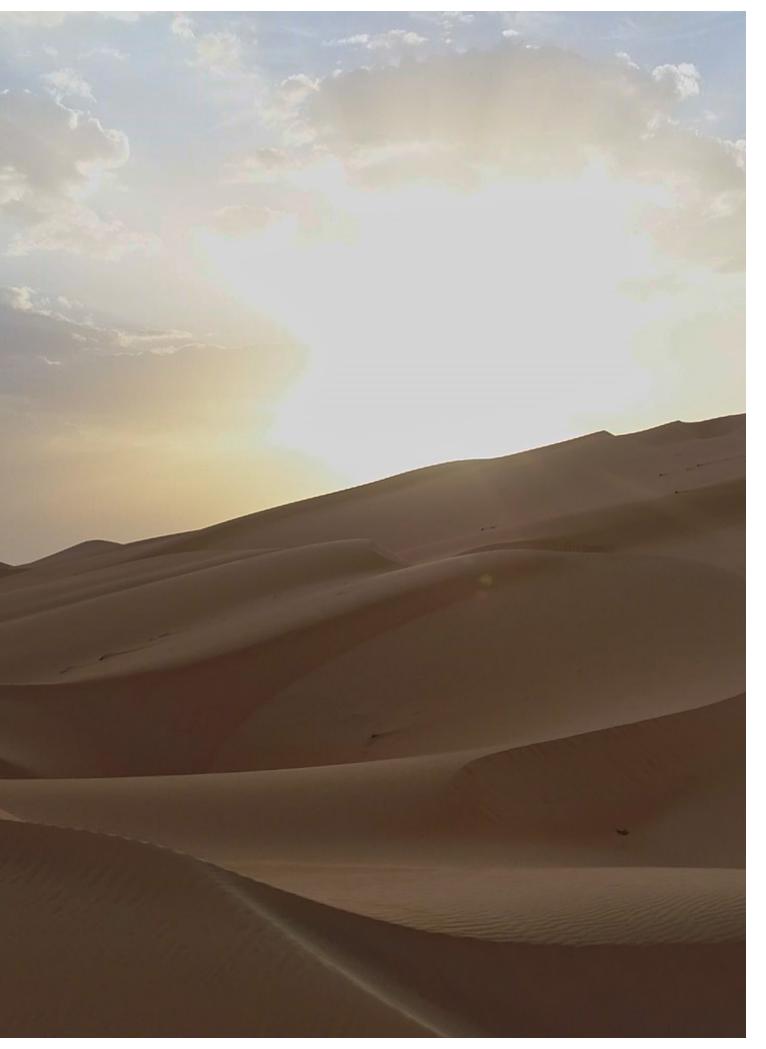
#### PHOTOS AND VIDEOS



P To be confirmed







## QASR AL SARAB RESERVE

#### **OVERVIEW**

If your wish list includes spotting wild animals in uber comfort, come to Qasr Al Sarab.

Qasr Al Sarab is a two-hour drive from Abu Dhabi. The 308 square kilometer protected area offers a visual treat to tourists with its rich canvas of flora and fauna that includes more than 16 unique plant varieties, over 30 bird species, 13 reptiles and 10 mammals.

The pièce de résistance, however, will be your encounter with the majestic Arabian Oryx that was released into the reserve by the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi.

And, when you have had your fill of the wild, return to your resort to savor a quiet evening in the comforting glow of the setting sun. A visit to Qasr Al Sarab is indeed a promise of experiences – explore the wildlife, relax in luxurious ambiance, and, more importantly, connect with nature and yourself.

















Arabian Oryx



Spotting rare species of reptiles and other mammals









Open seven days a week

## ON-SITE POINT OF CONTACT

Environment Agency, Abu Dhabi 800555

## LOCATION/MAP



About 250 kilometers south of Abu Dhabi and north of the Saudi Arabia border

#### SUGGESTED VISITING SEASON



Round the year

#### **ENTRY FEE**

Starts from AED 950

#### **WEBSITE**



€ ead.ae/pages/qasralsarapa.aspx

#### PHOTOS AND VIDEOS



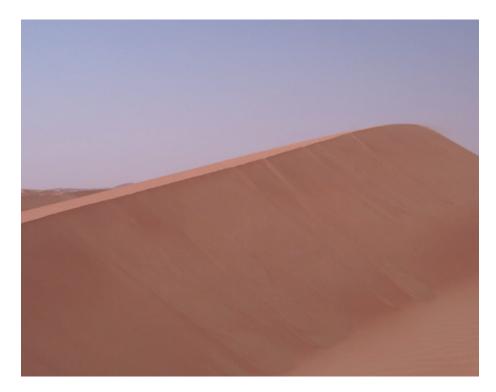
 $\mathscr{S}$  www.youtube.com/watch?v=8YTbP7ypoBg

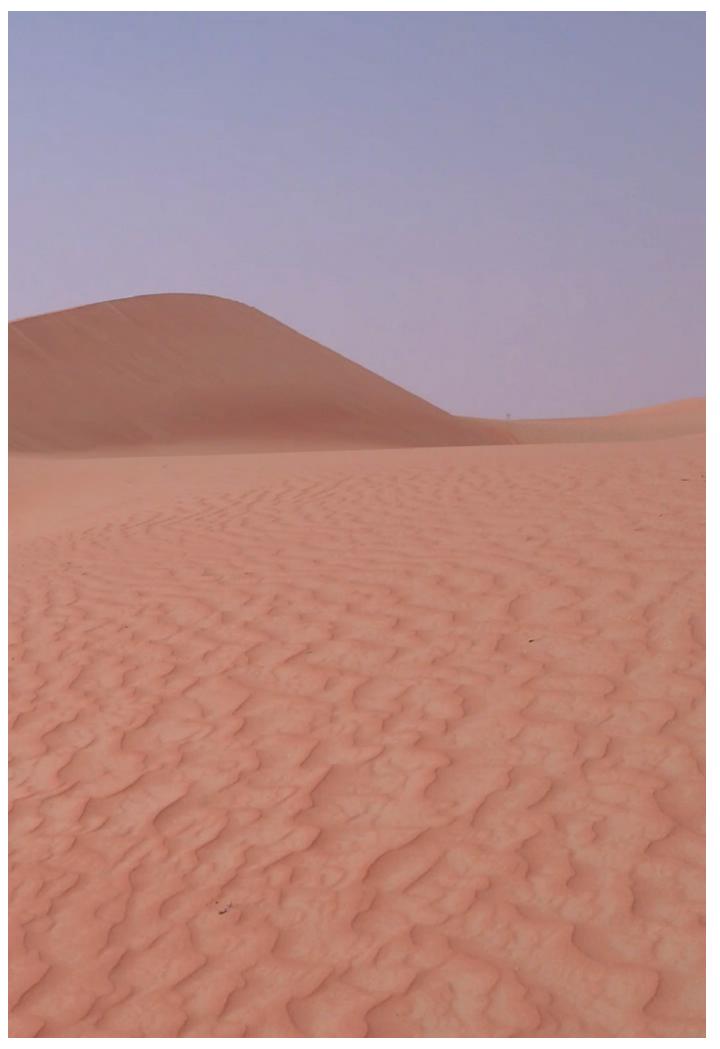
# AL RAMLAH RESERVE

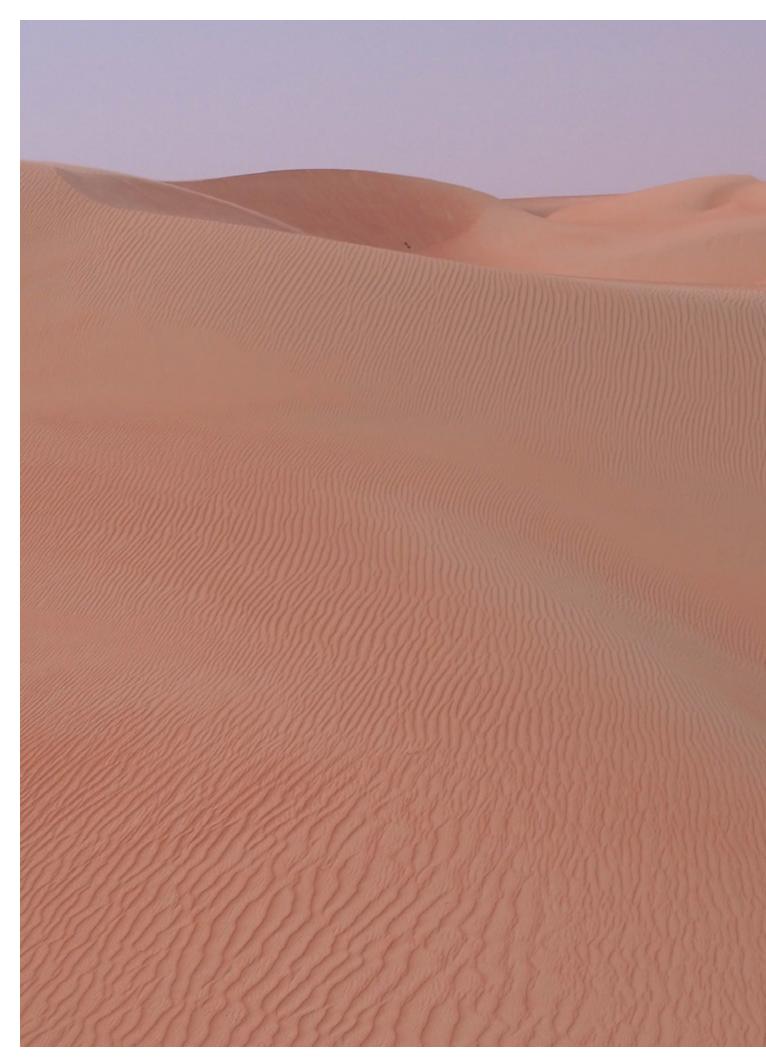
## **OVERVIEW**

Abu Dhabi has something special for all nature lovers. Case in point: Al Ramlah Reserve, a protected area that is a prime example of the Emirate's priority in developing lush green areas for the enjoyment of people.

This pretty reserve is made up of wonderful sand sheets, dunes with perennial herbs, Graminoids, and mega-dunes. Despite its relatively small size, the reserve teems with flora species that is pleasing to the eye, and calming to the senses

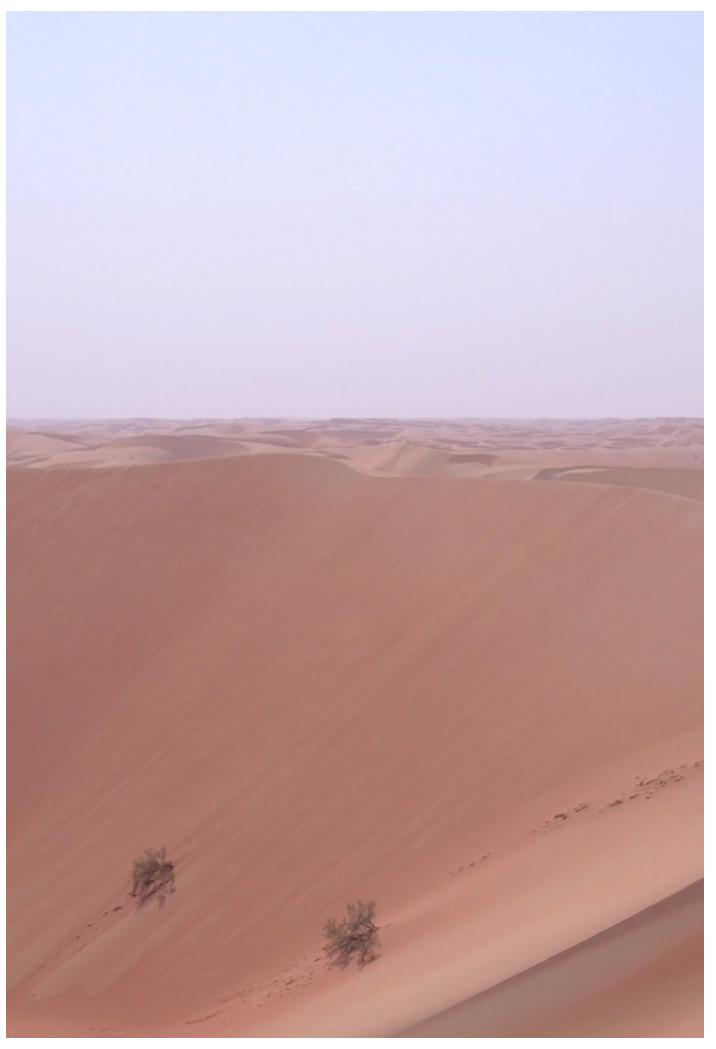
















In official working hours, the visit requires the approval from Environment Agency Abu Dhabi

## SAFETY REQUIREMENTS



○ To be confirmed

## ON-SITE POINT OF CONTACT

& Environment Agency Abu Dhabi 800555

#### LOCATION/MAP



ogoo.gl/maps/1JiEB54nwwn

#### SUGGESTED VISITING SEASON



From October to April

#### **ENTRY FEE**

Currently not available

#### **WEBSITE**



www.ead.ae

#### PHOTOS AND VIDEOS



P Currently not available

## AL TAWI RESERVE

## **OVERVIEW**

Picture this: you have enjoyed the stunning city life, desserts, forts and monuments that Abu Dhabi is widely reputed for. Now, you can see the other side of the Emirate that speaks of its priority to protect, nurture and conserve the country's rich environment resources.

Al Tawi reserve is the best place to learn and reconnect with nature. It consists of magnificent dunes along with the dwarf shrub cover. Experience the gravel plains and shrub vegetation and date plantations that are unique to the Emirati history, culture and tradition.

















To be confirmed

## SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

To be confirmed

## ON-SITE POINT OF CONTACT

& Environment Agency Abu Dhabi 800555

## LOCATION/MAP

O Abu Dhabi

## SUGGESTED VISITING SEASON

From October to April

## **ENTRY FEE**

To be confirmed

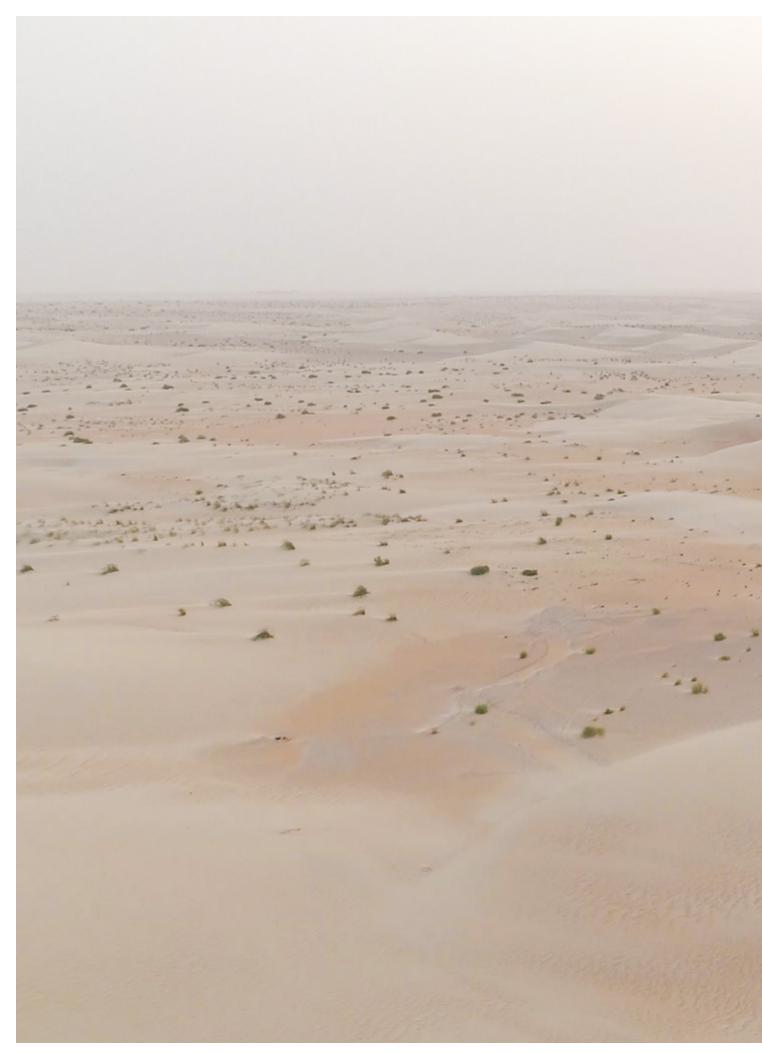
#### WEBSITE



P www.ead.ae

## PHOTOS AND VIDEOS







## BARQA AL SUQOOR

#### **OVERVIEW**

If you are a nature lover and outdoor enthusiast or simply someone who yearns to get away from the daily routine, then Barqa Al Soqour is the place to visit.

Home to coastal salt marshes, locally known as sabkhas, Barqa Al Soqour is also home perennial herbs, and graminoids. Experience the gravel plains with sparse vegetation, rocky exposure, farmlands, and forestry plantations. A walk through the paved roads is a must if you wish to discover different varieties of flora that are unique to the desert region of the Arabian Gulf.





















