

## Itinerary List

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*All liveaboard itineraries are weather dependent and may be amended to suit local conditions. The decision of the boat Captain and dive guides is final where safety matters are concerned.*

### **Classic North Cruise**

#### **Abu Nuhas, SS Thistlegorm and Ras Mohamed**

This cruise has something for everyone. Starting from Hurghada and sailing north, this route gives a perfect combination of reef and wreck diving. The famous horseshoe shaped reef of Sha'ab El Erg is a perfect example of the reefs on offer on this cruise with its beautiful hard coral garden and the chance to see dolphins. The reef of Abu Nuhas has four well-known wrecks: Ghiannis D, Carnatic, Chrissoula 'K' and the Kimon 'M', all offering spectacular dives and plenty of fish life.

Gubal Island offers protected anchoring for superb night diving on a small wreck at 8-10 metres with lionfish, scorpion fish and its resident giant moray eels.

A short ride across the Straits of Gubal and you visit the most famous wreck of the Red Sea, the SS Thistlegorm! This is an awe-inspiring World War II British vessel with a cargo full of armaments, Bedford trucks, BSA motorcycles and much more, which were all destined for the British troops in North Africa. She was sunk by the German Luftwaffe and now lies in 30 metres of water.

Depending on divers' experience, weather and current conditions, we also try to offer a night dive here. Close by is the Ras Mohamed National Park, offering a morning dive at the 'Shark Reef', a sheer wall falling into the blue where two converging currents meet attracting an abundance of marine life and some of the most spectacular coral life of the Northern Red Sea.

## **Get Wrecked**

### **Northern Red Sea wrecks - Abu Nuhas, Ulysses, Rosalie Moller, SS Thistlegorm and others**

The *Get Wrecked* cruise combines the 'best of the best' of the most famous wrecks in the northern Red Sea with some stunning reef diving.

Leaving from Hurghada, we aim to dive all the wrecks in the area including: El Mina, an Egyptian mine sweeper lying just outside Hurghada's harbour; Suzanna, a small pleasure yacht, the wrecks of Abu Nuhas including the Carnatic, Giannis D, Chrissoula 'K' and the Kimon 'M'; at Gubal islands the Barge, the Ulysses (sunk in 1887) and the Rosalie Moller; the Kingston (or Sarah H) lying at Shag Rock; the Dunraven at beacon rock situated on the outskirts of the Ras Mohammed National Park and the most famous wreck in the Red Sea the SS Thistlegorm, which lies at Shab Ali.

These wrecks are spectacular and make fantastic material for the underwater photographer being smothered in corals, especially the Carnatic, which sank in 1869. The famous SS Thistlegorm and the Rosalie Moller are World War II wrecks and one of the highlights of this cruise.

The SS Thistlegorm was sunk in 1941, bombed by the German Luftwaffe, while on a mission to deliver a cargo of ammunition and other war materials to the British troops in North Africa. The Rosalie Moller, carrying a cargo of coal, suffered the same fate just two days later.

In between wreck dives you will also visit the reefs of the Straits of Gubal, Gulf of Suez and those to the north of Hurghada. A variety of deep walls and hard coral gardens with an abundance of reef fish make them well worth a visit.

All wrecks are subject to divers' experience and weather conditions.

## **Northern Variation**

### **Abu Nuhas, Ras Mohamed, Straits of Tiran, SS Thistlegorm**

Starting from Hurghada and sailing north, this route gives a perfect combination of reef and wreck diving with an added twist.

The famous horseshoe shaped reef of Sha'ab El Erg is a perfect example of the reefs on offer on this cruise with its beautiful hard coral garden and the chance to see dolphins. The reef of Abu Nuhas has four well-known wrecks: Giannis D, Carnatic, Chrissoula 'K' and the Kimon 'M', all offering spectacular dives and plenty of fish life.

Ras Mohamed National Park offers spectacular drift diving at 'Shark Reef', a sheer wall falling into the blue where two converging currents meet attracting an abundance of marine life and some of the most spectacular coral life of the Northern Red Sea.

The same sort of diving is available on the reefs of the Straits of Tiran where there is also the possibility of an encounter with Hammerhead shark at the right time of the year.

We then move around the southern tip of Sinai and pass into the Gulf of Suez and visit the reef system of Sha'ab Mahmoud where we head for the wrecks of Dunraven and the most famous of all, SS Thistlegorm.

From here we start to head back to Hurghada passing by Gubal Island, which offers protected anchoring for superb night diving on a small wreck at 8-10 metres with lionfish, scorpion fish and its resident giant moray eels.

## **Sinai Classic Cruise**

### **Straits of Tiran, Ras Mohamed, Dunraven and Thistlegorm**

Whether you're a beginner or an experienced diver, there is always the right dive for your level of experience. We recommend a minimum of 20 - 30 dives or Advanced level to share the experience of the deeper dive sites such as the wreck of the Thistlegorm (max 32 metre depth) and drift-dives like Ras Mohamed or the Reefs of the Straits of Tiran (drop-offs/drift diving).

