

Brothers, Safaga & Elphinstone

7 nights - Red Sea itinerary

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

Transfers from and to Hurghada Airport (HRG) or Marsa Alam Airport (RMF) on embarkation and disembarkation days are included in the cruise price. Transfer times from/to Hurghada Airport:

- Hurghada Marriott Marina: 15 mins
- Port Ghalib: 4 - 4.5 hours

Transfers to hotels and resorts outside of the local area can be arranged for an additional charge.

Marine & Port Fees:

Governmental Reef Tax is 80 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 and possible strong currents, some elements of this itinerary are not suitable for inexperienced divers.

Divers wishing to join this itinerary are required to be certified as minimum PADI **Open Water certification**, or equivalent, and are required to have a **minimum of 30 logged dives**.

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

It is a mandatory requirement for all divers to have insurance which covers scuba diving activities, including emergency evacuation and recompression chamber costs.

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

Itinerary details

Number of scheduled dives: Up to 19

Whilst we attempt to ensure the number of dives indicated above is fulfilled, this is only indicative, and not guaranteed. A number of factors can hinder the vessel's ability to reach, or remain at a specific area and may therefore affect the number of dives possible.

Due to the distances covered, there will be two or three overnight sailings on this itinerary.

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

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

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

Day 2: Visit dive sites local to your departure port for three dives (a check dive, practice zodiac dive and night dive) before heading out to the marine parks.

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

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: After a week of drop-offs, enjoy two relaxed morning dives* local to your arrival port allowing you to cruise 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: Following breakfast on board, disembarkation is scheduled for between 09:00 and 10:00.

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

While we wish to show you the very best diving possible, a number of factors determine which route the yacht takes and which dive sites we are able to 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 which route the boat takes and which sites are selected for diving.

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

Following is a sample of dive sites which we may visit during your time aboard.

Guests are welcome to suggest preferred dive sites to the Cruise Director. He/she will be happy to accommodate guests' wishes, providing it is possible and the schedule allows for it.

Brother Islands

The northernmost part of Egypt's offshore marine park is made up of two islands 60 km away from the coast and 140 km south of Hurghada. Big Brother, the larger island (complete with a lighthouse from 1883) is 400 m long with a spectacular plateau on the southeast corner which is dotted with coral mountains and famous for thresher and grey reef shark sightings. The western side of the island has two impressive wrecks which both lie almost vertical on the side of the reef.

The most spectacular wreck is the Numidia, a large cargo steamer which sank in 1901 and now lies on the tip of the island between 10 and 80 m covered in soft corals and frequented by large pelagic predators.

The smaller wreck of the Aida (sitting between 30 and 65 metres) was a lighthouse authority supply vessel which sank in bad weather in 1957.

Small Brother Island is only a little over 200 m 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 life; with regular seasonal sightings of hammerhead, thresher, grey reef and oceanic whitetip sharks.

Safaga

Filled with 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 large ferry, which sank in 1991 with massive loss of life. There are also the large ferry wrecks of El Arish El Tor and Al Kafain, which both sank without any lives lost. The famous finger-shaped reefs of Abu Kafan and Panorama offer stunning drop-offs with plentiful fan corals and incredible plateaus encrusted with soft and hard corals. 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 dive combines two stunning plateaus (North and South) with spectacular wall dives on the east and west. With some of the best coral to be 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 finger-shaped reef, with north and south plateaus covered in hard and soft corals is both unpredictable and exciting. This is truly an awesome reef where grey reef sharks and Napoleon wrasses are regularly spotted in the summer 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 your experience level, please contact our reservations team dive@masterliveaboards.com who will be pleased to assist and advise you.