In official working hours, the visit requires the approval from Environment Agency Abu Dhabi

## SAFETY REQUIREMENTS



○ To be confirmed

## ON-SITE POINT OF CONTACT

& Environment Agency Abu Dhabi 800555

#### LOCATION/MAP



goo.gl/maps/bthoEte7sFo

#### SUGGESTED VISITING SEASON



From October to April

#### **ENTRY FEE**

To be confirmed

#### **WEBSITE**



www.ead.ae

#### PHOTOS AND VIDEOS









## YAW AL DIBSA

## **OVERVIEW**

With its rugged scenary, Yaw Al Dibsa is a rich example of the Abu Dhabi's desert beauty.

Comprising of coastal salt marshes, visitors can enjoy the beautiful views of lithified sand dunes, rocky exposures, and farmland.















In official working hours, the visit requires the approval from Environment Agency Abu Dhabi

## SAFETY REQUIREMENTS



To be confirmed

## ON-SITE POINT OF CONTACT

& Environment Agency Abu Dhabi 800555

#### LOCATION/MAP



goo.gl/maps/bthoEte7sFo

#### SUGGESTED VISITING SEASON



From October to April

#### **ENTRY FEE**

To be confirmed

#### **WEBSITE**



www.ead.ae

#### PHOTOS AND VIDEOS

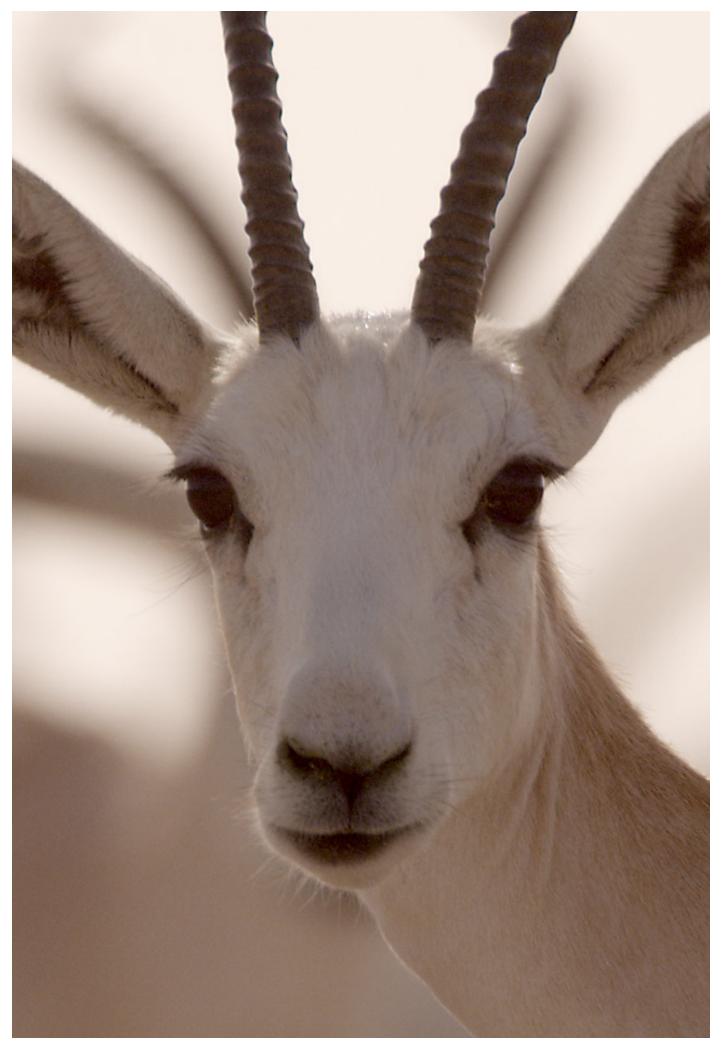


# BADAA' HAZAA' RESERVE

## **OVERVIEW**

To dive into nature in Abu Dhabi requires a short trip to Bada Haza'a reserve. The sand dunes and sheets with dwarf shrub cover, perennial herbs and graminoids are an unexpectedly stunning contrast to the Emirate's emerging skyline.





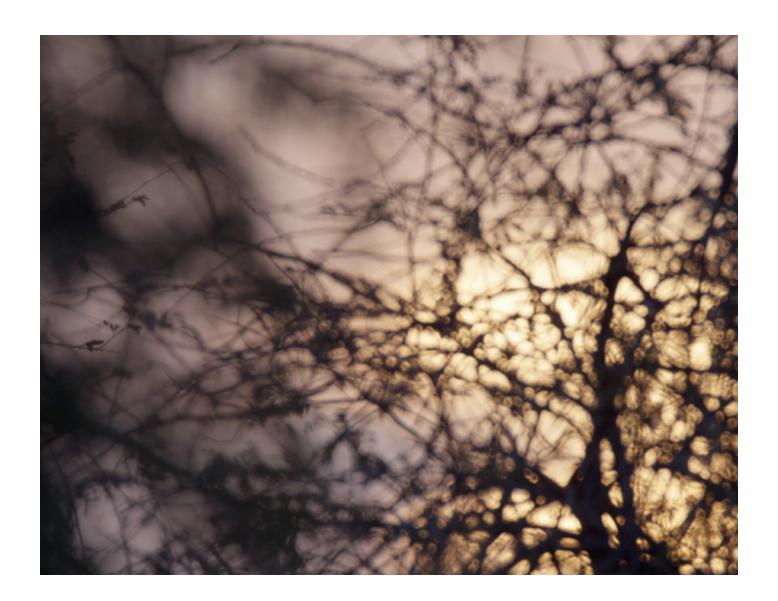














In official working hours, the visit requires the approval from Environment Agency Abu Dhabi

#### SAFETY REQUIREMENTS



○ To be confirmed

#### ON-SITE POINT OF CONTACT

& Environment Agency Abu Dhabi 800555

#### LOCATION/MAP



© goo.gl/maps/6gMAGnTgw582

#### SUGGESTED VISITING SEASON



From October to April

#### **ENTRY FEE**

To be confirmed

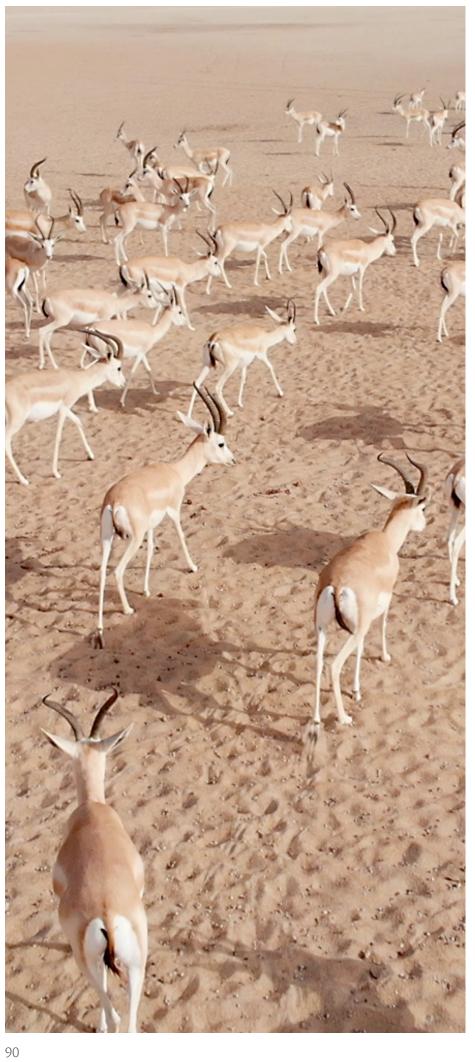
#### **WEBSITE**



www.ead.ae

#### PHOTOS AND VIDEOS









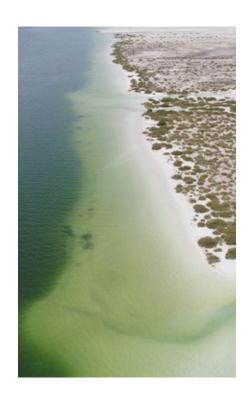
### **BUL SUAYEEF MARINE RESERVE**

#### **OVFRVIFW**

Head to the Bull Suayeef Marine Don't miss this place on your Reserve if you are a keen birdwatcher or enjoy exploring indigenous marine life.

The reserve features splendid and diverse wetland habitats such as mangroves, salt marshes, and seagrass beds that are rich in wildlife with more than 50 species of birds. If you get lucky, you can even be treated to an exclusive showcase of endangered species such as the hawksbill turtle and green turtle. There's also the pink-legged bird putting up a perpetual performance with the reserve hosting more than 1,500 breeding pairs and 800 hatchlings of flamingos.

itinerary for a fascinating watch of marine and bird life!











#### ACTIVITIES

Marine bird hides, plant life, wetland, mangroves, seagrass beds. and salt marshes









ON-SITE POINT OF CONTACT



Currently not available



& Environment Agency, Abu Dhabi 800555

#### LOCATION/MAP

SUGGESTED VISITING SEASON

**ENTRY FEE** 



O About 250 kilometers west of Abu Dhabi

June to mid-July

No entry fee

#### **WEBSITE**

 ${\mathscr S}$  ead.ae/Pages/know-your-environment/biodiversity/protected-areas.aspx

#### PHOTOS AND VIDEOS



Currently not available







# EASTERN MANGROVES MANGROVE NATIONAL PARK

#### **OVERVIEW**

A great way to dive into nature in Abu Dhabi requires a short trip to the Mangrove National Park. Located just beyond Abu Dhabi's city center, the sprawling swathes of the Mangrove National Park are an unexpectedly stunning sight and also one of the Emirate's most important ecological assets.

Known for its abundance of wildlife, including herons, flamingos, and crabs across 19 square kilometer of forest area, the park is the largest and most densely populated area in the emirate of Abu Dhabi and is a biodiversity hotspot that includes mangrove forests, salt marshes, mudflats and algal blooms.

If you are a nature lover, outdoor enthusiast, bird lover or simply someone who yearns to get away from the daily grind, the mangroves are the place to visit. Home to a wide variety of different species, the national park provides a habitat for turtles, foraging foxes and marine mammals such as the dugong and dolphin. Have fun spotting thousands of birds from more than 50 species, including flamingo, herons and the famous herring. Or, kayak around the reserve and look out for the wildlife.

Should you wish to explore the mangroves for yourself, contact the ecologically-friendly tour operators

that can help you make the most of your trip.

Enjoy a day in the water right off the Abu Dhabi island.











Bird watching



Rowing



Swimming & boat rides



Sightseeing











Mondays-Fridays



7:30am to 6:00pm

Closed on Saturdays and Sundays

#### ON-SITE POINT OF CONTACT



Environment Agency Abu Dhabi 800555

#### **ENTRY FEE**



Starts from AED 150 List of operators:

- 1) Seahawk Water Sports
- 2) Noukhada
- 3) Hydro Marine Sports
- 4) Al Mahara Diving
- 5) Belevari
- 6) Safwa Marine

#### LOCATION/MAP



© goo.gl/maps/pna7UFDov1C2

#### SUGGESTED VISITING SEASON



Round the year except for July and August

#### **WEBSITE**



www.ead.ae

#### PHOTOS AND VIDEOS











## JABAL HAFEET NATIONAL PARK

#### **OVERVIEW**

At Jabal Hafeet National Park, water from deep underground wells bubble out to create an expansive and beloved park that offers tranquility for tourist and locals alike.

The national park is home to numerous plants, animals and birds. Nestling among the rocky-clefts, you can also spot desert flowers, lizards, and reptiles in the surrounding region. In addition to its rich biodiversity, the park is well known for its archeological and historical sites that date back thousands of years.

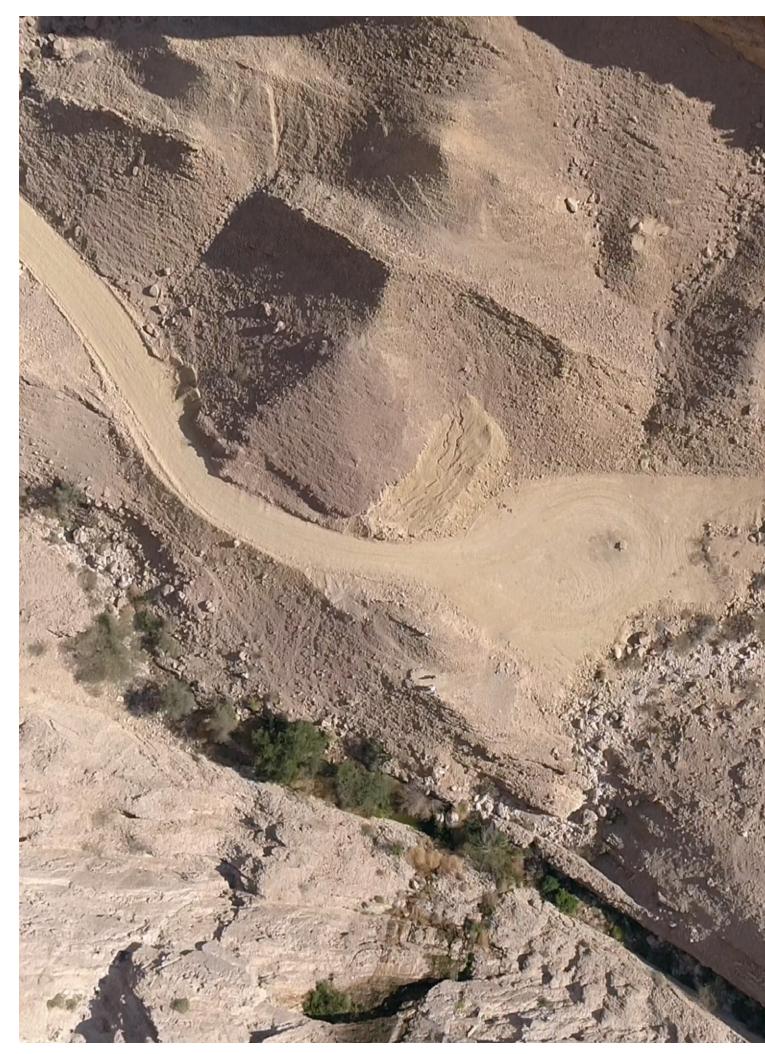
Located in a spectacular mountainside, Jabal Hafeet national park provides individuals and families an unforgettable experience.







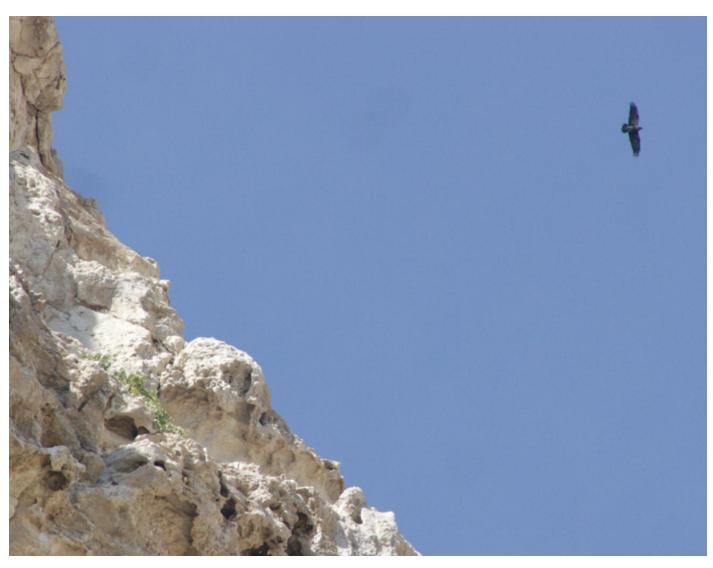








To be confirmed











In official working hours, the visit requires the approval from Environment Agency Abu Dhabi

#### SAFETY REQUIREMENTS



To be confirmed

#### ON-SITE POINT OF CONTACT

& Environment Agency Abu Dhabi 800555

#### LOCATION/MAP



⊚ goo.gl/maps/AALFhy1Ecak

#### SUGGESTED VISITING SEASON



Throughout the year

#### **ENTRY FEE**

To be confirmed

#### **WEBSITE**

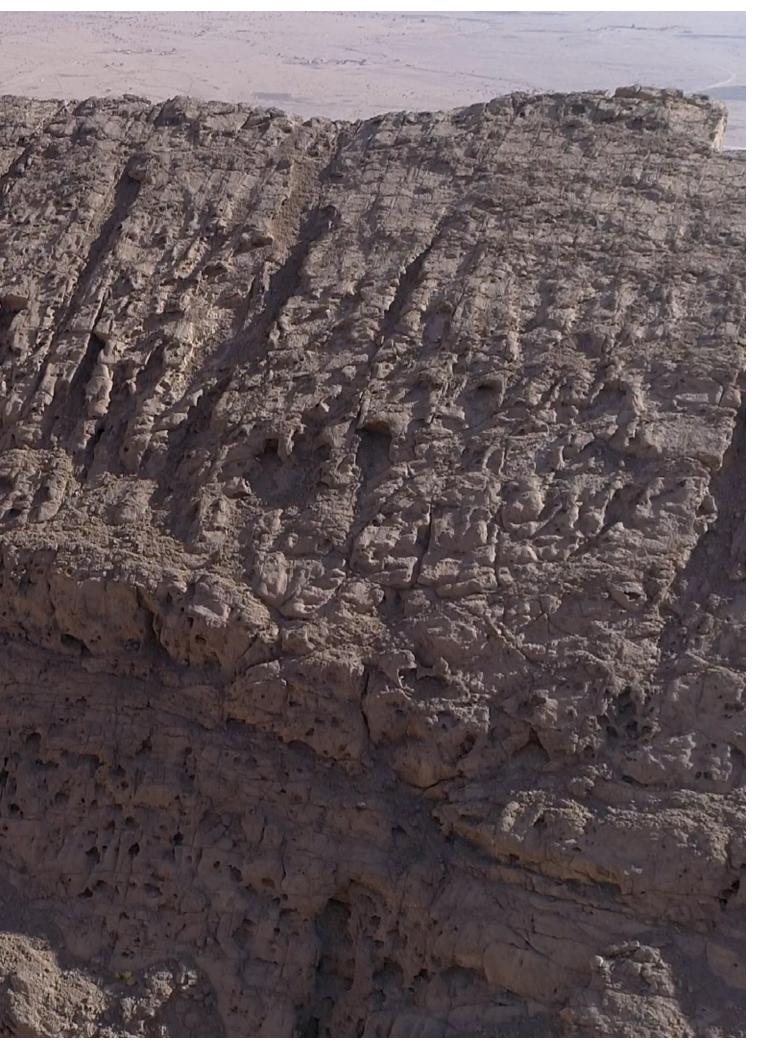


www.ead.ae

#### PHOTOS AND VIDEOS

 ${\mathscr S}$  visitabudhabi.ae/en/see.and.do/attractions.and.landmarks/family.attractions/jebel.hafeet.aspx





## HOUBARA PROTECTED AREA

#### **OVERVIEW**

The Houbara Protected Area takes you back to a time when falconry was the sport of choice in the United Arab Emirates. Located in the Al Dafra region, it was the first reserve in Abu Dhabi were Houbara Bustards, a large terrestrial bird native to the Gulf region, were released.

