

North & Safaga

7 nights - Red Sea itinerary

- **Embarkation:** Marriott Resort Marina, Hurghada at 18:00 only
- **Disembarkation:** Marriott Resort Marina, Hurghada between 09:00 and 10:00

Flights

Book 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 liveaboard price includes a shared transfer between Hurghada Airport or a local hotel, and the Marriott Resort Marina on embarkation and disembarkation days only. Transfers on other days or from/to other locations can be arranged for an extra cost.

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.

***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.

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, possible strong currents and dive depths, 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 certification**, or equivalent, with **at least 10 logged dives***

***PLEASE NOTE:** Due to local legislation, *you must have a minimum of 20 logged dives to dive on the SS Thistlegorm wreck*. Other dives on this itinerary are not affected by these regulations.

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 21

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.

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.

Following is an example of the day-to-day itinerary.

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

Day 2: A morning check dive close to Hurghada before heading north for an afternoon and night dive.

Day 3-6: Normally, you will have the opportunity to make three day dives and a night dive each day, typically scheduled as follows:

- Briefing & Dive 1
- Breakfast, relaxation period, briefing & Dive 2
- Lunch, relaxation period, briefing & Dive 3
- Snack, relaxation period, briefing & Dive 4
- Dinner

The exact itinerary and order of dive sites will vary depending on the conditions but you can expect to visit plenty of wrecks including Thistlegorm, Dunraven, Giannis D, Carnatic and potentially more. There is also some fantastic reef diving including the Ras Mohamed marine park, Danaba (Shag Rock), Sha'ab El Erg (famous for dolphin encounters) and the Islands of Gubal.

Day 7: Two relaxed morning dives* close to Hurghada before cruising into the 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 followed by disembarkation between 09:00 and 10:00.

**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.*

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.

Following is an overview of the areas covered and some of the dive sites that may be included on this itinerary.

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.

Ras Mohamed - Shark & Yolanda Reefs

This world-renowned dive site is situated at the tip of the Sinai Peninsula. Two small ergs are joined by a vertical wall dropping into the abyss. At Shark Reef, the current allows you to drift along the wall, rich with colourful corals. Moving towards Yolanda Reef you reach a plateau scattered with small ergs and coral outcrops. Continuing around the reef you will come upon the scattered remains of the wreck 'Yolanda' complete with its cargo of toilets and baths. The entire area is big fish territory so keep an eye on the blue!

Sha'ab Mahmoud - Small Crack

This is a small split in the middle of Sha'ab Mahmoud's barrier. Drift along the outside wall next to beautiful corals and colourful fish. Look for a sand slope that leads you up and through the crack. When the current is right you can fly through the 5m deep channel and be thrown out across the sandy lagoon!

Danaba – Shag Rock

This large circular reef is often overlooked but offers excellent diving on pristine coral from any location on its perimeter. Weather permitting, you can dive the wreck of the Kingston which sank in 1881 and has become part of the reef and is now covered in hard corals.

SS Thistlegorm

Probably the most famous of the Red Sea wrecks, the 129m English freighter was bombed by German aviation on 6 October 1941 and sank as a result. Today she rests, listing to her port side, on the sandy seabed at a maximum depth of 32 metres. Not only does she hold a treasure trove of WWII munitions and military vehicles but, as an artificial reef, she has also become home to a vast variety of marine life and is especially popular with large schooling fish, as well as divers.

Please note: Local legislation dictates divers must have a minimum of 20 logged dives to dive on the Thistlegorm.

Gubal Islands

'**Bluff Point**', at the gate of the Strait of Gubal, gets its name from the turbulence created by strong currents that batter the northeastern corner of Little Gubal island. The wreck of **the Ulysses** lies on the reef 300 metres north of the lighthouse, starting at 5 metres and sloping down to 25m. '**The Barge**' wreck provides divers with a fun and unusual night dive with the wreck's skeleton creating protection for all sorts of night critters.

Abu Nuhas

Also known as the '**Ship's Graveyard**', Abu Nuhas is positioned dangerously close to the busy shipping lanes of the Gulf of Suez and has claimed more ships than any other in the area. On the north side of the triangle-shaped plateau, four wrecks lay on the sandy sea floor at the bottom of a steep sloping reef layered with table corals. Wrecks here include the Ghiannis D, Carnatic (Wine Wreck), Chrisoula K (Tile Wreck) and Kimon M (Lentil Wreck). On the south side, there is a safe anchorage for liveaboards and two ergs, known as Yellow Fish Reef.

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 marine life (including massive schools of fish and the occasional pelagic visitor), this reef is a treat for any diver.

Gota Abu Ramada

Gota Abu Ramada is a shallow, oval-shaped reef that slopes steeply from the surface to a sandy bottom at around 15 metres. Also known as **The Aquarium** due to the abundance of marine life it hosts including parrotfish, pairs of yellow butterflyfish, large schools of goatfish, yellowtail barracuda and blackspotted sweetlips. The sand is dotted with small coral bommies.

Siyul Kebir

This island is surrounded by a beautiful reef that is famous for its critters and can surprise us with larger visitors. With regular frogfish sightings and the opportunity to see rare pipefish, shrimp, sea moths and marbled snake eels, this site is a dream for macro lovers. Pods of dolphins often visit and the resident Zebra Shark is seen from time to time. By night, slipper lobsters and many types of crustaceans can be seen surrounded by a forest of basket stars, a real treat!

Sha'ab El Erg

Famous for its dolphin sightings (therefore also known as **Dolphin House**), this shallow, horseshoe-shaped reef features stunning hard corals and a huge variety of moray eels, blue spotted stingrays, crocodile fish and napoleon wrasse. Also located at Sha'ab El Erg, the reef and pinnacles of **Poseidon Garden** are covered with abundant large corals and clams of all sizes and colours. Masked pufferfish, large shoals of bannerfish and butterfly fish, and trevally are just a few of the many fish species found here.

Should you have any questions regarding the diving or whether this itinerary is suitable for your experience level, please contact our reservations team dive@masterliveaboards.com