



Detailed Information

We're so glad you've decided to go on safari with us. We're already looking forward to welcoming you on board and enjoying many exciting moments together with you. Below, you'll find some detailed information about our safaris and how they work.

Transfer / Tour Guide / Itinerary

At the airport in Hurghada or Marsa Alam, our representatives (Ayman or Walid) will be waiting to provide you with the entry visa, which currently costs 30 euros. You can also get it at the bank counter for a slightly lower price, but this usually involves a long wait in line. **Please let us know if you'd like to use our representatives' visa service at the airport.** They'll also assist you with baggage claim and escort you to the transfer bus. **If we don't receive any indication from you that you'd like this service, we'll assume you don't need it.** In this case, your transfer driver will be waiting outside the airport and will take you to the bus or limousine that will transport you to the yacht. Both inside the airport and outside, our staff members will be easily recognizable by their "Ocean Window" signs.

The Egyptian government has been discussing an increase in visa fees for some time now. However, there has been neither an official announcement nor a specific effective date as of yet. Should the entry requirements or associated costs increase, we will provide an update accordingly.

Once on board, the first thing to do is take off your shoes. Then, while enjoying a welcome drink, we'll take care of the check-in formalities. After that, everyone can head straight to their cabin and, if applicable, get to know their roommate. Now it's time to unpack and assemble the diving gear. This allows us to ensure in a timely manner that all necessary equipment is on board. We call this process: "Gearing up!"

Please check your gear carefully one more time and make sure to bring any necessary repair tools for your equipment as well as appropriate spare parts (e.g., O-rings, mask and fin straps). We've included a packing list below.

If you still need diving equipment, please let us know as soon as possible, but no later than 14 days before departure. We'll be happy to help you get the necessary equipment. After the initial welcome briefing by your guide—which covers the most important rules and safety precautions on board—the rest of the day or evening can be spent however the guests wish. Perhaps you'll enjoy a short stroll

through the harbor or just relax on board. The next morning, we usually set off very early and head out to sea. The exact time, however, depends on the coast guard's approval.

A day on a safari boat is characterized by a mix of dives, meals, and relaxation.

The first briefing takes place very early in the morning, shortly after waking up. You're welcome to enjoy your morning tea or coffee during this time.

There's definitely no shortage of diving on a safari. Depending on the route, fifteen to twenty-two dives are possible in a week. A wonderful way to end the day of diving is certainly the night dive. During this dive, many marine creatures reveal a different side of themselves, and there's also plenty to discover that you wouldn't see during the day. Unfortunately, night dives aren't permitted at Marine Park reefs (Brothers, Daedalus, Rocky, and Zabargad).

The fact that guests rarely lose weight despite so much physical activity is due to the delicious buffets and snacks prepared and served by our amazing chefs.

Have you packed everything?

Each guest must bring the following equipment and documents:

- a copy of your passport (important)—required for the diving permit
- Diver's certification card (brevet)
- Dive log
- Medical certificate / proof of fitness to dive (A health form and a liability waiver must be filled out on board. However, we still recommend that you get a health checkup in your own best interest.)
- Dive computer
- Signal buoy (per person, not per buddy team!)
- Wetsuit
- BCD
- Regulator with octopus and, if necessary, a repair kit (such as a spare mouthpiece, etc.)
- ABC gear (mask, snorkel, fins—either booties or closed-toe)
- Dive light for night dives
- Spare fin straps
- Beach towels (one is provided, but it's often damp)
- Clothing: T-shirts, shorts, and a sweatshirt—preferably a hoodie—for cool, windy evenings
- Sunscreen, sunglasses, hat
- Swimwear

A Few Rules Onboard

Your safety is our top priority! Please follow these rules to ensure a smooth and accident-free tour.

- Smoking is prohibited anywhere inside the boat, as well as at the dive fill station.

- Take off your street shoes. It's safest to walk barefoot on board.
- Do not enter the salon or cabins with a wet wetsuit or swimwear—slip hazard!
- Close the portholes in your cabin while the ship is underway and when there are waves at the anchorage.
- Do not flush toilet paper or other items down the toilet.
- Do not throw cigarette butts or other trash into the sea.
- Please respect local cultural norms: Please do not sunbathe topless on deck.
- Please respect the country and its religion.

