

The Sinai Peninsula

A map showing the Sinai Peninsula and Egypt. The Sinai Peninsula is highlighted in orange and labeled 'SINAI' in white capital letters. Egypt is highlighted in a darker orange and labeled 'EGYPT' in white capital letters. The Red Sea is to the east, and the Mediterranean Sea is to the north. The surrounding landmasses are green.

SINAI
EGYPT

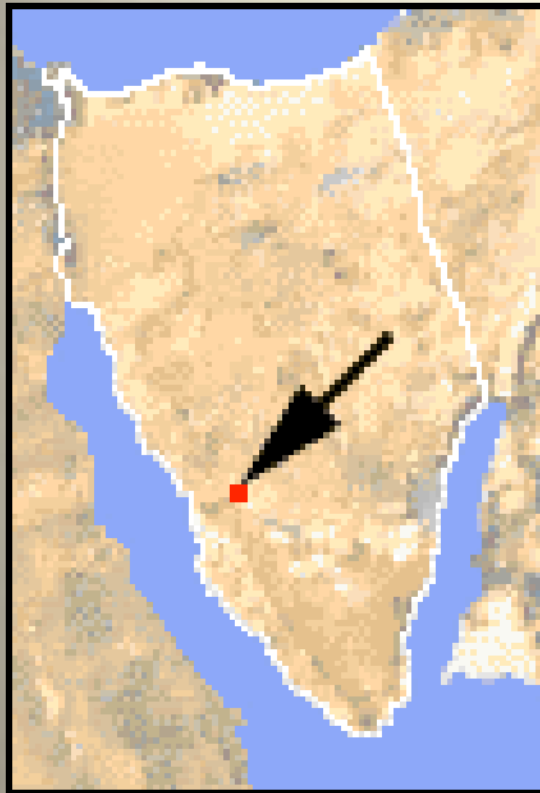
*A little history, a little me and
then questions*

Sequence of presentation:

- Sinai in history
- Sinai in religion
- Recent role of Sinai in Arab-Israel relations
- My experiences in Sinai
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3500 BCE turquoise veins
discovered and mines opened.
Mines abandoned around
1500BCE.



SARADEEB EL KHADEM



St. Catherine's Monastery

Saint Catherine Monastery has been one of the world's great centers of religious pilgrimage for over fifteen centuries, founded approximately 911CE by Emperor Constantine. Within its imposing walls rests a citadel with religious and historical structures, including a mosque that saved it from destruction. Among its treasures is a library of ancient manuscripts and icons second only to the Vatican's itself, and a 6th century church reputed to lie directly on the site of the Burning Bush.



Section of original wall dating
Back to 911 CE



Historical Route between Africa and Middle East

- 1 - Pelusium
- 2 - El Arish
- 3 - Found Roman Posts
- 4 - Suspected Roman Posts



Alexandria

Pelusium



Pompey



Marc Antony

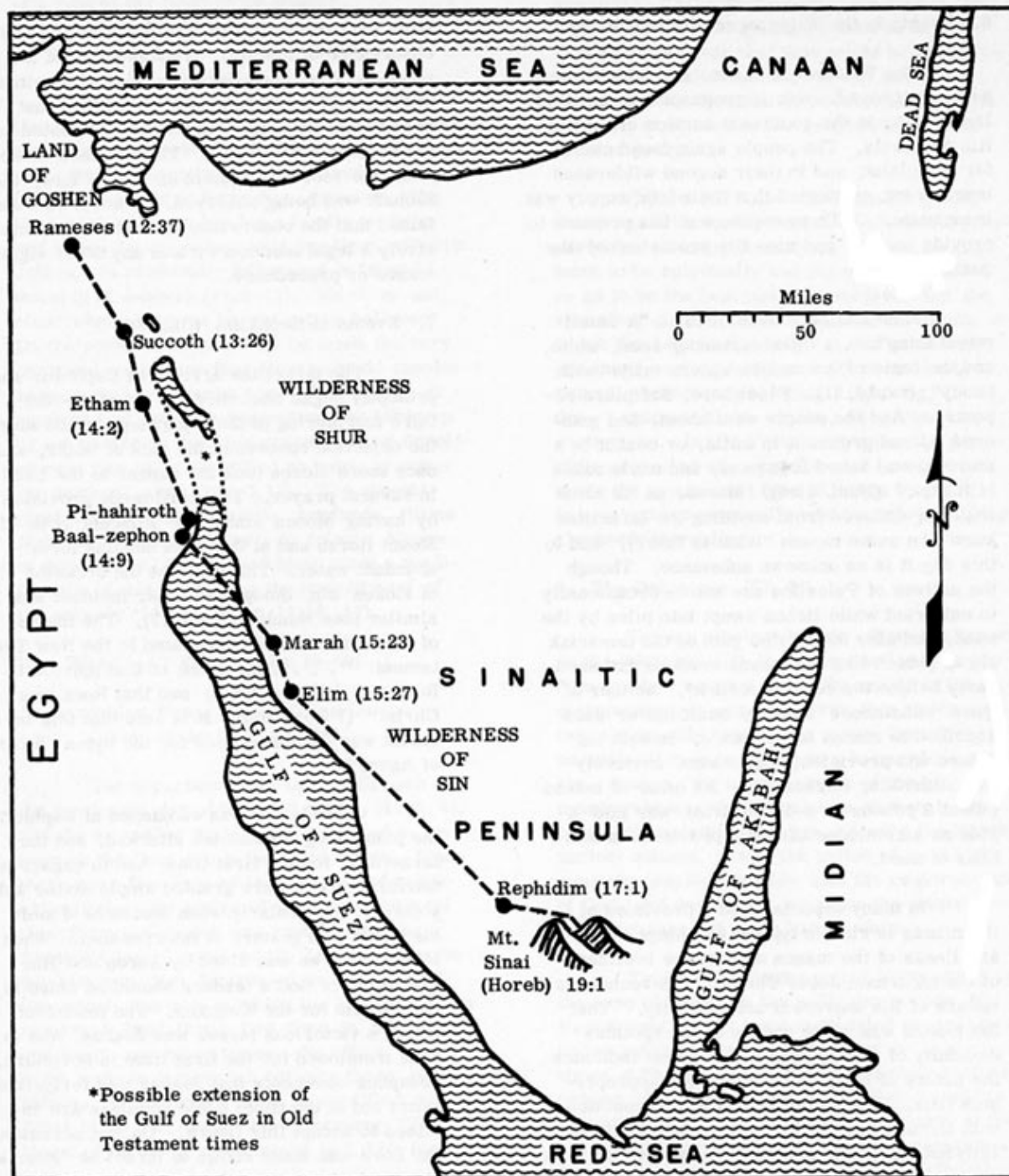
- Pompey murdered in 48 BCE by rival Julius Caesar
- Mark Antony arrives in Pelusium commits suicide shortly after in 30 BCE
- Baldwin I razed Pelusium in 1117, died of food poisoning in El Arish two weeks later

