

Things to know before you go

Full Egyptian Visa required to be obtained upon arrival in Sharm El-Sheikh Airport as well as Hurghada Airport to give you chance to dive at any sites.

Please note that due to the nature of the roads and local harbour entry regulations in holiday resorts, it is not always possible for your transport to drive all the way to the docking point of the vessels within the marinas. The transport will drop passengers off at the safest nearest point on the main road and passengers will disembark and walk the remainder of the way to the vessel. Boat crews and guides will assist with your luggage and ensure you are safely delivered to the boat.

For your return transfer we will plan to get you to the airport a minimum of three hours before your international flight's departure time to check in.

Packing:

Remember to bring:

- Personal clothing & toiletries.
- Small medical first aid box & prescription medicines.
- Ear plugs are recommended if you are a light sleeper.
- 2 photocopies of your picture ID page from your passport.

Essential paperwork:

Remember to bring:

- Logbook with your most recent dives in it. A minimum of 50 logged dives are needed for the Marine Park itineraries by Egyptian Law.
- Valid diving association certification proof.
- Valid travel insurance.
- A copy of valid diving insurance details per person (translated in English by your insurance company if not already) stating the start and ending date of the diving cover with the exact diving insurance covered by the policy. Without this document you will be required to purchase diving insurance locally before you may begin diving.

Money to pay for extras:

We accept Euros, US dollars, Egyptian pounds, Sterling pounds, Swiss francs, credit cards: VISA and MasterCard.

Nice to bring but not essential:

CDs, videos, DVDs, books, laptop, mobile phone, CD player, video and photo camera, GPS tracker, binoculars.

Cabins:

All the cabins accommodate two guests either in a twin berth cabin with beds side by side, beds side by side in an L shape or bunk beds. There are suite cabins available on a limited number of boats and these have a double bed.

Bathrooms:

All bathrooms/wet rooms are equipped with a shower, sink and toilet. Please take extra care in the bathrooms not to slip and always use the shower curtain when available to help reduce the risk of water leaking into the main cabin area.

If you are not sure how to use a marine toilet please ask for instructions. Placing toilet paper down the toilet is not acceptable onboard. This not only risks blocking the system for the week but it also finds its way in to the delicate reef systems causing irreparable damage. Waste paper bins are provided in all bathrooms and are emptied regularly. There is a shower attachment to all toilets onboard for cleaning before using toilet paper, which is a common occurrence in the Eastern world. The waste paper bins onboard will not be filled with soiled paper if this method is used correctly. Please ask onboard for more information.

Linen service:

- You will be provided with two towels for your week's liveaboard.
- Bathrobes are available on Platinum class boats only.
- We do advise you to bring a personal towel for diving purposes.
- The housekeeping crew will clean your cabin daily, generally after your first or second dive of the day.
- Towels and bed linen will be changed once during your week onboard. This means you will have clean linen on arrival and this will be changed around midweek.
- For any additional cleaning required after your cabins daily clean please speak to the guides who will be able to assist you.

Food & Drink:

The meals onboard are usually buffet style with a variety of meat, chicken, fish, pasta, rice and vegetable dishes served with a choice of salads. Fresh fruit is available throughout the day.

The boat caters for all dietary requirements as we work closely with the chef to plan your meals. For any special dietary requests, such as vegetarian, please inform us prior to arrival.

Feel free to bring your favourite snack as these can be quite limited in Egypt. Chocolate is available onboard for an additional charge. Water, soft drinks, tea and coffee are complimentary and available 24 hours.

Alcohol:

Beer and wine taken from the onboard stock are charged extra (payable onboard). Guests are welcome to bring their own alcohol onboard.

Guests will not be permitted to dive after consuming alcohol or under the influence of a hangover as this seriously impairs your judgment and increases your risk of decompression sickness. If the guides deem that you are unfit to dive you will be asked to sit out the dive. Your safety and well being are paramount so this request by the dive guides will only be made to avoid accidents.

Behaviour:

Anti-social or aggressive behaviour will not be tolerated and individuals who cause a disturbance to other guests may be removed from the boat.

Entertainment:

There is a variety of nightly entertainment ranging from Night Dives (not available in the Marine Parks by Egyptian law) to watching films or simply relaxing on the sundeck comparing fish stories. Feel free to bring your favourite DVDs to share when there is a DVD player available.

Hot water:

Short showers are the order of the day on liveaboards as hot water is in short supply. We ask guests to shower at different times to ensure everyone enjoys a hot shower.

Air-conditioning:

All liveaboards have air-conditioning units but the effectiveness can be limited. Air-conditioning takes a lot of power so often cannot be run when other items, like the compressors, are running. The open nature of the boats also reduces its effectiveness. To run the air-conditioning all night requires the engine and generator to run which does create some noise. During the summer months many divers opt to sleep on the sundeck.

Diving:

For all diving sites visited en route our dive guides will give you a detailed and comprehensive dive briefing. All boats, except Orchid, have a minimum of two guides on board and one of them will be with you on each dive in the water, so you may choose if you would like to dive with your buddy or following the dive guide.

All divers are required to dive in a buddy team; should you be a single diver, a buddy will be allocated onboard.

The maximum depth for diving in the Red Sea is 40 metres unless you are a qualified Technical diver with an equally qualified buddy. Your maximum diving depth will be dependent on your level of training and experience.

Decompression diving is not permitted on recreational diving safaris.

Solo diving is strictly prohibited.

All tanks have DIN fittings and International adapters are provided onboard. The boats have ample storage space for your equipment and there is a spares box onboard.