This reserve consists of an abundant plantation, coastal plains on well-drained sandy ground and gravel terrains.

The Houbara Protected Area offers endless options to indulge in research and development of the species, while taking in some precious nuances of Arab heritage.













ACTIVITIES

Research about the Houbara Bustard species and different vegetation









Currently not available

#### SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

○ To be confirmed

#### ON-SITE POINT OF CONTACT

& Environment Agency Abu Dhabi 800555

#### LOCATION/MAP

goo.gl/maps/ghTHioPWLQR2

#### SUGGESTED VISITING SEASON

October to May

#### **ENTRY FEE**

Entry fees are not collected at the reserve but security clearance is required to visit.

#### **WEBSITE**



www.ead.ae

#### PHOTOS AND VIDEOS



P To be confirmed



## DUBAI RESERVES



## RAS AL KHOR WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

#### **OVERVIEW**

Looking for serenity and peacefulness? Ras Al Khor Wildlife Sanctuary is the place you simply do not want to miss.

Just 10 minutes from Dubai, the sanctuary is among the few protected urban areas in the world. The wildlife features a combination of salt flats, mangroves, and lagoons. Home to 450 species of flora and fauna, the sanctuary is identified as a globally important Bird Area (IBA) by Birdlife International and a designated Ramsar Site reflected as an unique wetland within the UAE.

The bird reserves located on the perimeter of the sanctuary has all the

action going in this preserve. Flamingo Hide offers the mesmerizing sight of the Greater flamingos, while a Mangrove hide hosts a plethora of unique birds in a natural habitat. You can even spot marsh harriers, grey herons, great egrets, reef herons, Socotra cormorants, black-winged stilts, sandpipers, ringed plovers, avocets, pintails, teal, kingfishers, spoonbills, osprey and snipe, to name a few. The birds feast on the nutrientrich waters and eat different fish species. During the winter season, the action gets even more dramatic with more than 20,000 water birds from 67 species congregating at the wetlands.

These spots are well maintained and

equipped with stationary telescopes, stools, and water coolers.

The Ras Al Khor Wildlife Sanctuary is a great place close to Dubai's bustling downtown that invites you to reconnect with nature and explore wildlife















Landscape photography

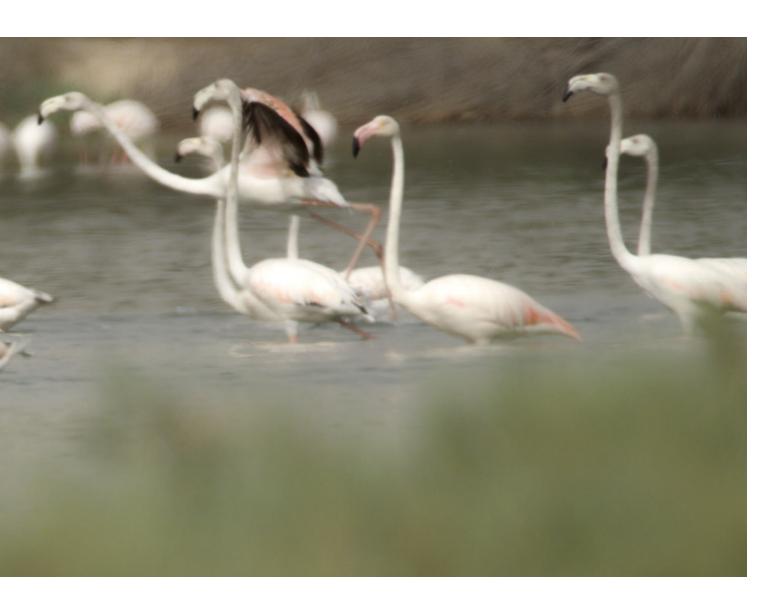


Educational sessions for students









#### WORKING DAYS/HOURS

During summer:



- ② 6:00 am to 6:00 pm Friday: 2:00pm to 5:30 pm During winter
- Saturday- Friday
- 7:30am to 5:30pm

#### ON-SITE POINT OF CONTACT

Ibrahim Alfalasi Senior Protected Area Ranger +971 (4) 606 6819

#### LOCATION/MAP

O Located around the 8-mile Dubai Creek watercourse

#### SUGGESTED VISITING SEASON

October to March

#### **ENTRY FEE**

No entry fee

#### **WEBSITE**

 $\mathscr{P}$  visitdubai.com/ar/pois/ras-al-khor-wildlife-sanctuary

#### PHOTOS AND VIDEOS

 $\mathscr{S}$  youtube.com/watch?v=Ij\_YGLzP3Xc







# AL MARMOOM DESERT CONSERVATION RESERVE

#### **OVERVIEW**

Complementing the repertoire of attractions that draw tourists from all over the world to Dubai, the Al Marmoom Desert Conservation Reserve will soon provide another compelling reason to visit the Emirate. Currently under development, this reserve has been envisioned as the largest tourism project of its kind in the Arab world focusing on the desert environment. It is also the first unfenced desert conservation reserve in the UAE. Spanning 23 per cent of Dubai's total area, the reserve will feature more than 40 hectares of shrub land, 204 species of native birds, 158 species of migratory birds, and 10 kilometers of lakes encompassing

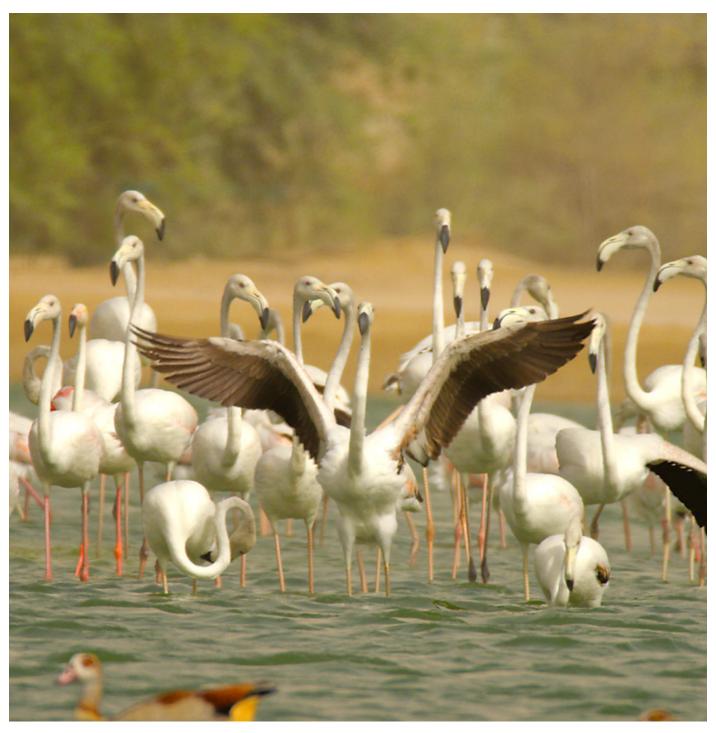
the Al Qudra Lakes.

Any time, visit the area to indulge in some wild animal spotting, such as Arabian Oryx, Arabian gazelles, sand Gazelles, foxes, and wild cats. You may even encounter, coursers and the large chlamydotis in the vicinity.

The reserve isn't just about nature. The new project will include 10 animal and bird observation platforms, star and sunset observations decks, areas for practicing yoga, an outdoor theatre and will be powered by a 5,000 megawatt solar plant.

Al Marmoom is a desert reserve worth adding to your bucket list of places to visit.













#### **ACTIVITIES**

The Saruq Al Hadid archaeological site, which dates back more than 3,000 years to the Iron Age, can be found at the reserve



Bird watching

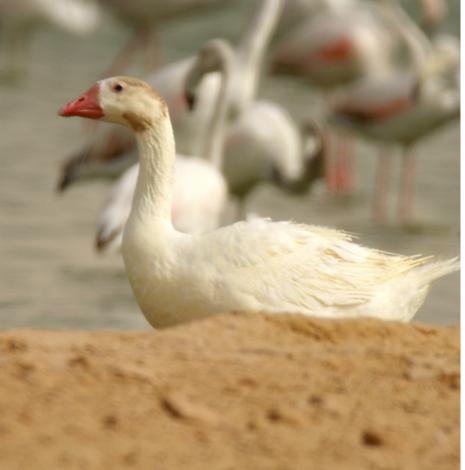


Camel treks



Spotting Arabian Oryx and wild animals









#### WORKING DAYS/HOURS



Open seven days a week

#### ON-SITE POINT OF CONTACT



📞 Juma Al Omairi Wildife Officer +971(4) 606 6819

#### LOCATION/MAP



(a) 40 kilometers from Dubai. goo.gl/maps/vES2gfhNFkM2

#### SUGGESTED VISITING SEASON



∴ October to March

#### **ENTRY FEE**

Currently not available

#### **WEBSITE**



www.mmpwa.com

#### PHOTOS AND VIDEOS



 $\mathscr{S}$  www.youtube.com/watch?v=GzeOV427fiw

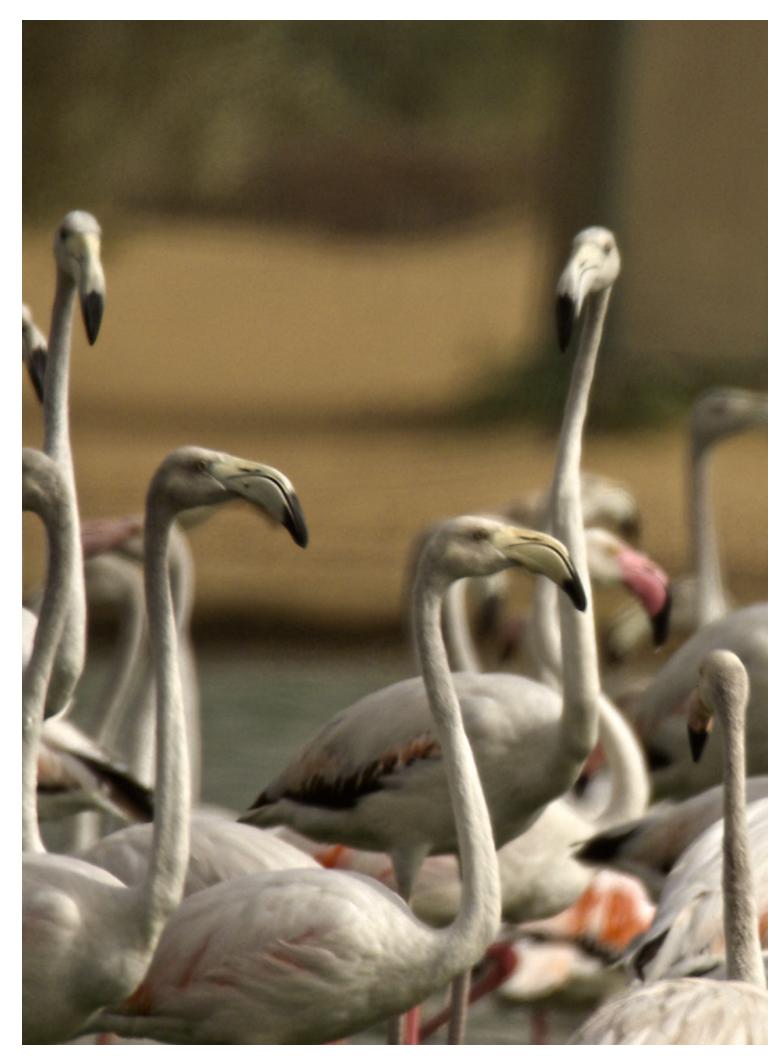






















## HATTA MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION RESERVE

#### **OVERVIEW**

The Hatta Mountain Conservation Area is home to the largest population of the endangered Arabian Tahr in the UAE. The mountains provide refuge to many species of rare fauna and flora, situated close to two dams.

The area is an ideal spot for mountain bikers, adventurers and nature-lovers with its craggy mountain peaks, crisp air and untamed environment. From criss-crossing the rough terrain on a mountain bike to tackling the turquoise waters by kayak, or simply exploring the cultural town by foot, there's much to do just an hour away from central Dubai.

Trek along the winding wadis at the foothills of the mountains near the border with Oman and experience the varied terrain from sandy patches to sharp rock, or hop on a mountain bike to navigate the meandering pathways of hills, wadis, and farmland. Multiple trails with clear markers serve as useful guides for beginners and advanced level riders.

A popular spot behind the Hatta Dam is where you'll come across rough rock, stunning vantage points to take photographs and wildlife sightings.

Kayak through the vast Hatta lake and encounter natural inhabitants including fish and birds. You can venture into unseen areas through the curved passageways hidden behind the mountains. Kayaks and paddle boats are available for rent at the kiosk in the reservoir.



### FUJAIRAH RESERVES



### WADI WURAYAH NATIONAL PARK

#### **OVFRVIFW**

Wadi Wurayah National Park is a rare beauty nestled in the Hajar Mountain range. Crafted by nature over millions of years, this national park features rugged brown cliffs and dynamic rivers, framed by grand rocky formations.

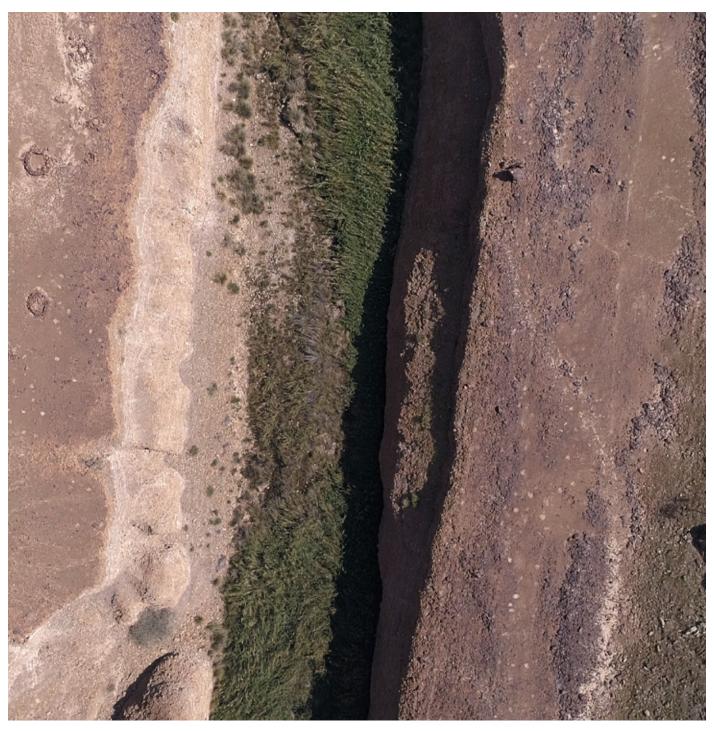
With its extraordinary range of topographical variation, the 220 square kilometer reserve hosts about 860 species that comprise 208 plant varieties alone, including the UAE's only native orchid, epipactis veratrifolia.

The country's first protected mountain area and first national parkis home to the rare Blandford

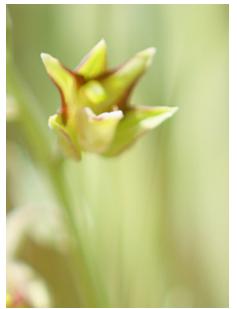
fox, Gordon's wildcat, hedgehogs, Caracal, Notably, Wadi Wurayah is one of the three conservation areas in the United Arab Emirates that is home to the Arabian tahr, a mountain goat native to this region.

