

Brothers, Safaga & 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, Safaga 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

The liveboard price includes a 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 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/>

Number of scheduled dives: Up to 19

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

Due to the distances covered between Hurghada, Brothers and Elphinstone, this itinerary involves two or three overnight sailings.

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: Visit dive sites local to the embarkation port for three dives (a morning check dive, practice zodiac dive and a sunset or night dive) before heading out to the marine parks.

Day 3-6: We normally plan a day each at the Brother Islands and Elphinstone Reef, and two days in the Safaga area. Normally you will have the opportunity for three dives per day at Elphinstone and Brothers (night dives are not permitted in the marine parks), and three dives a day and a night dive at Safaga.

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 (where permitted)
- Dinner

Day 7: Enjoy two relaxed 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.*

Following is an overview of the areas covered on this itinerary.

While we wish to show you the best diving possible, several factors determine the exact route the boat takes, and which dive sites we visit. Weather, tides, currents and how many other dive vessels are at a particular site influence the Cruise Director's and Captain's decision of where the boat goes each day and which sites are selected for diving.

The safety of all on board is paramount and we always do our best to offer diving at alternative locations should we be unable to visit those listed below.

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.

Safaga

Boasting a variety of stunning drop-offs, shallow coral gardens and interesting wrecks, Safaga offers something for everyone. The most famous wreck is 'Salem Express', a 115 metre long, 18 metre wide passenger ferry, which sank in 1991 with massive loss of life. There are also the wrecks of two other large ferries, El Arish (El Tor) and Al Kahfain, which both sank without any lives lost following engine room fires. The famous finger-shaped reefs of Abu Kafan and Panorama offer plentiful corals and incredible plateaus; Shallower reefs (such as Torbia Arbaa) are full of critters and make a perfect afternoon or night dive.

Abu Kafan

Safaga's most famous reef combines two stunning plateaus (North and South) featuring spectacular walls on the east and west. With some of the best coral found anywhere in the Red Sea, and a cacophony of wildlife (including massive schools of fish and the occasional pelagic visitor), this reef is a treat for any diver.

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 regarding the diving or whether this itinerary is suitable for your experience level, please contact our reservations team dive@masterliveboards.com who will be pleased to assist and advise you.