After diving the Ras Mohamed National Park, we pass into the Gulf of Suez and visit the reef system of Sha'ab Mahmoud where one of the oldest wrecks, the Dunraven (sunk in 1889), and the WWII wreck, the SS Thistlegorm, are located. Enjoy the excitement of diving the Southern tip of the Sinai and savour the backdrop of a mountainous desert landscape whilst discovering the hidden magical beauty beneath the waves where nature, by contrast, has provided a spectacular display of colourful coral reefs and an array of tropical fish life.

## **Safaga Cruise**

### **Panorama Reef, Middle Reef, Salem Express and Abu Kafan**

The area around Safaga has some great diving, the best being the offshore reefs of Panorama Reef, Middle Reef and Abu Kafan. Some divers say this equals the great sites of Ras Mohamed.

The diving offers a combination of shallow reef dives and drop-offs, as well as the famous wreck of the Salem Express. There is superb wall diving at Panorama and Abu Kafan, as well as some little secrets like Hal Hal, which can only be dived in suitable weather conditions.

Soft and black corals, fan and huge gorgonians, plus frequent sightings of Jacks, Barracudas and Eagle Rays all promise a true adventure.

## **Just Brothers (Ex-Hrg)**

Experience your first dives at local site such as Gota Abu Ramada, also known as the "Aquarium" due to the abundance of fish life, before heading overnight to

the Brother Islands. The Brother Islands are the pinnacles of two undersea mountains rising from the depths of the abyss and are located about 60 miles offshore from El Quesir.

As part of the Marine Park Islands National Park, these islands offer stunning wall diving, with the walls being covered in soft corals and forests of gorgonians, creating a multitude of ever-changing colours. They attract a diverse array of marine species and large pelagics such as Tuna, Barracudas, Jacks and Snappers that cruise in the blue, accompanied by occasional Hammerheads, Thresher, Silky and Oceanic White Tip Sharks and Mantas.

For the wreck diver, the wrecks of the Aida II, an Egyptian supply vessel, and the Numidia, a cargo ship, lie on the walls of the Big Brother. Both are covered in a rich growth of soft and hard corals. Marine life includes a family of Napoleon Wrasse and Grey Reef Sharks.

The boat will then sail back to Hurghada or Safaga overnight for less strenuous dives to finish your week diving.

*Note: Minimum of 50 logged dives requested and no night dives permitted in the Marine Park area by Egyptian Law. These are challenging dives with strong currents, so not for inexperienced divers. Overnight travelling is required for this itinerary.*

## **Fury & Friends**

### **Fury Shoals Reef System, Abu Dabab, Samadai (Dolphin House) and Elphinstone**

This cruise includes a visit to Abu Dahab, a collection of seven reefs offering sheltered diving in rough weather conditions. Part of these seven reefs is Sha'ab Naba which is a popular overnight location due to the close proximity to Elphinstone Reef and availability of a night dive.

At Fury Shoals, dive Sha'ab Claude and its famous swim-throughs and huge porite corals. An anemone and clownfish settlement can be seen a little off the reef to the South, along with the occasional White Tip Reef Shark. Abu Galawa Soraya has a fantastic coral garden and the wreck of a private sailing boat packed with glass fish.

Wadi Gamal, with its flowing banks of hard yellow and green soft coral, resident angel and butterfly fish and, in the right season, huge schools of Jacks and Tuna visit the area.

Further north, you will pass by Sha'ab Sharm, with its wall dives and White Tip Reef Sharks. If you are lucky, Oceanic White Tips and Silky Sharks can sometimes be found in the blue and turtles often visit the South side.

Samadai, otherwise known as Dolphin House, is a shallow turquoise water lagoon where a large pod of spinner dolphins live. In 2004, the Egyptian government made this reef a Marine Park to protect the dolphins. The western tip provides a large group of pinnacles rising to the surface from a carpet of seagrass, populated by schools of reef fish.

Finally, Elphinstone Reef has sheer walls plunging steeply into the blue, decorated with soft corals, sponges, gorgonians and fans. Sharks feed here on

the abundant fish population and at the right time of the year, the southern plateau is home to Oceanic White Tip Sharks.

## **Great Island Tour**

### **The Brother Islands, Daedalus Reef, Rocky, Zarbagad, St John's, Fury Shoals and Elphinstone**

Take a tour of some of the most beautiful reefs in the Red Sea. First stop is the Brother Islands. These are the pinnacles of two undersea mountains rising from the depths of the abyss and are located about 60 miles offshore.

As part of the Marine Park Islands National Park, these islands offer stunning wall diving, with the walls being covered in soft corals and forests of gorgonians, creating a multitude of ever-changing colours. They attract a diverse array of marine species and large pelagics such as Tuna, Barracudas, Jacks and Snappers that cruise in the blue, accompanied by occasional Hammerheads, Thresher, Silky and Oceanic White Tip Sharks and Mantas.

