

QNHG Desert trek and camp-out February 29th - March 1st 2008

Hi all

Thank you for your sign-up emails. We have a total of approximately 35 cars with 95 persons total. So we did not hit the maximum and everyone can go. 81 persons will camp out overnight and 14 people that will go for the day only. Those of you that have pointed out specific issues will be contacted in separate emails individually. I attach 3 overview maps with the suggested route and the stops on the way.

Meeting Point: Abu Nakhla Petrol Station (Mobil), on Salwa Road (see attached map) approximately 27 km from Doha centre.

Date and meeting time: Friday February 29th at 9.30 a.m Please be on time and allow ample time for the drive out of Doha, there is still a lot of road works at the Salwa road.

Field Trip Leaders: Jens-Ole Koch, Edd & Paula Hoepfner, Mike & Pat Grindley, Larry & Cam Schwab, Gordon Cummings & Marilyn Hoar

Program

Friday 29th of February:

1. We will drive 6 km further out of the Salwa road and make a U-turn, come back and drive to the SW on the road toward Messaid. In the second roundabout we will turn right and follow the old road to the SW.
2. We will make the first stop at one of the singing dunes - see a real barchan dune and hear it hum when you slide down the lee face of it. A short introduction will be given on sand dunes and the 'singing'.
3. Then we will proceed to the village of Kharrara where we will leave the asphalt and continue on a dirt road through the desert to the SW to the next stop.
4. The stop is at the foot of the Tuwar Ridge where we will have lunch and enjoy the scenery. There is also a geological locality with large round gypsum crystals in a lime mudstone and you can climb the hill covered with rounded light red quartz pebbles of fluvial origin (Hofhuf Formation).
5. After the break we will proceed through the desert on some bumpy desert tracks and a short stretch along a new powerline road til we reach our campsite.
6. The campsite is located in a large depression with a flat bottom with some grass and many bushes and trees - it is also somewhat sheltered from wind. Set up your tents and camp. Bring your barbecue and cook your food at a joint barbecue and enjoy each others company at the camp fire in the evening.
7. We hope to bring a telescope and some local experts that will introduce us to astronomy and looking at stars (weather permitting).

Saturday March 1st:

1. Saturday morning at 9 to 11 am. there will be an optional trip to the Western end of the Inland Sea (see attached map) to see the very flat beach with cyano bacterial algal mats and flocks of flamingoes in the background (bring your binoculars). The brave may take a dip in the sea. Those people who stay at the camp can relax and play at their leisure and leave for Doha in smaller groups whenever they want.
2. Drive back following the dirt road marked with tyres from the East entrance (where we come in) towards the North and make your way to Trainah. Drive towards three large radio towers directly

to the North til you hit the E-W road leding into the Trainah village. Follow the asphalt road to the North back to Doha (see attached maps).

Important:

1. 4WD vehicles are required
2. Only bring cars in good technical conditions, with a full tank of petrol and at least one spare tire.
3. Bring all stuff to be self sufficient including water, tent, food, chairs, camp lanterns, suntan lotion etc....
4. Also if you have access to firewood please bring some along for a joint campfire
5. Be consient about your conduct, clean up after you, don't litter and don't harm the environment unnecessarily.
6. There is a weak mobile phone signal at the camp site - but a stronger one up on one of the ridges or in the central open area.
7. The field trip leaders will have a list of everyones phone numbers.

Kind regards

QNHG Field Trip Coordinator

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