**Trip to Omani mountains (Sharaf Alamayn ) for Eid Al Adha Weekend  (Thu Aug 31 – Sat Sep 2)**

**Eid Al Adha holiday will fall on weekend this year, resulting in a long weekend. DNHG is organizing a weekend trip to Omani mountains, this time to Sharaf Alamayn, the ridge above Hoota caves and Balat Sayt.**

**We will do the spectacular Ridge Hike (W9 – eventually combined W8 or W10 walk, depending on fitness levels of participants), enjoying the views over Hat, Balat Sayt and Rustaq and enjoying the cool mountain climate.**

The distance from Dubai to Sharaf Alamayn is about 450 km one way, approx 6 hrs drive. We will cross Omani border, so you will need to get the visa (exit UAE 35 AED, visa for Oman 5 OMR/50 AED). You will obviously need your passport, Omani car insurance and all necessary documents in case you drive rented or leased car.

4WD car is preferred for the last ascent (steep but tarmac all the way), but space in other cars permitting we can share cars for these last few kilometers.

The holiday weekend rate for DNHG members is:

**110 OMR/1100 AED in double or twin sharing\* (i.e. 550 AED per person per weekend) and includes:**

-       2 x nights for 2 people

-       2 x HB (breakfast and dinner)\*\*

-       Evening camp fire

-       Local guide

\*Additional beds (kids sharing with parents) 15 OMR/150 AED per bed

\*\* Resort can provide lunch box at an extra cost of 2.5 OMR/25 AED (Veg sandwich, Chips, Water BLT 500 ml, Juice BLT 150 ml, Fruit) and/or buffet Lunch at Restaurant for 4 OMR/40 AED (4 Course menu)

The trip plan is as follows:

**Day 1 (Thursday Aug 31):**

Morning departure from Dubai towards Al Ain and Mezyad border.

Omani Border formalities.

Al Hoota Cave visit (if open, entrance 6.5 OMR/65 AED adults, 3 OMR/30AED children)

Optional: Stop at As Sulaif old/restored village in Ibri (short stop depending on temperatures)

Late afternoon/early evening: arrival at the location

Evening camp fire and dinner.

Overnight

**Day 2 (Friday Sept 1):**

Breakfast in the resort

Full day hike on marked W9 trail. The trail follows the 2000m high mountain ridge with beautiful views over Hat, Balat Sayt and all the way to Rustaq. The trail is marked, fairly leveled at 2000m (no steep ascents or descents) and is not circular, so you can turn back and retrace back to the resort anytime, depending on your fitness levels.

Pls note however that this spectacular hike still requires proper hiking shoes due to rocks and uneven terrain.

Bring also packed lunch and enough water and snacks for the day.

Dinner in the resort

Overnight

**Day 3 (Saturday Sept 2)**:

Breakfast in the resort

Morning free time for individual explorations.

Midday: departure towards Dubai.

Those with good off road driving skills can take the alternative, steeply winding road through Wadi Bani Auf  (Snake Canyon) via Rustaq back to Al Ain/Mezyad and Dubai.

Those retracing the same way back to Dubai can stop at the beautifully restored Jabrin castle.

**Group is limited:**

The resort is keeping 8 double/twin rooms for DNHG, i.e. max 16 people sharing.

**Estimated cost:**

         The holiday weekend rate of 110 OMR/1100 AED in double or twin sharing (i.e. 550 AED per person), dinner and breakfast included

         UAE exit & Omani visa 85 AED

         Food & drinks: bring your own picnic lunch for Friday and Saturday hike. Bring your own water, drinks, snacks, fruit, etc… There are no shops on the mountain, you can only purchase from resort or hotels.

         Petrol (about 900 km return journey)

**IMPORTANT!**

         **Passports and Omani car insurance are mandatory for this trip. 4WD is required.**

         **To book the tents and meals we need to collect your prepayment, 1100 AED per room.**

         **Group is limited to max 16 people sharing. The space will be assigned on first paid basis. Only participants with fully prepaid lodging will be considered as signed up, no waiting list. Pls note that it is a holiday weekend and the hotel will sell out the rooms fast.**

         **Prepayments are not refundable in case of last minute cancellations or no shows.**

         **If less than 5 prepayments will be collected by Aug 17, the trip will be cancelled (and prepayments refunded).**

**What to bring:**

-       Passport and Omani car insurance

-       Food and drinks, packed lunches, snacks, etc…

-       **At least 3 l of water per day for hiking**

-       **Good hiking shoes** (no flip flops, no running shoes, sandals, etc. You need good ankle support shoes – ridge walk is not difficult as such, but the terrain is.)

-       Day backpack for hiking.

-       **Warm clothing!** We will be at approx 2000m, expected day temperatures will be around 25 - 30C with down to 20C or lower at night!

-       **Rain coat:**Omani mountains are famous for summer storms and depending on weather report rain jacket might be needed.

-       Flash light, binoculars (for bird watching and views), camera, batteries and chargers, etc…

-       Medicines - if you are taking any

-       Reference books on flora and fauna, geology, geography

-       Anything else that you might need for your comfort during the weekend – we will be high in the mountains with no access to shops – you can only purchase food & drinks from the resort.