

# Egypt - Red Sea

# Trip Information

# Hurghada to Port Ghalib itinerary

- Arrival airport: Hurghada (HRG) or Marsa Alam (RMF)
- **Departure airport:** Hurghada (HRG) or Marsa Alam (RMF)
- Embarkation: Marriott Resort Marina, Hurghada
- **Disembarkation:** Port Ghalib Marina, Marsa Alam

# Port Ghalib to Hurghada itinerary

- Arrival airport: Hurghada (HRG) or Marsa Alam (RMF)
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- Embarkation: Port Ghalib Marina, Marsa Alam
- **Disembarkation:** Marriott Resort Marina, Hurghada

# 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 the airport, or local hotel in Hurghada and the Marriott Marina on the days of embarkation and disembarkation only. Transfers on other days or from/to other locations can be arranged for an extra cost.

Transfer time between Hurghada Airport and Hurghada Marriott Marina, or Marsa Alam Airport and Port Ghalib Marina takes approximately 15 minutes.

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

Guests arriving in the morning or early afternoon on embarkation day for itineraries which start from Hurghada will be transferred to the Marriott Resort where they can use the beach until embarkation at 18:00. For embarkation in Port Ghalib, depending on flight arrival time into Hurghada, guests will either be transferred directly from the airport to Marsa Alam, or to Hurghada Marriott to await the group transfer in the afternoon.

Disembarkation is between 09:00 and 10:00 in the morning. Please note that these times may vary depending on the itinerary, so please check your cruise confirmation carefully.

Depending on your onward plans, you can transfer directly to the airport or check into a hotel to enjoy the Egyptian hospitality a little longer. We are happy to organise transfers between your hotel and the airport or to/from the vessel directly; please contact our reservations team at dive@masterliveaboards.com.

# Visa and Passports

Passports must be valid for at least six months from the date of arrival in Egypt. Dual nationals must bring the passport that they used to book their flights and that they provided details of when completing their <u>Advance Passenger Information</u> (API) form.

#### Travellers who have visited Israel

Evidence of a previous visit to Israel (Israeli entry/exit stamp) does not normally cause any issues when entering Egypt. However, it is up to the Egyptian authorities to determine the right of entry into the country so it is advisable to check with your nearest Egyptian consulate or embassy before travelling.

#### Israel Nationals

There are no regulations preventing Israeli passport holders from visiting Egypt, although there are specific requirements for them to obtain a visa and some restrictions related to cruise permissions. Israeli Nationals are not permitted to go to the Marine Parks on a liveaboard; they are only permitted to join a northern itinerary and special permission from the authorities is also required for the boat. A copy of the guest(s) passport and flight information is required at least one month in advance to apply for the special boat permission and the Egyptian authorities reserve the right to refuse.

#### Visas

It is the individual traveller's responsibility to check before travelling to ensure they meet all visa requirements for the holiday they have booked.

Citizens of Hong Kong, Macao and some Arab states do not require a visa for stays shorter than 90 days.

Citizens from most Western countries can obtain a tourist visa upon arrival which allows them to stay in Egypt for up to one month (30 days). Some nationalities need to obtain a visa before travelling and should consult the Egyptian Consulate in their home country for more details. Many nationalities are also eligible to apply for an Egypt Visa online (e-Visa).

#### Visa on Arrival

Obtaining a Visa on Arrival often involves lengthy queues and requires payment in cash only (USD is preferred but GBP and EUR may also be accepted although the price may be higher). For those who are eligible, Visa on Arrival costs 25 USD and is available in Cairo (CAI), Hurghada (HRG), Sharm EL Sheikh (SSH), Marsa Alam (RMF) and Luxor (LXR).

We offer a <u>Visa Meet & Greet Service</u> (charges apply) which facilitates a Visa on Arrival for guests arriving in Hurghada or Marsa Alam. Please refer to the Visa Meet & Greet section below for further details.



#### e-Visa

The Egypt e-Visa is the most convenient and reliable option; it eliminates the need to queue at the airport and allows for visa approval before travelling. To apply for an e-Visa simply go to the official Arab Republic of Egypt <u>Electronic Visa Portal</u> and follow the steps outlined under 'How to Apply'.