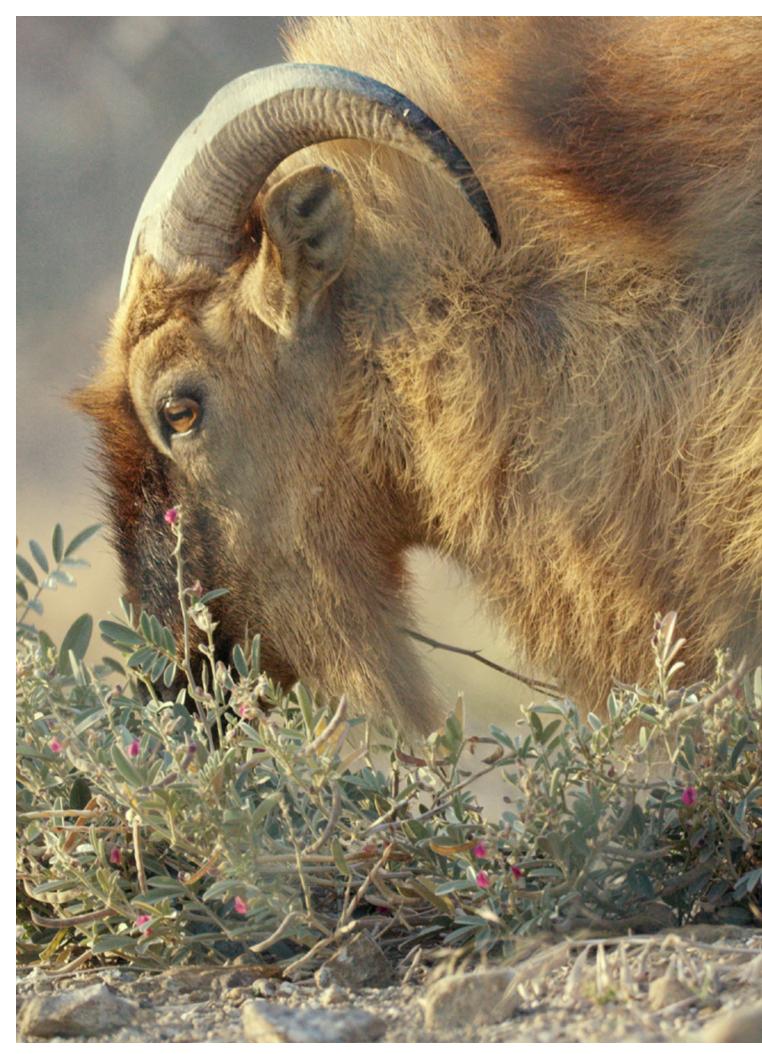
The park is also an ornithologists dream, with 94 endangered bird species recorded within the area. Recent wildlife surveys show that 24 of the 30 known dragonflies worldwide can be found at the Wadi Wurayah National Park.

A coastal road takes you to the national park through the splendid surroundings of seaside and mountain views. It's beautiful waterfalls and unusual wildlife make it a popular day out for conservationists and tourists.







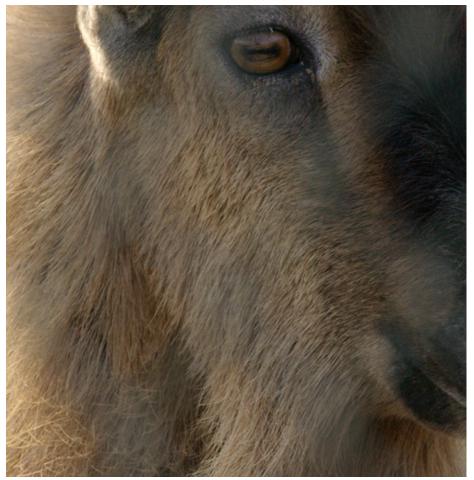




#### ACTIVITIES

- Education programs with schools and universities
- Community outreach and awareness programs









#### WORKING DAYS/HOURS



Sundays-Thursdays



② 8:00am to 04:30pm

#### SAFETY REQUIREMENTS



Hiking shoes



Adequate water supplies



Outdoor essentials

#### ON-SITE POINT OF CONTACT



📞 Dr. Ali Hassan Al Hammoudi , Park Manager Wadi Wurayah National Park, Fujairah Municipality +971 50 6296445 a-h-alhmmoudi@hotmail.com

#### LOCATION/MAP



Located between the towns of Bidiyah, Dibba and Masafi in Fujairah goo.gl/maps/4Cx5VqbeKUB2

#### SUGGESTED VISITING SEASON



From October to April

#### **ENTRY FEE**



To be confirmed

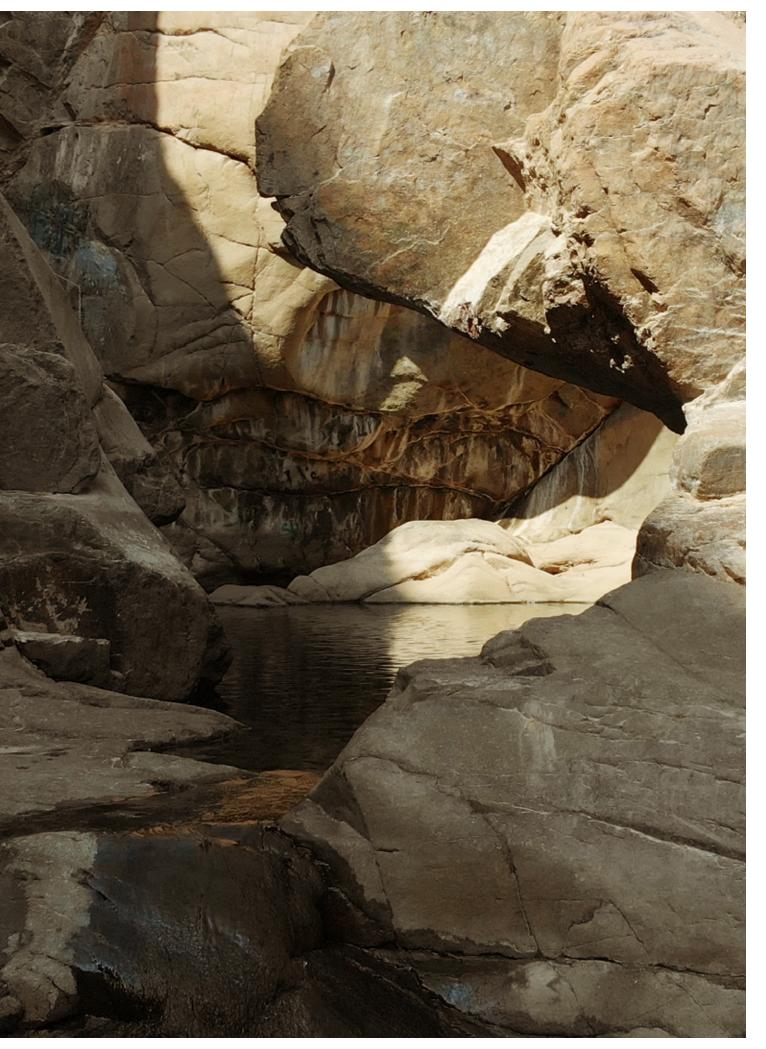
#### **WEBSITE**



www.fujmun.gov.ae







#### **BIRD ISLAND RESERVE**

Announced in 1995, the marine reserve comprises multiple small islands and spans over a 1.44 km2 area (2,910 m along the beach and 760 m into the sea). It is a sanctuary for migrating birds, especially kingfishers, some birds of prey, gulls, and herons, where they rest before continuing their long journey in the winter.

#### **BIDYA RESERVE**

Situated at Bidya area, the marine reserve spans over 0.455 km750) 2 m along the beach and 525 m into the sea). The site was declared a protected area to help sustain the marine ecosystems, such as coral reefs, and the area's biodiversity, such as fisheries and other marine species.

#### AL AQQA RESERVE

Announced in 1995, the marine reserve has an area of 1.07 km2,035) 2 m along the beach and 400 m into the sea). Located at Al Aqqa area and managed by Dibba Al Fujairah Municipality, the marine protected area is set to become an attraction for both divers and marine biologists from the UAE and abroad through maintaining pristine marine life.

#### **DHADNA RESERVE**

With the aim of sustaining fisheries and providing a haven for rare marine species known in the area, the marine reserve was declared in 1995 covering an area of 0.08 km2. Situated in Dhadna area and overseen by the Dibba Al Fujairah Municipality, the reserve is home to a vast variety of different life forms.







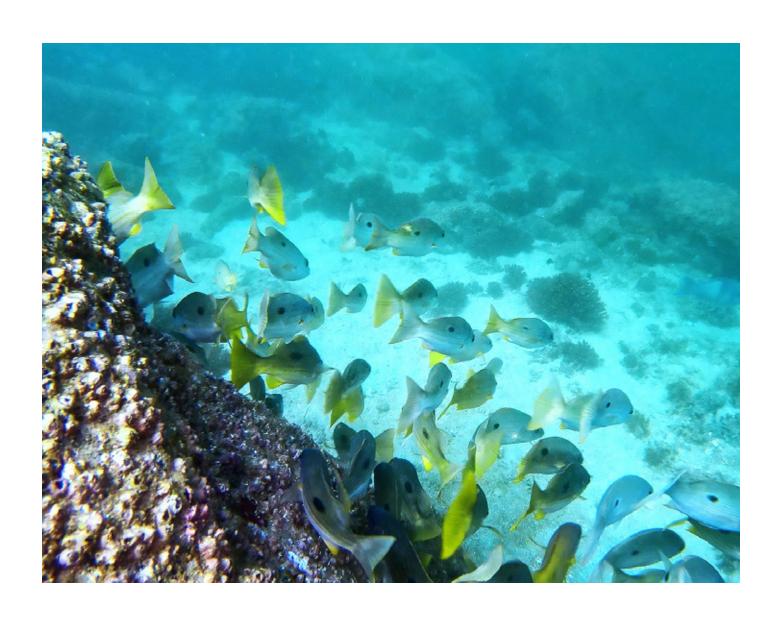




















## SHARJAH RESERVES



# AL HEFAIYAH MOUNTAIN CONSERVATION CENTER

#### **OVERVIEW**

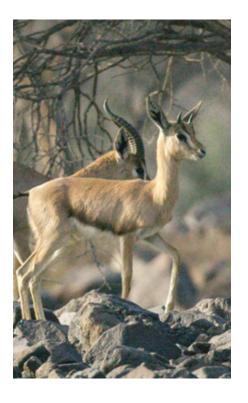
With its variety of flora and fauna, the Al Hefaiyah Mountain Conservation Center celebrates the rich biodiversity of the region's mountain habitats. Located at the base of the Hajar Mountains in Kalba, the reserve also highlights the strong relationship between animals and nature, creativity and regional culture.

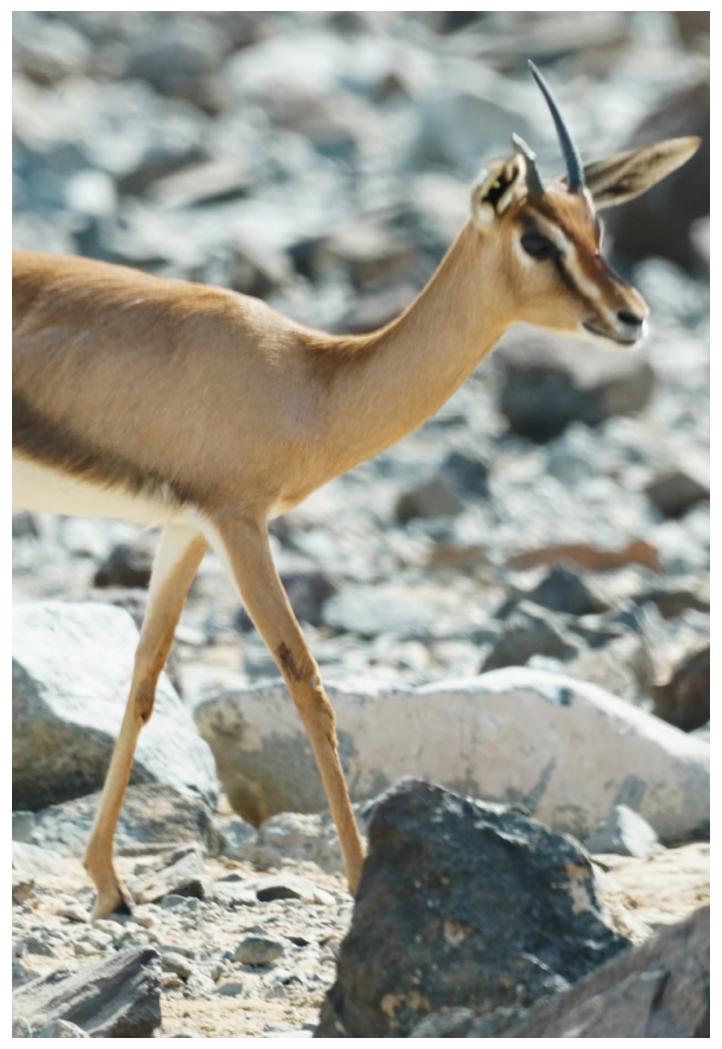
The Al Hefaiyah Mountain Conservation Center is home to 30 different species of mountain animals. So, go ahead and take the 1.5 kilometer-long trail that leads you to the animal observation decks. You can either walk along the route or take golf carts available at the

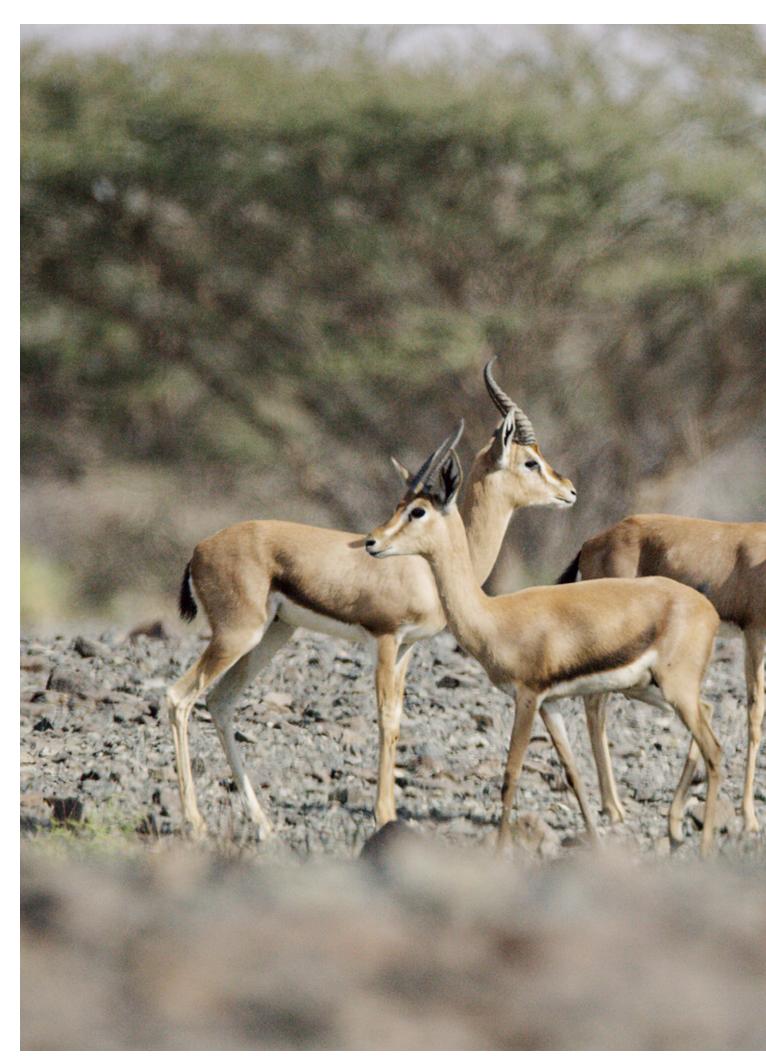
seventh watching spot. Alternatively, you can get into the indoor glassed walkways for unrestricted views.

Critically endangered Arabian leopard, Arabian Wolve, Arabian Tahr, and caracal, are some of the wildlife you can hope to spot. Try and catch an experience of the nocturnal wildlife exhibit that showcases the nighttime activities of mountain creatures.

What's more, the inscriptions around the perimeter of the site imaginatively display one of the oldest known art paintings of the region's wildlife.



