Diving

Dive into a dazzling underwater dreamworld...
In and Around Sinai

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In and Around Hurghada and Safaga

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Welcome to the most beautiful diving spots in the world...

Boasting over a thousand diving sites, including some of the world’s most famous spots, Egypt is undoubtedly the dream destination for divers from all over the world.

The Red Sea offers an idyllic setting for exploring underwater landscapes. You’ll be entranced by the multifarious flora and fauna, amazed by the abundant tropical coral reefs and enthralled by the impressive array of ancient shipwrecks. The water that ripples throughout this aquatic paradise is clear and warm, which – combined with high saline levels – makes it an ideal environment for over a thousand different types of coral reef, not to mention 300 species of shark. In this fascinating underwater realm, colourful fish will happily swim alongside you as you dive, sharing in the wonders of this silent deep-sea world...
The small seaside resort of Dahab lies on the west coast of Sinai and hosts a tempting selection of impressive caves. The steep drops and unusual underwater terrains of these very varied sites are certain to seduce any diver. Only those who are extremely experienced can descend to the thrilling depths of the famous ‘Blue Hole’ with its 80m deep cavern. Others can ponder the profusion of alcyonarian coral that thrives on the underwater rock face known as The Canyon.
With over 40 diving sites stretching from Straits of Tiran to Ras Mohammed, plus a rich marine life and numerous shipwrecks, not to mention stunning coral reefs that are renowned for being the most beautiful in the world, all in all it’s no wonder that Sharm El-Sheikh is the world’s number one diving destination. A myriad of species will dance before your eyes, and the walls will be thronging with colourful alcyonarians (soft corals) and acroporals, some of them up to a metre high. You are certain to be overwhelmed by the majesty of what awaits you under the waves.
Some of the best dives in the Red Sea are to be found at Ras Mohammed, famous for the Thistlegorm wreck which Jacques Cousteau discovered in the 1950s. The sheer walls plunge down to depths of over 800m, and here you can mingle with the multicoloured alcyonarians and rich, pelagic fauna which live in harmony amongst the giant red gorgonians.
From the waters of the Red Sea to the sands of Sinai

Visit Saint Catherine’s Monastery, witness a sunset over Mount Sinai and be enchanted by the soft desert lights.
“I was following the manta ray as if it had something to show me. Only then did I realise that we were both being pulled towards the rays of the sun...”
Also known as “The Little Venice of the Red Sea”, the El Gouna resort rejoices in having 33 diving sites, some of which are still virgin, and others which are renowned for their mysterious wrecks. Whilst exploring the impressive reefs of Abu Nuhas, discover the colourful coral reefs and dense aquatic fauna which populate the underwater world of The Carnatic, The Chrisoula K, The Giannis D and the Rosalie Moller wrecks.
Hurghada is one of Egypt’s most unusual diving sites, a life-size aquarium which is a must for dedicated divers. After threading your way through the swaying branches of giant red gorgonians at Police Station and admiring the fabulous alcyonarian coral at Erg Somaya, you’ll find yourself in the magical underwater garden which surrounds the coral reef islands of Shadwan, Giftun and Gubal.

**DIVING ABILITY**
> ALL LEVELS

**MARINE LIFE**
- Butterfly fish, rainbow wrasse, rocklings and moray eels,
- Napoleon fish, turtles, grouper fish, dolphins, blacktip sharks, schools of surgeonfish.

**UNMISSABLE DIVES**
- Police Station for its giant gorgonians
- Small Giftun Islands (depth 100m)
- Erg Somaya for its alcyonarians

**WRECKS**
- El Mina
- Colona IV
- Excalibur
Safaga has numerous diving sites which are accessible to everyone, thanks to the excellent visibility and generally weak currents which characterise the local waters. Rich and colourful fauna abound in the sumptuous coral gardens, especially at Ras Abu Soma and Sha'ab Tobia. From Tobia Arbaa to the mythical spot at Panorama Reef, passing through the Middle Reef coral gardens and taking in the Salem Express wreck, any diving trip in this peaceful fishing port is sure to leave you with unforgettable memories.

DIVING ABILITY

> ALL LEVELS

MARINE LIFE

Napoleon fish, parrot fish, barracudas, grouper fish, clown fish, rockfish, stingrays, red mullet, multicoloured fish, sharks and turtles.

