



S O S A L D E S E R T T R A V E L E R S & E C O L O D G E

A Travel Back in Time

Forgotten Desert Routes

A 10-day / 9-night expedition into Egypt's Western Desert wilderness

26 November – 5 December 2026

For the traveler who defines adventure by depth, not checklist, this is a journey beyond all others. An immersive crossing into the silent, uninhabited heart of the Eastern Sahara, to where the map ends and the true story begins. Not just a tour but a full-scale expedition for the spirit of exploration, we move with the rhythm of the ancient sands: legendary dunes, forgotten oases, boundless horizons and fossil rock formations yet unseen by the outside world.

An experience of seeking deeper connection within yourself and the profound nature around you, with every day bringing new landscapes, new wonders and the awe-inspiring presence of a truly wild environment. Nights gift us the warmth of the campfire, Bedouin food cooked on site, and the heartfelt silence under an open sky adorned with millions of shining stars.

“Every day starts with a discovery and ends with a campfire”



ITINERARY

DAY 1 Cairo to Wadi El Obayed & Ein Dalla

Early drive by private, comfortable bus from Cairo to Bahariya Oasis (3.5 hours). After a light breakfast, we meet our 4x4 caravan vehicles (Land Cruisers GX/VX) and start our off-road traverse into the part of the White Desert that has been prohibited to access for years: the breathtaking area of Wadi El Obayed, “the real White Desert” as the Bedouins like to call it. Big white formations in all their grandeur stand high among golden dunes, a sight not to be forgotten.

After lunch within this enormous landscape, we continue southwest to ride the star dunes around Ein Dalla, once the last post before entering the mystic sand structures of the Great Sand Sea. Ein Dalla is a well constructed by the late Egyptian prince Tosson as an emergency stop for refugees fleeing the brutal treatment of the Italian forces during WWII. They came with their families from the eastern oases of Libya, and having crossed the Great Sea of Sand that separates the Libyan Desert from the Egyptian Desert, they were exposed to thirst and extreme sun. Ein Dalla was their salvation.

Our first night’s camp is set under the stars, with a traditional dinner and the Bedouin campfire.

DAY 2 The Great Sea of Sand

After breakfast we immerse ourselves in the massive sand ridges of the Great Sea of Sand, one of the largest concentrated dune fields on Earth. The dunes run in long parallel lines shaped by the steady northwestern winds for hundreds of kilometers. As we follow this uncharted desert westward, we come across areas that are not only amazingly beautiful but also hold many forgotten stories of caravans, WWII expeditions and the lost army of Cambyses. By day’s end, our camp is set within the dunes.

DAY 3 Regenfeld

After breakfast, our destination is Regenfeld, a prominent site telling the story of the German explorer Gerhard Rohlfs. In 1874 his ambition led him to plan a camel caravan from Dakhla Oasis, hoping to explore the Sand Sea and find a crossing to Kufra Oasis in Libya. But his caravan quickly ran into insurmountable walls of dunes that trapped it and left it short of water.

What happened next was an unexpected miracle: a sudden, strong rainfall, a phenomenon that typically occurs only once every few decades, saved the lives of the crew and their 140 camels. They collected the water, replenished their supplies, and built a stone cairn to mark the spot, which they called Regenfeld.

Beyond its exploration story, Regenfeld is also an interesting prehistoric archaeological site, with old campfires, hearth mounds and lithic tools dating back to the early and mid-Holocene humid phases (around 8,800–5,400 BC), when the Sahara was green and supported communities of hunter-gatherers and savanna wildlife. In 1933 the Hungarian desert explorer Almásy (the main character of the movie “The English Patient”) erected a marble tablet next to Rohlfs’ cairn. After exploring the area, we set camp for the night, filling the night sky with stories and legends.

DAY 4 Abu Ballas – Pottery Hill

Riding the dunes southwest again, our destination today is Abu Ballas, one of the most controversial locations in the Sahara. Also known as Pottery Hill, it is a sandstone hill famous for its massive cache of ancient storage jars. One story tells us it served as one of the largest supply and water depots along an ancient donkey caravan track, the Abu Ballas Trail, connecting Dakhla Oasis with the Gilf El Kebir plateau. Another legend tells of southern Saharan tribes such as the Tebu from Chad, who used these routes for repeated raids on Dakhla, storing their water pots halfway across the desert. Around 500 jars were counted when the site was first rediscovered.

DAY 5 Watermountain

From Abu Ballas we head east to Watermountain. Rediscovered by the explorer Carlo Bergmann in 2003, the site features 4th Dynasty rock inscriptions and cartouches bearing the names of King Khufu and, surprisingly, his son Djedefre. We now know that in the Old Kingdom the pharaohs ran mining expeditions and outposts in the Western Desert, reaching as far as the source of Silica Glass. One of the wonders of this is that many hundreds of years later, a scarab beetle made of this rare glass was found among King Tut's jewelry.

