

# PLACES TO VISIT

(see map “Western Desert”)

## 1. SIWA OASIS

The Siwa oasis is a 82 x 28 km big depression in the northwest of Egypt close to the Libyan border. Its population is of mainly berber origin and up to now people speak their own dialect of the Berber language called Siwi. The oasis was always very isolated and therefore developed its very own culture including unique handicraft.

### *Sightseeing*



**Shali:** Old Town of Siwa dating from 13<sup>th</sup> century



**Cleopatra's Bath:** Famous natural spring (swimming possible)



**Tombs of Gebel Mawta:** A hill full of tombs of the 26<sup>th</sup> dynasty and later, some of them painted



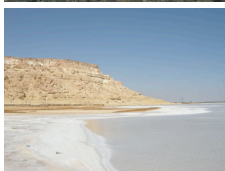
**Aghurmi:** Old Town of Siwa until the 13<sup>th</sup> century



**Temple of the Oracle:** The famous oracle of Amun that was visited by Alexander the Great



**Gebel al Dakrur:** Mountain that is famous for its sand cures against rheumatism and arthritis



**Salt Lakes**



**Market**

**Siwa House:** Museum about the way of life and the traditions of the oasis

## 2. GREAT SAND SEA (Over-day trip from Siwa)



**Dunes**

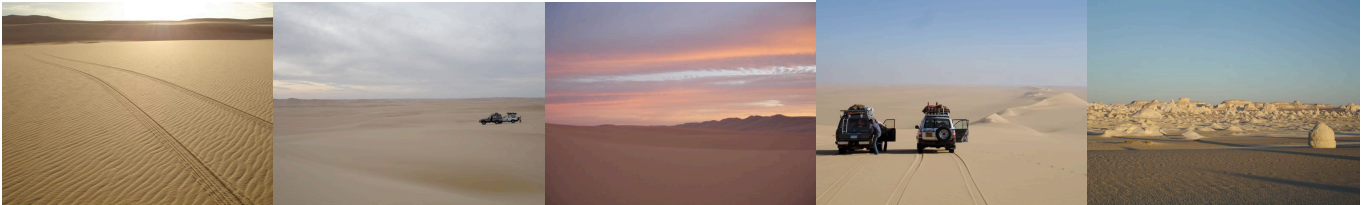


**Bir Wahid:** Hot Spring in the dunes of the Great Sand Sea (swimming possible)



**Cold Spring:** Right next to the Hot Spring (swimming possible)

## 3. GREAT SAND SEA and WESTERN WHITE DESERT



550 km of endless dunes and finally the Western White Desert with its famous limestone formations

## 4. BAHARIYA OASIS

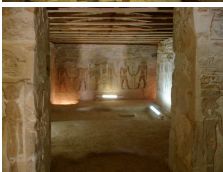
The Bahariya Oasis is a 94 x 42 km big depression 360 km southwest of Cairo. From the time of the Middle Kingdom it started to be an important agricultural centre.

### *Sightseeing*

**Museum of the Golden Mummies:** Mummies dating from the Greco-Roman Period (discovered 1996)



**Qaret Qasr Selim:** Painted tombs of Zed-Amun-ef-Ankh and his son Bannentiu (26<sup>th</sup> dynasty)



**Temple of Ain Muftilla:** Four chapels from the 26<sup>th</sup> dynasty (pharao Amasis)



**Temple of Alexander the Great:** Only evidence of Alexander's presence in Egypt (331 BC)



**Gebel Ingliz, Gebel Maghrafa, Gebel Dist:** Famous mountains of the oasis



**Palm Gardens**



**Salt Lake**

## 5. BLACK DESERT



The Black Desert in the south of the Bahariya depression with its impressive basalt rock hills.

## 6. WHITE DESERT NATIONAL PARK



**Crystal Mountain:** Crystalline rock formations



**Agabat:** Limestone mountains



**Wadi al Kebir:** Big valley between Agabat and Ain Khadra



**Ain Khadra and Ain Sirru:** Two natural springs



**Santa:** Very old acacia tree



**“Old” White Desert:** Northern part of the famous white limestone formations



**“New” White Desert:** Southern part of the famous white limestone formations

## 7. WATERMELON VALLEY AND GARRA CAVE



**Watermelon Valley:** Watermelon shaped stones



**Garra Cave:** Stalactite cave east of the White Desert

## 8. DAKHLA OASIS

Dakhla is the largest of all oases. It is intensely cultivated since ancient times.

### *Sightseeing*



**Al Qasr:** Old Town of the Qasr village in Dakhla

**Ethnographic Museum:** About the oases of the Western Desert (located in a house in Al Qasr)

**Balat Old Town:** Old Town of the Balat village in Dakhla (similar to Al Qasr)



**Deir al Hagar:** Temple dedicated to Amun-Re, Mut, Khons (first century BC)



**Beshendi Tomb and Tomb of Kitines:** Tomb of a famous sheikh and a Roman tomb (second century AC)





**Qilat al Dibba Tombs and Ain Asil:** Mastaba tombs and ruins of a village of the 6<sup>th</sup> dynasty

**Muzawaqa Tombs:** Greco-Roman necropolis (first and second century AC)



**Gardens**

## 9. KHARGA OASIS

Kharga is the administrative centre of the New Valley governorate and it is the most populated and modern oasis.

### *Sightseeing*



**Bagawat:** Christian Necropolis (3 - 6 century AC) with paintings



**Hibis Temple:** Largest temple of all oases dedicated to Amun of Hibis (26<sup>th</sup> dynasty)

**Nadura Temple:** Dedicated to Amun of Hibis (second century AC)



**Ghuweita Temple:** Dedicated to Amun, Mut, Khons (27<sup>th</sup> dynasty)



**Zayan Temple:** Dedicated to the local god Amenebis and Amun, Mut, Khons (4<sup>th</sup> century BC)

**Dush Temple:** Dedicated to Isis, Serapis, Horus (second century AC)

**Baris Village:** Small village in the south of the oasis with famous Haj Paintings

**Kharga Museum:** Artefacts found in the oases of the Western Desert



**Ain Labakha:** Ruins of a village of the Greco-Roman period including a castle and a temple



**Um Dabadib:** Ruins of a village of the Greco-Roman Period including a castle

## 10. GILF AL KEBIR

(see map “Gilf Al Kebir”)



The Gilf al Kebir is a big plateau in the southwest of Egypt. Visiting this area is a big off road adventure tour far away from civilization including the following major spots: **Abu Ballas** (“Father of the pots”: Remains along an old caravan route), **Wadi Mashi** (“Valley of Walking”), **Wadi Bakht** (“Valley of Happiness”), **Wadi Wasa** (“Broad Valley”), **Eight Bells** (remains of an airport from the second world war), **Memorial of Sultan Kamal ad Din** (pioneer in the Gilf al Kebir), **Karkur Talh** (“Little valley of the acacias”) at the Gebel Oweinat (“Mountain of the Little Springs”) in the border region to Sudan and Lybia (prehistoric petroglyphs), **Wadi Sura** (“Valley of the picture”: prehistoric petroglyphs), **Wadi Abd al Malik** (“Valley of Abd Al Malik”), **Wadi Hamra** (“Red Valley”), **Silica Glass Area** (region with special stones probably as a result of a meteor crash in the sand).