Diving Rules

- Please drink enough water (rule of thumb: one liter per dive).
- No alcohol before diving!
- A check dive is mandatory.
- Only dives within the no-decompression limits are permitted. We do not conduct decompression dives!
- Every diver must have their own dive computer and a signal buoy.
- The maximum legal diving depth is 35 meters. Under certain conditions, however, extensions to 40 meters are permitted. This requires a Deep Dive certification.
- Diving is always done in buddy teams.
- At the end of every dive, a 3-minute safety stop at 5 meters is mandatory.
- Dive responsibly and within the limits of your personal abilities.
- To protect yourself from injury and the underwater world from damage, do not touch anything underwater.
- Make sure your buoyancy is always under control.
- Observe the underwater world from a respectful distance and do not startle the animals.
- Take nothing with you except beautiful memories and photos—leave nothing behind except the bubbles you exhale.

Adherence to these rules is for your own safety and the safety of the entire group. You must always follow the instructions of the dive guide and the crew during diving activities. Violations or gross breaches of these rules may result in exclusion from further activities. Any lost booking services will then be at the expense of the safari participant.

No sooner have we set sail...

...the safari is already drawing to a close.

Upon arrival at the harbor, the guides will inform you of the times for the return transfer to the airport.

You can now spend your last evening in the harbor however you like. Don't be surprised if your first steps on land feel a little strange. But your sense of balance will quickly readjust to the solid ground beneath your feet.

Although cabins must be vacated by around 10 a.m. on the day of departure, you can still make yourself

comfortable on the various decks. For those who'd like to enjoy a bit more poolside relaxation after a week at sea, we're happy to arrange a day stay at the harbor hotel. This can be discussed and booked on board.

FAQ from A to Z

Arrival on the Yacht

Welcome aboard. Once you're on board, the first thing to do is take off your shoes. Then, while enjoying a welcome drink, we'll take care of the check-in formalities. After that, everyone can head straight to their cabin and, if applicable, get to know their roommate. Afterward, dive gear is unpacked and assembled. This allows us to ensure in advance that all equipment is on board. We call this process "gearing up." Once all guests are on board, there's a boat briefing and additional information.

Bathrooms and Toilets

Please do not under any circumstances flush used toilet paper or other hygiene items down the toilet; instead, use the containers provided for this purpose, which are emptied daily by the cleaning crew. Otherwise, the onboard toilets will get clogged, and then things will get very unpleasant... The hose next to the toilet is typical for this country and replaces toilet paper.

Bath Towels

One shower towel and one bath towel per person are provided in all cabins.

Payment on Board / Onboard Currency

Credit cards and checks are not accepted on board! Be sure to bring enough cash. Our onboard currency is the euro or Swiss franc.

Briefings

Please take the briefings seriously and be sure to attend the safety briefings in particular. The briefings are important to let you know what to expect on the next dive. Afterward, everyone can decide whether they want to dive or just relax. This allows us to efficiently organize group assignments and buddy teams. The first briefing usually takes place very early in the morning! But with a cup of coffee in hand, it's not so bad.

Porthole/Hatch

All the cabins on board have portholes. Please keep in mind that these are closed while the boat is underway or during stormy sea conditions.

Check Dive

Yes, every diver—no matter how experienced—must do a quick buoyancy check with us. For the experienced divers among you, this might seem a bit ridiculous, but we want to invest those few minutes it takes to do a check so that we can then descend with the right amount of weight and the knowledge that everyone will enjoy the dive.

Check-in / Check-out

On the day of arrival, the cabins are ready starting around 3:00 p.m. On the day of departure, we ask our guests to vacate their cabins between 9:00 and 10:00 a.m. so that the crew can prepare them for the new guests.

Whenever possible, you can stay on board until the shuttle bus picks you up. If there isn't enough time between your departure and the arrival of the new guests, you may have to spend your last few hours at a café. For those who might still want to relax a bit and go swimming, there's the option to arrange a "day use" at a hotel. This can be discussed with the guides at the end of the tour.

Crew and Dive Guides

The crew on board speaks English and, to some extent, German. If you have a question, don't hesitate to ask the crew or the guides. They'll be happy to show you what you'd like to see or help you in any way they can. If you have a problem with anyone, please speak with our office or your dive guide:

- Ocean Window Office in Switzerland: +41 (0)56 410 11 41
- Ocean Window Satellite Phone: +882 1644942702 (for emergencies)

Our dive guides will ensure your safety during the liveaboard, both above and below the water. Upon request, we can arrange for you to have your own private dive guide. This is especially recommended if you're unsure whether your level of experience allows you to dive safely. Please contact us for more information or if you have any questions.

Crew Tip / Gratuity

Tipping is a way of saying thank you to the crew. If you feel the crew has served you well, it's a nice gesture. Egypt is a poor country, so we should keep things in perspective. A reasonable amount is about 1 euro per crew member per day. On board during the safari, an average of 11 crew members and 2 dive guides take care of your well-being. So, depending on your satisfaction, between 70 and 100 euros per week for the crew is appropriate. But of course, this is up to each guest to decide. You can also give something to individual crew members or to the entire group.

