

WADI EL GEMAL

NATIONAL PARK

Wadi El Gemal National Park is a national park in Egypt. It is 7,450 square kilometres (2,880 sq mi) in size, including 4,770 square kilometres (1,840 sq mi) of land and 2,100 square kilometres (810 sq mi) of marine space.

The coastal area features coral reefs with 450 species of coral and over 1200 species of fish. Approximately 17% of the marine life is native to the Red Sea. It also includes five islands, including Wadi El Gemal Island.

These islands are a breeding ground for 13 bird species, and local sea grasses are important sources of food for the endangered dugong and green turtle.

The coast of Wadi el Gemal is partially rocky with broad spots covered by mangroves which are particularly widespread in the south where there is the largest mangrove forest of the entire Red Sea.

There are also various sandy beaches suitable for snorkeling and scuba diving along the shores of Wadi El Gemal Park.

The inland area is home to many animals, including the Dorcas gazelle and the Nubian Ibex.

The park is the site of prehistoric rock art, as well as Ptolemaic and Roman ruins, and the mountain Mons Smaragdus is the site of small mining communities that date back to ancient Egypt.

Wadi El Gemal is an IUCN Category II park, established in 2003.



LANDSCAPE

On the land area of the national park, sandy and rocky deserts prevail. The landscape is dominated by the Red Sea Mountains, which consist of rugged basalt and granite formations and sandstone outcrops. Important elevations in the national park include the Gebel aangelaya in the north (1240 meters), the Gebel Hafafit, the Gebel Zabara, the Gebel Nugrus, the Gebel Sikait, the Gebel Sartut and the Gebel Hamata in the south.

There are mangrove areas in several places along the coast.

The Red Sea coast consists of sandy and stone beaches that gently slope into the sea. Coral reefs are not found on the shore, but in the form of islands some distance away in the sea.



FLORA AND FAUNA

It is home to a wide variety of plants and animals, such as the Nubian ibex, the Egyptian vulture, the Arabian sand cat, and the endangered Egyptian tortoise

HIGHLIGHTS

Wadi el Gemal provides visitors with a chance to experience cultural, historical, natural, and marine facets all in one visit. The variety of the visit is what many people find as the highlight. The Red Sea and abundant marine life is a highlight for most.

Red Sea and Coral Reef

Although the Red Sea is a much larger body of water lying between Africa and Asia and between multiple countries, Egypt protects over 800 square miles (2,072 sq km) of it here through the national park.

The Red Sea is a saltwater body of water off of the Indian Ocean with a surface area of 169,100 square miles (438,000 sq km). It is the world's furthest northern tropical body of water. The World Wildlife Fund recognizes the area as a Global 300 ecoregion because of the wildlife diversity.

The coral reef of the Red Sea stretches along the coastline for about 1,240 miles (2,000 km). The coral itself represents diversity but it also serves as the habitat for an abundance of aquatic wildlife.

There are over 1,200 species of fish as well as 44 species of shark. Approximately 10% of marine life is endemic and found nowhere else in the world.

