

Educational Mailing

SPRING / SUMMER 2009



As part of the community conservation project, "Wild Ammiq", A Rocha Lebanon is launching a new season of educational activities at the Aammiq wetland, West Bekaa for the spring and summer of 2008.

Education Activities

1. Hiking along the lower slopes of the Barouk ridge from Aammiq old village to the Aammiq wetland. (Arabic speaking guide only.)

The hike, along easy paths, starts at the unique abandoned village of Old Aammiq, a traditional stone village abandoned after the Earthquake in the 50's. The trek passes through cedar, pine and oak woodland and over a mountain stream. A local guide will interpret the natural history of the area including pointing out interesting birds and plants and mammal tracks and signs. While heading along the slopes above the wetland panoramic views reveal the Bekaa plain below.

Finishing at the wetland itself there is a chance to bird watch from a purpose built hide at Lebanon's most important site for biodiversity. As well as birds students may see turtles, snakes, lizards, butterflies, dragonflies...

2. Activity day at the wetland. (English or Arabic presentation with Arabic and English speaking assistants)

The normal pattern of activities includes a presentation at the classroom facility at "Hawsh Aammiq" followed by "hands on activities" such as pond dipping, bird watching and bug collecting at the marshes. The visit supports national curriculum targets but is focused much less on the learning of theory and much more on giving students an opportunity to experience something of the beauty and fragility of the wetland.

3. Tailor made activities

Special itineraries can be tailor made for educational and tourist groups including staying overnight with local families (local Bed & Breakfast,) a combination of hiking and bird watching while learning about local wildlife, rural traditions, landscapes and much more...

Special rural lunches and evening meals also available.

Calendar & Costs

- ✦ Numbers are limited per activity to 50.
- ✦ All activities are open from 1st March to 31st October .
- ✦ Please note school activity days are very popular April through June particularly – please book early!

✈ Suggested donations for educational activities are 4000 L.L. per school student 6000 L.L. per university student, teachers and assistants are not charged.

✈ Suggested donations for tourist groups (per person):

Number of Visitors	Suggested Donation	*Additional Guide Fee	*1 Hour Hike	2 – 3 Hours Hike	3-5 Hours Hike
1 to 10	6,000 L.L.	+25,000 L.L.	*Included	+1,000 L.L.	+2,000 L.L.
11 to 20	5,000 L.L.	+25,000 L.L.	*Included	+1,000 L.L.	+2,000 L.L.
21 to 30	4,000 L.L.	+25,000 L.L.	*Included	+1,000 L.L.	+2,000 L.L.
31 to 50	3,000 L.L.	+25,000 L.L.	*Included	+1,000 L.L.	+2,000 L.L.

* An accredited tourist guide is required for every group that visits the Ammiq Wetland. For most groups this means there is an “Additional Guide Fee” as a local guide needs to be hired. This is a one-time payment per group.

* The suggested donation includes a tour of the wetland as well as a 1 hour hike at no extra charge. In any case where a hike is not desired, the suggested donation remains the same. For longer hikes an additional premium will be charged per visitor according to the duration of the hike. An example for a group with 21-30 visitors and would like a 2-3 hour hike is the following:
4,000 L.L. + 1,000 L.L. (premium for hike) = 5,000 L.L. (per visitor) + 25,000 L.L. (Guide Fee).

* Children under 16 years of age receive an additional 2,000 L.L. discount.

✈ Home made (full) lunch or dinner - \$9.00 USD.

✈ Snacks and sandwiches are available upon request.

✈ Bed & Breakfast = \$16.00 USD per person per night.

✈ Please ensure that all visitors come with appropriate clothing, accessories and footwear for all weather conditions (ex. winter: water-proof jackets, sweaters, etc. - summer: hats, and at least a liter of drinking water per visitor)

✈ Please book by filling out a booking form available from A Rocha Lebanon (see contacts).

Contacts & Booking

For more information and bookings please contact the A Rocha office at 08 566578 (office hours) and speak to one of the following contacts below:

Ramsey Rahal (English & Arabic)

Cell: 03 139614

Email: rahalramsey@gmail.com

Faisal Halabi (Arabic)

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Website: www.arochoa.org

Wild Ammiq Mission statement

Wild Ammiq is a community conservation initiative run by the local NGO, A Rocha Lebanon. The project aims to provide much needed local employment while generating funds that help conserve the internationally important Ammiq wetland.



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Together, caring for God's creation