

Red Sea Explorer



Before or after the safari

From which port does the liveaboard trip depart?

The tours depart from either Hurghada or Port Ghalib.

Which airport should I fly into?

For safaris departing from Hurghada, you should choose Hurghada Airport (HRG). For departures from Port Ghalib, Marsa Alam Airport (RMF) is recommended, but flights to Hurghada with a subsequent transfer to Port Ghalib are also possible (travel time approx. 3.5 hours).

When is check-in and check-out on the boat?

The ship is ready for boarding on the day of arrival starting around 3:00 p.m.; check-out is on the last day around 9:00 a.m., followed by transportation to the airport. A late arrival on the day of arrival due to flight schedules is also possible. If your return flight is late, we recommend booking an affordable day room at one of the nearby hotels.

When does the ship return to port at the end of the safari?

The ship returns to the harbor around noon on the second-to-last day of the safari. The final night is spent on board, with the ship anchored at the pier. This allows you to disembark, take a stroll, or enjoy a drink at one of the nearby bars.

How will I be met at the airport, and how do I get to the ship?

Upon arrival in Hurghada or Marsa Alam, guests are greeted by our friendly staff and driven to the harbor.

When do you need my passport and flight information?

To apply for the diving permit from the Egyptian authorities, we need a copy of your passport and your flight times when you book your trip (for last-minute bookings, no later than 1 week before departure). Your passport must be valid for at least 6 more months upon arrival in Egypt. We assume no liability for any delays in departure resulting from non-compliance with this requirement.

Diving

What diving certification do I need?

You need an Advanced Open Water certification, an Open Water Diver certification with deep-diving training, or a CMAS** certificate. It is important that you are already a confident diver and have completed at least 50 dives.

Is there a minimum number of dives I need?

Liveaboard trips are all about diving. Therefore, you should have at least 50 dives, and your last dive should not have been more than 12 months ago.

Do I need a dive computer?

Yes, diving with a dive computer is mandatory. If you do not have your own dive computer, you can rent one on board by making a reservation in advance and paying a fee.

How many dives are there per day?

Generally, 3 dives per day are offered, and, if possible, 1 night dive (on the first and last days at sea of the liveaboard: 2 to 3 dives). There is no diving on the arrival and departure days (Thursday).

Are night dives offered?

Depending on the route, night dives are also offered. Please note that on some tours, night dives are prohibited due to official regulations (in all national parks, such as the Brothers, Daedalus, and Elphinstone).

Is nitrox available on board?

Yes, the EAN 28 nitrox mixture is used on board and offered free of charge to divers with the appropriate certification. Please note that free nitrox fills are a voluntary

additional service provided by the safari vessel, and no monetary refund will be issued in the event of a failure of the nitrox system. A nitrox course can also be conducted on board by prior arrangement.

Are divers accompanied by dive guides?

There are 2–3 dive guides on board, and the group is usually accompanied by one dive guide.

Experienced divers may also dive independently as a buddy team after consulting with the guide. Solo diving is not permitted.

Are diving courses offered on board?

Diving courses on board are available by advance registration or upon request. Please note that we do not offer Open Water courses on board. Please refer to the current on-board price list for prices.

What are the maximum depth and maximum dive time?

40 meters, 60 minutes. Decompression dives should be avoided for your own safety.

Do we dive from the boat or from a dinghy/Zodiac?

Diving takes place either from one of the two spacious Zodiacs—each 6 meters long and 2.45 meters wide, equipped with eco-friendly 100 PS Yamaha 4-stroke engines—or from the dive platform.

Most dive sites are just a few minutes away from the ship.

What types of scuba tanks are available on board?

Diving is done with 12-liter (80 cu) aluminum tanks (DIN/INT connection). 15-liter steel tanks are available available for a fee if booked in advance. For smaller divers with lower air consumption, there are two 10-liter (60 cu) tanks on board.

Do I need diving insurance?

Appropriate diving accident insurance is strongly recommended. As with any sport, there are certain risks involved in diving. In the event of a diving accident, not all insurance companies cover the costs of hyperbaric chamber treatment. We therefore recommend purchasing insurance through reputable providers such as AQUA MED or DAN.

Are there any special safety systems on board?

