



ABOUT THE TRAIL

→ **DISTANCE** 220 km (137 mi)

→ **DURATION** 12 days

→ **TOTAL ELEVATION GAIN** 5,850 m (19,193 ft)

→ **LEVEL** Moderate

The Sinai Trail is Egypt's first official long-distance hiking trail. Stretching from the Gulf of Aqaba to the top of Mount Catherine (Egypt's highest peak), it takes trekkers on an unforgettable journey across a high desert wilderness of colored canyons, verdant oases, and holy mountains. While soaking in the varied landscapes, hikers will also become acquainted with traditional Bedouin culture. These nomadic peoples have called the Sinai Peninsula home for millennia, and it was their ancestors who created the paths that collectively form the backbone of the Sinai Trail today.

Since its establishment in 2015, the Sinai Trail has been completed by hundreds of hikers from around the globe. In 2016, it was voted the best new tourism project in the world at the BGTW International Tourism Awards, and the following year, it was ranked one of the world's best new trails by *Wanderlust* magazine. The trail is a 100 percent Bedouin community-run project. Its mission is to create a sustainable ecotourism economy and provide fair-paying jobs to Bedouin communities in remote and often marginalized areas. In so doing, the team behind the Sinai Trail also aims to preserve endangered Bedouin traditions and share the wonders of their unique home with the visitors.

Following its original incarnation (in what is still referred to as the "Classic Route"), the Sinai Trail measures approximately 220 km (137 mi) and takes 12 days to complete. It typically begins at Ras Shetan on the Red Sea and finishes at Saint Catherine. The route is split into three four-day segments, each stewarded by a different Bedouin tribe—namely (from northeast to southwest) the Tarabin, Muzeina, and Jebelaya. This original version of the trail remains a favorite option for many adventurers, though due to its success, the Sinai Hiking Trail network has been expanded to a grand total of 550 km (342 mi), all of which take a combined 54 days to complete. The trail growth has led five additional Bedouin tribes to be brought into the trekking fold—Awlad Said, Gararsha, Sowalha, Hamada, and Alegat—thereby creating a greater range of employment opportunities for the region and a broader showcase for the Sinai's vast array of natural marvels.

The initial four days of the Classic Route run from Ras Shetan near the Red Sea to the oasis of Ein Hudera. Guided by the Tarabin Tribe, hikers will cover roughly 70 km (43.5 mi) of varied terrain, including windswept mountain passes, rocky gorges, and sinuous wadis (i. e., the bed or valley of a watercourse that is usually dry except during the rainy season). Among the highlights of the opening segment is the legendary Colored Canyon. Measuring 800 m (0.5 mi) in length, this multihued gorge has been sculpted by the elements over thousands of years, and its mineral-based desert palette is a mesmerizing combination of red, purple, crimson, and gold. Other standout features of the >



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← The legendary oasis of Ein Hudera.

↑ Saint Catherine's was constructed between 527 and 565 CE, and is the world's oldest continually inhabited Christian monastery.