Peleuseum excavation and restoration, one of many



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Wadi Musa

Stone age artifacts
dating to 10,000
BCE

Water source can
support 25,000
population

Kedesh-Barnea

According to the
Bible this is where
the Israelites
sojourned for 38
years after leaving
Egypt and before
entering the Promised
Land.

**Two views of Mt.
Sinai/Mount St.
Catherines**



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- May 14 1948 State of Israel Established, war declared by Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Iraq. On 24 Feb, 1949 Armistice signed ending fighting. Limited fighting in Sinai, remains part of Egypt



- 1956, Suez Crisis, canal nationalized, Sinai invaded by Israel with French and British support. Israel withdraws from Sinai and UNEF established Nov 1956 following pressure by US and UN.



- June 1967-Six Day War. May Egypt expelled UNEF, Closed Straits of Tehran to Israel shipping and deployed 100,000 troops into Sinai. Israel responds with lightening strikes and war ends with Israel in possession of Sinai.



- Oct 1973, Yom Kippur War. 19 days later US brokers ceasefire. Sinai remains in hands of Israel. Egypt war performance significant
- 1979 Peace treaty signed between Egypt and Israel. Sinai and Gaza returned to Egypt.
- Aug 1981 US leads establishing independent Multinational Force and Observers, MFO, to monitor peace between Egypt and Israel.





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1988-1989 United Nations Truce Supervision Organization





Wadis in Sinai.





Saladine's fort in Gulf of Aqaba. Protected Sinai from Crusader assaults by sea.



Saladin's fortress in Giddi Pass. Controlled passages from central Sinai to Egypt. Sadly destroyed during Six Day War, Egypt used it as an observation post.





Sharm El-Sheik in 1988

Sharm El-Sheik today



Scenes in Sinai, different oasis and the Canal





Example of roads built since 1982, this one in Southern Sinai.

Sand storm in Central Sinai, very common especially in Spring and Fall. Can last up to 4-6 hours.



1994-1996 Multinational Force and Observers - MFO



Bedouin village in the interior of the Sinai, often abandoned military camp.



Government built village intended to give Bedouin viable alternative to nomad life or occupying abandoned camps.





El Arish in North West Sinai. Vibrant village dating back to Roman era. Producer and exporter of peaches.

Bedouin family from interior of Sinai. Wife and mother wearing her best finery.





Typical sight in desert.
Often seen alone camels
are all property of a
bedouin tribe. Often
used for smuggling.

Also a typical sight,
mini-trucks frequently
break down, sometimes
get stuck in sand, esp.
after storms. Also
involved in extreme
accidents, driving at
night with no lights.



Sinai sights. Mitla Pass in central western Sinai, sanded over road, shepherd with sheep flock in small oasis.



Growth in Sinai being fueled by new industry such as this cement making factory and continued revenue from the Canal.





Canals being built in Sinai will bring water from the Nile to "green the desert".





Coptic church in Rafah destroyed during recent uprising. Abandoned, no effort made to rebuilt due to instability.

Tunnel built under Rafah border crossing into Gaza, used to smuggle people, arms, and goods into Palestine territory from Egypt.





Taba crossing zone between Israel and Egypt. Entrance to zone from Israel side and entrance from Egypt side.





Bedouin Tribes in Sinai:

Noted for Hospitality

Not so careful with water