

PEAK TO PEAK TO PEAK...

NUMBER OF DAYS: 5

TREK CATEGORY: ADVENTURE TREKS

Our Adventure Treks are not for everyone, designed with experienced trekkers in mind, those who are up for long walks often over difficult terrain without footpaths and in very remote locations. Walking days can be upwards of 8 hours. You will leave comforts behind and sleep in the often harsh conditions of the desert. These treks are not for the weak of body or spirit but those who choose them will come back having learned much by pushing the limits and experiencing a new way of life. You won't easily forget this adventure!

SUMMARY: This trek is all about mountain tops; in fact every day has at least one ascent some of which are on fairly rough terrain. Those who want to conquer the high mountain region and have a perspective from almost every possible angle should choose this hike. It's tough, but never too grueling for those wanting a good adventure.

	Distance	Vertical Ascent
Day 1	15.1km	128m
Day 2	18.86km	1000m
Day 3	11.55	752
Day 4	17.86km	1027m
Day 5	22.76km	1116m
TOTALS	86.13 km	4,023m



We depart from St. Catherine's up a col overlooking the village and the monastery of Cosmos and Damianos catching the most stunning views of St. Catherine's town, before heading down to wadi Talaa and wadi I'tla'H. A break in Dr. Ahmed's herbal garden will be a good rest before the slow descent down Wadi Jinab, towards the tomb of Sheikh Awad and finally the ecolodge. This is the easiest day of the 5, from here it's all to the real peaks!

The next day we attack our first climb, Gebel Banat. On top of its large granite surface views of the Gulf of Suez on one side are just as stunning as those of Mt. Sinai and Mt. St. Catherine's on the other. It will be hard to leave this first vista, but there are more to come and we must join our cameleers who have set up camp below. The long trek down to the garden, will take us past a wide desert plain and the site of byzantine ruins, before completing a circle begun the day before.

Leaving the verdant wadi I'tlaH behind for good, we begin our ascent up Shagg Tinya, a good climb leading to the water pool of Kharazet el Shaq, and our lunch break. Gebel Naja is the next peak on the list, which we reach through a series of basins. If the highlands is a ship, Gebel Naja would surely be its prow. From its summit we will catch beautiful views of the lowlands and Sheikh Awad, before heading to Abu Tuweita for a well deserved dinner and some sleep.

Day four takes us to the largest natural pool in the South Sinai. Galt el Azraq. We arrive in time for an extended tea break and a dip for those who want to wash off, but we must continue, as the views from the top of our next peak are perhaps the most stunning of the trip. Bab el Dunya (*The Door of the Universe*) is set at the southern edge of the high mountain region and has a vista over the low desert plains, the gulf of Suez and the African continent beyond. Berry canyon is the chosen route to get there, a scrappy climb which well qualifies this trek as an adventure. After catching a marvelous sunset, we head down in the waning light to Bulia and our last campsite.

This final day you will not soon forget. With close to 23km and 1,100m of ascent it is perhaps the most grueling of the adventure, but it's our last one out there and we are going to get everything we can out of it. The climax will be the views from the top of Egypt – Mt. St. Catherine's, the final and highest peak. We will see of the entire circuit covered in the past five days, before heading back down via Wadi el Arbaein and beautiful views of Mt. Sinai. Back in St. Catherine's we'll know exactly what lies beyond the surrounding peaks... not only footprints of our adventure, but stunning vistas etched in our minds for a long time to come.

