

Brothers, Daedalus & Elphinstone

7 nights - Red Sea itinerary

- **Embarkation:** Marriott Resort Marina, Hurghada **OR** Port Ghalib Marina
- Embarkation time: 18:00 only
- **Disembarkation:** Marriott Resort Marina, Hurghada **OR** Port Ghalib Marina
- Disembarkation time: between 09:00 - 10:00

IMPORTANT: The majority of Brothers, Daedalus and Elphinstone itineraries start and end in Hurghada. However, some may start or end in Port Ghalib. *Please refer to our schedules and check your booking confirmation for embarkation and disembarkation locations for your chosen dates.*

Flights

We recommend booking flights to and from Hurghada International Airport (HRG) which is served by many direct scheduled and charter flights from the UK and much of Europe, as well as several flights per day from Cairo (CAI).

Transfers

We provide a complimentary shared transfer between Hurghada Airport, or a local hotel in Hurghada and the Marriott Marina (or Port Ghalib where applicable) on embarkation and disembarkation days only.

Arrivals

Guests arriving in Hurghada in the morning* or early afternoon on embarkation day will be transferred to the Marriott Resort (approximately 15 minutes from the airport) where they can use the beach until embarkation at 18:00 or the afternoon transfer to Port Ghalib.**

***PLEASE NOTE:** Guests arriving earlier than 08:00 a.m. on embarkation day are advised to book a hotel room and arrange transport from the airport to the hotel.

****Transfer** between Hurghada and Port Ghalib takes approximately 3 - 3.5 hours

Departures

Guests departing from Hurghada Airport on afternoon or evening flights can wait at the Marriott Resort in Hurghada before being transferred to the airport in time for check-in.

Transfers earlier than 09:00 a.m. will be charged. Guests with early morning flight departures are advised to disembark the evening before and make hotel arrangements.

Marine & Port Fees:

Governmental Reef Tax is 90 USD per person. These fees will be added to your invoice to be paid in advance.

Minimum dive certification and experience:

Due to the exposed nature of some of the diving locations and possible strong currents, some elements of this itinerary are not suitable for inexperienced divers.

The minimum requirement for divers wishing to join this itinerary is PADI **Open Water Diver certification**, or equivalent with **at least 30 logged dives**.

Guests who do not fulfil these minimum requirements, or who the crew feel have insufficient experience in certain conditions, may be denied participation in some or all dives.

All divers must have insurance which covers scuba diving activities, including emergency evacuation and recompression chamber costs.

Itinerary details

Participation in this liveaboard itinerary is subject to acceptance of our Terms & Conditions as outlined here: <https://masterliveaboards.com/terms-conditions/>

Due to the distances between the ports and each of the main diving areas, this itinerary involves two or three overnight sailings.

Number of scheduled dives: Up to 18

While we endeavour to ensure the number of scheduled dives is fulfilled, this is only indicative, and not guaranteed. Various factors can impact the vessel's ability to reach, or remain at a specific location and may affect the number of dives possible and the diving locations.

Safety and dive briefings are conducted in English. If you or any of your group do not speak or fully understand English, please let us know in advance.

The following is an example of the day-to-day itinerary.

Day 1: Embarkation at 18:00 followed by dinner and orientation briefings.

Day 2: Three dives at sites close to the embarkation port (a morning check dive, practice zodiac dive and a sunset or night dive) before heading out to the first marine park.

Days 3-6: Normally you will have the opportunity for three dives per day; A sunset or night dive may also be offered where permitted, but is not guaranteed.

A typical diving day is scheduled as follows:

- Briefing & Dive 1
- Breakfast, relaxation period, briefing & Dive 2
- Lunch, relaxation period, briefing & Dive 3
- Snack, relaxation period, briefing & Dive 4 (no night dives in the marine parks)
- Dinner

Day 7: Two morning dives* local to the disembarkation area before cruising into harbour in the early afternoon. Take advantage of an evening onshore to purchase souvenirs and enjoy Egypt's famous hospitality before your journey home the next day.

Day 8: Breakfast on board is followed by disembarkation between 09:00 and 10:00 a.m.

**We kindly request that guests check their flight departure times to ensure they leave at least 18 hours (ideally 24 hours) between their final dive and their flight home.*

We wish to show you the best diving possible and various factors determine which sites are selected to dive on each trip and how much time is spent at each location, including but not limited to weather, tides, currents, how many other dive vessels are at a particular site and restrictions that may be imposed, at short notice, by the Marine Park authorities.

Disclaimer: This information is only a general indication of the main areas covered on this itinerary; The inclusion of specifically named dive sites is not guaranteed. Additionally, **there will be dives at other locations along the itinerary route** that are not listed below.

The amount of time and number of dives in each area depends on the itinerary route, park authority restrictions, season and the presence, or lack of specific marine life.

Brother Islands

The northernmost part of Egypt's offshore marine park comprises two islands 60 km from the coast and 140 km south of Hurghada. Big Brother, the larger island, (complete with a lighthouse from 1883) is 400 metres long with a spectacular plateau on the southeast corner, dotted with coral mountains and famous for thresher and grey reef shark sightings.

On the western side of Big Brother are two impressive wrecks both positioned almost vertically beside the reef. The most spectacular is the Numidia, a large cargo steamer that sank in 1901 and now lies at the northern tip of the island between 10-80 metres, is covered in soft corals and frequented by large pelagic predators. The smaller wreck of the Aida was a lighthouse authority supply vessel which sank in bad weather in 1957 and now rests on the northwest side of the island between 28-60 metres.

Small Brother Island is a little over 200 metres long but hosts an incredible concentration and variety of marine life. There is a pristine fan coral forest, a massive collection of hard and soft corals and compelling overhangs to explore. The main attraction is the abundant pelagic marine life with regular, seasonal sightings of hammerhead, thresher, grey reef and oceanic whitetip sharks.

Daedalus Reef

This huge tear-drop-shaped reef rises from the sea bed in the middle of the Red Sea, 80km offshore and more than 300km south of Hurghada. Easily recognised by its zebra-striped lighthouse, this reef offers some of the most amazing dives in the Red Sea. The sheer walls are covered in overgrown hard coral formations and a variety of reef fish. Napoleon wrasses and turtles are often seen cruising by, but be sure to keep your eyes on the blue too. Daedalus is one of those places where anything can happen!

Oceanic white tip, grey reef and thresher sharks are often spotted here, but Daedalus is most famous for the scalloped hammerhead sharks which can often be seen in large schools out in the blue during the summer months. The sheer size of this reef means that you can do several dives here and never get bored!

Elphinstone

A Red Sea legend, this isolated, long, finger-shaped reef, lies in open ocean 12 kilometres offshore between Port Ghalib and Marsa Alam. Due to its location and exposed nature currents are to be expected, which are often strong and can be unpredictable, but with them come rich rewards.

With north and south plateaus covered in hard and soft corals and stunning walls reaching depths of 40+ metres, diving here can be challenging and exhilarating. Grey reef sharks and Napoleon wrasses are regularly spotted in the summer, and occasionally Scalloped Hammerheads and oceanic whitetip sharks often congregate in vast numbers during late autumn.

Should you have any questions concerning the dive sites or whether this itinerary is suitable for you, please contact our reservations team dive@masterliveboards.com who will be pleased to assist and advise you.