

DNHG visit to Wasit Wetland Reserve and centre

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 Visitor's 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 **0645 hrs** at the entrance to Wasit Wetland Reserve.

Starting from the visitors parking at **0700 hrs**, 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. Tea and coffee will be available to be purchased at the Centre.

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. (Please bring the exact money per person as the ticket office will not be open at that time.)**

Maximum number for the trip - 24 people

The assistant manager of the reserve, Simon Matthews and Jackie Strict. will take everyone in two groups -10 to12 people in each group.

What to bring: comfortable shoes (it is a 4 km circular route), hat if you need one, binoculars, camera, drinking water, light breakfast or snacks. Please bring your own mug to save on paper cups.

Those interested should email **Valerie Chalmers** at valeriechalmers@gmail.com by Tuesday evening at the latest, as the names have to be given in on Wednesday.