

Description for WEP Excursion

Field Trip to the Shayban Prospect – King Solomon's Gold Mines

Program

The field excursion will take place on **Saturday, Jan 17, 2015**. We will visit and explore several ancient mining sites, on foot, hiking and driving to various locations. Some of the old sites have recently been investigated to test if re-opening of these mines is economical. We will explore the geological indicators that the ancient miners used to find ore metals (copper, zinc, gold) and how they then 'dug for gold'. We will discover various signs of active mining in history at the Shayban prospect.

The Shayban prospect is located about 75 km east-north-east from KAUST, in the Precambrian rocks units of Saudi, situated in the narrow Shayban valley that is also used for agriculture. Driving on dirt-tracks and rocky terrain is required. We will spend most of the day in this area, and could visit on the return trip an old fort and/or old caravansary.

Departure & Arrival & Duration

Departure is 9 AM, the arrival at the first site will be around 10:30 AM. Lunch will be at the site. Depending on the energy & excitement level of participants, we will define how much time we will spend at the two nearby sites, and if we also visit an old fort or caravansary on the return. This is a full-day trip, and we expect to be back on campus late in the afternoon.

Prerequisites & Conditions

This field trip is open to selected participants, with a total of ~20 people, in four 4x4 vehicles. **Only participants are accepted who attended the related lecture series on Thursday, Jan 15. Participants can choose to either join field trip to the Shayban Prospect or the Mahd Al Dahab excursion, but not both.** Good physical condition is a must, we will hike in uncharted terrain, with very little opportunity for shelter from the sun. Sturdy hiking boots are a must; participants showing up in flip-flops or other inappropriate shoes will not be taken onboard. Participants with an earnest interest in Earth Science and Geology will have preference over people who just enjoy outdoor life. Bring ample of water and snacks for the day. Depending on the overall logistics, we may offer a lunch box (to be determined; participants will be informed in due time). Additional water will be carried in the vehicles.