Hyperbaric Chamber

On our trips, you can purchase insurance from D.E.C.O. International (Diving Emergency Center Organization), which allows you to use the decompression chamber in the event of a diving accident. This insurance costs 6 euros and is valid for 4 weeks from the date of issuance.

Showers

The fresh water tanks are constantly refilled. Nevertheless, please keep in mind that we have limited capacity on the boat. Therefore, please do not waste fresh water.

Beverages

Beverages: Tea, coffee, water, and soft drinks are available free of charge at all times during the diving cruise. Alcoholic beverages and Nespresso are subject to a fee. Additional price list:

www.oceanwindow.ch/downloads/preisliste_zusatz.pdf

Vaccinations

Vaccination requirements are subject to constant change. Your primary care physician is definitely the best person to consult for reliable information. In general, adequate vaccination protection against tetanus and hepatitis A is recommended.

Climate and Clothing

The Red Sea has a dry desert climate. Especially during the summer months, daytime temperatures hover around 35°C. In the winter months, it cools down significantly in the evenings. On the ship, casual clothing and a warm sweater are sufficient for cool evenings. However, you should definitely not forget to bring something to protect your ears (a hat). We ask that you refrain from sitting in the saloon in a swimsuit or damp clothing.

Costs

Here are a few things for which you might want to bring some cash (preferably euros):

- Beer or wine, since alcoholic beverages are not included on the boat
- Nespresso
- Souvenirs and any shore excursions
- Local fees (depending on the route and tour)
- Course fees and/or equipment rental
- Crew tip

Rental equipment and spare parts

There is usually only a limited amount of rental equipment available on board.

You're welcome to rent equipment from us on-site. Please contact us at least 14 days before departure. (Price list: www.oceanwindow.ch/downloads/preisliste_zusatz.pdf) Note regarding wetsuits: Since we have a limited selection on board due to limited storage space, we recommend trying on and renting a wetsuit at a dive shop back home. The sizes specified for diving gear when ordering are final. (See also Diving Equipment)

Logbooks, Certifications, etc.

We'll need your certifications and logbook so we can briefly review your experience with you. A medical certificate is also recommended. For people under 40, this should be no older than 2 years; for people over 40, no older than 1 year. In any case, you must fill out and sign a health form on board.

Music

You're welcome to connect your MP3 player or cell phone to our portable speakers via Bluetooth. Just ask the guide or the crew—they'll be happy to help.

Non-divers

Are, of course, very welcome on board. Since all routes are different and some don't offer many opportunities for snorkeling, please contact us before booking. We'd be happy to advise you. Relaxation and fun are, of course, always included!

Nitrox

Nitrox is provided free of charge on board to certified divers. However, it is not an integral part of the booking. If, for unforeseen reasons, we are unable to provide Nitrox, there is no entitlement to a reduction in the trip price. For safety reasons (often deep dives) and depending on demand, we dive with Nitrox at approximately 29%.

Passport Information and Flight Times

All data and information requested by us must be provided no later than 14 days before the start of the trip. Please note: Incorrect or late submission of information may lead to various complications. For example, if the passport number on the permit is incorrect, the Coast Guard may refuse to allow the vessel to leave the harbor. Ocean Window GmbH assumes no liability for incorrectly submitted information or data. Any resulting consequences and additional expenses may be billed separately. Also make sure your passport is valid for at least another 6 months. Please bring a copy of your passport with you.

Life-Saving Equipment

The following lifesaving equipment is available on board: life jackets (2 in each cabin), life rafts, and several lifebuoys. You'll find smoke detectors and fire extinguishers in all cabins, the salon, and the engine room in case of an emergency. Upon arrival on the yacht, we will inform you of the exact location and proper use of the safety equipment. As a general rule in an emergency, everyone should proceed to the upper deck as quickly as possible.

Sleeping on Deck

Especially during the hot summer months, it's absolutely wonderful to sleep under the starry sky and

enjoy the gentle breeze. Yes, you're welcome to use the blankets from the cabins. However, they must be returned to the cabins in the morning.

Seasickness

It can happen to anyone. In most cases, the symptoms subside after a day. Nevertheless, we always carry a few useful medications on board. Anyone who needs specific medications must make their own arrangements before the trip begins.

Shopping

Depending on the port where the ship will be docking and departing, there may be an opportunity for a shopping trip. Hurghada is definitely worth a stroll, and the port of Ghalib is also becoming more and more lively.

Language

The crew on board speaks English and, to some extent, German.

Electricity

Minimum 220 volts / Maximum 240 volts. AC power and European-style outlets.