We will set up a fixed camp here for our next two nights.

DAY 6 Exploring Watermountain

After a relaxed breakfast, we spend the day exploring the area, hoping to find rock art, Neolithic tools, the old donkey caravan trail, and perhaps more remote water stations. You never know in the Western Desert what you might come upon. New discoveries are still being made on every expedition, and the vastness, dryness and deep history of this part of the world make it a constant treasure hunt.

DAY 7 Dakhla Oasis

After breakfast, we travel east from Watermountain, crossing about 100 km of dunes to reach the Jewel of the Desert, the Red Oasis of Dakhla: the oldest gateway to this desert of hundreds of mystical legends. The most remote of all Egyptian oases and the oldest inhabited, Dakhla has a history that goes back to the Stone Age. Vivid, lush green fields welcome us, an amazing and unforgettable sight after the desert.

We drive to Sosal Lodge for dinner and a night in comfortable beds, though longing for our beloved desert.

DAY 8 El Qasr & ShawShaw

After breakfast in the garden, we pack again and head to the ancient desert town of El Qasr, built more than 1,200 years ago and still intact with all its alleys and remarkable architecture. After a few hours there, we ascend Dakhla's Eastern Mountain to the 600 m high plateau overlooking the oasis, then continue to the island mountain of ShawShaw.

This area was covered for millions of years by the ancient Tethys Ocean. Marine fossils are abundant, embedded in the rock or simply lying on the former ocean floor: fish bones, shells, ammonites, shark teeth and corals, all so old and extinct, yet still marking the region's deep history.

DAY 9 Agabat Plateau

Leaving ShawShaw, we head north, leaving these wonders behind on our way back to Bahariya. Crossing the Caraween Dunes and then the White Desert, we explore the Agabat plateau and camp there for our last night, enjoying the amazing night sky with Bedouin music and entertainment.

DAY 10 El Haiz Oasis & Return to Cairo

On our last day we explore Agabat mountain on the way to El Haiz Oasis, where we arrive at the lodge for a nice lunch gathering before taking the bus back to Cairo.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Comfortable transportation by private air-conditioned bus from Cairo and back (pick-up and drop-off in Cairo)
- 10 days / 9 nights fully equipped deep desert safari
- Premium 4x4 vehicles (Toyota Land Cruisers)
- Professional drivers, well-informed guides and trackers, and an excellent local cook
- Full camping experience with all camp amenities: personal tents, sleeping bags, mattresses, covers, communal dinner tent, tables, chairs and kitchen
- 3 meals per day cooked in the traditional local manner (2 full meals, 1 light meal), plus all hot drinks, fruit, snacks, water, juices, soft drinks and desserts
- Small shower water and portable toilets available
- Daily firewood and Bedouin tea set, with Bedouin entertainment
- 1 night accommodation at Sosal Lodge in a double room
- First-day breakfast and last-day lunch at the lodge in El Haiz Oasis
- Satellite phone, permits, mechanic and car spare parts

Not Included

- Extra ordered special food
- Tips

A Note on the Desert

Deserts, often perceived as barren and lifeless, are vibrant ecosystems and a habitat for diverse wildlife, flora and fauna, supporting their own natural balance while contributing to the wellbeing of the planet. Did you know that every year, around 22,000 tonnes of minerals from the sand of the

Sahara are carried by wind to South America, fertilizing the soil and helping the Amazon rainforest grow?

We have been travelling, exploring and passionately experiencing the uniqueness of Egypt's Western Desert for many years, and have taken it upon ourselves to establish proactive measures, and to encourage them among local communities, that reduce human impact while we show our guests the beauty of these landscapes.

WHAT TO BRING

Clothing

- Light-colored, summery clothes for the day: wide, long cotton or linen pants and shirts or T-shirts
- Warm clothes for the night (jacket, head cover, scarf)
- Head cover for the day, for protection from direct sun
- Warm socks
- Solid shoes and slippers
- Swimsuit

Gear & Personal Items

- Sunscreen / cream
- Sunglasses
- Personal towel
- Torch or headlight
- Camera and power bank
- Personal pillow, if you like
- Personal sanitary kit for safari toilets

Please Note

- Soft bags are preferred, for easier handling around camp during safaris.
- Bring warm clothing for the nights if you are visiting between December and February. Days are sunny and pleasant, but it can get very chilly in the desert after sunset.

We are excited to see you and to show you the hidden Egypt on the less-travelled paths.