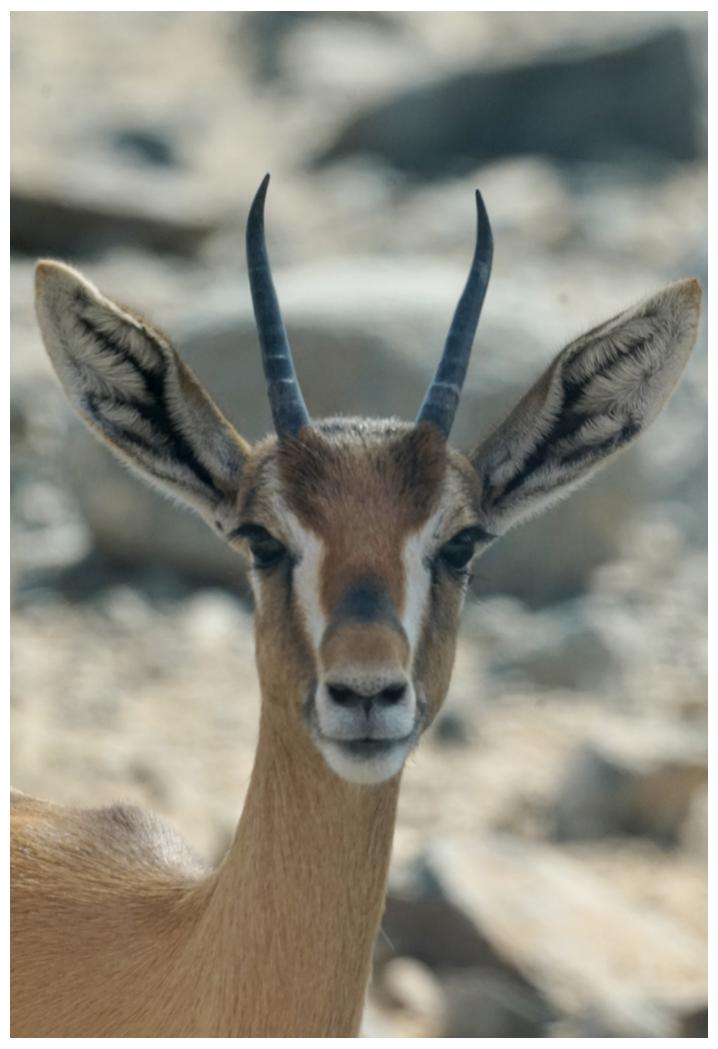






#### ACTIVITIES

- Educational workshops conducted throughout the year.
- Weekly student workshops conducted as well







Sundays-Thursdays ② 9:00am to 6:00pm

Golf carts available for use

Fridays 2:00pm to 6:00pm Saturdays | 11:00am to 6:00pm

Closed on Mondays

#### ON-SITE POINT OF CONTACT



+97192772698



hmcc@epaa.shj.ae

#### LOCATION/MAP



goo.gl/maps/scTcjWyi4Ax

#### SUGGESTED VISITING SEASON



Round the year

#### **ENTRY FEE**



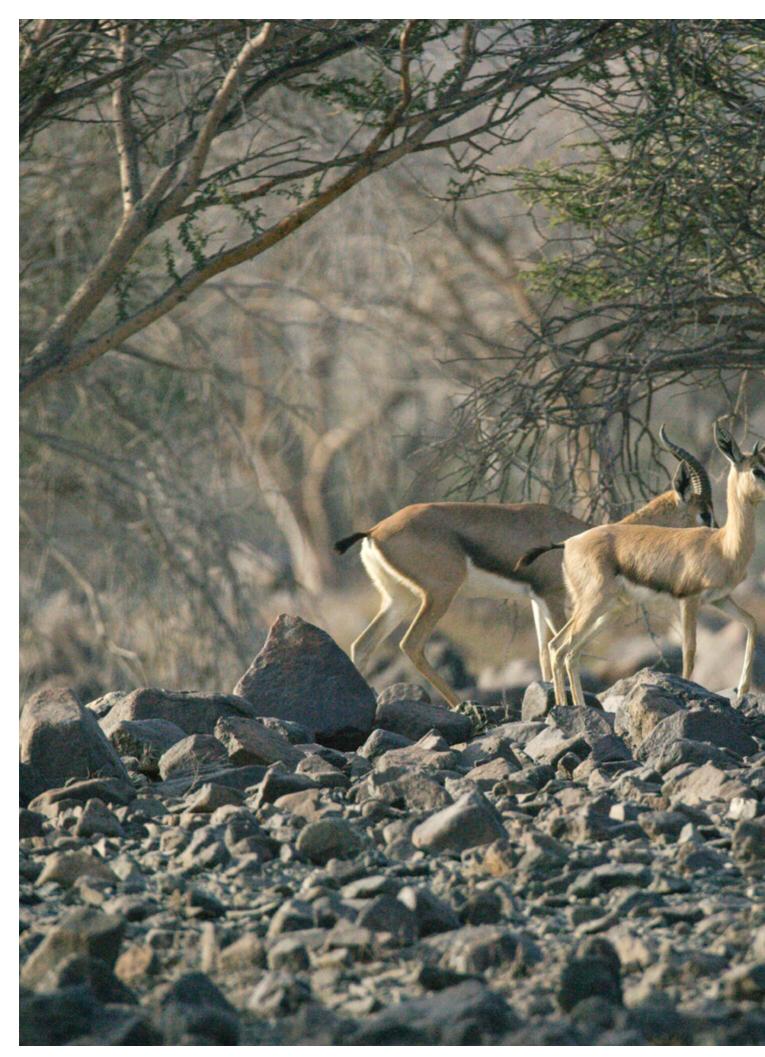
Adults – AED 25

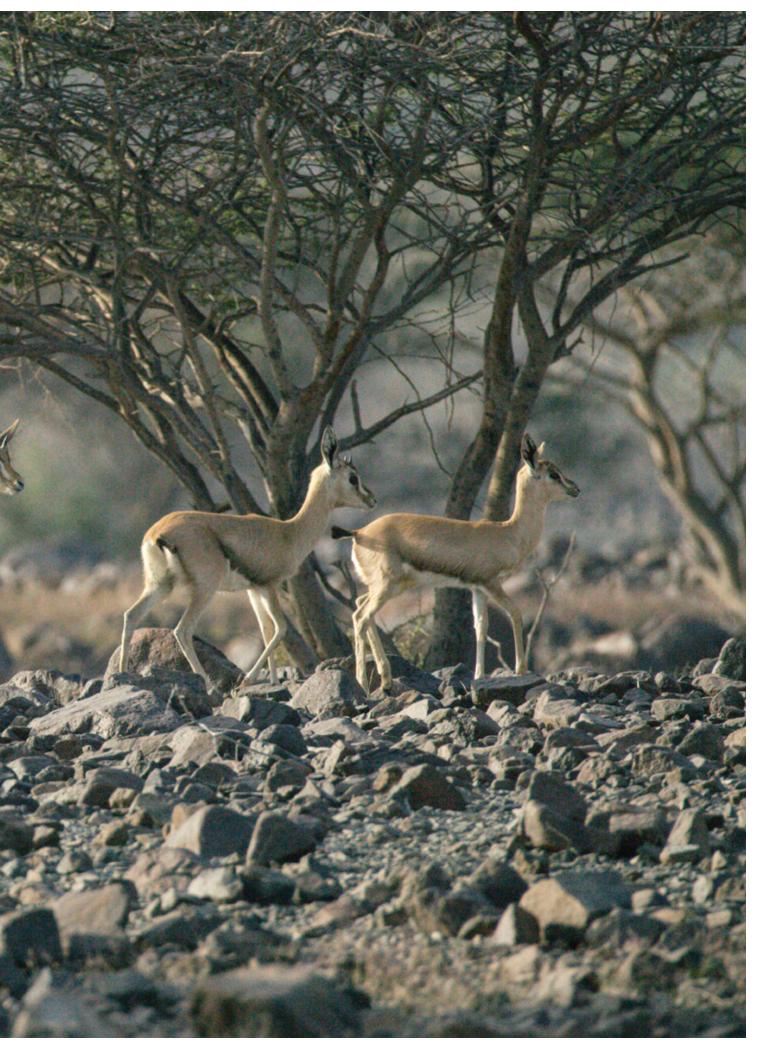
Children under the age of 12 years have free entry

#### **WEBSITE**



www.epaashj.ae/learning-centers/al-hefaiyah-mountain-conservation-centre





## LEMDYNAH PROTECTED AREA

#### **OVERVIEW**

Lemdynah Protected Area dazzles with its rich and unique biodiversity. Located in the central region of Sharjah, this protected area comprises of distinctinctly Arabesque sand dunes, mudflats, gravel plains, as well as biological resources, such as acacia trees, and desert-specific species like rodents and reptiles. This protected area is also home to some endemic bird species.











This protected area is closed and not open to the general public









This protected area is closed and not open to the general public

#### SAFETY REQUIREMENTS



Comfortable shoes





Plenty of water to stay hydrated during the trip.

#### ON-SITE POINT OF CONTACT

& Environment and Protected Areas Authority +971-65311501

#### LOCATION/MAP



goo.gl/maps/xC8NCQ2UkbP2

#### SUGGESTED VISITING SEASON



This protected area is closed and Entrance is granted by not open to the general public

#### **ENTRY FEE**

permission only

#### **WEBSITE**



www.epaashj.ae/protected-areas/lemdynah/

### AL QURM PROTECTED AREA

#### **OVERVIEW**

Al Qurm Protected Area is a one of the most unique ecological sites of the United Arab Emirates, as it comprises of both land and sea features, to create a remarkable biodiversity of flora, fauna and animals.

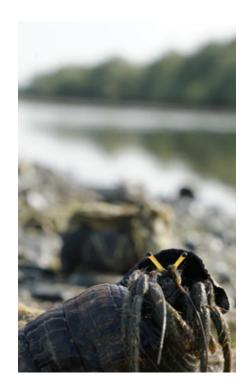
Located on the coastal areas of Kalba in Sharjah, this 4.9 square kilometer reserve consists of an exquisite ecosystem of sea water mangroves, swamps, salt marshes, and mudflats, an environment that is the ideal breeding ground for several unique species.

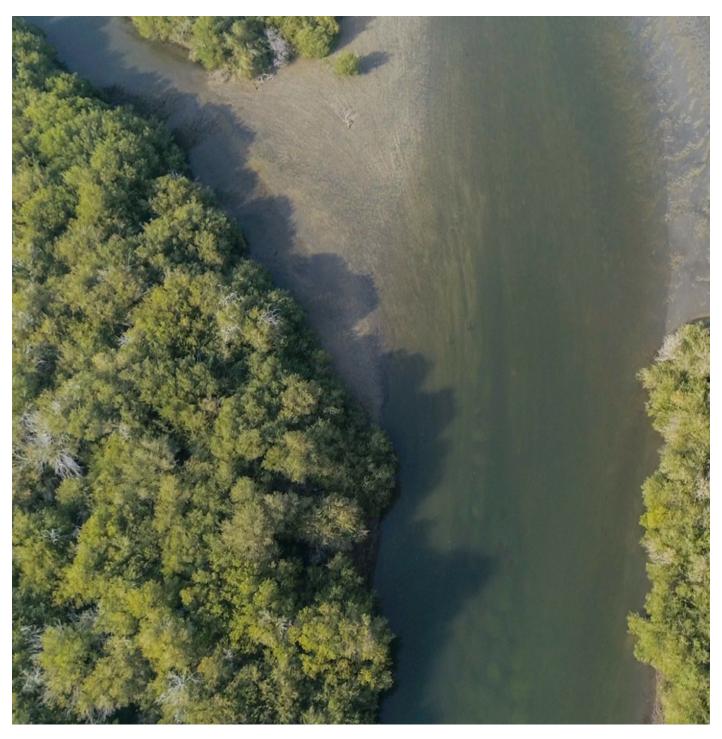
Tall and majestic mangroves are the best feature of this protected area,

averaging 8 meters in height, a trait that helps in stabilizing the coastline by reducing erosion from storm, surges, currents, waves, and tides.

This inimitable ecology creates a nurturing environment that makes it an important habitat for breeding many rare birds like the Arabian collared kingfisher, a species that is endemic to Al Qurm. (todiramphus chloris kalbaensis).

These features have led Al Qurm to be achieve worldwide recognition by The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar) in 2013, as it is a suitable environment for endangered species.





















To be confirmed

#### SAFETY REQUIREMENTS



Hiking shoes



Adequate water supplies



Outdoor essentials

#### ON-SITE POINT OF CONTACT

& Environment and Protected Areas Authority +971-65311501

#### LOCATION/MAP

goo.gl/maps/mwSaoPPdFot

#### SUGGESTED VISITING SEASON



প্র' Winter

#### **ENTRY FEE**

To be confirmed

#### **WEBSITE**



www.epaashj.ae/protected-areas/algurm-wa-lehhfaiiah/algurm-protected-area/

#### PHOTOS AND VIDEOS



www.youtube.com/watch?v=3qGLCyw6iXc

## MLEIHA PROTECTED AREA

#### **OVERVIEW**

Whether you are a fan of high octane and adrenaline-fuelled thrills or more relaxed nature walks, Mleiha has something for everyone.

Characterized by its rocky mountain ecosystem, huge sand dunes and a rich presence of marine fossils, the protected area is the cornerstone of biodiversity conservation in the region. Rare and important fossils are up for discovery in this protected area made of different minerals like calcite and chromite. Native wildlife species such as reptiles and wild bird species. Additionally, the protected area is also an important archeological site in Sharjah, as treasures and findings from past civilizations have been discovered here.

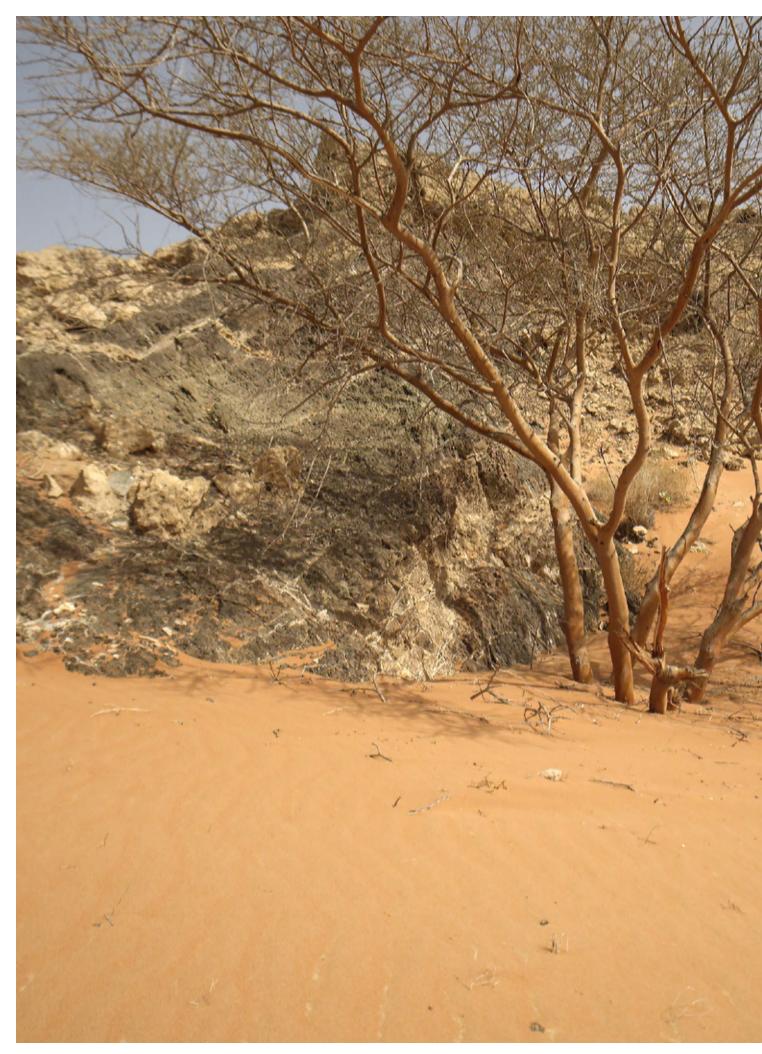
A unique place that combines desert terrain, ancient history and an array of inspiring activities, Mleiha Protected Area has the potential of holding the attention of the most curious of minds

































Week days

② 9am to 7pm

#### ON-SITE POINT OF CONTACT

Discover Mleiha

mleihamanagement@discovermleiha.ae

#### LOCATION/MAP

⊚ goo.gl/maps/AkMNEUifwfs

#### SUGGESTED VISITING SEASON

November to April

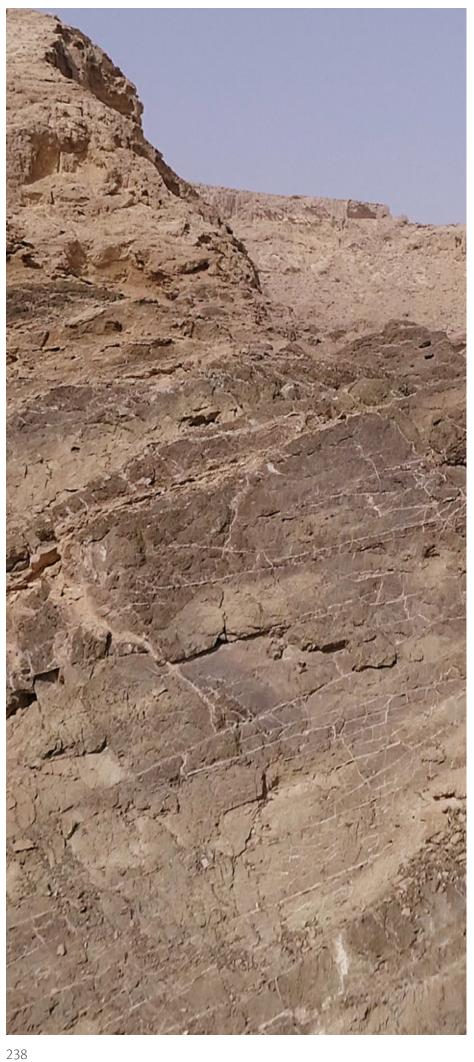
#### **ENTRY FEE**

Discover Mleiha website

#### WEBSITE

G

www.epaashj.ae/protected-areas/meleiha-protected-area/meleiha/ www.discovermleiha.ae







## AL FAYEH PROTECTED AREA

#### **OVERVIEW**

With its breath-taking views, stunning historical landmarks, sand dunes, fossils and distinctive wildlife, Al Fayeh Protected Area offers a rich and unforgettable experience.

