

Dear future desert traveller,

How lovely that you are interested in our nature experience journey to the desert of Egypt. We would of course be delighted if you decided to join us on this wonderful adventure. Below you will find a lot of useful information in one place. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us.

**Nature experience journey to the Egyptian desert: 10-day group trip.**

# Like Bedouins in the Desert

Experience days filled with wonder and nights beneath a magnificent starry sky

During this journey, you will get a taste of desert life and its beautiful natural surroundings, while discovering the traditions of the Bedouins, the people who have lived in the Sahara for centuries. They will guide us on our journey. You will arrive in Cairo and travel from there to the beautiful Bahariya Oasis, with its lush green date palm groves. From this traditional oasis, we will head into the desert. We will spend four and a half days travelling like nomads through the magical desert. Delicious fresh meals will be prepared for you over an open fire. In the evenings, you can enjoy traditional tea around the campfire, accompanied by homemade Bedouin music and tales worthy of One Thousand and One Nights. We will sleep beneath the open sky and its thousands of stars (or in a tent if you prefer), living in tune with the rhythm of nature. We will explore the desert on foot, by jeep and on camelback. You may go for days without meeting anyone other than the people travelling with you. Your camel will lead the way to the next water source, and along the way you will pass through some of the most fascinating landscapes. The Bedouin guides will show you the most beautiful and special places in the desert.

**Where will we go?**

The Sahara is the largest desert in the world. Its endless stretches of sand extend across North Africa. What makes Egypt's Western Desert so special is the extraordinary variety of landscapes found within this relatively small part of the Sahara. One moment you are surrounded by the great dark mountains of the Black Desert; a few hours later, you find yourself in an almost surreal white landscape, among the most incredible rock formations of the White Desert. There are, of course, also rolling sand dunes shaped by the wind, and

beautiful crystals emerging from the earth where the underlying layers of the Earth's crust shift against one another. And then, after hours of open plains, a small cluster of palm trees and a wonderfully refreshing water spring suddenly appears. With its vast emptiness and overwhelming silence, the Egyptian Sahara has a magical effect on everyone who leaves their footprints in its sand. Read more about the different places we visit on our website.

**Connecting with nature and the local people**

During this journey, you can truly experience how the purity of nature and the silence of the desert naturally bring you back to yourself. You will sleep beneath the stars, cook over an open fire and experience the immense expanses of beautiful nature, the profound silence and the warm hospitality of the local people. You will become immersed in the rhythm of Bedouin life, where there is no room for pressure or stress. Our team will always be there to take care of you. There will also be plenty of space for quiet reflection and for simply enjoying the beautiful natural surroundings.

Unlike the many large-scale package tours, this unique journey offers an intense connection with Egypt, its people and its nature. The trip is suitable for people in normal health and with an average level of fitness. If you are unsure whether it is right for you, please do get in touch. We invite you to embrace the sand, wind and sun. Experience days filled with wonder and cool nights beneath a magnificent starry sky.

**Programme**

Day 1
Pick-up at Cairo Airport and overnight stay in a hotel near the Pyramids in Cairo.

Day 2
Breakfast overlooking the Pyramids. The morning is free for you to explore Cairo, visit a museum or see the Pyramids. As this time is at your own disposal, any entrance fees and other costs will be at your own expense. Around midday, we will leave for Bahariya Oasis, a bus journey of approximately 4.5 hours. Dinner and overnight stay at Desert Rose Eco Lodge in the oasis.



Day 3
Wake up among the date palm groves of Bahariya Oasis. Take your time to get used to the Egyptian way of life. In the afternoon, we will explore the beautiful Bahariya Oasis together. We will visit local farmers and see, or perhaps help with, the traditional bread-making. We will also take a local tour through the village and the surrounding palm groves, visiting Pyramid Mountain, the Salt Lake and English House, and watching the sunset overlooking the oasis. Those who wish can enjoy a dip in the hot springs. Overnight stay at the eco resort in Bahariya Oasis.



Day 4
We leave the inhabited world and its green fields behind and set off into the desert. Along the way, you will see places such as the Black Desert and Crystal Mountain. The surreal landscapes will make you feel as though you have entered another world. The Bedouins will introduce us to authentic desert life. They will set up a base camp and cook for us over an open fire. We will spend the night beneath the starry sky, or in a small tent for those who prefer.



Days 5, 6 and 7
Wake up with the sun on your face. Enjoy the silence, the vast open spaces and the ever-changing, enchanting landscapes of the desert. We will travel through the desert by 4WD jeep, on foot and, for one day, by camel. This is how we experience authentic desert life while visiting many special places, including the surreal White Desert with its extraordinary sculptures, the Western Desert with its beautiful sand dunes, the enormous rocks of Agabat and the striking crystals of Crystal Mountain. We will have lunch at the magical springs of Magic Spring or Green Eye and visit the centuries-old Acacia tree. In the evenings, we will set up camp and enjoy delicious freshly prepared meals. We may go for a night walk beneath the stars or sing together around the campfire.

