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ACCESSIBILITY MAPS TO SELECTED ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND TOURISTIC SITES IN SOUTH SINAI, EGYPT USING SATELLITE IMAGES

Salwa F. Elbeih and El-Sayed A. Zaghloul

Engineering Applications and Water Division, National Authority for Remote Sensing and Space Sciences, Egypt –
saelbeih@narss.sci.eg; ezaghloul@narss.sci.eg

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Abstract

South Sinai is one of the most spectacularly beautiful landscapes in Egypt and perhaps even in the world. It is rich with a lot of archaeological and touristic attractive sites that represent one of the most important sources for the national income and one of the most essential ways to develop this precious part of Egypt. As an example for Pharaonic sites there is Serabit El – Khadem temple and ancient copper and turquoise mines near Abu Zenima. Coptic sites such as Saint Catherine of Mount Sinai in addition to Islamic sites such as Salah El – Deen Citadel in Pharaoh's Island, Gulf of Aqaba. Also many rock inscriptions and Graffiti were recorded along Wadi Mokattab. The most impressive feature is Nawamees of Wadi Saal and Catherine areas. In addition to these archaeological and cultural sites there are recreational sites, such as Taba, Sharm El- Sheikh, Neuwiba, and Tor Sinai.

The main aim of this paper is to produce accessibility maps for selected archaeological and touristic sites in South Sinai Governorate. The accessibility map for each site includes a 2-D path to the site overlaid over a SPOT 4 satellite image, a 3-D view and vertical profile to the site and a brief scientific description of the site. This preliminary step is required for producing an Atlas for the cultural heritage for touristic and cultural sites in Sinai Peninsula. This research is mainly based on satellite remote sensing images, topographic maps and field photos in addition to a summary of scientific description for producing accessibility maps for some representative sites.