

Zaranik Protected Area

Zaranik covers 250 km² of the North Sinai coast, protecting a lagoon at the eastern end of Lake Bardawil and Mediterranean beaches to the east. Undulating sand dunes interspersed with salt marshes and palm groves represent unique, pristine examples of coastal habitats encompassing a wide variety of ecosystems.

Birdwatching

Zaranik is famous for the spectacular autumn migration of waterbirds which pass through and stop in the area. Of the 270 recorded species, a number are endangered and rare. Thousands of passerines, palearctic waterbirds and other species rest in the extensive salt marshes and mud flats along the coast in different seasons providing viewing opportunities throughout the year.

Flora and Fauna

Although vegetation is sparse, there are more than 150 plant species found in Zaranik. Diversity is greater on the sand dunes with succulent shrubs found on higher and less saline ground. More than 770 fauna species, 2 of which are endemic, find shelter here. Many endangered species can be seen in the sand dunes such as the fennec fox, sandcat, Egyptian tortoise and desert monitor. Bottle-nosed dolphins are the most commonly observed marine mammals, while loggerhead turtles nest on the beaches.

Antiquities

Zaranik is sited along an important historical trade route linking Egypt with the East. Fascinating sites, fragments of pottery and other remains from various historical periods are scattered throughout the park. At Ostracine, on Felusyat Island, an ancient Roman fort and the remains of three Byzantine churches can be explored. El Khweynat nearby is the site of a tomb and the remains of a mosque dating back to the Islamic conquest.

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 or geological features.
- drive off of marked tracks or on vegetation.
- disturb turtle nesting sites.
- leave any garbage.
- use wild plants for firewood.
- intrude on cultural sensitivities.

Accommodation

Camping in designated areas.
Semiramis Hotel, Sinai Sun, Oberoi and Coral Beach.

Visiting hours

8:00 am - 7:00 pm in summer and autumn
8:00 am - 5:00 pm in winter and spring

How to get there

By private car, bus or taxi from Cairo to El Arish - 320 km.
By private car or taxi from El Arish - 35 km.



To contact Zaranik park office:
Tel: (068) 335-5003
Fax: (068) 332-0800







Welcome to
ZARANIK



Discover Nature!



-  Park area
-  Main road
-  Track

-  Park office
-  Tickets
-  Visitor centre
-  Main gate
-  Camping area
-  Beaches
-  Birdwatching
-  Archaeological site
-  Ecologist



Main Attractions

- 1** Zaranik Lagoon
- 2** Ancient Roman settlement of Ostracine
- 3** Ancient Islamic town of El Khweynat
- 4** Environmental Research Center

