

DNHG East Coast Beachcombing & Plantations, Friday, March 18

[Please READ the following before you sign up.]

Gary Feulner will lead this 2/3 day field trip. In the morning we will take advantage of a low tide to investigate life among the tide pools in and on an extensive beachrock flats, including fish, mollusks, echinoderms, crustaceans and various burrowing and encrusting organisms. At noon or thereabouts we will take a short walk inland through coastal plantations.

A good primer for the beachcombing portion of this field trip is *The Shore & Shallow Seas* section in *The Emirates: A Natural History*, now available online at: http://www.uaeinteract.com/uaeint_misc/pdf_2009/The-Emirates-A-Natural-History/

- When/Where to meet?

7:30 am sharp at Mleiha, about 15 km from the mountain front.

(Details will be forwarded upon sign-up.)

[NB: This means a 6:30am start from Dubai.]

- What to bring:

Footwear with sturdy soles for walking on rough beachrock

Dry shoes for walking in the plantation area

Water (3 liters – enough for up to 6 hours outdoors)

Lunch

Hat or other sun protection

Windbreaker

Equipment: camera, binoculars, magnifying glass

Field guides for birds, beachcombing, seashells, plants, etc.

Small pack to carry most of the above (we will be a short walk from the cars)

- 4WD required? No.

- Estimated time of return to Dubai: ca. 4:00-5:00pm

- Limit: 16 people maximum

[NB: Swimming is not an option at our beach, due to the rough beachrock bottom.]

To sign-up: Contact Gary by e-mail: grfeulner@gmail.com. [Do not reply to this e-mail.]

Please include:

(1) **your phone number**

(2) **your starting point or area**, and

(3) **if you can drive, how many passengers you can carry**

or

(4) **whether you need a ride**

Telephone numbers and starting point are requested to facilitate ride-sharing for those who may be in need.

Gary will check responses at ca. 7:30pm on Saturday, March 10. If the trip is then over-subscribed, participants will be selected by drawing names from a hat, and Gary will send notifications accordingly, including details of the meeting place.