Wetsuit

Water temperatures in the Red Sea range from 21 to 30 degrees, depending on the area and season. However, keep in mind that if you do multiple dives per day, your body will cool down quickly. We therefore recommend 5mm to 7mm wetsuits year-round and advise against wearing a shorty for safety reasons! Gloves are not permitted.

Diving Equipment

There is a box on the dive platform for each diver's diving equipment. This box is for booties, weight belts, etc., but not for dive lights or computers. There is separate storage space on the platform for these items. Wetsuits are hung up, and a 12-liter aluminum tank with DIN or INT connections is available for each diver. A signal buoy and a dive computer are mandatory for every diver. (See also Rental Equipment)

Diving Restrictions

In addition to the standard rules for all divers, you must have 30 dives (50 dives for Marine Park tours) logged in your logbook or speak with us in advance to determine whether the tour is suitable with fewer dives.

Under certain circumstances, it may be advisable—or possible—for you to dive with your own private

guide, allowing you to dive safely even if you have fewer than the required number of dives.

Dives

Depending on the tour and weather conditions, 3 to 4 dives per day are possible. Night dives are not permitted in the Marine Parks (Brothers – Daedalus – Rocky Island – Zabargad).

Diving Courses

In principle, all courses are available, but should be discussed with us before the trip. Those who do not wish to dive can also enjoy snorkeling.

Diving Emergencies

Of course, our crew is equipped and trained to provide first aid. In case of a diving emergency, the yacht is stocked with several oxygen tanks and accessories, as well as a first-aid kit. We recommend that you purchase special insurance that covers your rescue, hyperbaric chamber costs, and transportation home in the event of a diving accident. You can also purchase insurance locally to cover the costs of a hyperbaric chamber. The cost is EUR 6 for 30 days.

Transfers

Of course, the transfer from the nearest airport to the yacht and back is organized for you and included in the price (e.g., Marsa Alam Airport – Port Ghalib – Marsa Alam Airport). Since we try, whenever possible, to combine multiple arrivals or departures into a single transfer, there may be a wait time of up to 1 hour at the airport. Transfers from airports other than the nearest one are organized by us but are subject to a long-distance surcharge (e.g., Hurghada Airport – Port Ghalib – Hurghada Airport).

Individual transfers, e.g., to/from a hotel, can be arranged. However, prices for these vary from hotel to hotel. Please feel free to contact us if you're interested.

Unfortunately, there have recently been incidents where airport employees have demanded money to stow luggage on the bus. If you need help with your luggage, you're welcome to ask these airport employees for assistance. A reasonable amount would be 1 euro per piece of luggage. If this person does cause you any problems, we would appreciate it if you would report this to us. Unfortunately, we have no control over airport staff, but with your information, we may be able to work with our transfer company to try to prevent this from happening in the future.

Visa

At the Hurghada or Marsa Alam airport, our representatives (Ayman or Walid) will be on hand to issue you an entry visa for 30 euros. You can also obtain it slightly cheaper at the bank counter, but this usually involves a long wait in line. Please let us know if you'd like to use our representatives' visa service at the airport. They'll also assist you with baggage claim and take you to the transfer bus. If we don't hear from you regarding whether you'd like this service, we'll assume you don't want it. In this case, the driver will

be waiting outside the airport and will take you to the bus or limousine that will transport you to the yacht. Both inside the airport and outside, our representatives will be easily recognizable by their "Ocean Window" signs.

The Egyptian government has been discussing an increase in visa fees for some time. However, there has been neither an official announcement nor a specific date set for this change. Should the entry requirements or associated fees increase, we will provide an update accordingly.

Currency

The local currency is the Egyptian pound (EGP). However, most shops, restaurants, etc., also accept payment in euros. You can check the current exchange rate online.

Zodiac

We have two Zodiacs on board for safety, but also so that, depending on the dive site, we can dive from the Zodiac or have ourselves brought back on board.

A few funny but helpful tips!

You've probably already seen a few of these humorous tips. The author is unknown, but the points are spot on:

- Don't expect the same as at home—after all, isn't that exactly why you came here: to see and experience something different?
- Don't take everything too seriously—a clear head is the key to a great vacation.
- Don't let other travelers get on your nerves, because you paid good money to enjoy a wonderful vacation.
- Don't forget—you're representing your country—everywhere and always.
- Try not to get annoyed, because if you do, you won't have as much fun. Very few situations in life are truly dire.
- As a stranger in a foreign country—behave as the locals do.
- Don't judge everyone from a country just because you've had a bad experience with one person.
- Treat others as you would like to be treated—with respect and honor.

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All details subject to change. Current prices and availability at:
<https://omneia.de/en/good-to-know>