A list of nationalities that are eligible to apply for an e-Visa can be found under the <u>FAQs</u> section of the Electronic Visa Portal.

E-visas cost 25 USD and are valid for a maximum of 3 months from the date of issue.

#### **Embassy issued**

Travellers who are not from a visa-exempt county, or who are not eligible for an e-visa or Visa on Arrival must apply in person at their nearest Egyptian embassy or consulate.

As visa requirements, processes and regulations can change at short notice, we can not guarantee the accuracy of the information provided above. We therefore recommend checking your home country's government advisories or Egyptian embassy/consulate for the most up-to-date information.

#### Visa Meet & Greet Service

We can pre-arrange Visa-on-Arrival for most nationalities including the UK, EU and USA and offer a Visa Meet & Greet service at Hurghada Airport (HRG) and Marsa Alam Airport (RMF). There is a small charge for this service, in addition to the cost of the visa, which needs to be paid in advance.

We advise guests arriving at Hurghada on the day of embarkation to use this pre-arranged visa service to avoid lengthy delays which may affect their transfer and other guests.

A Master Liveaboards representative, who will have all of the necessary documents, will be waiting to greet guests who have paid for this service at their arrival airport before they reach the immigration counters.

Guests who have booked our Visa Meet & Greet service should not purchase another visa either in advance or on arrival. If you are harassed by a local agent, the incident should be reported to the tourist police inside the airport terminal.

We can also offer the Visa Meet & Greet service for guests arriving before their liveaboard embarkation day if it is combined with a transfer; Transfer prices depend on the number of passengers, type of vehicle and location they are arriving at / going to.

## Travelling with Medicines

If you need to bring medication with you, please be aware that some prescribed and over-the-counter medicines may be controlled substances in Egypt and require permission from Egypt's Ministry of Health before you arrive. Please check with your pharmacist or the Egyptian Embassy for clarification. If you are travelling with prescription medication you must have a letter from your GP stating that it is for your personal use as well as the condition it is prescribed for and the quantity you are bringing, which should not be more than you need for the duration of your stay in Egypt.



## Insurance

*Insurance which covers scuba diving is mandatory* aboard all of our vessels. Your insurance must cover all of your scuba diving and snorkelling activities, including the costs for recompression chamber treatment and emergency air evacuation. We therefore strongly recommend purchasing diving-specific insurance to cover any diving-related eventuality.

All guests are also required to carry full travel and cancellation insurance, as outlined under section 3 of our <u>Terms and Conditions</u>. We cannot be held liable for delays occurring during the cruise or any delays or cancellations of flights, accommodations, or tours and transfers that we organise on your behalf.

For further details of why travel insurance is a crucial part of your holiday arrangements, take a look at our blog - '<u>Do You Really Need Travel Insurance?</u>

Master Liveaboards act as a referrer for DiveAssure who offer dive and travel insurance policies, including short-term and multiple-trip policies. Their comprehensive 'Dive & Travel Plus' plan has been specifically developed for diving liveaboard holidays and covers expenses in the event of missing your liveaboard departure due to flight delays or missed connections, and also provides cover for lost diving days if for any reason the boat is required to abort the cruise; for instance, due to a guest injury, mechanical breakdown of the ship, air supply failure, inclement weather conditions, etc.

Please consult our webpage for details and a direct link to DiveAssure's booking portal: www.masterliveaboards.com/insurance.

# Diving Information

Our Egyptian vessels have two RIHBs for transferring divers to and from the dive sites. The tenders have ladders and our RIHB drivers are happy to assist guests who need help with their equipment and exiting the water.

At some sites, entry and exit may be directly from the main vessel's dive deck.

## Guests' Level of Diving

We are happy to welcome everyone from non-divers to seasoned divers aboard our Red Sea vessels. Although our itineraries are generally suitable for all experience levels, some dive sites are unsuitable for beginners. Each itinerary has different minimum requirements based on the season and diving conditions in the areas covered; please refer to the itinerary webpages or itinerary information sheets for the minimum requirements for your chosen itinerary.

Any guests who do not fulfil the recommended minimum requirements, or who the crew feel have insufficient experience in certain conditions, may be denied participation in some or all dives during the liveaboard.

Depth limits given by the Cruise Director must be followed at all times.

