



Bedouin Paths

Bedouin Camp
St. Katherine
South Sinai
Egypt

Call Crusader Travel on +44(0)2087440474

Call Egypt on +20 189662010

Email: hello@bedouinpaths.com

Website: www.bedouinpaths.com

Trek from Katherine to Kharazet El Shaq (Mountain hike)



Day 1: Katherine

You arrive at the Sinai town of Katherine after being picked up at the Airport or Bus station. You then spend the first night at the Bedouin Camp where you will dine on the local Bedouin food. Sleep well because the following day we start our hike.

Day2: St Katherines Monestary to Wadi El Arbain

St Katherines Monestary: We start off with a short walk to the beautiful St Catherine's monastery where (if you wish) you can spend a short time wandering around the building and chatting to the monks.

Jebel Musa: Now we climb up Mount Sinai, where Moses brought down the 10 commandments. Climb either via the camel route or by the stairs.

The stairs have better views of passing churches but you will have more people coming down past you. Take your pick J On the way you will pass Farsh Eliyahu, which you will return to once you come back from the summit. The views are simply stunning.

Farsh Eliyahu: Farsh means "basin" in Arabic and here lies the El Iyahu Monastery.

Farsh Loza: Known for its small ancient church with a twisted almond tree in the gardens. We lunch here. From here you can go to another basin with a church, next to it is an ancient dam which closes off the valley (this was for two purposes: firstly to retain water and secondly to save the monastery

from flash floods). A bit further up on a cliff there are the remains of another church, from here you'll have a beautiful view of the monastery. Farsh Safafa A beautiful monastery garden with a small church. There is a permanent well here, which the Bedouin get their water from.

Kiness El Ahmar: Translates as "church of the donkeys". From here you can see your next destination, Wadi el Arbain and Jebel Katherine.

Wadi El Arbain: Here lies the monastery of the 40 martyrs.





Trek from Katherine to Kharazet El Shaq (Mountain hike) Part 2

You will sleep in the garden of Ramadam and be able to view the Hyraxes which are small furry animals; some of whom are kept here by the Bedouin. Hyraxes are not too popular because they tend to eat the fruit from the gardens (!)

Distance: 8 hours walking

Day 3: Jebel Katherine to Wadi Zawatiin

Jebel Katherine: Today we climb Mount Katherine, the highest mountain in this area of Egypt. If we have time we shall walk down the valley to the Hajar Moussa (Rock of Moses), where he famously struck water from the rock. There is also the "marriage proposal" rock where young Bedouin couples declare their love for each other. The views from the top of Mount Katherine are spectacular, looking down on Mt Sinai itself. Lunch at the bottom.



Wadi Shaq: A lovely Bustan ("Garden" in Arabic) which you can see from far away and also an ancient monastic settlement a bit further along. Closeby there is a well known local mulberry tree that belongs to all. You can also see here the bones & skeletons of old hermits still lying within their ancient dwellings. There are water pools in the nearby canyons.

Wadi Zawatiin: Here lies a lovely stretch of relaxing gardens. We stop and sleep here for the night.

Distance: 9 hours walking

Day 4: Farsh Mahashur to Wadi Bulia



Farsh Mahashur: This is a secluded basin (garden) with a monastery ruin (not much more than a pile of rocks, but the basin is beautiful). Great views of the surrounding landscape, including Wadi Zawatiin where you slept the day before, and Jebel Katherine.

Jebel Abbas Basha: Here on top of the mountain lies the remains of the unfinished palace of Abbas Basha with stunning views of the Sinai peninsular. So here we take lunch with a view.

Wadi Jebal: After reaching the top from Wadi Zawaqtiin, there lies here a Bedouin cemetery and some pre-Byzantine stone circles. Further down as you walk there are Bedouin gardens.

Wadi Bulia: A wonderful place to end the day, a beautiful valley with gardens. Here we sleep overnight.

Distance: 7 hours walking

Day 5: Wadi Jebal to Wadi Abu Gasba

Wadi Jebal: We return to a lower part of the Wadi and inspect an old Byzantine church along with its water well here and gardens.

Jebel Maza: An easy climb with great views. On walking down we have our lunch.

Wadi Abu Gasba: A few hours gentle trekking and we find our resting place for the night.

Distance: 7 hours walking





Trek from Katherine to Kharazet El Shaq (Mountain hike) Part 3

Day 6: Ras Abu Alda to Farsh Rummana

Ras Abu Alda: This means the "Horn of Goats". Here there are rock formations and a great view of the south mountain ranges.

Ain Nagila: An old spring gushes from the rocks while an ancient Byzantine churn lands alone. Jebel el Bab is right in front of you.

Jebel El Bab: See as far as the Gulf of Suez on a clear day and spot the town of El Tur. Here we take lunch

Farsh Rummana: Lots of gardens with some huge rock formations. You will find here small rooms that are made under rocks for storage purposes. Good place to sleep for the night.

Distance: 9 hours walking



Day 7: Wadi Talaa to Kharazet El Shaq



Wadi Talaa: A steep lush valley with many interconnecting pools with streams of water disappearing and resurfacing again further downstream. So slip off your boots and go for a paddle.

Galt El Azraq: Here is the famous blue pool where those inclined go for a swim in the mountain fresh water. We also have lunch here.

Farsh Umm Sila: Lots of rock formations and Rojom (piles of rocks, one on top of the other). No one is too sure why there are these piles of stones. Ask 2 different Bedouin and you get 3 different answers (!)

Wadi Abu Tuweita: Gardens and more gardens.

Wadi Sagar: A narrow canyon with water coming from the rock face to a small fountain. Animals can't reach it, so it is suitable for drinking.

Wadi Tinya: A big Wadi with gardens.

Kharazet El Shaq: Here we will find many water pools leading into each other with one of them big enough for swimming in. So take a dip. Return from here by Jeep for an evening of hot showers, cold beers and a Bedouin feast and music.

Distance: 8 hours walking

