

**Baharya, Gilf Kebir & Great Sand Sea**  
**"Gilf Kebir & Baz Expedition"**

14 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. This unique desert has no parallel in the whole world. Camping in **White desert**

**(B/L/D)**

**Day 3:**

After Breakfast Leaving the **White Desert** and heading to **Ammonite Scarp**: The arid desert ground south of Siwa was found covered by millions of marine fossils known as Ammonites because of their shape that resembles the horns of ancient God Ammon. A reminder of a long ago retreated sea. Where we will spend the night Camping

**(B/L/D)**

**Day 4:**

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:**

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:**

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 7:**

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 Almaszy, 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 Almaszy during his quest for the Lost Oasis of Zorzura, 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, Almaszy famously made use of the pass in "Operation Salama" when delivering two German spies into Egypt from Axis occupied Libya. **(B/L/D)**

**Day 8:**

**Hamra** is in fact the Arabic word for red. **Wadi Hamra** penetrates deep into the cliffs of the Gilf from the north east and splits into three separate valleys. The red sand is set off by the dramatic black backdrop of the cliffs. **(B/L/D)**

**Day 9:**

**Silica Glass:** The so-called "Libyan Glass" in the area south of the sand sea, had been formed upon the impact of a meteorite, forming a unique glass phenomenon, The Silica Glass also known as **Desert Emeralds** as a piece of which was recently found to feature in a piece of Tutankamun's jewelry. **(B/L/D)**

**Day 10:**

This morning we drive till we reach **the Great Sand Sea** this is an unbroken mass of sand stretching as much as 400km east to west across the frontiers of Libya and Egypt, lapping at the edges of the Farafra depression to the east. From north to south it spans over 600km from Siwa in the north to the Gilf Kebir plateau (also known as the Great Barrier) in the south. It is mainly made up of parallel, crisply defined dunes orientated more or less north-south. These sharp-edged dunes are known as Seif – the Arabic word for sword. Some of the individual dunes are up to 100km long and can be as much as 100m high. While these Seif dunes move and are aligned due to the influence of the wind, there are other dunes known as whale-back dunes which are even wider- some up to 2km wide! **(B/L/D)**

**Day 11:**

Today we will spend all day & overnight camping at the same location of the great sand sea **(B/L/D)**

**Day 12:**

After Breakfast, Drive our way to **Baharyia Oasis** where you will visit including the **Alexander the Great temple**, the 26<sup>th</sup> Dynasty **temple of Ain el – Muffilla**, the tomb of the 19<sup>th</sup> Dynasty **Governor Amenhotep**, and the **26<sup>th</sup> 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", over night in the northern Part of Baharyia **(B/L/D)**



**Day 13:**

Driving our way **Baharyia – Cairo** Direct transfer to your Hotel for Check in

**(B)**

**Day 14:**

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.