- Medical oxygen with free-flow and demand valves on the dive deck.
- Fully equipped first-aid kit.
- AED (automated external defibrillator).
- 2 inflatable life rafts on deck.
- Life rings.
- Life jackets for every guest in the cabins.
- Smoke detectors in every cabin, restaurant, and lounge.
- Fire extinguishers in the hallways and on every deck.
- Emergency signals.
- GPS (Global Positioning System).
- EPIRB (Emergency Position-Indicating Radio Beacon).
- SART (Search and Rescue Transponder).
- ENOS (Diver Location System)

What is the water temperature?

During the winter months of December through April, the water temperature is approximately 21–26 degrees.

In summer and fall (May–November), it's about 25–29 degrees.

Are there strong currents?

At some dive sites (e.g., Brothers, Daedalus), there may be currents. Generally, currents in Egypt are less strong than in Indonesia or the Maldives. However, you should have experience with current diving when joining a safari. One decompression/current buoy per diver is mandatory for your own safety.

Is snorkeling possible?

Depending on the route and dive site, you may also be able to

snorkel at some reefs—after consulting with the guide. Please note that liveaboard trips are primarily geared toward divers and are not suitable for snorkelers only. Snorkeling is generally prohibited at some reefs (including Brothers, Daedalus, Elphinstone, Rocky, etc.).

Diving Equipment

What diving equipment do I need?

Fully serviced complete set of gear: regulator with octopus, inflator hose, and fin,

wetsuit and, if necessary, hood, BCD (jacket), ABC, dive computer, SMB (buoy), dive light for night dives, weight belt (if not integrated into the BCD), spare mask and fin straps, spare O-rings, travel kit for 1st and 2nd stages, silicone grease, and a camera if needed.

What kind of wetsuit do I need?

In the water, the body cools down much faster than on land, so the general rule is: it's better to dress a little warmer than to freeze in the water. The colder the water, the thicker the wetsuit should be. In winter (January–March), the water temperature can drop to 21 degrees, so a 7mm wetsuit is recommended. During the summer months, the temperature reaches 27–29 degrees; a 5mm wetsuit or a shorty is sufficient then. Ultimately, every diver must decide for themselves which wetsuit is right for them.

Is rental equipment available on board?

Yes, rental equipment is available on board. Please reserve any necessary equipment in advance and provide exact details regarding the required sizes. Please refer to the current on-board price list for rental fees for individual items of equipment.

Is sidemount diving possible?

Yes, but you'll need to bring your own rigging set. If a second tank is required for sidemount diving, it costs an additional 40 EUR per week.

Are twin tanks available?

No, these are not offered.

Which valves (DIN/INT) are available?

All tanks are equipped with mono DIN valves. INT adapters are available.

Is there storage available for my camera?

The ship has a large camera table, as well as a sink with fresh water for your camera. You should store very large housings/cameras in your cabin.

Ship

What happens when I arrive on board?

You'll be welcomed by our Cruise Director and his crew, stow your diving gear and luggage, and familiarize yourself with the ship. You'll also receive a boat briefing.

What meals are offered? What drinks are served?

Delicious and hearty meals are served three times a day in a buffet-style setting. Afternoon snacks, as well as coffee, tea, water, and soft drinks served in glasses, are also included in the price. Local wines, beer, specialty coffees, and canned beverages are available for an additional fee.

What should you keep in mind regarding the cabin?

The cabins are intended for sleeping and relaxing. All cabins feature their own air conditioning, fresh air supply, minibar, safe, and TV, as well as a private bathroom. Please do not flush used toilet paper or other hygiene items down the toilet; instead, use the designated bins, as flushing these items can cause clogs. Smoking is prohibited in the cabins.

What should you keep in mind in the salon?

Here you'll find a library, a lounge area, fish identification guides, refrigerators stocked with chilled beverages, and a TV for briefings. Smoking is prohibited in the salon.

Am I allowed to smoke on board?

Yes, but only outside and in designated areas (you'll receive more information during the boat briefing).

Can I sleep on the ship's deck?

Yes, but please note that the nights can get chilly. Please bring your own sleeping bag.

What language is spoken on board?

The language spoken on board is English. Some of the guides also speak a little German.

What is the voltage? What types of outlets are available?

The standard voltage on the boat and in the cabins is 230 V / 50 Hz. The electrical outlets comply with the European standard.

