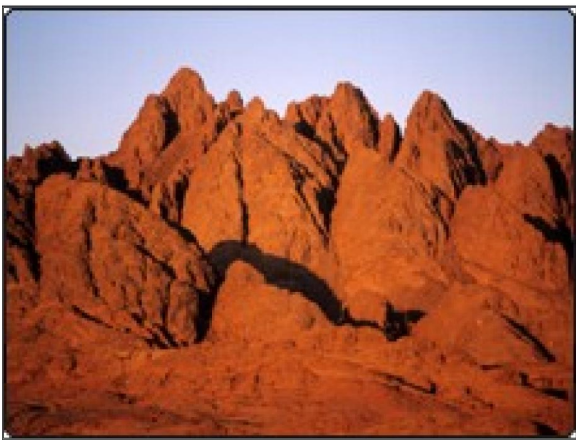


You have seen nothing of Hurghada, if you have not visited the Red Sea Mountains, Hurghada. The Eastern desert and the Red Sea coast, also known as the Arabian Desert, covers approximately twenty-one percent of present day Egypt. Red Sea Mountains, Hurghada is actually a high mountain range of ancient volcanic rock running the length of the Red Sea near the coast. According to geographical findings, these mountains were formed about three billion years ago. The desert area is marked by wide, high plateaus with accumulations of rubble from eroded sandstone and limestone. This topography is the result of the faults and elevating shifts during the formation of the Red Sea basin around twenty to thirty million years ago.

## Red Sea Mountains



Prior to about 3500 BC, the climate of the region was wetter than it is today. It began to dry out during the period when civilization took hold in the Nile Valley. During that wetter period, the Eastern Desert was more densely populated than during most of the Pharaonic period. The numerous rock drawings, especially found in the desert's southern region, are evidence of this.

The earliest drawings in these areas can be dated back to the Naqada I period. The Nile Valley and desert animals which became extinct from the region after 3500 BC including elephant, giraffe, rhinoceros and ostrich are depicted in many of these carvings. Indigenous desert wildlife like ibex, gazelle and antelope are also depicted in these carvings. You will also find here images of people dating back to about 3500 BC and boats and groups of people wearing feather ornaments in the other rock arts. Studies have shown that these were probably the indigenous people who came in contact with others from the Nile Valley.

Most of the Pharaonic drawing in the Red Sea Mountains, Hurghada area witnessed a sudden end by the end of the Old Kingdom, but there were later drawings of horses and camels which can be dated back to the Roman and Arab times. You can go for the day trips or safaris by camel or jeep which are available to explore the Red Sea Mountains in Hurghada, one of the major Hurghada Tourist Attractions.