Maged and his wife Lorena started Habiba in 1994. We are a hub for responsible tourism, welcoming self-made travelers, volunteers, professionals & students from everywhere. Everything we do aims at Synergizing Differences.

This happens through promoting an ecofriendly way of life and education to build a strong, healthy & sustainable future for the entire South Sinai Community.

We started having the purpose of creating an alternative way of income instead of relying completely on the traditional tourism-based activities and providing the indigenous community with means for financial stability.

So we developed an interdisciplinary approach to raising the community’s social awareness toward the necessity of applying the basic principles of Permaculture, Responsible Tourism, and Knowledge Transfer.

Habiba Community, which includes a beach lodge, an organic farm, a regenerative farm, and a learning center, believes that making the Sinai desert green again is possible, and, by doing this we will provide food and water security to the local community.
THE CULTURE

Habiba Community lies in Nuweiba, on the coast of Al-Aqaba Gulf in the eastern part of South Sinai (Egypt), in front of Saudi Arabia and behind the mountains of the Sinai desert.

The inner area is called Wasit and since 1934 Nuweiba has been inhabited by two Bedouin tribes called Tarabin and Muzeina.

Habiba’s location makes it a strong linkage point between three Bedouin tribes of different beliefs and traditions. Respect, generosity, hospitality, and love are the four pillars of the Bedouin culture.

The term “Bedouin” is derived from Arabic badiya, which refers to the desert, and the term badu, which refers to a person living in the desert.

The Bedouin refer to themselves as Arabs and more specifically identify themselves with a particular tribe, many of which originated from what is now Saudi Arabia.

As times have changed, some Bedouins have shifted from their traditional nomadic lifestyle. There has been a cultural and intellectual shift by the movement from mountains and coastlines to large cities. We aim to capture as much of this knowledge as possible before it is forgotten.

Bedouin’s language is Arabic but with a Bedouin dialect so let’s call their language the Bedouin Arabic. This language is much closer to the traditional Arabic present throughout the Middle East.
Typically, within the Bedouin culture, it is the task of the woman to take responsibility for the household, the goats, the backyard garden, and raising the kids. The women are generally centered within the home throughout their life, putting the needs of the husband as a priority.

Men generate income for their families. They do a wide variety of jobs such as selling items on the market, fishing, taxi drivers, and tourism.

The kids start going to kindergarten when they are 3 or 4 years old and continue going to school until they are 15 or 16, or until they begin working with their fathers.

The girls tend to get married at an early age and begin to start their own families.

The kids are always playing in the streets, often getting creative with local resources such as old tires and wire.

THE CLIMATE

The climate in Nuweiba is classified as a desert due to the scarcity of rainfall which is less than 10 in / 25 cm per year.

The summers are hot, and can reach up to 45 degrees celsius, especially in the afternoon. The winters are short, and the heat is very dry, with an average daytime temperature of 15–20 degrees celsius.

Most of the Sinai (excluding the mountains) is classified as an extremely arid region or “too dry to support vegetation”.

Habiba aims to change that!

Please prepare for these temperatures when you visit the camp.
THE BEACH LODGE

Habiba lodge is a small, barefoot place, perfectly positioned to provide accommodation that shows off all South Sinai’s greatest treasures.

Surrounded by mountains, reefs, and a private beach on the Red Sea, overlooking the Gulf of Aqaba, Habiba Beach Lodge is the ultimate in seclusion, Bedouin culture, and exotic adventure.

Here at Habiba Beach Lodge, we offer double and triple rooms suitable for independent travelers or groups.

The chef at Habiba Beach Lodge can satisfy all of your culinary wishes, but any special requirements should be communicated prior to arrival. Traditional Egyptian cuisine is our standard.

The meals provided are mainly vegetarian in line with our concept of farming and self-sustainability. Our organic veggies from the farm make superb salads, soups, and sauces.

THE ORGANIC FARM

Founded in 2007, Habiba Organic Farm acts as a community-based farm to benefit the people of South Sinai.

Originally, Maged intended the farm as a growth strategy to enable food security and a more responsible approach to the environment. Today, the farm has shown Bedouins and local people that eco-agricultural farming shows results.

And, it has become Habiba’s biggest attraction!

Local people have seen the result, and today agriculture is beginning to flourish across the region.

Our farm serves as a beacon to what can be accomplished through sound organic farming practices in the desert.
Habiba’s dream is to regreen the Sinai desert along with providing food security to the indigenous community and promoting education.

We have proven that making the desert green again is possible starting from our own farms and now we are rolling out our regreening strategies to the Wadis (water catchment areas) and to the backyards of our Bedouin neighbors.

Your role in this mission is to support this work, which will involve a variety of activities, including:

- Soil rebuilding through composting
- Pest management
- Irrigation management
- Transplanting
- Crop maintenance
- Harvesting
- Polyculture planting
- Seed collection of native plants
- Mulching
- Experimental setup and recording

**WHAT TO BRING**

- Comfortable sturdy shoes
- Water bottle
- Clothes to protect you from the sun/wind (scarf, hat, sunglasses etc.)
- Natural sun-cream
- Natural toiletries
- Books, cards, music instruments etc. (for the night activities)

*When traveling through Sinai, it’s important to keep your passport/visa papers at hand as there are many security checkpoints that may require it.

**If you choose to leave Habiba for a walk to town or nearby we request you notify one of the Camp Staff members. We recommend having a mobile phone with our contact numbers with you while offsite in the event you require assistance.

***We encourage all guests to arrive in a state of wellness! If for some reason you are exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, cold, flu etc. we ask that you postpone your experience until you are well.
Established and operated by Habiba thanks to the surplus income of the beach lodge, the *Sinai Date Palm Foundation* is bringing new means of sustainable income to the local community.

By encouraging the local population to invest in Medjool date palm trees, Habiba will organize and coordinate the planting and care of an organic, fruit-producing tree that can provide a steady stream of income for the Habiba Learning Center years into the future.

Our *Learning Center* is funded by the Sinai Date Palm Foundation, both being established in 2013 to educate & enable local Bedouin families.

Set within the grounds of our Organic Farm, the Learning Center building & playground runs an after-school program for kids aged 5 to 13.

The *Regenerative Farm*, founded in 2019, was designed to be an open-air lab & learning center for regenerative farming, a space for experimentation and open for pioneering projects & research.

Finally, *WOMAD* is a women to women project started in 2017 in Nuweiba for Bedouin women. They create unique handmade beaded jewels and accessories that can sell in the shop established at our beach lodge in order to generate a fair income for themselves.
The layout of Nuweiba, Habiba Community, and Wasit is relatively straightforward but hopefully, this map and description can give you a comprehensive overview of the area.

The Downtown Marketplace has most, if not all, of what you need to enjoy your time here.

There is a pharmacy, an ATM along with various little shops filled with fruits, nuts, spices, groceries, and souvenirs.

Along with a couple of restaurants, there is also a hair salon, as well as a place to smoke hookah and play board games. Let us not forget the famous sugar cane store which is located in the main street.

The hospital is located at the end of Newabaa St.

An appointment can be scheduled with the Beach Lodge and a staff member will personally accompany you throughout the hospital.

Next to the post office is the phone company, we. If you would like a cellular data plan, you can purchase a SIM card for a relatively cheap price to have reliable internet during your time here.
CONTACT INFORMATION

Emergency:

**Police**: 122  
**Hospital**: 123

Non-Emergency Contact within Habiba Community:
Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions at all about the experience.

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Yousef Maged - Lodge Issues: +20 1091113835  
Karim Maged - Logistics issues: +20 1116667717

Habiba Community  
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