

# Egypt and the Red Sea FAQ's?

There are always many questions as to why would I in choose to take a dive expedition Egypt & the Red Sea. One of the main reasons is that the beauty that lies beneath the Red Sea is vibrant, varied, and magnificent. There is no place like the Red Sea. Egypt is a land filled with ancient wonders above and below the ocean. We put together a list of questions that most people have when visiting the Egypt and the Red Sea. We believe that with providing you with this information, you will have an easier time deciding to visit one of the worlds top diving destinations.

## **1. What is the flight time involved, and what is the best airline to use?**

Egypt Air offers non-stop flights from New York's JFK International Airport to Cairo. The flight time is approximately **10** hours. Flights can be booked through Europe using Lufthansa, Air France, and Alitalia Airlines.

## **2. Is it safe to travel to Egypt?**

Egypt is very safe! The Egyptian Tourism police have a strong presence all over Egypt and they keep every tourist location extremely secure. Furthermore, English speaking Native Egyptian tour guides ensure that your travels are safe and hassle free throughout the country. The Egyptians are a friendly and hospitable people and they love Americans. Peter Greenberg, the Travel Editor for the Today Show, recently gave Egypt and Sharm el Sheikh his seal approval for safety and for promoting a positive experience for American visitors

## **3. What are the benefits of Diving in Egypt?**

Not only are you visiting a country filled with National treasures, including one of the Seven Wonders of the World, but also you will have the opportunity to sail along the Nile visiting ancient temples in Aswan, Edfu, Esna & Luxor. Picture yourself standing in the shadow of the Great Pyramids of Giza or entering the spell binding tomb of King Tutankhamun. Then a short drive, flight, or ferry takes you to an underworld aquarium where you will swim up close with the most wonderful undersea creatures that you can imagine. With its year-round sunshine, the Red Sea is the ideal place to enjoy the sport of scuba diving. The underwater scenery is rich with Coral covered reefs, famous dive sites such as Ras Mohammed and Elphinstone and Historic wrecks, including the Thistlegorm. Here, you will have the very real opportunity to see exotic marine life in their own environment including turtles, dolphins, soft and hard corals and reef fish of every size, shape, and color.

## **4. What is the weather in Egypt?**

Egypt has a climate similar to Las Vegas, hot & dry during the months of May through late August ranging from **77 F** to **86 F**. During September through April, the weather is cooler ranging from **68 F** to **77 F**. The water temperature varies throughout the year ranging from **70 F** in January to **84 F** in September and during the summer months of July and August the temperature range from **79 F** to **82 F**.

## **5. What is the cost?**

We offer a package for divers and non-divers. The all-inclusive group packages include lodging, diving, airfare from New York City, entrance fees and most meals for under \$350.00 per day for our two week trip.

## **6. What types of boats are used?**

Fantastic Endeavors has relationships with some of the best dive companies in Egypt. Our first preference is the Emperor Divers who offer a range of liveaboards and day dive boats from 6 locations throughout Egypt. In Sharm el Sheikh, Emperor Divers operates a full service dive shop right near our hotel. Emperors fleet of daily dive boats leave from the Port of Sharm el Sheikh which is just a few miles past the dive shop. Everything associated with diving is convenient and well organized.

## **7. If clients are not certified before taking a Red Sea Dive trip, can they be certified in Egypt?**

Yes, Emperor Divers Schools include PADI 5 Star CDC (Career Development Centers), which means they are certified by PADI as providing the highest standard of education and professionalism, borne out by the PADI Excellence in Dive Centers Award.

## **8. What type of fish will we see?**

The Red Sea, a long narrow body of water stretches from the Sinai Peninsula all the way down to the Gulf of Aden. It is the richest sea in the world and you will see a colorful assortment of animals and plants. A 'typical' dive normally includes many varieties of soft and hard corals, gorgonians, sea anemones with attendant clown fish, many small colorful fish such as butterfly fish, angelfish, rainbow wrasse, parrotfish, gold fish, lionfish, surgeonfish, glassfish, sergeant major fish, and some larger fish such as groupers, napoleon wrasse, sharks, and barracuda. Then there are the occupants and sights that make individual sites distinctive - such as the semi-tame napoleon wrasse fish at Ras Muhammad and Ras Umm Sidd, the sleeping sharks at Shag Rock, the table corals at Near Garden and the amphora at The Museum

## **9. What is the best area to dive?**

The best diving in the world is to be found in the Red Sea, whether in the Hurghada area or the Sharm El Sheikh area. Every dive is spectacular, with a variety of extremely colorful fish and coral life. Due to the presence of 'cleansing' currents, consistently warm water and plentiful sunlight, the corals in this area are particularly healthy and colorful. The visibility is also exceptionally good at between 100 and 200 feet. The Red Sea is a flooded rift valley, which means it is very steep-sided and deep. Either most dive sites are fringing reefs with coral drop-offs to virtually unknown depths or isolated coral heads on a sandy bottom, occurring where there is a coral 'shelf between the land and the drop-off. For those who enjoy wreck dives, one of the most spectacular wrecks sits at the bottom of the Red Sea. It is possible to dive right inside a former British steamer called 'Dunraven', which sank in 1878. She was once thought to have been on a secret mission for Lawrence of Arabia when she sank but this has been disproved. The Jolanda is another well-known wreck because she is at the famous site of Ras Muhammad. She sank about five years ago and her cargo of toilet bowls litters the surrounding area, creating new homes for a wide variety of fish! There are several other wrecks in the area, and in such a region of 'virgin' reefs, the chance of discovering 'new' wrecks is always a possibility!

### **10. How many dives per day do we get?**

We are scheduled for 3 dives per day and 1 hotel shore dive when we arrive in Sharm el Sheik. We also have an option for night diving on certain days.

### **12. Do we have to carry our gear with us, or can we rent it?**

Equipment can be rented. If you choose to bring your equipment and you are taking a full tour of Egypt before embarking on your dive adventure, Fantastic Endeavors will have your gear shipped by van to your dive embarkation port or hotel.

### **13. What if there are clients that want to bring their non diving companions?**

We have chosen a program which includes daily diving from Sharm El Sheikh where there are numerous activities for non-divers. A day trip to Petra, Jordan, a half day excursion to St.Catherine's Monastery and Mt. Moses, a glass bottom boat excursion and many other activities. Non-divers who snorkel are able to experience the Red Sea from the shores of our hotel in Sharm and from boat excursions.

### **14. What are the Passport and Visa Requirements?**

A visa to enter Egypt is required. This can be obtained upon arrival in Cairo for a minimal fee. The passport must be valid for at least six months past the date of travel.

### **15. Is it too hot in the summer to visit Egypt?**

Egypt is a dry heat and feels just like Las Vegas in the summer. The heat is intense but tolerable in June and July with no humidity. Water is readily accessible at all tourist locations. It is recommended to explore the hottest areas of Egypt for brief periods in the early morning to avoid real intense heat.

## **THE RED SEA** *"The Corridor of Marvels "*

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