PLEASE NOTE: Dives that include decompression stops are classified as technical diving, even if they are within 40 metres, recreational depth limits. This means that *BSAC Sports Divers are not allowed to conduct decompression dives* unless they have additional technical diving training, e.g. Accelerated Decompression Procedures and must follow technical diving requirements.



If you have any questions or concerns regarding the diving conditions please contact our reservations team directly.

## Rebreather Diving

Our Red Sea vessels are rebreather and technical diver-friendly. Rebreather equipment is available but advance notice is required. Guests who wish to use a rebreather during their liveaboard itinerary need to complete and submit the <a href="Master Liveaboards Technical/CCR">Master Liveaboards Technical/CCR</a> Diving Form

## PLEASE NOTE: Sofnolime is not currently available in Egypt.

Extended bottom times are not always possible and depend on a variety of factors, including the cruise itinerary and distances between dive sites.

## **Technical Diving**

The Egyptian Chamber of Diving and Watersports (CDWS) considers technical diving to include any decompression dives (regardless of depth) or any dive deeper than 40 metres, regardless of the gasses used or your certification agency.

Additionally, CDWS regulations require us to have a suitably qualified technical dive guide onboard for the duration of the trip if any guests will be doing any technical diving during their liveaboard itinerary. The dive guide must have the same, or greater, level of technical diving certification in respect of depth limits and gas mixes.

## Solo Diving is not permitted on our Red Sea vessels.

If you wish to do technical diving and do not have your own dive buddy with the same technical qualifications booking on the trip with you, you will need to pay for a private technical dive guide.

If you intend to do any decompression dives or dive deeper than 40 metres, *you must inform us before confirming your liveaboard bookin*g to ensure we can accommodate your request. If you fail to notify us in advance and/or fail to provide the completed technical diving form, you may not be able to engage in any technical diving. Please complete and submit your Technical Diving Form as soon as possible.

If 'Diving: Technical Support' is not shown on your Booking Confirmation, it has not been confirmed; please contact us to make the necessary arrangements.

#### Fit to Dive

All divers are responsible for ensuring that they are fit to dive, and are required to provide a completed medical statement before their liveaboard departure. Guests who have any symptoms or medical conditions that could be restrictive to diving will need to obtain a doctor's note clearing them to dive, before travelling. The medical statement is included in the Red Sea liability release which all guests are required to complete.

If you are unable to complete the medical statement as directed or provide a current doctor's certificate (less than a year old) clearing you to dive, you accept that you will not be able to take part in certain aspects of the holiday you have booked with us.



## Flying after Diving

Current studies indicate that you should wait at least 18 hours before you fly after repetitive dives or multiple days of diving although we recommend 24 hours. Please bear this in mind before you book your onward international or domestic flights.

## **Diving Emergencies**

In the unlikely event that a diving accident occurs, there are several hyperbaric facilities covering the Red Sea, including Hurghada, El Gouna, Safaga, Marsa Alam, Hamata and Sharm el Sheikh where a specially trained emergency team are constantly on standby. We strongly encourage all guests to remain well within their dive certification limits, follow dive guides' advice, and purchase specific dive insurance before their trips.

As outlined in our <u>Terms & Conditions</u> dive insurance and travel insurance are mandatory.

## Water Temperature and Exposure Suits

Diving in Egypt is possible all year round; Water temperatures vary quite significantly between the Summer and Winter months, ranging from 20°C (68°F) in December up to 29°C (84°F) in August. We suggest a 3 or 5mm full wetsuit for the summer and a 5-7mm full-length wetsuit, or drysuit during the winter. Guests who are prone to feeling cold are advised to also use a hood/vest and additional thermal layers to ensure their comfort. You will also find a recommendation on an exposure suit on our sizing chart.

## Diving Equipment

Please note that the **use of a dive computer and SMB is compulsory**.

A single 11 litre (80 cu ft - also referred to as 12L) aluminium cylinder, weight, weight belt, SMB and reel are provided free of charge.

