

Before or after the safari

From which port does the liveaboard start?

The liveaboard trips start either in Hurghada or Port Ghalib.

To which airport do I have to travel?

For safaris from Hurghada also the airport Hurghada (HRG) should be chosen. For departures from Port Ghalib, the airport Marsa Alam (RMF) is recommended, but flights to Hurghada with subsequent transfer to Port Ghalib are also possible (duration about 3.5 hours).

When is check-in or check-out on the ship?

The ship is ready for boarding at about 15:00h on the day of arrival, check-out on the last day at 9:00h in the morning and subsequent transport to the airport. A late arrival due to a late flight on the day of arrival is also possible. In case of a late flight back to Europe, we recommend booking a budget day room in one of the surrounding hotels.

When will the ship return to the port at the end of the safari?

The ship is back on the penultimate day of the safari around noon. The last night is spent on board, the ship is anchored at the pier. So you can go ashore, stroll or enjoy a drink in one of the surrounding bars.

How am I received at the airport or do I come to the ship?

Upon arrival in Hurghada or Marsa Alam, guests are welcomed by our friendly staff and taken to the port.

When will my passport and flight details be needed?

To apply for a diving permit with the Egyptian authorities, we need your passport copy and flight times (for short-term bookings at least 1 week before departure). The passport must be valid for at least 6 months upon arrival in Egypt. In case of non-compliance, we assume no liability if there are delays in the departure.

Diving

Which dive training do I need?

You need an Advanced Open Water, Open Water Diver with Deep Dive or CMAS ** certificate. It is important that you can dive safely and have at least 50 dives. For St. Johns safaris a minimum number of 30 dives is required.

Is there a minimum number of dives required?

Diving safaris are all about diving. Therefore, you should have a minimum of 50 dives, the last dive should not be more than 12 months ago.

Do I need a dive computer?

Yes, diving with a computer is mandatory. If you do not have your own dive computer, you can borrow a computer on board against advance notice and fee.

How many dives are offered per day?

In general, 3 dives per day and, if possible, night dives are offered (first and last day of the liveaboard: 2 to 3 dives). On the arrival and departure (Thursday) there is no diving.

Are night dives offered?

Depending on the route, night dives are also offered. Please note that on some tours, night dives are prohibited due to official regulations (e.g. in all national park areas such as the Brothers, Daedalus and Elphinstone).

Is there nitrox on board?

Yes, we are using EAN 28-30% on board and offer free of charge to certified divers. Please note, that free Nitrox fillings are a voluntary additional benefit of the liveaboard and there is no monetary refund if the Nitrox system fails. A Nitrox course can also be arranged on board.

Is one accompanied by dive guides when diving?

On board there are 2-3 dive guides and usually the group is accompanied by a guide. Experienced divers can dive as a buddy team (if confirmed by the guide). Solo diving is not allowed.

Are diving courses offered on board?

Diving courses on board are possible upon pre-booking and on request. Please note that we do not offer Open Water courses on board. For prices refer to the on-board pricelist.

What is the max. depth and max. dive time?

40 meters, 60 minutes. We hardly recommend not doing deco dives for your own safety.

Is the diving done by boat or by zodiac?

Diving is done either by zodiac or from the diving platform. Most dive sites are nearby.

Which tanks are on board?

12 liter (80cu) aluminium bottles (DIN / INT connection). 15 liter steel bottles are available if booked in advance and at costs of € 40, - per week. For smaller people with less air consumption, there are two 10 liter (60cu) bottles on board.

Do I need a dive insurance?

A corresponding diving accident insurance is highly recommended. Because as in any sport, there are also certain risks when diving. In the case of a diving accident, not all insurance companies cover the costs for a pressure chamber treatment. We therefore recommend that you book an insurance (e.g. with AQUA MED or DAN).

Are there any special safety systems on board?

