

DNHG Trip to Wasit Wetland Reserve and Centre **Saturday 19th November 2016**

Wasit Wetland Reserve and Centre was opened to the public on the 25th of November 2015. It covers an area of 4.5km².

It features extensive dunes, mud flats and salty lagoons, as well as fresh water pools, and is part of an ancient chain of historical wetlands along the Gulf coast. The reserve supports several species of resident and migratory birds, offering unique bird viewing opportunities.

The specially designed Visitors Centre houses several bird species that can be viewed in large aviaries. A number of unique birds, including Northern Bald Ibis, Black tailed Godwit, Marbled duck, Eurasian Oystercatcher, Curlew sandpipers and Pink-backed pelican can be viewed in the visitors centre. Several species have bred since the centre was opened, including the impressive Goliath heron.

Educating the visitor is a priority of this centre, special emphasis has been placed on interactive education materials for children.

We will meet at **06h30** at the entrance to Wasit Wildlife Reserve on Saturday 19th November. We will start the walk from the visitors parking at **06h45**. Unfortunately we cannot wait for anyone who is late. We will walk along the 4-kilometre-long track that encompasses the wetland reserve. We will have the opportunity to view birds and appreciate the uniqueness of the Wasit Wetland Reserve. This will be followed by a visit to the centre.

We will be accompanied by the assistant manager of the reserve.



This is a unique opportunity for the DNHG members, as special permission was given for us to visit the Wasit Wetland Centre out of opening hours. **Cost 15AED entrance fee per person.**

The group is limited to **30 people**. However, if there are not have enough participants we will cancel the trip. The staff at the reserve are giving up their personal time to make this DNHG trip possible.

What to bring with you: Comfortable shoes (it is a 4 km circular route), binoculars, drinking water, light breakfast or snacks.

Hot water, coffee, tea and milk will be available when we arrive at the centre. Please bring your own mug, to save on paper cups.

Directions:

Take interchange number 2 off the E88, this road leads directly to the entrance of the reserve. See attached map.

If interested, please contact Valerie Chalmers at valeriechalmers@gmail.com

