

Baharya, Gilf Kebir & Dakhla Oasis
“Gilf Kebir & Djedefre Water Mountain”

16 Days

Day 1:

We arrive in Cairo this afternoon and transfer to our hotel for check in.

Day 2:

After Breakfast, we drive our way to **White Desert** The Dazzling white of the chalky calcic formations are the remains of a limestone massif from the Cretaceous era, shaped out into the strangest sculptures by the ever wailing sharp wind armed at all times with strongly effective sand particles. Camping in **White desert**. **(B/L/D)**

Day 3:

After Breakfast, We leave the **White Desert** and heading to the **Water Mountain** Discovered by German explorer Carlo Bergman during his camel expeditions west of Dakhla oasis; he found a Pharaonic trail which was used in the 4th dynasty times to search for mineral resources. He also found a a conical hill about 30 meters high and 60 meters in length with hieroglyphic texts, cartouches of Chufu (Cheops) and of his son Djedefre , Hieroglyphic texts at "Djedefre water-mountain" which explains the purpose of several 4th dynasty expeditions to the far away site. Two of the excursions took place during the 25th and 27th of King Cheops Reign. **(B/L/D)**

Day4:

After Breakfast, Leaving the **Water Mountain**, Drive till we reach Pottery Hill known as **Abu Ballas** in Arabic used to be a reliable source for providing water to the oasis invaders or convoys heading to the oasis in the ancient times as when the early explorers visited the site, there were about 300 complete pots and amphorae at the depot, though most were broken or had man-made holes in them supporting the theory that this was the water cache referred to by the Dakhla natives, which they destroyed when pursuing the "black raiders" a few years before Rohlfs recorded the story in 1874. The existence of this depot one third of the way to Kufra led Almsy to speculate that there had to be another depot or well two thirds of the way, most probably the unknown Zarzora oasis. Unfortunately by now all the complete pots have been taken or broken, and all that remains at the site is a pile of broken shards at the foot of the hill. Overnight camping at **Abu Ballas**. **(B/L/D)**

Day 5:

After Breakfast, Leaving **Abu Ballas** Location, Heading to the **Baz Carter** 150km southeast of the silica glass region (the crater is named after its Egyptian-American discoverer, Farouk al-Baz, a pioneer in using satellites to search for water in arid areas. Overnight Camping at **Baz Carter**. **(B/L/D)**



Day 6:

After Breakfast, Drive Our Way to the **Bagnold's Stone Circle** In a small basin in the hills we came the next day (27th October, 1930) upon a circle 27 feet (8.5 meters) in diameter of thin slabs of sandstone, 18 to 24 inches high. Half were lying prone, but the rest were still vertical in the sand. There was no doorway or other sign of orientation, and though we searched within and without the circle, no implements could be found. I understand that other similar circles have been found in the neighborhood of the **Gilf Kebir.**" Major R.A.Bagnold, Journeys in the Libyan Desert 1929 and 1930,

The Geographical Journal, Vol. LXXVIII No. 1. (July 1931)] Bagnold and his party made their discovery purely by chance, as the low structure is only visible from a few hundred meters. Bagnold did mark the circle on his map accompanying the Geographical Journal article, however on the scale of 1:10 million the half millimeter dot represents an area 5 kilometers in diameter, plus of course any error in Bagnold's position estimate. Continue driving till we reach the **Kilf Kebir** Is a plateau in the remote southwest corner of Egypt. Its name translates as "**the Great Barrier**". This 7770-square-kilometre limestone and sandstone plateau roughly the size of Switzerland rises 300m from the desert floor. It is known for its rugged beauty, remoteness, geological interest, and the dramatic cliff paintings and rock carvings which depict an era of abundant animal life and human habitation. Overnight Camping at **Kilf Kebir.** (B/L/D)

Day 7:

After Breakfast, Drive our way to our next location the **Mistikawy** cave a newly discovered cave by Colonel El-Mestikawy on the southwestern cliffs of the Gilf Kebir plateau. Showing rock drawings of wide diversity and overlooking dry remains of an ancient lake basin with prehistoric tools. (B/L/D)

Day 8:

