

# Rocky, Zabargad & St. Johns

## 7 nights - Red Sea itinerary

- **Embarkation:** Port Ghalib Marina at 18:00 only
- **Disembarkation:** Port Ghalib Marina between 09:00 - 10:00
- **Arrival airport:** Hurghada (HRG) or Marsa Alam (RMF)
- **Departure airport:** Hurghada (HRG) or Marsa Alam (RMF)

### Flights

We generally 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).

Marsa Alam is served by direct flights from London Gatwick, some areas of Europe, and Cairo, although they are not as frequent as Hurghada flights and may not align with embarkation or disembarkation days.

### Transfers

We provide a complimentary shared transfer between your arrival and departure airport, or a local hotel and Port Ghalib Marina on embarkation and disembarkation days only. Transfers on other days or from/to locations that are not on the route between Hurghada and Port Ghalib can be arranged for an extra cost.

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

Transfer time between Marsa Alam Airport and Port Ghalib Marina is about 15 minutes.

### Arrival Transfers

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

Depending on arrival time, guests flying into Marsa Alam on embarkation day will either be transferred directly to the liveaboard or will be able to store their luggage on the boat and spend some time at Port Ghalib Marina where they can enjoy the cafes, restaurants and shops before 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. They will then be picked up from the hotel later in the day for transfer to Port Ghalib Marina.

## Departure Transfers

The included shared transfer from Port Ghalib Marina is between 09:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. Guests departing from Hurghada Airport on evening flights can wait at the Marriott Resort in Hurghada before being transferred to Hurghada Airport.

Transfers earlier than 09:00 a.m. will be charged.

## Marine & Port Fees:

Governmental Reef Tax is 90 USD per person. These obligatory 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 dive sites and possible strong currents, some elements of this itinerary may not be 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 18

While we endeavour to ensure the number of dives indicated above 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 impact 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 before you arrive.**

The following is an example of the day-to-day itinerary. Typically, where we are able to schedule 4 dives a day, they will be organised 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 1:** Embarkation at 18:00 followed by dinner and orientation briefings.

**Day 2:** A morning check dive at a site local to Port Ghalib before heading south for an afternoon dive en route to the marine parks.

**Day 3-5:** Three days spent between Rocky and Zabargad Islands and the reefs of St John's.

**Day 6:** A relaxed day of four easy dives at Fury Shoals.

**Day 7\*:** After an early morning dive at Elphinstone, enjoy a relaxed dive local to Port Ghalib before we cruise 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:** Following breakfast on board, disembarkation is 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.*

Following is an overview of the areas usually covered by this itinerary.

While we wish to show you the very best diving possible, various factors determine the 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 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 to offer diving at alternative locations should we be unable to visit any of those listed below.

### Rocky Island

Rocky Island hosts a fringing reef that circles the entire perimeter of the island, dropping steeply to astonishing depths. Keep your eyes on the blue for life but take care as there can be strong currents.

### Zabargad Island

The island of Zabargad is an amazing dive spot. It is characterised by an enormous mountain reaching out of the water, surrounded by a lagoon and circling reef. There are a couple of wrecks, such as The Khanka (better known as the Russian wreck; a Russian spy ship) and a great variety of corals and reef fish.

### St. John's

The last frontier of the Egyptian Red Sea, St John's is a huge cluster of reefs covering an area of roughly 290 square kilometres. Between them, the reefs boast many stunning dive sites offering a lot of variety with drop-offs, tunnels, caverns, overhangs, deep walls and stunning coral formations. One of these (Cave Reef, or Umm Kharalim) is truly unique and is a photographer's heaven with rays of light filtering through into the beautiful tunnels. The reef formation is not the only thing that will stun you at St. John's; the marine life and colours of the soft corals are some of the best in the Red Sea. With any luck, dolphins or sharks will join you on your dives and St. John's will forever have a place in your heart.

### Fury Shoals

This large group of reefs offers spectacular and mostly easy dives. From the northern side of Small Abu Galawa to its southernmost site of Sataya, Fury Shoals can be surprising and diverse with dives ranging from shallow, sheltered reefs to sheer drop-offs and fast drifts. Each dive site has its particularity; from dolphins to stunning hard coral formations. For added variety, there are two nice little wrecks: Tien Hsing (Tug Boat) at Abu Galawa Kebira and the 'Yacht' at Abu Galawa Soghayr.

## 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](mailto:dive@masterliveboards.com) who will be pleased to assist and advise you.