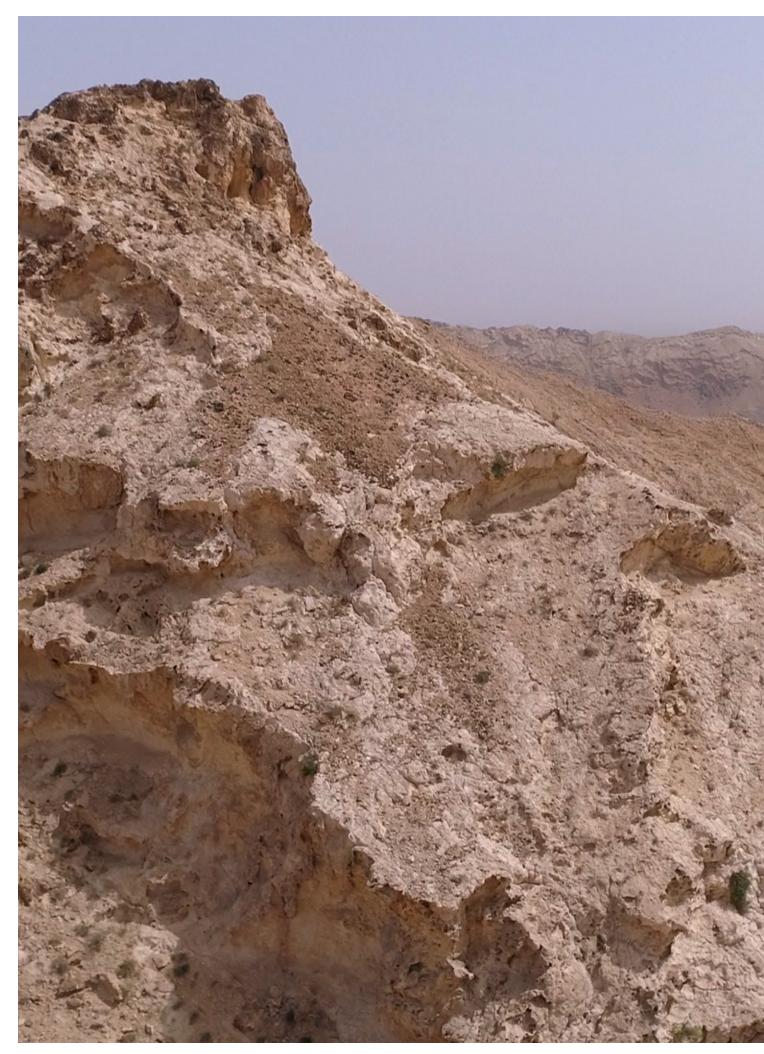
Its rocky mountain ecosystem and significant marine fossils make this area a must visit for nature lovers. This protected area is home to diverse fossils made of minerals like calcite and chromite, so get make sure to pack a magnifying glass. Apart from the archeological treasures, you can also discover different varieties of wildlife including rodents and reptiles.















This protected area is closed and not open to the general public







ON-SITE POINT OF CONTACT



To be confirmed



S Environment and Protected, Areas Authority +971-65311501

#### LOCATION/MAP

SUGGESTED VISITING SEASON

**ENTRY FEE** 



goo.gl/maps/3PwbUffXdAq

🔆 Winter

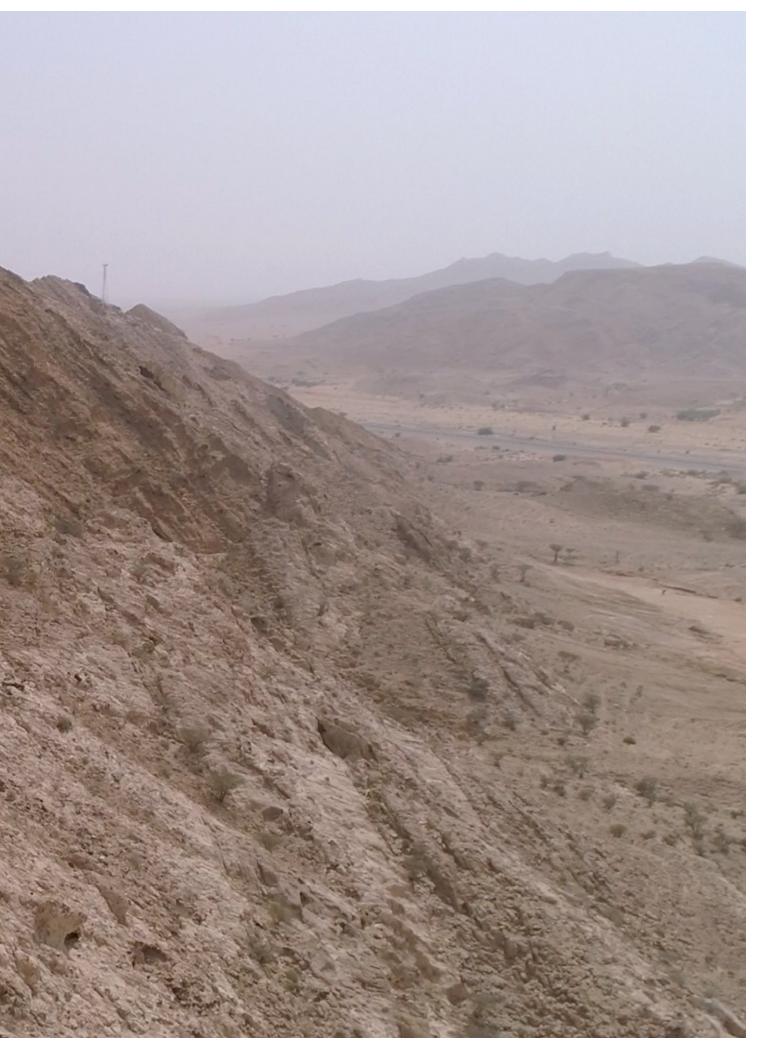
To be confirmed

#### **WEBSITE**



www.epaashj.ae/protected-areas/meleiha-protected-area/elfaya-protected-area/





## AL DHELAIMA PROTECTED AREA

#### **OVERVIEW**

Al Dhelaima Protected Area is a uniquely crafted by nature. Rustic brown sand dunes, famous for the Arabian Gulf's ghaf trees, define a landscape that is noted for its rock formations.

A rich biodiversity of diverse species have been released within the protected area. Feast your eyes on majestic animals like as gazelles, Arabian Oryx, and Ethiopian hedgehogs.

This 2.2 square kilometer protected area is also home to reptiles, foxes, and birds like the Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse and Gray Francolin, and Little Green Bee-Eater

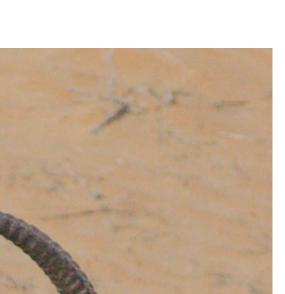












### ACTIVITIES

This protected area is closed and not open to the general public









To be confirmed

#### SUGGESTED VISITING SEASON



#### ON-SITE POINT OF CONTACT

& Environment and Protected Areas Authority +971-65311501

#### LOCATION/MAP



⊚ goo.gl/maps/ngH8UATUGZD2

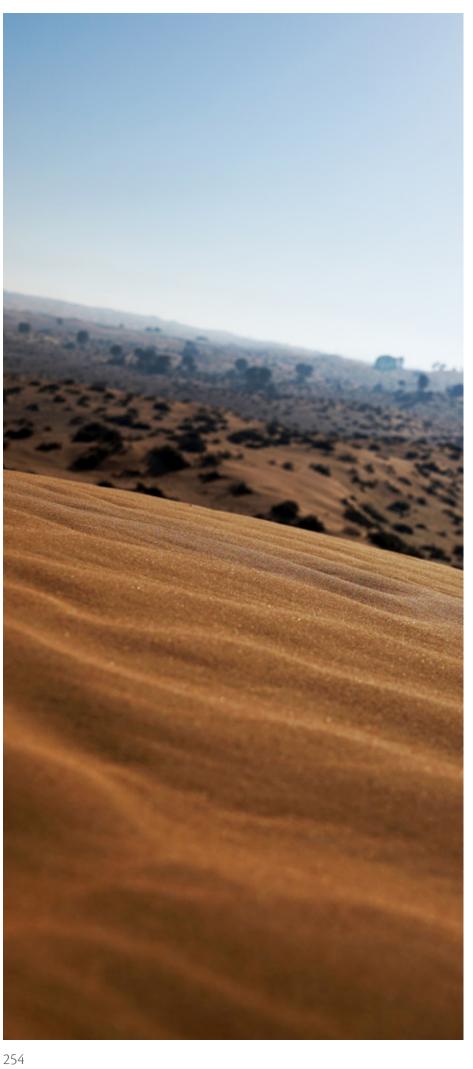
#### **ENTRY FEE**

To be confirmed

#### **WEBSITE**



 $\mathscr{S}$  www.epaashj.ae/protected-areas/ed-dhelaimah/







## WASIT NATURE RESERVE

#### **OVERVIEW**

Wasit Nature Reserve is the perfect place to embrace nature and spend quality time with feathered friends.

Located on the outskirts of Sharjah, the 0.9 square kilometer reserve that is interestingly juxtaposed with coastal sand dunes, mudflats, salt lagoons, linking ponds and a large open lake is home to more than 120 species of birds.

Majestic and magnificent migratory birds, rest at the wetlands on their way to or from Africa, Asia, and Europe. The eight aviaries on the site recreate natural habitats and host about 60 species of resident and migratory birds including the

endangered Northern Bald Ibis- of which there are fewer than 500 in the world. Detailed information and signboards about the birds that frequent the area are positioned at the bird watching hideouts. You will also be provided with binoculars to properly scope out the area – and any shy birds.

Look out particularly for baby herons and other species such as flamingos, pelicans, marbled ducks, Black-winged Stilts and harriers that are protected and yet free to nestle amidst natural vegetation against a backdrop of stunning desert skies. Absorb the sight and sounds through the specially installed telescopes and

amplifiers. The eco-friendly electric buggies make it easy for you to navigate the entire stretch of the reserve.

Plan a fun day out with kids not just to enjoy the outdoors and birds, but also to visit the Wasit Wetland Center to learn about different species, their eating habits, nesting, and how to distinguish them by their feathers. Young bird watchers won't even realize they are learning as they take part in edutainment activities that integrate information on the perils facing migratory birds.











#### **ACTIVITIES**

Workshops for families, visitors and school children on the environment are regularly held at the Wasit Wetland Center. You can tour the center, play games, enjoy the activities and then take the buggy through the wetlands for an interactive, relaxing and fun day out.

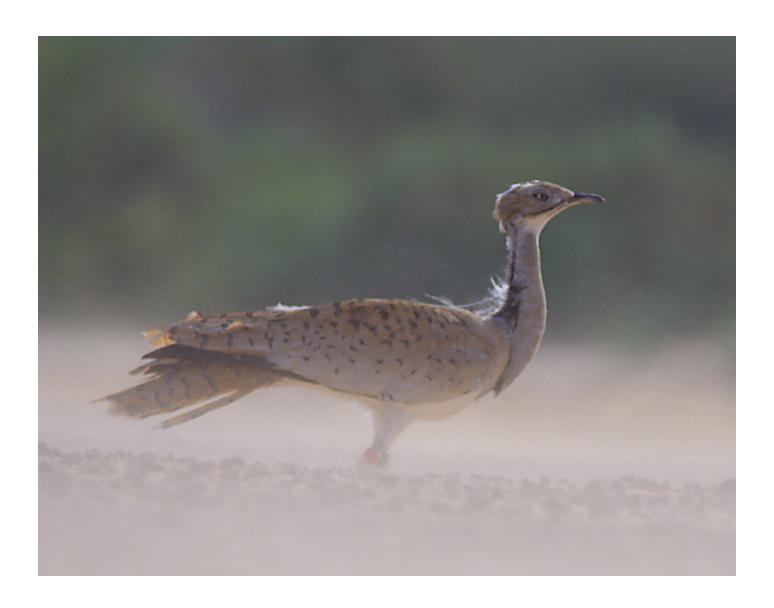
Afternoons are feeding time in the aviaries. But if you prefer stretching your legs, then enter the giant bird homes, get close and view the new mates.

Guided walking tours are available at the reserve.











Sundays – Thursday 9:00am to 6:30pm Saturdays | 11:00am to 6:30pm Fridays | 2:30pm to 6:30pm Closed on Tuesdays

#### SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

Carry hats during summer; set aside 45 minutes to one hour for a tour around the reserve

#### ON-SITE POINT OF CONTACT



Information centre +971 50 213 3915



booking.wasit@epaa.shj.ae wasit@epaa.shj.ae

#### LOCATION/MAP



goo.gl/maps/FfWFCCTmCtJ2

#### SUGGESTED VISITING SEASON



Throughout the year. January to March - Prime time for bird watching March to April – Butterfly season May to August – Migrating season October to December – Migratory birds return to the reserve

#### **ENTRY FEE**



AED 15 per person Free for children under 12 years

#### **WEBSITE**



www.epaashj.ae

#### PHOTOS AND VIDEOS



youtu.be/5a970UQvwhM







# AL MENTETHER PROTECTED AREAS

#### **OVERVIEW**

Located on the Sharjah Al Dhaid Road, Al Mentether Protected Area is a 9.4 square kilometer protected area. Known for its greenery, this is the best place to escape the hustle and bustle of city life and discover a pristine desert eco-system.

The reserve is also home to Gray Francolin, and chestnut-bellied sandgrouses, some reptiles and rodents. Classified as a 'greenbelt', there are nearly a million ghaf and acacia trees—foliage that is uniquely suited to grow in the arid, desert climate of the Arabian Gulf.





















This protected area is closed and not open to the general public

#### ON-SITE POINT OF CONTACT

& Environment and Protected, Areas Authority +971-65311501

#### LOCATION/MAP

⊚ goo.gl/maps/CzUi7xADaaS2

SUGGESTED VISITING SEASON

**ENTRY FEE** 

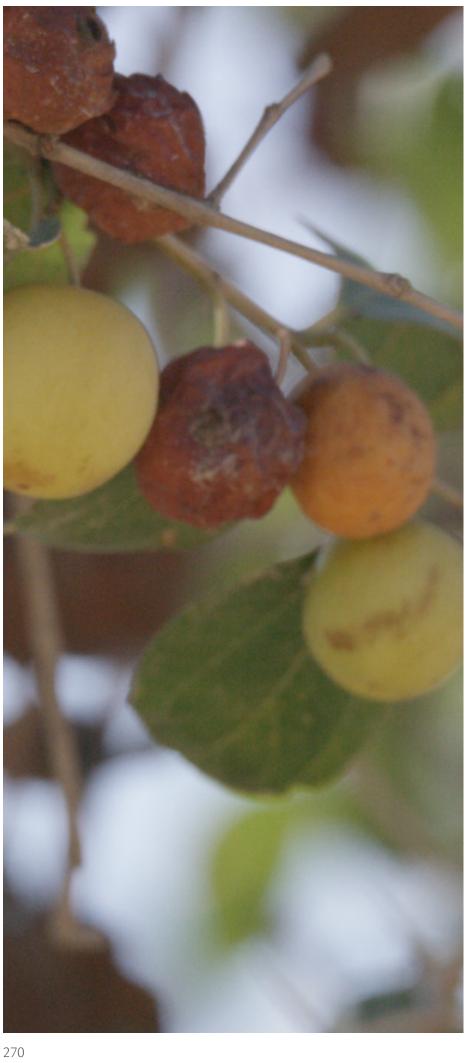
To be confirmed

To be confirmed

#### **WEBSITE**



www.epaashj.ae/protected-areas/meleiha-protected-area/elmentether-greenbelt-protected-area/







## SIR BO NA'AIR PROTECTED AREA

#### **OVERVIEW**

To Emirati poets, Sir Bo Na'air Island is a physical manifestation of a "tear-drop" that fell into the Arabian Gulf. Known for its unusual tail-like shape, this four kilometer wide island has unique features on land and in the sea.

Located 112 kilometers off the coast of Sharjah, this protected area is a safe haven for a variety of endangered species, such as hawksbill sea turtles and the rare green sea turtles, which come to the island's beaches to lay eggs between March and June of each year.