After Breakfast, This Morning we will be heading to **Wadi Soura** At 900metres high, soaring up from the flat desert is the astounding major plateau known as the Gilf Kebir. This is where Laszlo Almasy, the real life character on whom "The English Patient" was based, Discovered, or, more accurately, rediscovered the caves containing pictures of the famous swimmers. Continue our way to the **Aqaba Pass** Discovered in 1932 by the Hungarian Explorer Lazlo Almasy during his quest for the **Lost Oasis of Zerzura**, Aqaba (difficult) Pass remains the main route from the East, getting down off the plateau, and the main way to get onto the plateau from the desert plains to the East. During the Desert War, Almasy famously made use of the pass in "Operation Salama" when delivering two German spies into Egypt from Axis occupied Libya. (B/L/D)

Day 9:

After Breakfast, Leaving the Location of **Aqaba Pass** heading to Camp on the east side of the Kilf Kebir. (B/L/D)

Day 10:

After Breakfast, Heading to **Wadi Ard Al Akhdar** the lower reaches of Wadi Ard al Akhdar were entered by Shaw in 1935, but it was Bagnold and company who explored its long winding upper reaches. In a side branch they have come upon a narrow passage that was blocked by a large transverse dune in neolithic times, and a substantial lake filled the broad basin behind. At some time the sand dam had been breached and washed away, only some cemented remnants can be seen along the south side of the narrows, opposite the much smaller modern dune growing in the same place. Subsequently the mud floor of the lake has been much eroded, leaving free standing mud pillars and terraces littering the basin floor. Oliver Myers, the archaeologist of the Bagnold expedition made an initial survey, and found numerous neolithic settlement sites on the top of the mud terraces. He only took a few samples though, and no systematic exploration was made. Overnight Camping. **(B/L/D)**

Day 11:

Drive to the Location of the **Mud Pan** where we will spend the night camping. **(B/L/D)**

Day 12:

Drive our way to the south of **Dakhla Oasis**, Camping & overnight. **(B/L/D)**

Day 13:

Drive till we enter the **Dakhla Oasis**, where we will visit **Roman temple** dedicated to the Theban Triad at **Deir el-Hagar** and the wonderfully painted Roman **tombs of Pelusis and Petosiris** at **el-Mazauwaka** where Petosiris is dressed in Greek clothing, and from the Mithras cult are intermingled with traditional Egyptian funeral rites. We then Visit the **Old Kingdom necropolis of Qila el-Dabba at Balat**, the relief-decorated Roman **tomb of Kitnes at Bisendi** and. If possible **the new Canadian excavations**. Overnight in Hotel. **(B/L/D)**

Day 14:

After Breakfast, way Heading to **Bahariya Oasis**, Where we will visit the newly opened archaeological sites in Bahariya Oasis, including **Alexander the Great temple**, the 26th Dynasty **temple of Ain el – Muffilla**, the tomb of the 19th Dynasty **Governor Amenhotep**, and the **26th Dynasty tombs** of the merchants Bannentiu and his father Djed-Amun-lufankh. A highlight will be a brief stop at the recently discovered “**Valley of the Golden Mummies**” Overnight in Hotel. **(B/L/D)**

Day 15:

After Breakfast, From **Bahariya Oasis** we head our way back to **Cairo**, Direct transfer to your Hotel for check in. **(B)**

Day 16:

Buffet Breakfast at hotel, then you will be met by our representative and transferred to Cairo airport, where you will be helped with your check-in and immigration formalities for your flight back home. **(B)**



Rate Includes:

- All tours and transfers indicated in our program
- All tours and transfers are provided by a private deluxe min van
- Off Road , Camping are provided with Jeep 4 X 4 Cars
- Meeting, greeting and assistance upon arrivals and departures
- Entrance fees to sights included in our program
- English speaking Egyptologist
- Meals indicated in our program Breakfast= B, Lunch= L, Dinner=D
- All taxes and services charges

Rate Exclude:

- Cost of obtaining entry visa stamp (purchased on arrival)
- Cost of optional tours
- Items not specifically mentioned as included
- Excess baggage charges
- Meals not shown as included in the itinerary
- Items of personal nature such as laundry bottled water & beverages with meals etc;
- Phone calls
- Gratuities.