Day 8
After breakfast, we say goodbye to the desert and the camels and travel back to the oasis. Here, we can gradually reconnect with the inhabited world and spend the rest of the day at our leisure. The afternoon is free. Overnight stay at the eco resort in Bahariya Oasis.

Day 9
An extra day in the oasis, with plenty of free time for yourself. Follow your own rhythm and enjoy reading a book in the sunshine, taking a walk through the gardens or visiting the village.

Day 10
This journey through Egypt comes to an end. Today, you will fly back to Belgium or the Netherlands. Depending on your flight times, we will travel to Cairo in the afternoon or evening of Day 9, or early in the morning of Day 10.

**Extra option: If you wish, you can extend your trip according to your preferences by spending more time in Cairo and/or Bahariya Oasis.**
If you are interested, let us know. We will send you more information and help you make the arrangements.



**Contribution:**
- €1,095 per person for accommodation, transport and guidance by the Bedouins in Egypt

- €595 per person for organisation and guidance by Inside Nature (including VAT for private individuals, excluding VAT for companies)

**Total: €1,690 per person**

**Not included:**
* Flights return to/from Cairo
* Visa (available on arrival at Cairo Airport): €30
* Single-room supplement: €120 per person for all hotel nights combined.
*** Travel and/or cancellation insurance (we will be happy to advise you)**
* Tips (approximately €70)
* Costs of additional excursions (outside the programme), any extra costs for extending your stay in Bahariya Oasis or Cairo, and souvenirs

In Egypt, it is customary to give a tip at the end of the desert journey to the Bedouins who have accompanied us. As a guideline, we suggest a total of around €70 for all the Bedouins together, but the choice is entirely yours. Please bear in mind that the Bedouins never know in advance when their next work opportunity will come. Tips and wages are therefore shared among the families throughout the year. There is no social security, pension scheme or health insurance system. Tips for the bus, taxis, hotels and so on are already included in the price of the trip.

**Flights**

We travel in small groups of up to 14 people, and the trip will go ahead with a minimum of 6 participants.
You are responsible for booking your own flight. It is important to book as early as possible, as prices are generally lower. However, we recommend that you check with us first to make sure there are enough registrations before booking your ticket!
We will of course let you know as soon as the minimum number of participants has registered and the trip is confirmed. Registering in good time is therefore important for everyone!

**TIP: We offer the possibility of planting trees in the oasis to help offset the $CO_2$ emissions from your flight. If you are interested, please let us know.**

**About us**

Our team is at the heart of Inside Nature Adventures. We have extensive experience and are highly motivated to make sure you can fully enjoy your adventures.

An experienced and professional local Bedouin team, including desert guides, drivers and cooks, takes care of all the practical arrangements on site. They know the desert extremely well and make sure you have everything you need.

Usha is trained as a naturopathic therapist and nature coach, and runs a practice in Belgium offering personal coaching, career guidance and team coaching in nature. During a round-the-world trip in 2008, she fell under the spell of Egypt, the desert and her husband Ahmed, and decided to stay and live there for several years. She feels deeply happy among the fields of Bahariya Oasis or sitting on a beautiful rock filled with crystals in the silence of the desert. She speaks a reasonable amount of Arabic and has extensive experience and knowledge of local customs and traditions.

Ahmed grew up in Bahariya and comes from a Bedouin family. Desert life is in his blood. Over the years, he has gained extensive experience in tourism, including working as a guide and managing various hotels. Ahmed qualified as a social worker in Cairo, speaks English and Dutch well, and has lived in Belgium since 2012. He is proud of his country and culture and loves sharing them with others. It makes him happy to see people enjoying the beauty and simplicity of the desert.

**Getting to know each other and looking forward to the journey**

If you join this trip, you can also become a member of the WhatsApp group for the journey. We will send you the link as soon as we have received your registration and deposit. In this group, you can get to know the other participants and start getting into the Egyptian spirit. You will also find further practical information and travel tips here, and you can ask any questions you may have.

**Unable to join this trip?**

If the dates of this group trip do not suit you, we naturally hope you will join us another time. Remember to subscribe to our newsletter to stay informed about all our trips and activities. You are welcome to join another group trip, or perhaps you would like to travel with a group of friends, family members or colleagues and put together your own dream journey. That is also possible!
We look forward to meeting you in the magical desert of Egypt!

The desert journey team
Usha, Ahmad and the Egyptian Bedouin team

