

Final information on the QNHG Field Trip Friday, January 25 2008.

Oryx Breeding Center and Camel Race Track

Friday January 25, 2008

Meeting Place: Umm Arafai Petrol Station (Tented petrol station approximately 30 km from the centre of Doha) on the Dukhan Road.

Meeting Time: 9:30 am (note new time)

Program:

We will spend the day observing desert ruminant herbivores, one species wild and the other domesticated. The expedition will be a repeat of a trek that we held in 2006. (4WD vehicles are not necessary)

1) Arabian Oryx Breeding Centre

The centre is run by the Department of Wildlife Conservation of the Supreme Council for the Environment and Natural Resources and is one of a few sites in the Middle East established to prevent extinction of the Arabian Oryx. The centre is not a zoo, but a government run research centre so visitors are not normally allowed to enter the grounds. The animals are timid and it is therefore not an appropriate place for young children unless closely supervised. Bring your own lunch and weather-permitting we can picnic in the grounds.

2) Camel race track

The track is close to the Breeding Centre and a camel race will be organised for us using robotic jockeys. Afterwards we will visit a camel stable and I will demonstrate some of the unique anatomical and physiological features of these amazing animals. I hope to explode some of the myths about camels such as; they carry water in their hump, they are bad tempered and spit, bite and kick.

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