UNMISSABLE DIVES

Ras Abu Soma and Sha'ab Tobia for their pelagic fauna
Panorama Reef for drops to depths of over 100 m
Middle reef for night diving

WRECKS

Salem Express
AI Kahlfain
M.V. Hatour
Visit the ‘aquarium’ and be astounded by the magnificent collection of fish, before relaxing happily on one of the beaches near these superb sites.
“This was my third ever dive. I think that even if I had been able to speak, I would never have been able to express the emotions I felt on that day...”
This area offers a wealth of interest for divers, including a variety of reefs featuring diverse underwater rock faces and an abundance of fauna, not to mention coral which is almost polychromal in appearance. In addition to the famous Elphinstone reef, the Borbo reef, the coral gardens of Anee So Reef, the caves and canyons of Abu Dabab and the El Gotaab site, Erg Monica and Sok Bahar boast a fantastic array of reef fauna and are also well worth a visit.

**SOUTH COAST**

**AL QUSEIR**

**DIVING ABILITY**

> LEVEL 1

**MARINE LIFE**

- Red anthias, damselflys, rocklings, groupers, hammerhead sharks, bigeye thresher sharks, whitetip sharks, nurse sharks, dolphins.

**UNMISSABLE DIVES**

- The Brothers Islands: Big Brother for wrecks and Little Brother for the pelagic fauna

**WRECKS**

- Numidia
- Aida
In the Marsa Alam areas, enjoy a dive at Ras Samadai, the ‘dolphin reef of the south’. This section of the Red Sea coastline is dedicated to diving, and is peppered with well-preserved sites in the midst of a fabulous nature reserve. At Elphinstone, you can marvel at the amazing pelagic fauna and explore the hoards of coral reefs which are home to countless species.
THE GREAT SOUTH

DIVING ABILITY

> EXPERIENCED DIVERS - MUST HAVE COMPLETED A MINIMUM OF 50 DIVES.

MARINE LIFE

Many species of shark: bigeye thresher sharks, whitetip sharks, hammerhead sharks, grey reef sharks and pelagic fish.

UNMISSABLE DIVES

St John’s Reef for the black coral
Zabargad Island
Rocky Island

Whilst strong currents, choppy seas and the fact that night diving is prohibited conspire to make diving sites in the south less popular, these sites do offer a host of new challenges for more adventurous divers. Located in southern territorial waters in the centre of the Red Sea, the most desirable diving spots are clustered around Zabargad Island, Rocky Island and Saint John’s Reef. However, when atmospheric conditions are favourable, you will be treated to the sight of spectacular coral reefs, some of them still virgin, plus the most extraordinary marine fauna - though this rare experience is only for the most able divers.
Diving centres:
Professionals manage most of the centres, and the necessary equipment is available for use. You will find diving centres in nearly all of the seaside resorts. Please note that these centres are privately owned.

General advice and some but not all safety recommendations:
• Always make your choice on the basis of safety rather than price
• Visit several different centres before deciding
• Choose a diving instructor who speaks your language
• If your last dive was over three months ago, do a few adaptation dives to reacclimatize yourself
• Check that the equipment is clean, and that is has been maintained and stored correctly (not in the sun, for example)
• Check that the tubes, mouthpieces and valves have no leaks
• Check that the diving suits are in good condition
• Make sure that there is oxygen on the boat (in case of an accident)

Diving lessons:
Certificates and diplomas from the following bodies are offered by the diving centres: PADI, NAUI, SSI and CMAS. The clubs offer initiation dives and lessons for beginners, during which learner divers can get to grips with the correct reflexes and automatisms.
Many clubs also offer courses for experienced divers.

Gear:
The clubs rent out equipment and wetsuits at competitive prices, but it is of course possible to use your own equipment.
Wetsuits are required in summer and in winter.

Protection of the coral reefs:
In order to preserve the natural beauty of the coral reefs, you will be asked not to wear gloves and not to touch the flora and fauna. Anyone caught disregarding these rules or damaging the natural environment runs the risk of being fined.

Temperatures

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All information contained herein is correct at the time of production. Whilst every care has been taken in the preparation of this brochure, Egyptian Tourist Authority cannot be held liable for any inaccuracy, omission or alteration that may occur.
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EGYPT

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