- Medical oxygen with freeflow and demand valve on the dive deck.
- Fully equipped first aid box.
- AED (automated external defibrillator).
- 2 inflatable life rafts on the deck.
- Lifebuoys.
- Life jackets for every guest in the cabins.
- Smoke detector in every cabin, every restaurant and salon.
- Fire extinguishers in the hallways and on each deck.
- Emergency signals.
- GPS (Global Positioning System).
- Epirb (emergency position indicator).
- Sart (search and rescue transponder).
- ENOS (divers rescue system)

What is the water temperature?

In the winter months of December-April, the water temperature is about 21-26 degrees.

In the summer and autumn May - November about 25 - 29 degrees.

Are there strong currents?

There may be some currents at some dive sites (e.g Brothers, Daedalus). Normally in Egypt, the currents are less strong than in Indonesia or the Maldives. In general, however, you should have experience in drift diving on a safari. A deco / buoy per diver is mandatory for your own safety.

Is it possible to go snorkeling?

Depending on the route and the dive site, snorkeling is also possible on some reefs - after consultation with the guide. Please note that liveboards are primarily aimed at divers and unsuitable for non-divers/snorkelers. Snorkelling is generally prohibited on some reefs due to regulations of port authorities (including Brothers, Daedalus, Elphinstone, Rocky etc.).

Diving equipment

Which diving equipment do I need?

Own well maintained complete equipment, as i.e. regulator set, bcd, suit, abc, dive computer, SMB (buoy), dive light for night dives, weight belt (if not integrated in the jacket), replacement mask and fin band, spare O-rings, travel kit for 1st and 2nd stage, silicone grease, eventually camera.

Which diving suit do I need?

In the water, the body cools much faster than on land, so basically: rather wear a little warmer than to freeze. The colder the water, the thicker the wetsuit should be. In winter (January-March), the water temperature can drop down to 21 degrees, so here is a 7mm suit recommended. In the summer months, the temperature reaches 27-29 degrees, so a 5 or 3mm suit or a shorty might be sufficient. Ultimately, every diver has to decide for himself which suit is right for him.

Is there rental equipment on board?

Yes, rental equipment is available on board. Please reserve the required equipment in advance with the exact details of the required sizes. Please check the on-board price list for more information. If you want to rent the complete equipment incl. dive computer, this costs € 170, - per person / week.

Is sidemount diving possible?

Yes, you should bring your own rigging set. If a second bottle is needed for sidemount diving, it costs € 40,- extra per week.

Are double tanks offered?

No, they are not offered.

Which valves (DIN / INT) are available?

All scuba tanks are equipped with DIN valves. INT adapters are available.

Are there storage options for my camera?

The ship has a large camera table, as well as sinks with fresh water for your camera. Very large housings / cameras should be stored in your cabin.

Ship

What happens when I arrive on board?

You will be greeted by our cruise director and his crew, stow your scuba gear and luggage, and familiarize yourself with the ship. In addition, you will receive a boat briefing.

Which meals are offered? Which drinks are served?

Tasty and rich meals are served buffet style three times a day. Afternoon snacks as well as coffee, tea, water and soft drinks are also included in the price. For an additional fee, local wines, premium coffee, beers and canned drinks are available. The meal service starts with dinner on the first day and ends with breakfast on the last day. Please note that in case of a late arrival on the day of check-in (arrival on board after 9 PM), no warm meals can be served.

Please note that the availability of vegan and gluten-free food in Egypt is very limited compared to the diverse selection in Europe, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Unfortunately, for this reason, we cannot offer vegan dishes on board.

What should be noted in the cabin?

The cabins are used for sleeping and relaxing. All cabins have their own air conditioning, fresh air supply,

minibar, safe and TV, as well as a private bathroom. Please do not throw used toilet paper or other hygienic products into the toilet, but use the appropriate containers, as otherwise blockages of the toilets may occur. Smoking is prohibited in the cabins.

What should be considered in the salon?

Here you will find a library, a lounge area, fish ID books, refrigerators with refrigerated drinks and a television for the briefings. Smoking is not allowed in the salon.