Since some of the domestic airline carriers in the regions we operate have strict check-in luggage limits, our vessels have equipment available to rent, including:

- AquaLung Wave and Mares Rover BCDs
- Apeks regulators complete with depth/pressure gauge console
- 5mm full-length wetsuit
- Mask
- Fins open heel and boots
- Underwater torch
- 15 litre (100 cu ft) tank
- Dive computer

Rental equipment is available for an additional charge but is subject to availability and must be pre-ordered. Please note that equipment is not stored on the vessels; therefore it is imperative that you inform us of your requirements before arrival

Equipment rental and Nitrox costs can be viewed under 'Extras' on the vessel or itinerary pages of our website and in the onboard extras <u>download</u>. (Items paid for on board are subject to 14% VAT)



## Underwater Photography and Videography

Our vessels offer specialised features for underwater photographers and videographers, such as storage space, individual storage drawers for cameras and peripheral items and designated charging areas. Our crew is thoroughly trained in the handling of delicate camera equipment and will bring your cameras to/from the tenders for you.

## General Information

# Advanced Passenger Information (API)

There are certain details that we require for airline reservations and our administrative purposes before departure. All guests are required to submit the required information via our secure online portal at <a href="https://www.masterliveaboards.com/portal">www.masterliveaboards.com/portal</a>.

#### **Forms**

It is a requirement not only of Master Liveaboards but also of the Egyptian authorities for all guests to complete a liability release, assumption of risk, and medical statement before the commencement of their liveaboard itinerary. There is one form specifically for the Red Sea which includes all of these requirements and can be downloaded from the following link: Red Sea Vessels – Liability release & Medical statement

To save some time, and to ensure you have no pre-existing conditions that could affect your diving, you can download the form from the above link, fill it in, and bring it with you. In addition to the liability release and medical statement, divers are also required to confirm that they have read and understood Appendix A: Standard Safe Diving Practices statement which can be downloaded here: https://masterliveaboards.com/forms/

By completing and signing the forms, you are confirming that you have read, understood, and agree to the conditions outlined in the forms.

If you are unable to complete the forms as instructed, you accept that you may not be able to take part in certain aspects of the holiday you have booked with us.

#### Time Zone

Local time is GMT / UTC + 2 hrs.

#### Money Matters

The local currency is the Egyptian Pound (EGP). Most hotels and bigger shops will accept credit cards, although there is usually a surcharge, and there are many ATMs for cash withdrawal. Euro, USD and UK Pounds are widely accepted.

# Health

The standard of medical care in Egypt varies greatly depending on location, can be very limited in some areas and, in many cases, is not free. Egypt has both public and private healthcare options although some public facilities are underfunded, poorly equipped and often understaffed. There are also hospitals which meet International standards, although many of these are private facilities.

All travellers should ensure they have adequate travel health insurance to cover medical emergencies and treatment.



It is recommended to take precautions with uncooked food and refrain from drinking tap water. Protect yourself from the fierce Egyptian sun; heat strokes are fairly common.

#### **Vaccinations**

No specific vaccinations are required for entry into Egypt unless you are coming from or passing through contaminated areas\*.

However, we advise that you ensure routine vaccinations are up-to-date (tetanus, polio, MMR, etc.) and consult a healthcare professional or your nearest travel clinic for the latest information and recommendations at least 6 weeks before travelling.

Rabies is present throughout Egypt, although more common in rural areas; it is, therefore, advisable to avoid contact with stray animals and consider being vaccinated against rabies if you will be spending an extended amount of time travelling in Egypt.

\*A Yellow fever vaccination certificate is required for travellers arriving from countries where there is a risk of yellow fever transmission and for travellers who have spent more than 12 hours in transit in an airport of a yellow fever risk country. Yellow fever vaccination is also recommended for those intending to travel further into Africa.

## Bringing Medicines into Egypt

Many medicines can be brought into Egypt as long as they are for personal use. However, some require a permit and others are not allowed under any circumstances.

Certain prescribed and over-the-counter medicines such as psychotropics and pain relief that contain opioids (e.g. tramadol, cocodamol, hydrocodone, oxycodone, and others) are controlled substances in Egypt may require permission from Egypt's Ministry of Health to bring into the country. If you do not have prior permission or the required documentation, the medication will not be allowed in and you may be prosecuted under Egyptian law.

Prescription medication must be in its original packaging with the dispensing label intact. You must also have an official letter from your doctor specifying the condition that it is prescribed for, the quantity you will be carrying and that it is for your personal use only.