Are towels provided on board?

Yes.

Are there bathrobes on board?

Yes.

Is there Wi-Fi on board?

Yes, Wi-Fi is included in the price. Reception and signal strength depend on the route and the ship's location. At many dive sites located farther from the mainland, there is no Wi-Fi signal or cell phone reception!

What kind of windows do the cabins have (portholes, etc.), and can the windows be opened?

All cabins have large panoramic windows. All main-deck and upper-deck cabins have a window in the bathroom that can be opened. Additionally, the doors can be opened to let in fresh air. All other windows, as well as those in the lower-deck cabins, cannot be opened. There is a ventilation system (in addition to air conditioning) in the lower- and main-deck cabins.

Is there air conditioning in the cabin, and can it be adjusted individually?

All cabins are equipped with individually adjustable air conditioning.

What types of beds are available in the cabins?

We offer single beds measuring 195 × 100 cm, double beds measuring 180 × 195 cm, and, in the Royal Suite, a bed measuring 200 × 200 cm. All beds have high-quality, antibacterial, and hypoallergenic cold-foam or latex mattresses. Please select your cabin and bed preferences when booking the safari. We will accommodate your desired bed configuration whenever possible (this is not a guaranteed part of the booking).

General Information

What does the liveaboard trip include?

- Accommodation in a double cabin
- Transfer to/from the airport in Egypt (surcharge for transfer from Hurghada on southern tours to/from Port Ghalib: €25 per person per leg)
- Full board (meals begin with dinner on the first day and end with breakfast on the last day)
- Soft drinks, water, tea, and coffee
- Diving (approx. 3–4 dives per day; approx. 2 dives on the first and last days at sea)
- Tank, weights, dive guide
- Wi-Fi (subject to internet coverage)
- Nitrox 28 (for certified Nitrox divers)
- ENOS Safety & Tracking System

What additional costs are involved? (Local fees are subject to change at any time)

Additional fees package for all tours (includes: dive permit/marine park fees/harbor fees/surcharges), see the “Services” section of the offer; payable on-site

- Optional additional costs:
 - Entry visa: 33 EUR per person (upon request and with advance registration; otherwise, the visa must be obtained at the airport)
 - Flight to Marsa Alam or Hurghada
 - Canned beverages, premium coffee, and alcohol
 - Diving courses (by advance reservation and upon request)
 - Equipment rental (by prior arrangement and upon request)

How can I pay on board?

Euros, U.S. dollars, Egyptian pounds, credit card (Visa/Mastercard plus a 3% credit card surcharge).

How much is an appropriate tip?

We believe that tips are voluntary and should be based on the quality of service. Once you're on board, you'll quickly realize how hard our 13-member crew and 2–3 dive guides work, and that your safety and satisfaction are our team's top priorities.

Many of our guests tip 5–10% of the cruise price, sometimes even more.

We'd like to emphasize that this is entirely voluntary! Tips are accepted only in cash. If you're ever dissatisfied with our service, please let us know. We'll do our best to resolve the issue as quickly as possible.

Are there any shore excursions?

No, with the exception of Daedalus. There, you can usually take a short tour of the lighthouse.

Are there any medications on board?

Yes, but only for minor injuries or mild illnesses (e.g., pain relievers, motion sickness medication, etc.). If you need specific medications, you must bring them yourself. Of course, we have a comprehensive first-aid kit on board.

Is it possible to extend your stay after the safari?

Why not combine your stay on the MY Red Sea Explorer with a hotel stay or a visit to one of our Extra Divers dive centers in Egypt! The Extra Divers Ghalib dive center is just a few meters from the ship's mooring (for departures from Port Ghalib).

Can I book two safaris back-to-back?

Yes. Please speak with your tour operator.

Emergency contact number or in case of flight delays

Extra Divers Egypt, Mahmoud Ramousi (onshore): +20 1000 210 240

Extra Divers Head Office (office hours in Germany): +49 7582 9320 79-74

All information in this PDF comes from the boat owners and/or their management and not from Omneia. We naturally strive to keep all information up to date, but we cannot accept any liability for the content of the texts or their accuracy. No rights or claims of any kind may be derived from this information. It does not constitute a warranty of quality, nor does it form part of a travel contract.

We wish you a safe flight and an exciting liveaboard trip



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