

White Desert Protected Area

The White Desert Protected Area extends over 3010 km² of astonishing scenery. Limestone stacks create a spectacular landscape that has made the White Desert world famous. Relic oasis habitats contain the largest concentrations of natural vegetation remaining in the Western Desert. Fascinating cultural heritage sites dating from prehistoric times to the recent past dot the area and the park's Saharan fauna and flora represent rare and highly endangered biodiversity.

Farafra Oasis

Closer to Libya than to the Nile Valley, this small peaceful oasis was an important trade route in the Middle Ages because of its strategic position. The local people have their own dialect as they are of Bedouin ancestry, with Libyan and Tunisian origins. Palm, apricot and olive plantations are widely cultivated and although these 'gardens' are privately owned, no doors exclude visitors who are welcomed by the friendly farmers. You can also visit Qasr El Farafra, the old town overlooking the oases or enjoy the hot spring of Bir Sitta that serves as a natural Jacuzzi.

White Chalk Formations

The White Desert beckons with its vast horizons outlining free standing stacks, all carved by the elements from pure white chalk. These rock formations each carry a unique posture and aura resembling familiar images. One can perceive a giant eagle, a weeping lady, a sphinx, a camel, and even a huge whale. The most iconic of these are the giant mushrooms, which unfortunately are the last forms a chalk structure takes before the forces of erosion cause it to topple.

Parks Egypt mission

To maintain a well-managed, representative system of parks conserving natural resources, contributing to sustainable economic growth and providing education, inspiration and enjoyment for all.

Visitor code

Check and follow safety precautions.

Please do not:

- disturb or damage animals and plants.
- collect or damage rocks, minerals or geological features.
- drive off of marked tracks or on vegetation.
- write, paint or carve graffiti.
- leave any garbage.
- use sound systems.
- use wild plants for firewood.

Accommodation

Camping in designated areas.

Farafra Oasis hotels: Badaweya, Aqua Sun and Waha.

Visiting hours

8:00 am - 7:00 pm.

4X4 jeep expeditions into the desert can be arranged locally in Baharia and Farafra.

How to get there

By private car, bus or taxi: Cairo to Farafra - 552 km.

Bahariya to Farafra - 182 km.



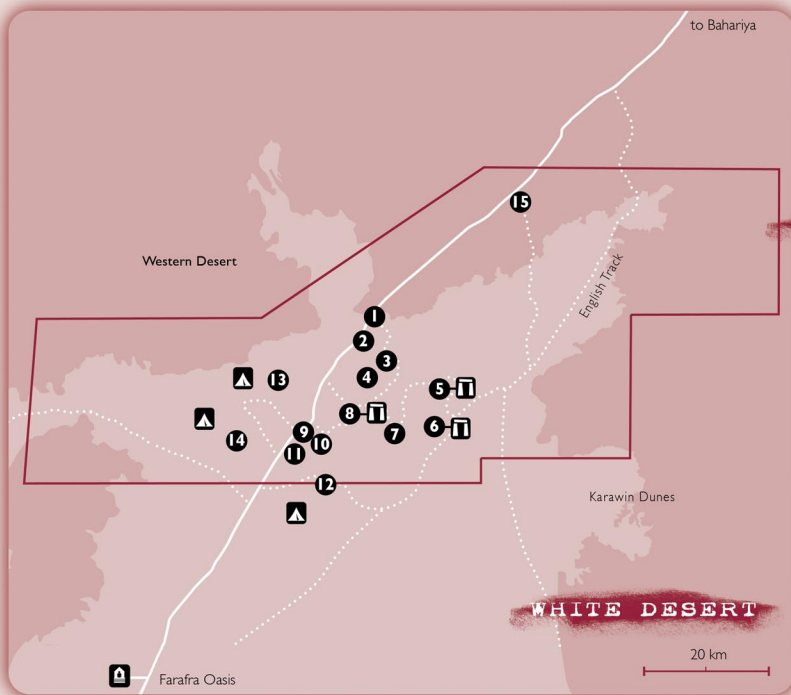
To contact White Desert park office:
Tel/Fax: (092)751-1131



Welcome to

WHITE DESERT

Discover Nature!



Main Attractions

- 1 Naqb El Sillim
- 2 Aqabat Hill
- 3 El Musharaia
- 4 Wadi Hinnis
- 5 Ain Maqfi
- 6 Ain El Serwal (Magic Spring)
- 7 Wadi Santa
- 8 Ain Wadi
- 9 Aish El Ghorab (Mushroom)
- 10 El Khayam
- 11 Bir Regwa
- 12 El Tabaly
- 13 El Beban (Two Doors)
- 14 El Kabour
- 15 Crystal Mountain

