**Wadi Naqab – Baqal village hike on Saturday 27th October 2018**

As the weather is getting better, let's open the season of DNHG hikes with a full-day hike to Baqal village and add some natural history and exploration to the hike. The village is at almost 900 m above sea level so the temperatures during the day should be bearable.

Baqal village is situated on the plateau above Wadi Naqab with views over RAK and Al Jazeera coast. Since the road was partially washed away, this village is only reachable by foot. The village is not abandoned: some houses were renovated and are probably used by original owners as summer houses to escape the heat.

The old village is still well preserved with terrace fields and yanz (traditional grain storage). Baqal village has one of the most impressive waterworks in UAE. Topography was cleverly used to build canals and reservoirs (we have counted about 20 traditional water reservoirs) and has probably the longest falaj bridge in the UAE, bringing water from the adjacent mountain to water the extensive terrace fields where barley was cultivated in the past. We will also see a small traditional cemetery, some petroglyphs, fossils and hopefully enjoy cooler temperature and beautiful views.

This hike is rated as moderate+. It is a steep walk. We will do almost 800 m elevation in less than 4 km and the entire walk is sun exposed. You need to be fit and equipped to attend this walk. This is not a circular walk and we will return on the same steep road.

We will start at 7 am to avoid the heat while climbing the steep mountain slope to 900 m above sea level. The ascent should take approximately 3 hours. On the top we will explore the village, waterworks with canals, bridges and cisterns and have our picnic lunch under the shade of Sidr trees (Ziziphus spina-christi).

We will return in the afternoon, retracing the same steep track.

Total hiking: 6-7 hours (including village exploration).

We will meet in Wadi Naqab at 6.30 am for 7 am start. Please consider that there is a 2-hour drive from Dubai to Wadi Naqab, despite the new highway. You will need to start from Dubai at 4.30 am.

For those who prefer to camp the night before, we can meet Friday afternoon in Wadi Naqab and camp at the start of the hike.

**The group is limited to a maximum of 10-12 people.**

**Please apply only if you are fit, used to hiking in UAE mountains, able to walk 4 hours on steep slopes and cope with sun exposure.**

**Below gear & supplies are mandatory:**

         **Comfortable walking shoes with good grip and ankle support**(no flip flops, sandals or sneakers!)

         **Plenty of water – at least 3 litres of water + isotonic drinks per person**

         Good backpack with waist straps

         **Hat**, sunglasses and sun cream

         Hiking poles (optional)

         Picnic lunch, snacks

         Camping gear & food if you plan to camp

4WD is preferred (we can regroup and share cars at the beginning of the wadi)