May I smoke on board?

Yes, but only outside and in certain places (you will get information during the boat briefing). Please be considerate of non-smokers traveling with you!

Can I sleep on the deck of the ship?

Yes, please note that the nights can be cool. Please bring your own sleeping bag.

Which language is spoken on board?

The board language is English. Some of the guides also speak some German.

What is the voltage? Which sockets are available?

The standard voltage on the boat and in the cabins is 230 V / 50 Hz. The sockets comply with the European standard.

Are there towels on board?

Yes.

Are there bathrobes on board?

Yes.

Is there WIFI on board?

Yes, Wi-Fi is included in the price. The reception and the signal strength depends on the route and the location of the ship. At many dive sites further away from the mainland there is no Wi-Fi signal and no telephone reception!

Which windows have the cabins (portholes, etc.), can the windows be opened?

All cabins have large windows. In all main and upper deck cabins, there is a window in the bathroom, which can be opened. In addition, the doors can be opened for fresh air. All other windows as well as the windows of the lower deck cabins cannot be opened, but there is a fresh-air ventilation system installed.

Is there an air conditioning in the cabin, is it individually adjustable?

All cabins have individually controlled air conditioning.

What kind of beds are there in the cabins?

We offer single beds of 195 * 100cm, double beds of 180 * 195cm and in the Royal Suite a double bed of 200x200cm. All beds have high-quality, antibacterial and hypoallergenic cold foam or latex mattresses. Please select the cabin and bedding when booking the safari.

General

What does the dive safari include?

- Accommodation in a double cabin
- Transfer from / to Egypt airport (Surcharge for transfer from Hurghada on south tours from / to Port Ghalib € 25, - per person and way)
- Full board (the meal service starts with dinner on the first day and ends with breakfast on the last day)
- Soft drinks, water, tea and coffee

- Diving (about 3-4 dives daily, on the first and last day on sea about 2 dives)
- Tank, weights, dive guide
- WIFI (Internet network coverage required)
- Nitrox 28 (for certified Nitrox divers)
- ENOS (safety system for divers)

What is not included in the price?

- Egypt entry visa € 30, - per person (please reserve in advance, alternatively the visa is available at the airport)
- Flight to Marsa Alam or Hurghada
- Local fees € 220,- per person and tour (payable locally)
- canned drinks, premium coffee and alcohol
- Diving courses (by appointment and on request)
- Equipment rental (by appointment and on request): € 170, - for the complete equipment incl. dive computer, for single prices refer to the on-board price list.

How can I pay on board?

Euro, US Dollar, Egyptian Pounds, credit card (Visa / Mastercard, plus 3% credit card surcharge).

How much tip is appropriate?

We believe that gratuities are voluntary and should be based on the quality of services. Once you are on board, you will quickly realize how hard the 13-person crew, 2-3 dive guides plus captain (next to the land-based crew) are working and that your safety and satisfaction is the main concern of our team. Many of our guests pay a tip of 5-10€ for each crewmember, sometimes even more. We want to point out, that this is done on a voluntary basis! Tips are only accepted in cash. If you are ever dissatisfied with us, please let us know. We will try to solve the problem as soon as possible.

Are land excursions offered?

No, except for Daedalus. Here you can usually take a short tour of the lighthouse.

Is there medication on board?

Yes, but only for minor injuries / mild illnesses (e.g., painkillers, anti-seasickness, etc.). If you require specific medication, you need to bring it yourself. Of course we have an extensive first aid kit on board.

Is it possible to extend the stay after the safari?

Combine your stay on the MY Red Sea Explorer with a hotel stay or one of our Extra Divers dive centres in Egypt! The centre of the Extra Divers Ghalib is only a few meters from the mooring of the ship (for departures in Port Ghalib).

Can I book two safaris in a row?

Yes. Please talk to your tour operator.

Contact number for emergencies or for flight delays

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