For scuba divers, the sea around Sir Bo Na'air features more than 76 reeffish species and 40 coral species. Interestingly, the redcoat squirrelfish,

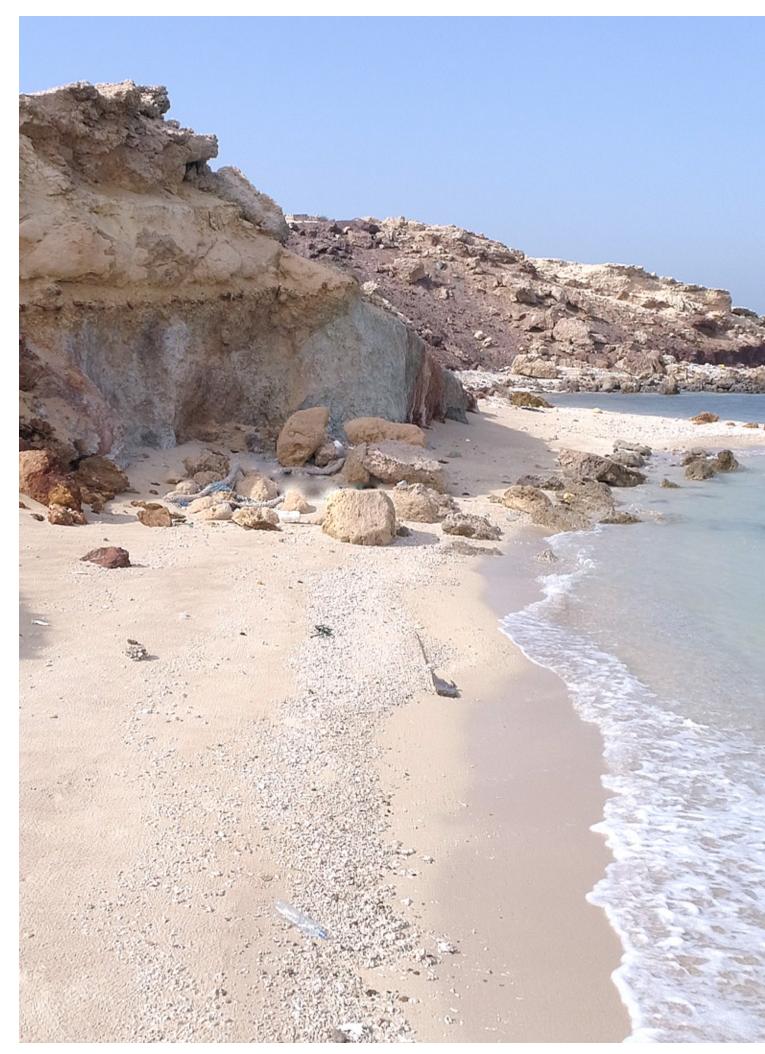
previously unrecorded in the Gulf, was discovered here as well.

The islands marine life is another one of its natural treasures. Colonies of birds, such as the scooty gull and the bridled tern, nest and live in thousands on the island alongside gazelles and hedgehogs.















Boating



Sightseeing



Dhow racing



Heritage shows











To be confirmed

#### SAFETY REQUIREMENTS



island suitable clothing



A Hats during summer



Comfortable shoes

#### ON-SITE POINT OF CONTACT

& Environment and Protected Areas Authority +971-65311501

#### LOCATION/MAP



⊚ goo.gl/maps/CWjH5prD4sj

#### SUGGESTED VISITING SEASON



March to June (Sir Bo Na'air Environmental Heritage Festival)

#### **ENTRY FEE**

Entry by registration and permission from the EPAA

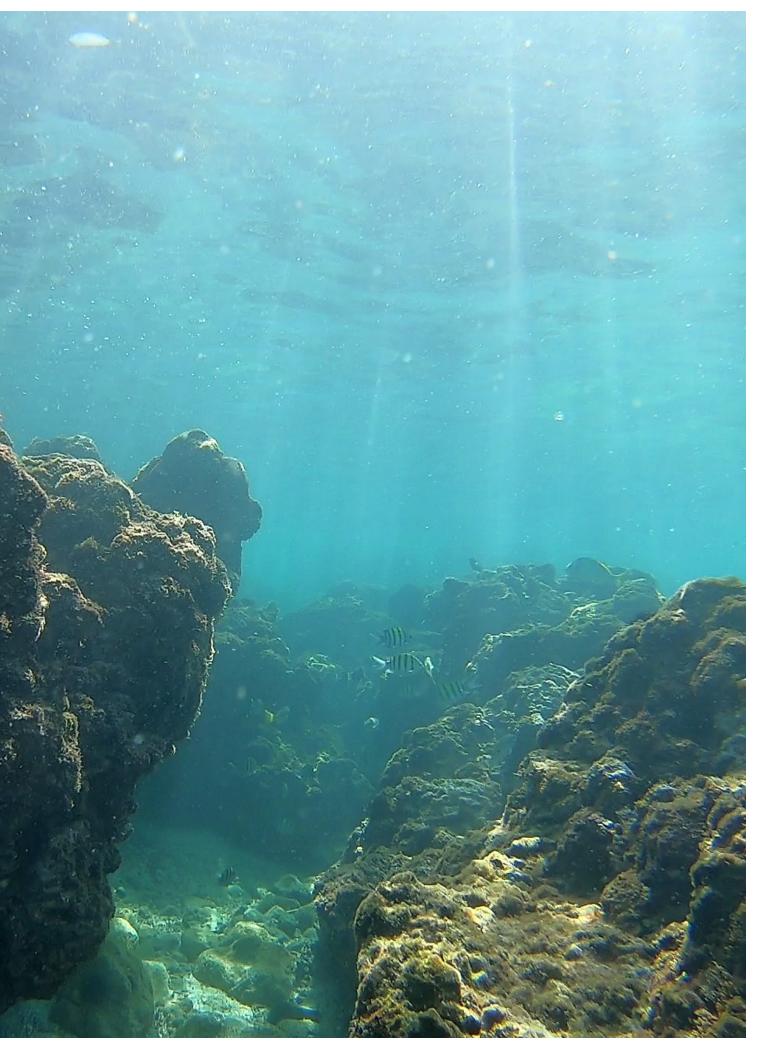
#### **WEBSITE**



www.epaashj.ae/protected-areas/jazirat-sir-bo-naair/







## JEBAL BUHAIS PROTECTED AREA

#### **OVERVIEW**

no information available









### ACTIVITIES













no information available

#### SAFETY REQUIREMENTS



#### ON-SITE POINT OF CONTACT

#### LOCATION/MAP



ono information available

#### SUGGESTED VISITING SEASON ENTRY FEE

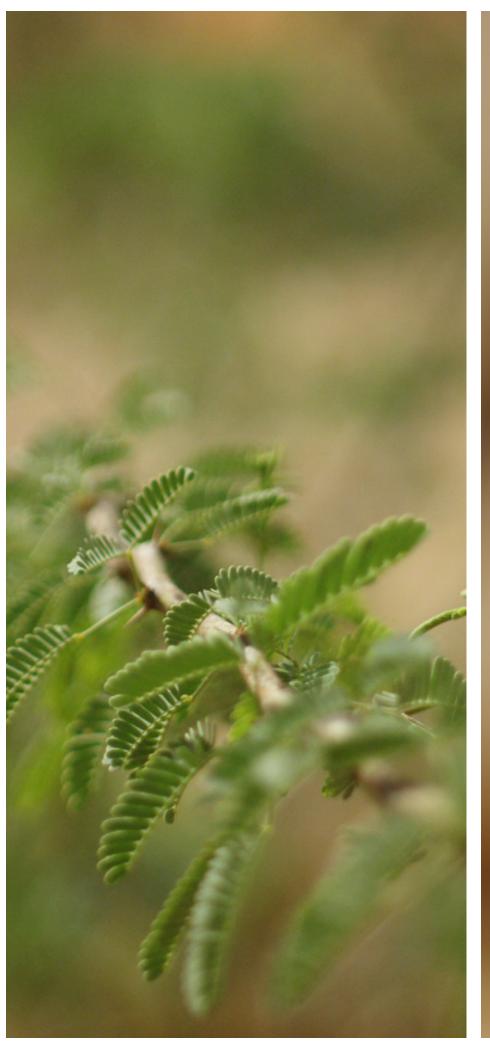


no information available no information available

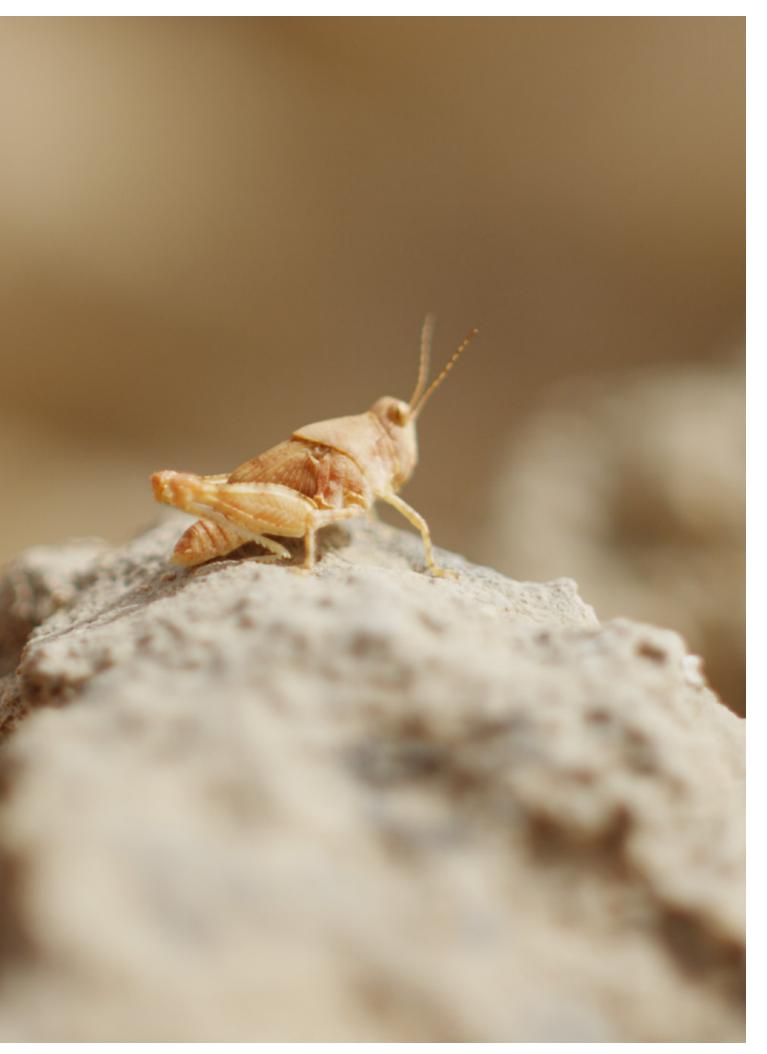
#### **WEBSITE**



no information available







## WADI AL HELO PROTECTED AREA

#### **OVERVIEW**

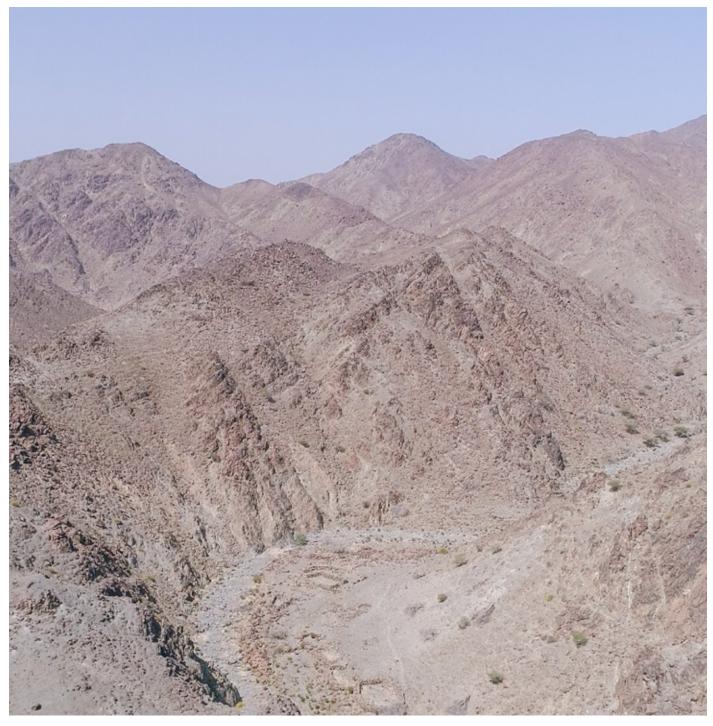
Nestling in the Hajar mountains, between Kalba and Sharjah, Wadi Al Helo is touted as the Grand Canyon of the UAE, due to its rugged natural beauty.

The falcon's eye view from the top of the stark hill where Wadi Al Helo forks; this is also home to many species of birds, reptiles, rodents, and freshwater fishes.

In addition to its enchanting rocky wonders, the site also has a historical charm—a steep, slippery slope will bring you to a well-preserved fort, built in the 1930s, known to be a watchtower on Umm Al Nar Period.

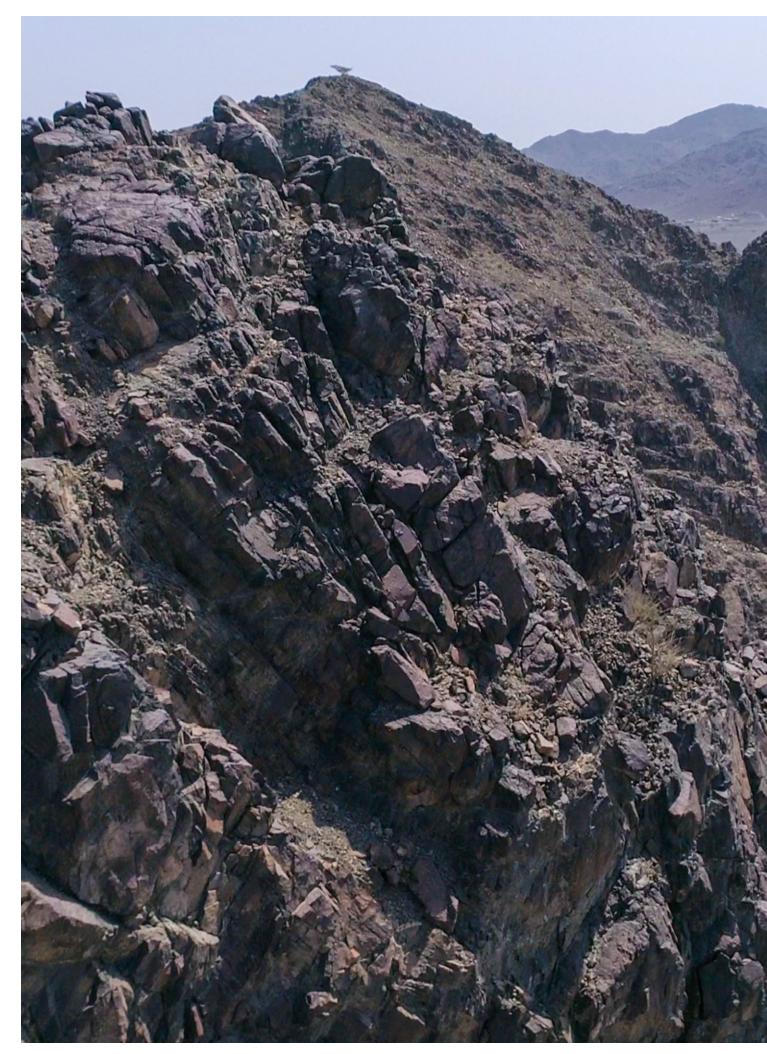
This three square kilometer protected area has an ecological significance due to its unique diversity of flora and fauna. About 200 plant species can be discovered in the region, including 140 seen in the natural environment and around 100 recorded in active farms.









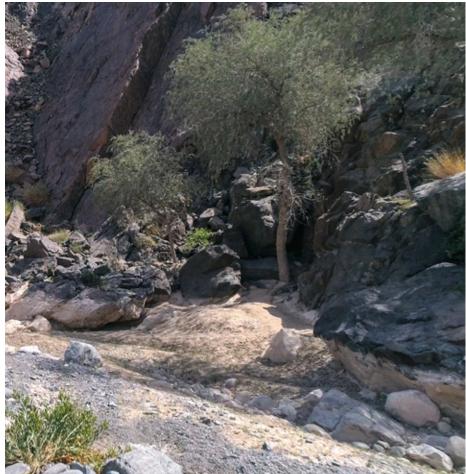






This protected area is closed and not open to the general public









Currently not available

#### ON-SITE POINT OF CONTACT



Currently not available

#### SAFETY REQUIREMENTS



Hiking shoes



Plenty of water



⚠ Camping materials, tents and



Ample food supply.

