

DNHG Field Trip, Friday, Jan 19: Nature Hike in Wadi Sfai [Please READ the following before you sign up.]

Gary Feulner will lead this full-day introduction to the flora, fauna, geology and ecology of a wadi in the Hajar Mountains. The trip will be an 8km, 6-7 hour walk in a gabbro wadi environment, mostly without trails, and will include the ascent of gentle (but uneven) slopes to visit natural features of the wadi and slopes. This area is at the northern end of what has been called the "Olive Highlands".

Our destination will be a 'low' mountain pass. Our route will rise ca. 350 meters overall and will be steepest at the end. The wadi is normally dry, but we may encounter occasional shallow pools after recent rains.

- When/Where to meet?

Depart Dubai independently (~6:45am from Trade Centre area).
Rendezvous at 8:15am sharp at a site along the mountain front.
Details will be forwarded upon sign-up.

- What to bring:

Sturdy footwear for walking in a wadi and up moderate slopes without a trail.
Day pack for food, water and equipment
Water (3 liters – enough for 6-8 hours outdoors)
Lunch
Windbreaker or rain gear (in case of cool or inclement weather)
Hat or other sun protection
Optional: camera, binoculars, magnifying glass, field guides

- 4WD required? No, 4WD is not necessary for access.

- Estimated time of return to Dubai: ca. 6:00-6:30pm

- Limit: 16 people maximum

To sign-up: Contact Gary by e-mail: grfeulner@gmail.com. [Do not reply to this e-mail. Your reply will not be forwarded. That is our test to see if you read the information.☺]

Please include (so Gary doesn't have to chase you for it):

(1) your phone number (2) what area you will be leaving from, and

(3) if you will drive, how many passengers you could carry, or: (4) if you need a ride

This information will allow Gary to suggest ride-sharing alternatives for those who want to car-pool or who don't have a car available. Car pooling is encouraged because parking is always somewhat limited at mountain sites.

Gary will check responses at ca. 8pm on Thursday, Jan 11. If the trip is then over-subscribed, participants will be selected by drawing names from a hat. Gary will send notifications accordingly, including details of meeting place.