

DNHG Trip to Al Ain
Friday, March 18, 2016

Our colleagues from ENHG Al Ain have kindly offered to guide us through some of the most important Al Ain sites on Friday, March 18. 27.

They suggested visiting the following sites:

Al Ain Oasis

Al Ain oasis is an impressive oasis of 1200 hectares, with 147,000 date palms with 100 different varieties and many still working farms using the 3000 years old falaj irrigation system. It was recognized by United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) for their importance as repositories of genetic resources, biodiversity and cultural heritage.

Al Ain National Museum

At the edge of the oasis is Al Ain National Museum, the oldest museum in UAE. It is divided into three main sections - archaeology, ethnography and gifts and its presentations illustrate various aspects of UAE life and include interesting collections of Bedouin jewelry, musical instruments, weapons, and a reconstruction of a traditional majlis.

The archaeology displays are extensive, and include many artefacts from the nearby Hili Archaeological Park.

Al Ain Souk

After the visit to the museum you will have some free time to stroll through and explore the Al Ain traditional souk.

Green Mubazzarah

For lunch we will stop at this park which is built around Al Ain's natural hot springs. The park offers the possibility of picnic lunch or lunch in the nearby restaurant.

Wadi Nahyan

This is the picturesque wadi at the foot of Jebel Hafit where we will stretch our legs with a short, easy walk.

Jebel Hafeet

Time permitting we will drive up Jebel Hafeet, 1,249 m high mountain, that offers an impressive view over the city and the surrounding desert.

Hili Archaeological Park

Archaeological site with remnants of a Bronze Age settlement (2,500-2,000 BC), which was excavated and restored in 1995. It is the source of some of the richest finds in the area, many of which are believed to be over 4,000 years old.

To avoid complicated convoy driving through Al Ain city we will travel by **Bellobus**.

We will meet opposite JESS School and the Medcare Hospital near Safa Park at **8 am**. Cars can be parked on the open space in that area. Directions to the meeting place will be sent to all participants.

Cost of the Bellobus will be **Dh60/- per adult and Dh30/- per child**.

This will be a full day trip.

The Bus will leave **at 8 am** to arrive in Al Ain by 10 am. We should be **back in Dubai at 9 pm latest**.

Please bring: good walking shoes for the Al Ain oasis and Wadi Nahyan, picnic lunch if you wish to have a picnic in green Mubazzarah, hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, camera, etc... Please note that some of the sites have entrance fees (5 or 3 AED per entrance) please have about 20 AED per person ready (possibly small denominations).

Maximum number of people **40**.

If interested, please contact: Sonja at lavson@gmail.com

This trip was rescheduled from February, those who already applied for Feb trip will have the priority, if still interested.