The Captain:

An important man! He will decide, with the dive guides, where you go and when. Should he think the weather is not quite right, then it is fair to assume he has a reason. Often sites in the Red Sea can look like a millpond on the surface and, to the uninitiated, seem perfectly acceptable to dive. However, if the captain and guides say no, please accept their decision. Safety is the foremost concern of our knowledgeable

captain and dive guides. The sea is a dangerous place when not respected, so please accept the alternative plan as best you can.

Nitrox:

Most vessels, except MY Orchid, are equipped to offer Nitrox facilities. Nitrox packages are available for guests who would like to dive on Nitrox for the majority or full week. Nitrox is also available on a per fill basis. For the per fill basis we ask that you inform the dive guide prior to the tanks being filled so that they can ensure that your tank is filled with the correct gas in time for your dive. Nitrox fills are chargeable on Silver Class boats and free of charge on Gold and Platinum Class boats.

Dive equipment:

We suggest that you bring the following:

- Mask,
- snorkel,
- fins,
- boots,
- wetsuit,
- regulator,
- BCD,
- torch,
- SMB (with a minimum of 5 metres of line to deploy during the safety stop) and
- a dive computer with spare batteries.

Wetsuits should be 3 – 7mm depending on the time of year. Water temperatures range from 24°C to 28°C April to October, and 19°C to 24°C November to March.

Equipment is available for rent. Although a range of spare equipment is stocked onboard, the main storage is located in the dive centres so we ask that you pre-book equipment before you arrive in resort to avoid disappointment.

All divers are required by Diving provider to use a dive computer and SMB each for every dive and a torch each for night dives throughout their safari experience for safety reasons. These items are not included in the full equipment package deal and must be ordered individually in advance.

Courses:

The diving provider offer a range of PADI courses onboard, from the Advanced Open Water Course to Specialty courses such as wreck, deep, night, navigation, underwater naturalist and peak performance buoyancy to name a few. We can also offer BSAC training on board on request. Pre-booking is required and courses are subject to availability and itinerary.

Diving provider encourage divers to use Nitrox onboard and therefore on all Diving provider boats offer the PADI Nitrox course free of charge. You will only need to pay for your materials and certification.

- PADI Certification Fees
- Exam and student materials i.e. manual and dive tables

The fee is payable on board and subject to 10% sales tax. You will need to pre-book this before arrival the diving provider can ensure all the Crew Pack will be onboard for your arrival.

Photo & Video equipment:

Recharging facilities are available onboard. You are asked not to charge items in your cabin left unattended or while you sleep, for safety reasons.

Shopping:

There is a selection of fish books, T-shirts and dive related items available onboard.

Medical & Declaration:

There are Rules and Regulations in place from the Chamber of Diving & Watersports, Egypt. We ask all guests to fill in and sign a medical form before departing on a liveaboard. If you have any medical conditions listed on the form, you will need to get signed clearance from a doctor before your arrival onboard.

Please inform the dive guide if you are taking medication or suffer from allergies.

Insurance:

Every effort is made to ensure that you have a safe trip but we do require all divers to have valid insurance from a reputable company that covers diving accidents. You will need to bring proof of this with you to show the guides when you check in. Diving provider use INDEPTH Insurance which is available to purchase onboard. As a temporary member you will be able to gain insured member benefits. This cover is not currently available through any other insurer.

Passports:

All guests must have a passport valid for at least six more months after arrival and must purchase the Egyptian entry visa. Please bring two photocopies of your passport ID page with you to check in.

Marine Park fees:

These are included in the price of your safari package.

Environmental tax and Port departure fee:

These are included in the price of your safari package.

Tips on board:

Diving provider Fleet believes that tips should be on a voluntary basis depending on the quality of your service from the guides and the crew. You will find two envelopes in your cabins; one for crew and one for guides. The general recommendation is 20 Euro per person for the guides and 20 Euro per person for the crew. Please feel free to leave what you think is acceptable.

Checkout:

There are two check-out times, you will be informed by the guides when you board which one is applicable to your safari:

Please note that the last meal/drinks provided as part of the package booked is breakfast on the last day.

On the last diving day you will disembark to accommodation booked in twin rooms on a half board basis (evening meal on the night of arrival and breakfast the following morning), courtesy of diving provider. The check out time for the hotel is dependent on the itinerary/boat/port of departure and the guides will communicate this with you.

Health:

Check with your local doctor for recommended vaccinations. And remember to bring any prescribed medicines.

Telephone:

Egypt Country Code is +20 + local number.

Electricity:

European 2 pin electrical sockets using 220 volts

Communications:

VHF radios, satellite telephone and personal mobiles.

Language:

English is the most common language. We also have Italian, German, Dutch, French and Spanish speakers. The crew speaks Arabic often with some English.

Currency accepted onboard:

All prices are in Euros but we accept Euros, US dollars, Egyptian pounds, Sterling pounds, Swiss francs and credit cards: VISA and MasterCard accepted, all payments charged in Egyptian Pounds.

And finally:

If you have never been on a liveaboard before, then expect a few adjustments from normal life in order to enjoy your week. Space is restricted on board any boat and on some liveaboards, privacy is lessened and you will need to be prepared to share the communal toilets and showers on the dive deck although the vast majority of Diving provider boats have ensuite facilities in the cabins.

Divers don't necessarily make good sea travellers and sea sickness can be a real problem for some. Do take precautions if you are not sure and please ask advice from others who have taken liveaboard holidays before. Liveaboards are a wonderful experience, offering some superb diving opportunities. If you approach the limitations with the right spirit then you will have a great trip with fantastic diving at sites that are simply not accessible by day boats.

If you experience any problems during the week, please ensure that these are raised with the dive guides as soon as is practically possible. The guides can remedy the problem on the boat the majority of the time. However, if something remains unresolved make sure you raise it with the Fleet Manager at the end of your week.

With all the will in the world, problems cannot be resolved unless you highlight them.
If you have any concerns, please raise them.