#### LOCATION/MAP



ogoo.gl/maps/KctJor1k2JH2

#### SUGGESTED VISITING SEASON



Full moon nights

#### **ENTRY FEE**

Entry by permissible through permit only

#### **WEBSITE**

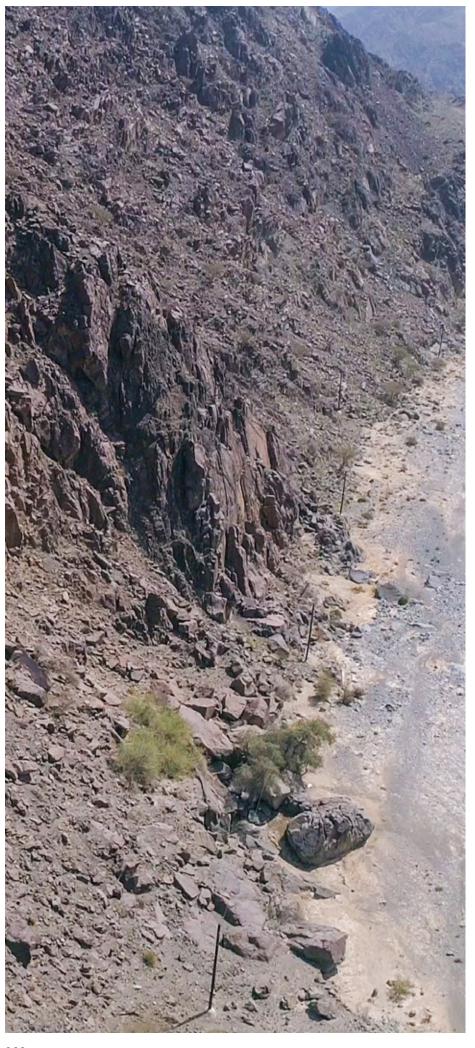


 $\mathscr{P}$  www.epaashj.ae/protected-areas/wadil-helo/

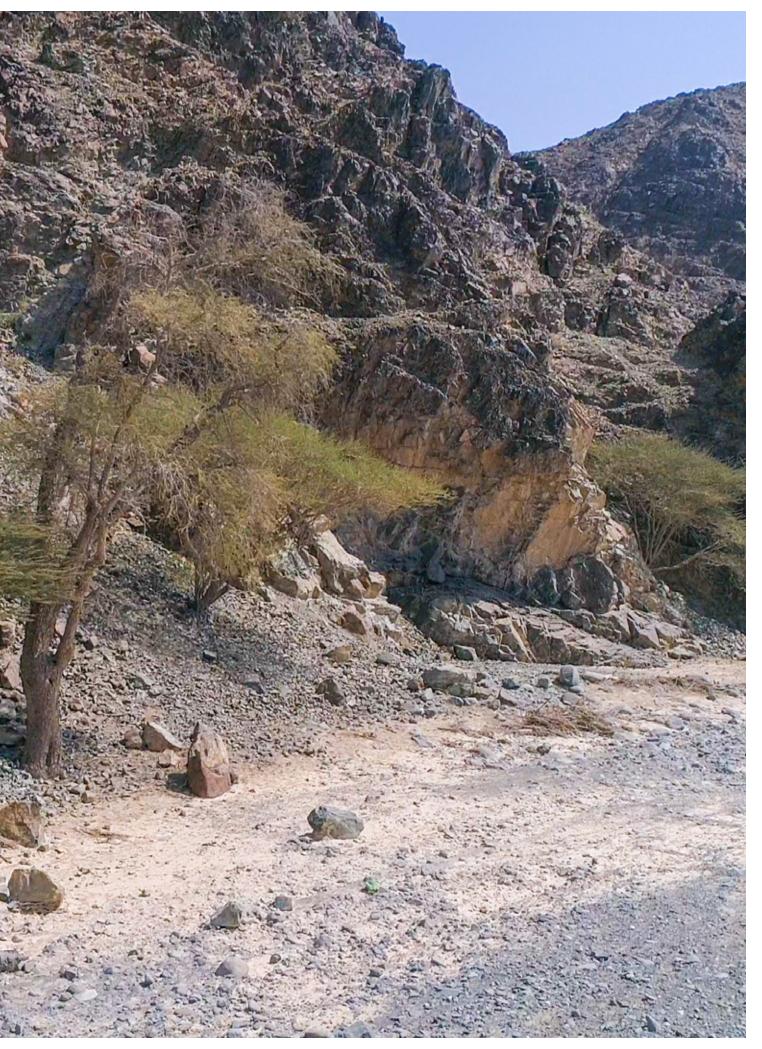
#### PHOTOS AND VIDEOS



youtube.com/watch?v=Lc\_-eXIFMi4

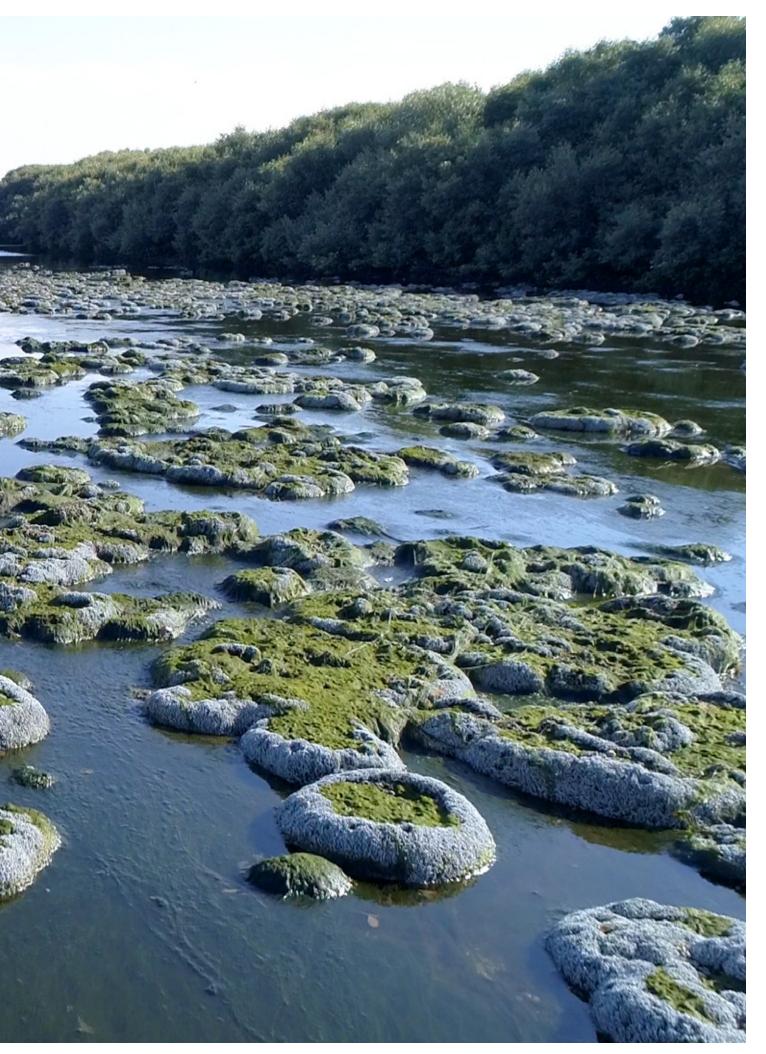








# AJMAN RESERVES



## AL ZORAH RESERVE

#### **OVFRVIFW**

For an unforgettable interaction with indigenous marine and plant life set amid lush coastal plots, lagoons and creeks, in a lush wetland environment, visit the Al Zorah Reserve. Set apart from other developments by its exotic setting of mangroves and an expansive seafront, the reserve seamlessly blends nature with modern amenities.

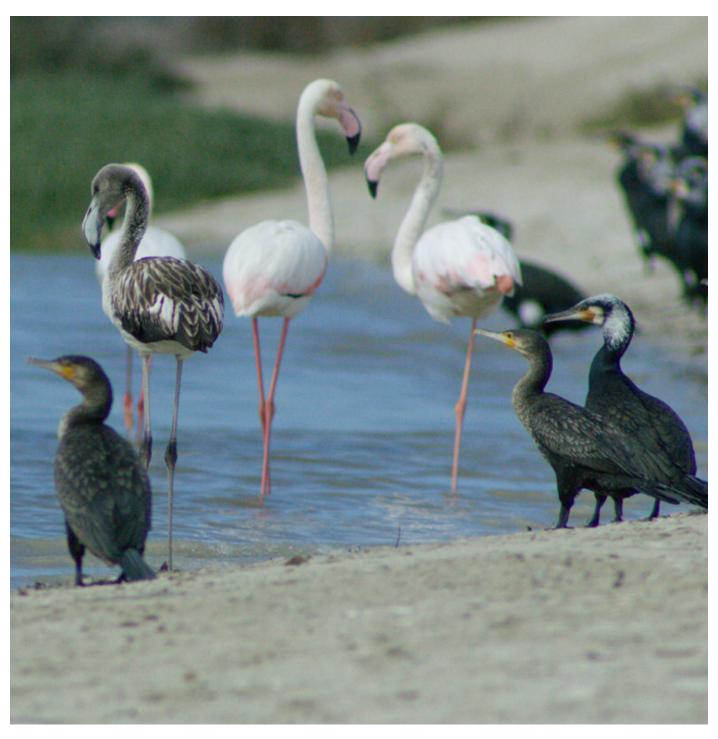
At this one million square foot vibrant forest area, be prepared for a visual extravaganza of aquatic life, resident and migratory birds including pink flamingos.

Treat yourself to a rejuvenating walk through the pathways encircling the lavish mangroves, and create a memory like none other.

For added exhilaration, opt for the seaplane tours, abra rides, and adventure/water sports and feel the brush of wind and water. When all is done, relax and relish a choice of aromatic food at the cafes and restaurants lining the waterfront.

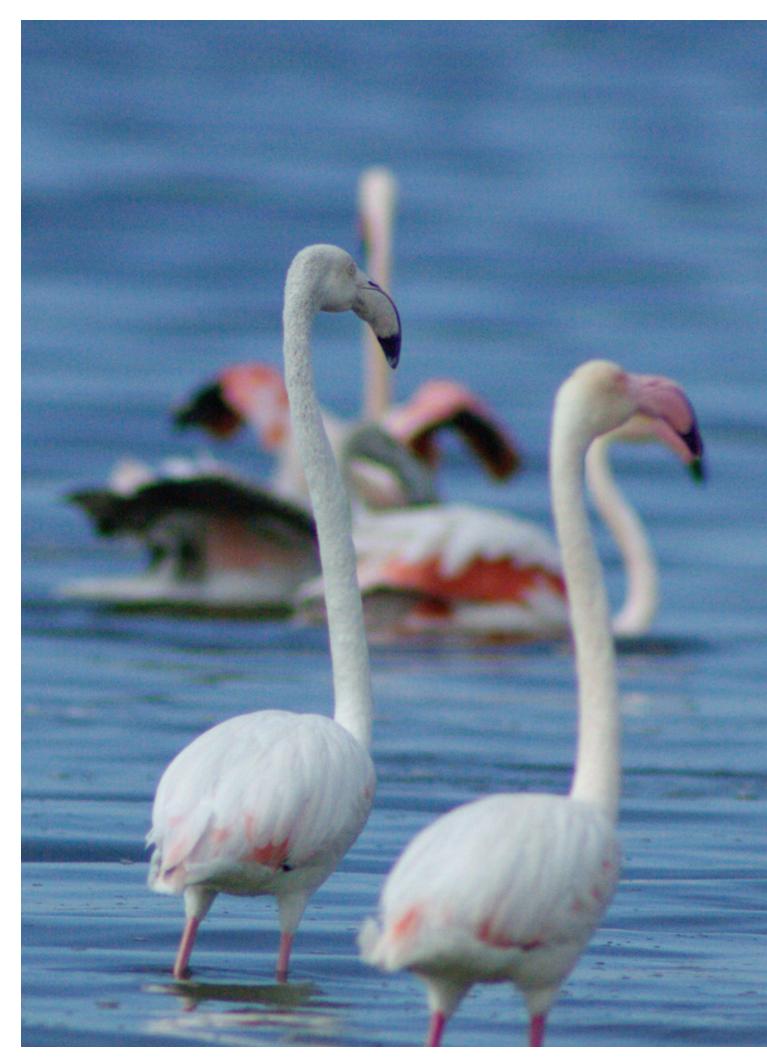
Located to the north of the city, linked directly to Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Road, Al Zorah Reserve is must visit green spot in the midst of sandy landscapes of the Arabian Peninsula.













#### ACTIVITIES

Birds and reptile watching, marine species, natural plants, restaurants, cafes and waterborne activities

An adventure sports company runs kayak tours around the mangroves

#### FACILITIES INSIDE AND AROUND THE RESERVE.

- · Kayak 0.5 km
- Shakespare restaurant 0.5 km
- Thanani restaurant 0.5 km
- The Oberoi Beach Resort-Al Sarah 3 km
- Golf club 1 km / China Mall 2 km
- · Ajman City Centre 3 km
- · Ajman Museum 4 km
- Sharjah Airport 14 km / Dubai Airport 23 km











Visitors are invited to explore half of the reserve, with the remaining open to researchers and students

#### SAFETY REQUIREMENTS



Visitors are advised to wear safety shoes to prevent any form of injuries

#### ON-SITE POINT OF CONTACT

Visitors are required to carry an ID for verification, Please contact Ajman Municipality for permits

#### LOCATION/MAP



The reserve is a part of the Al Zorah community

Use of a 4-wheeler recommended to reach the location

goo.gl/maps/oRAffJxjGqK2

#### SUGGESTED VISITING SEASON



#### **ENTRY FEE**



No entry fee

#### PHOTOS AND VIDEOS



www.youtube.com/watch?v=a5oWsHkwVTk

#### **WEBSITE**



ajman.travel/en/destinations/ajman-city/al-zorah-nature-reserve/







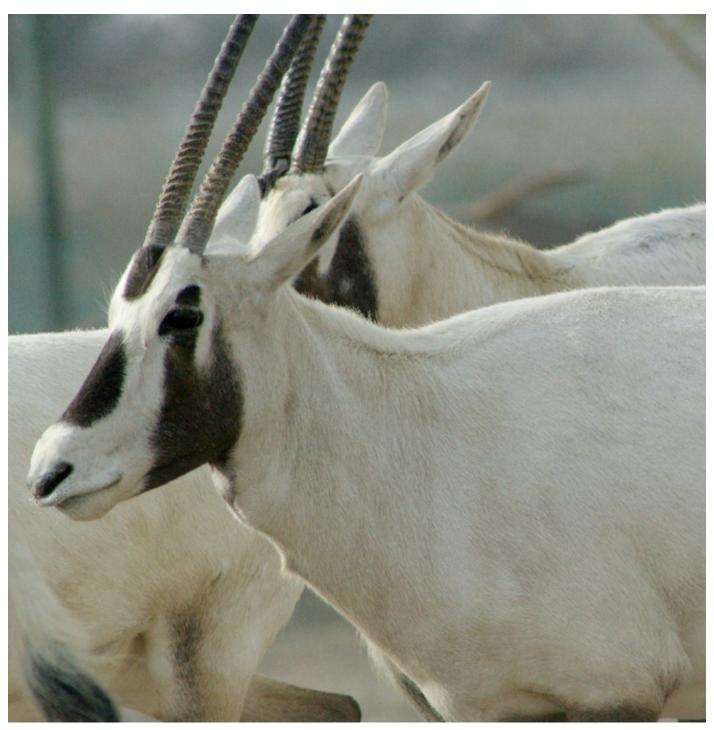
## AL NASEEM NATURE RESERVE

#### **OVERVIEW**

Taking shape on the plains of Al Manama area in Ajman, Al Naseem Nature Reserve delightfully blends the region's landscape with rare wildlife.

The area is currently under development. Once completed, the destination will feature a mix of lush parks, a prolific plant nursery and an education center.













Bird watching



Spotting of wild animals



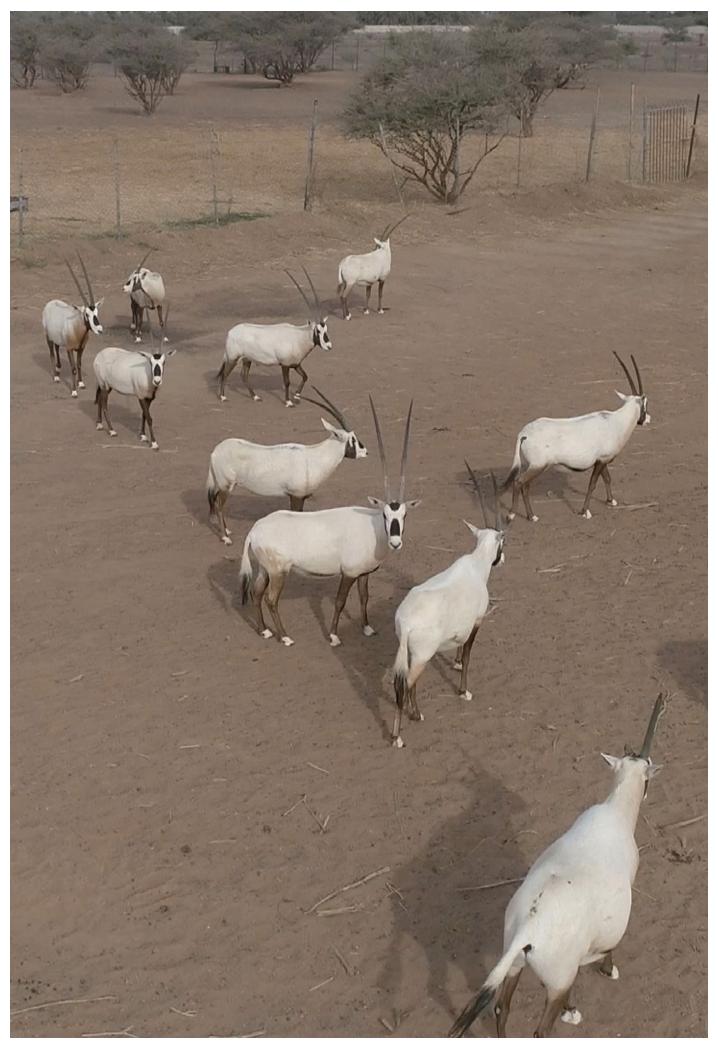
Plant arboretum



Gardens

#### FACILITIES INSIDE AND AROUND THE RESERVE.

- Al Manama Museum 1 km
- Al Manama Supermarket 1 km
- Ajman City 70 km
- Friday market 16km
- Fujairah City 55 km
- Khor Fakkan City 76 km







Currently under development

#### SAFETY REQUIREMENTS



Visitors are advised to carry life jackets for guided tours.

#### ON-SITE POINT OF CONTACT



Please contact Ajman Municipality for permits

#### LOCATION/MAP



The reserve is located in the plains of Al Manama area in the emirate of Ajman

Use of a 4-wheeler recommended to reach the location

goo.gl/maps/94q8wq8sNGu

#### SUGGESTED VISITING SEASON



**△** January

#### **ENTRY FEE**

Permit required to visit the reserve

#### **WEBSITE**



ajman.travel/Disc/Pages/Sight-Seeing-2.aspx

#### PHOTOS AND VIDEOS