Please note that any medication containing Methadone is NOT permitted in Egypt.

#### Language and Religion

The Egyptians speak Arabic, although English is also widely spoken in the tourist areas. The population is predominantly Muslim: 88%. Around 10% of the population is Christian; most Christians belong to the Coptic Orthodox Church. There are small groups of Jews and Baha' i people.

### Climate and Weather

Egypt has hot and dry summers and fairly moderate, cool winters; the air temperature can easily touch 40+°C in summer, while winter reaches a more comfortable 18-23°C with occasional rain and cool nights. Take care all year round when exposed to the sun as it can be intense. In the desert area, temperatures are even more extreme, both hot and cold.

## Life On Board

The main features of our Red Sea vessels can be viewed on the Egypt page of the Master Liveaboards website: <a href="https://www.masterliveaboards.com/egypt/">www.masterliveaboards.com/egypt/</a>



## Accessibility

The layout of the boats may provide challenges, or be unsuitable for guests with limited mobility, and are not suitable for wheelchairs. Please contact us for further details if you have any concerns.

#### Accommodation

Both Red Sea vessels can accommodate up to 26 guests in 13 twin or double occupancy cabins. Single occupancy may be available on request and is subject to a supplemental charge.

#### **Cabin Facilities**

All cabins have individually controllable air-conditioning and private en-suite bathrooms with centrally heated hot water. Other facilities include liquid soap, towels and lockable safety boxes. Guests are advised to bring their own shampoo and hair conditioner if they need it. Please also be aware that there are no hairdryers on board either vessel.

#### Food and Drinks

We offer guests a choice of international and local cuisine served buffet style in the indoor air-conditioned dining area. We can also cater to special dietary requirements, although advance notice is required; please inform our reservations team before your trip to ensure we have plenty of time to plan dishes to suit your needs.

**Please note**: It can be difficult to find low-fat, soya, gluten-free and some other items that are common elsewhere in the world. While we always do our best to accommodate dietary requests, please consider bringing some of your preferred food items with you if the lack thereof may constitute a health risk or compromise the enjoyment of your holiday.

Complimentary instant coffee, drinking water and a range of teas are available at all times. A selection of fresh fruit is also readily available, as well as some "naughty" treats should you feel peckish in between meal times. Guests may also select filter coffee, beer or wine for an additional fee.

#### Clothing and Footwear

Dress on board our vessels is very casual and most guests feel comfortable in little more than swimwear, shorts and t-shirts. A sweater is advised for the cooler nights, particularly after multiple dives. We do request that guests respect the wishes of others by donning clothing for meal times. As a rule, we respectfully request that guests do not wear shoes while indoors on the vessel although most guests prefer bare feet on board anyway.

#### Electricity

The standard power outlets on board are 220V/50Hz, European-style 2-pin (Type F). We provide multi-socket extensions with 2-pin and UK 3-pin (Type G) options but do NOT have power converters on board; if your electrical items require a different voltage you will need to bring converters with you.

There are also USB sockets in guest cabins and communal areas so you can conveniently charge your portable devices as well as designated charging points for charging cameras and torch batteries on board. For fire safety reasons, we ask guests not to leave batteries charging in their cabin when they are not present.



## **Staying Connected**

There is wireless internet access on both vessels, which can be used free of charge for email and web browsing, and will be available wherever there is a signal. Please note that Egyptian internet coverage is not up to European standards and access will be limited during most itineraries and mainly available only when close to land.

## **Smoking**

Smoking and vaping are permitted in most outdoor areas on board, but not allowed on the dive deck or during dive briefings. Windproof ashtrays are provided for smokers to use, as required by CDWS regulations.

## **Environmental Considerations**

Although there are recycling programs and facilities in place in Egypt, they are limited. We therefore ask our guests to consider the following to help with our mission to reduce our environmental impact.

#### **Batteries**

While some batteries may be available to purchase on board, please bring extras if your equipment requires a unique size, or may need a lot of replacement batteries during your trip. We kindly request that you take spent batteries home so that they can be recycled or disposed of properly. Alternatively, *consider using rechargeable batteries* as there are plenty of sockets to plug in a charger on board.

