

March 3

DNHG Desert Trek in Sharjah

Location: Desert opposite Arabia's Wildlife Centre, Interchange No. 9, Sharjah-Al Dhaid road

Meeting Point: Roundabout below Sharjah Monument

Timing: Meet at 06:30 AM to start trek at 06:45 AM – will be done by 10:00-10:30 AM

Trip Highlights: Sunrise views in the desert, flora, fauna, desert landscape, photography

Trip Summary: There have been some recent showers in this area but nothing spectacular, so the floral scene is still found wanting. However, some species are still expected to be sprouting and blooming on the desert sands that we can document during this trip. The omnipresent Ghaf (*Prosopis cineraria*), Rimth (*Haloxylon salicornicum*) and Sodom's apple milkweed (*Calotropis procera*) dot the desert landscape. The area is also rich in fauna such as the Striped mantis (*Blepharopsis mendica*), Desert Runner ant (*Cataglyphis niger*), White spotted lizard (*Acanthodactylus schmidtii*), Toad headed agama (*Phrynocephalus arabicus*), etc.

Trip Leader: Ajmal is one of the most active outdoor members of the DNHG and is a staunch supporter of nature conservation and awareness. A desert freak, join him as he heads out on his ritualistic weekend treks in one of his favorite stomping grounds and fairly untouched haunts – the vast Al Batayeh desert in Sharjah! With over 380 solo desert treks to his credit, he lives and breathes the deserts (especially the sand) when he is not at work in the middle of the Mleiha deserts.

Participants: Ideally a group of 25

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