DNHG visit to Al Dhafra Camel Festival in Liwa 20th to 21st December 2019

DNHG is organizing a weekend visit to Al Dhafra Camel festival in Liwa (Madinat Zayed) from **Friday 20th to Saturday 21st December.** The  Al Dhafra Festival is the most important meeting of the regional Bedouin tribes and especially famous for camel beauty contests and rich prizes. However, it is usually missed or overlooked by expats as it is overlapping with the Christmas holiday period therefore we are sending this notice out early to give sufficient planning time.

The journey takes about 4 hrs one way from the Ibn Battuta mall in Dubai and so this will be a two-day trip with overnight camping. The main trip timings are to arrive at the festival grounds on Friday 20th from 1000 onwards, with departure on Saturday evening after the conclusion of the days events. The weekend timings are flexible and you are welcome to join and leave as you wish.

All the hotels in the area are usually fully booked and the desert will be filled with the camps and tents of Bedouins participating at the festival. To participate, (unless you can secure a hotel room) you will need to be a self-sufficient camper, with your own camping gear, food, wood, water, etc. Food and drinks can be bought at the festival.  There are two souqs with traditional ware and local food as well as some excellent Bedouin camping accessories - including sheep coats for chilly desert nights. In previous years DNHG have secured a peaceful camping spot within walking distance from the only hotel in the area.

There will be a lot of different activities to follow and the agenda will be eventually published, but the atmosphere is usually very relaxed and timings are not strictly respected. It is more about the atmosphere, observing the Bedouin culture, enjoying the hospitality, mingling with the Bedouins and celebrating their wins.

The festival features many events including:

- Camel beauty contest

- Camel milking contest

- Camel Auctions
- Camel Races
- The Traditional Market
- The Dates Competition
- Poetry
- Photography
- Folk music
- The Falcon Competition
- Saluki and horse races as well as other traditional activities

Further information on the event is available here:

[https://www.baynounah.ae/en/event/event-5/](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.baynounah.ae%2Fen%2Fevent%2Fevent-5%2F&data=02%7C01%7C%7Cf9c7f69dbd8a431eb1c008d7681d6eda%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C637092347926226673&sdata=CT5LZcKazQ5%2BlIvvoR5dL7ZXKh%2ByUaf8FycSV4ikLgQ%3D&reserved=0)

[http://turathuna.ae/en/event/al-dhafra-festival](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fturathuna.ae%2F&data=02%7C01%7C%7Cf9c7f69dbd8a431eb1c008d7681d6eda%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C637092347926236678&sdata=e3kytjIx3252qipjp715H7WhjFBj1JNC8ec8g0sGCfI%3D&reserved=0)

Due to logistics, the maximum group size should be **12** **people**, **4WD vehicles** will be needed for the desert tracks. You should also be flexible about the agenda and daily activities - we will take it as it comes and you will be free to visit the events that interest you.

If interested, please contact **Harry**at**aharrygeorge@gmail.com** for more information and to reserve your spot.