#### Water Bottles

We are dedicated to becoming single-use plastic-free across all of our fleets. Plastic straws and stirrers have been banned on all of our boats and we do not provide single-use plastic bottles on board. If you own a sports bottle, we simply ask that you bring it with you, or you can purchase one on board. If you don't have one and you don't want to purchase one, we have plenty of cups on board that you can use to ensure you remain well hydrated.

#### Plastic Bags and Wrappers

We do not provide plastic bags for purchases made on board, although reusable canvas bags are available to buy. Help us minimise plastic waste by removing plastic wrappers and packaging from items before travelling. If you bring plastic bags with you, please reuse them, and take them home.

#### **Toiletries**

We kindly ask guests to consider the type and quantity of products which they are bringing with them and, where possible, bring environmentally friendly toiletries for use on board, and take partially or unused products home.



# Payments On Board

#### Marine and Port Fees

On 30th December 2019, the Egyptian Ministry of Environment introduced a compulsory reef tax for all areas of the Red Sea. This tax is to be paid in advance and will be added to your invoice at the time of booking your liveaboard.

7 nights: 80 USD per person10 nights: 160 USD per person

#### Optional Extras

We offer a range of services to enhance your time on board. The following are available for an additional fee:

- Nitrox
- Courses
- Equipment rental
- Beer and wines (750ml bottle)
- Snacks (pringles, peanuts and chocolate)
- Merchandise: T-shirts, polos, hoodies, Fish ID books, logbooks, toys, jewellery, etc.

**PLEASE NOTE:** All items paid for on board are subject to Goods & Services Tax (VAT) which is currently 14%.

All prices are quoted in USD although we can also accept cash payments in GBP, EUR and EGP. The currency exchange rate from USD will be based on the current rate at the time of settling the bill. We can also accept debit card payments and all major credit cards; however, a 3% surcharge will apply for credit card payments.

We suggest bringing \$250–400 USD cash (or equivalent currency) for any incidental extras and crew gratuities.

#### **Tipping**

At Master Liveaboards we believe that tipping is a matter of personal choice. Should you feel that your crew has made your holiday extra special; then they will certainly appreciate a tip. If you are unsure how much to tip, we suggest 25 USD per guest, per day.

Please note we can only accept tips in cash. For your convenience, an envelope will be provided by your cruise director and gratuities will be divided equally amongst all of the crew, including the captain and dive guides.



# Safety Onboard

## **Emergency Management and Equipment**

All Master Liveaboards fleet vessels are equipped with modern safety features such as automated life rafts, EPIRB, satellite communication and emergency pumps.

Our Red Sea boats have a central fire detection system, with smoke detectors located in every cabin and all public areas on the boat. These are connected to a central panel in the captain's cabin which shows where a fire may be in the event of smoke being detected; As a backup to this system, all areas are also fitted with independent, battery-operated smoke detectors.

All cabins are also equipped with a powder fire extinguisher, and all public areas have a mixture of extinguisher types and sizes depending on the location and potential cause of a fire. A thorough boat safety briefing will be provided by your Cruise Director at the start of your trip to familiarise you with the safety features during which you will be required to participate in a life jacket drill.

Key crew members undergo rigorous training in emergency management procedures and further practice scenarios may be performed during your cruise to assist our crew in keeping their skills sharp.

#### First Aid

Our dive teams are all qualified emergency responders, and the vessels are equipped with a fully stocked medical first aid kit for treating minor injuries and ailments as well as for assisting trained medical professionals in remote locations.

Both boats have a full complement of medical-grade oxygen which can be administered to divers through DAN kits or unit-specific attachments. You will also find an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) on board which has been proven to greatly increase the survival rate in the eventuality of cardiac fibrillation.

Should you feel unwell at any point during your cruise, please seek the advice of your cruise director who will be able to assist you.

#### **FAQs**

If you have any questions that have not been answered here, please visit our website's <u>frequently asked questions</u>, or email us at <u>dive@masterliveaboards.com</u>.



# Extending your holiday

Should you be interested in staying longer in Egypt, we can offer hotels, excursions and tour packages, which can be arranged for before and/or after your liveaboard. Please contact our reservations team who will be more than happy to make reservations on your behalf.

