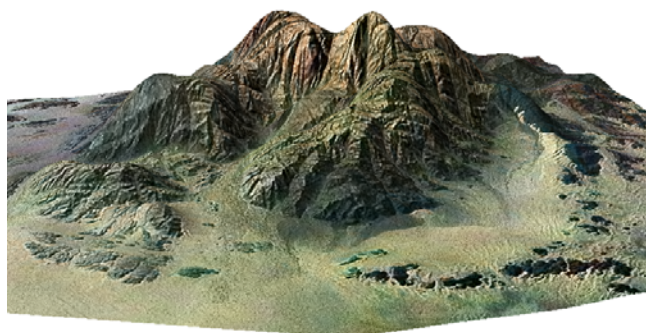


## Gabel Elba



Gabel Elba Chains is the most importance mountain in the Eastern Desert .GEC is located in the southeast corner of the Eastern Desert and encompasses a total area of some 1,100 km<sup>2</sup>. It is located between the longitudes 22°00'N - 22°17'N, and the latitudes 36°10'E - 36°35'E. This include Gabel EL shalal (1409 m),Gabel Ostriba (1000 m),Gabel shendeib (1911 m) , Gabel Sol Hamed & Gash Amer (599 m & 724 m),Gabel Hankoof (1430 m), Gabel Eic (1593 m) and Gabel Elba (1436 m) , the famous one in the whole area which it is regime occupied about 260 km<sup>2</sup> .Along GE there is many wades penetrates it towards the eastward like wadi aedieb , yahmeb and wadi sara srmati .



One of the most prominent features of the area is Gabal Elba. Due its closeness to the sea and favourable position in the face of moisture-laden northeast winds, Gabal Elba enjoys a higher precipitation than the other Red Sea Mountains in the region. The summit of Gabal Elba is a "mist oasis" where a considerable part of precipitation is contributed in the form of dew or mist and clouds, creating a unique and rare ecosystem, not found anywhere else in Egypt.



Gabal Elba is a “biodiversity hotspot” supporting a biological diversity unparalleled in any other terrestrial environment in Egypt. Many Afrotropical elements have their northern limits at Gabal Elba. The relative abundance of moisture allows a diverse flora to exist; some 458 plant species are known from Gabel Elba, representing almost 25% of plant species recorded in the country. On and at the base of the mountain there is dense cover of acacias and other scrubs which is the only natural woodland in Egypt.



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