# Optional/Additional Egypt Packages

## The Pyramids of Giza and the Sphinx

The Pyramids of Giza represent one of the greatest architectural feats of man. The last surviving member of the Seven Wonders of the World; the Great Pyramid of Giza is one of the oldest tourist attractions in the world and still attracts vast numbers of visitors every year. There are 3 main pyramids in Giza, each one being a tomb dedicated to a different Egyptian king: Kufu, Kafhre and Menkaura. On guard in front of the pyramids lies the Sphinx, carved out of a single block of stone, this enormous cat-like sculpture has mesmerized millions of visitors.

## National Museum of Egyptian Antiquities - Cairo Museum

Situated in downtown Cairo, this museum is home to an extensive collection of ancient Egyptian antiquities. It features the largest Pharaonic collection in the world and thousands of interesting and unique artefacts from over 5000 years of Egyptian history. On display, for instance, is the world-famous 11kg solid gold mask of Tutankhamun.

#### Abu Simbel

Next to the Pyramids of Giza, Abu Simbel is perhaps the most recognized monument of ancient Egypt. The two temples built for the Pharaoh Ramesses II have been attracting visitors since Victorian times. Nowadays, there is a daily sound & light show, which is not to be missed. Twice per year in February and October, the Abu Simbel Festival is held and the natural sunlight and architectural brilliance combine to make the inner sanctum of the temple light up - an experience not to be missed if you are there at the right time of year.

## Valley of the Kings

Home to Tutankhamun's tomb, the Valley of the Kings is situated on the ancient site of Thebes and is the last resting place for the pharaohs and where they hoped to meet their Gods in the afterlife. To see the treasure that Tutankhamun was buried with, you will have to visit the National Museum in Cairo. However, Tutankhamun was a relatively minor king and there are many larger and more impressive tombs to discover in the Valley of the Kings.

## **Luxor Temple**

If you travel to Luxor, a must-see is the spectacular Luxor Temple situated in the centre of Luxor. Largely built by Amenhotep III and Ramesses II around 1400 BC, its main purpose was to celebrate the festival of Opet. Many rulers made additions to the temple, yet it always remained a place of worship for Christians and later Muslims. A mosque built inside the temple still exists and is one of the highlights of the site. Luxor Temple is beautifully lit at night and it is well worth visiting the site at sunset.



## Contact Information

## Thailand Office - Master Liveaboards

10/512 Moo 3, Tambon Vichit, Muang Phuket 83000, Thailand

Open Monday - Friday 08:30 - 18:30 and Saturday 09:00 - 17:00 ICT (UTC+7)

Thailand Office: +66 (0) 76 367 444 UK number: +44 (0) 208 099 2230 USA (Toll Free): +1 866 258 6398 WhatsApp: +66 (0) 93 574 4529

Web: <u>www.masterliveaboards.com</u>

Email: dive@masterliveaboards.com

# **Egypt Contacts**

Hurghada Office number: +20 127 745 5566

Emergency number: +20 122 084 0755

Master Liveaboards 24-hour emergency number (calls only):

Please, only use the Master Liveaboards 24-hour emergency number if you are unable to get a response from the local numbers listed above. Please do not SMS this number.

Mobile: +44 7862 126398



# What to Bring

Our blog, <u>Packing for a Scuba Diving Liveaboard</u> provides useful tips on what to pack. Please ensure you *remove all plastic wrappers and packaging* from any new items you are bringing with you.

The following is a checklist of essential items that you should ensure you bring with you. You can also download a complete packing checklist from the General Information section of the Master Liveaboards <u>downloads page</u>

Passport	
6 months validity & at least two empty pages for visa stickers and stamps	
Travel Documents	
Flight tickets - International & Domestic; hotel booking; excursions	
Cash & Credit Card for emergencies	
Recommended amount 250 - 500 USD	
Diving Certification & Logbook	
Including Nitrox Card if certified and intending to use Nitrox	
Travel and Diving Insurance Documents	
To include emergency medical evacuation	
Essential Diving Items	
Dive computer with full battery	
Toiletries & Medications	
Including insect repellent and Reef-safe sunscreen Inform the booking team of medical conditions	
Essential Clothing Items	
Swimwear, hat and lightweight jacket	
Guests are strongly advised to carry essential items in hand luggage in case of lost or	



delayed luggage through International or Domestic Flights.