For the wreck diver, the wrecks of the Aida II, an Egyptian supply vessel, and the Numidia, a cargo ship, lie on the walls of the Big Brother. Both are covered in a rich growth of soft and hard corals. Marine life includes a family of Napoleon Wrasse and Grey Reef Sharks.

Daedalus Reef, also part of the Marine Park, is a large, oval reef with a lighthouse and is the furthest offshore reef in the Egyptian Red Sea. Its deep walls and drop-offs offer some of the most spectacular diving to be found.

Daedalus has mountainous, pristine, hard coral formations. There is also a strong chance of spotting schooling Hammerheads, and grey reef sharks.

This is then followed by travelling overnight to the islands of Rocky and Zabargad. Rocky is a small island with deep wall dives all around. Hammerheads can often be seen at the north tip. Manta rays, Grey Reef sharks and White tip Reef sharks can be encountered around the whole island. Dusk drift dives are ideal at the stunning coral slopes of Zabargad Island.

The last stop south is St Johns which consists of a vast collection of small reefs offering some of the most remote and rewarding diving in the Red Sea. Habili Ali offers giant gorgonians and black corals with Grey Reef and Silvertip sharks, and lucky divers may also find Hammerhead shark on the west side. Habili Gafar is a mass of soft corals teaming with shoals of Snappers, Butterfly Fish and Barracudas. Mantas, Oceanic White Tip, Grey Reef and Silvertip Sharks can be seen in the blue depending on the season. Gota Kebir is a massive reef, famous for its tunnels and south plateau where Jacks and Barracudas can be seen along with the occasional Manta. The tunnels are ideal for novice cave divers.

Gota Soraya is rated as possibly one of the best wall dives in the Red Sea, with overhangs and cracks in the reef wall full of Glass Fish and Sweepers and an abundance of corals, Grey Reef, Silvertip, Oceanic White Tip and sometimes even Hammerheads.

Elphinstone is the last reef to visit, with its shear walls covered in soft corals, offers a likely encounter with Oceanic White Tip sharks depending on the season.

*Note: Additional dive sites maybe included to break up the travelling. Minimum of 50 logged dives requested and no night dives permitted in the Marine Park area by Egyptian Law. These are challenging dives with strong currents, so not for inexperienced divers. Long overnight travel is required.*

## **Just Brothers**

### **Elphinstone and all the Brothers**

The Brother Islands are the pinnacles of two undersea mountains rising from the depths of the abyss and are located about 60 miles offshore from El Qesir.

As part of the Marine Park Islands National Park, these islands offer stunning wall diving, with the walls being covered in soft corals and forests of gorgonians, creating a multitude of ever-changing colours. They attract a diverse array of marine species and large pelagics such as Tuna, Barracudas, Jacks and Snappers that cruise in the blue, accompanied by occasional Hammerheads, Thresher, Silky and Oceanic White Tip Sharks and Mantas.

For the wreck diver, the wrecks of the Aida II, an Egyptian supply vessel, and the Numidia, a cargo ship, lie on the walls of the Big Brother. Both are covered in a rich growth of soft and hard corals. Marine life includes a family of Napoleon Wrasse and Grey Reef Sharks.

Elphinstone, with its shear walls covered in soft corals, offers a likely encounter with Grey Reef Sharks circling on the plateaux and even Oceanic White Tip Sharks can be seen here for most of the year.

*Note: Minimum of 50 logged dives requested and no night dives permitted in the Marine Park area by Egyptian Law. These are challenging dives with strong currents, so not for inexperienced divers.*

## **Simply Magnificent**

### **Daedalus, Rocky, Zabargad and St Johns**

Daedalus Reef, part of the Marine Park, is a large, oval reef with a lighthouse and is the furthest offshore reef in the Egyptian Red Sea. Its deep walls and drop-offs offer some of the most spectacular diving in the Red Sea. Daedalus has mountainous, pristine, hard coral formations. There is also a strong chance of spotting schooling Hammerheads, Grey Reef Sharks and Oceanic White Tip Sharks.

Further south are the spectacular overhangs and deep walls of Rocky Island and the abundance of soft coral and spectacular coral pinnacles at Zabargad.

St John's is a beautiful reef system which lies approx. 40km north of the Sudanese border and 20km South of Zabargad.

*Note: Minimum of 50 logged dives requested and no night dives permitted in the Marine Park area by Egyptian Law. These are challenging dives, with strong currents, so not for inexperienced*

*divers. Long overnight sailing is required in order to meet the itinerary. All the dive sites are subject to weather conditions. Only two dives and one night dive are achievable on some days due to the travelling distance.*

## **Simply the Best**

### **The Brother Islands, Daedalus Reef and Elphinstone**

Dive the what are considered by many as the Top 3 sites in this area: Big and Little Brother Islands, Daedalus Reef and Elphinstone.

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Daedalus Reef, also part of the Marine Park, is a large, oval reef with a lighthouse and is the furthest offshore reef in the Egyptian Red Sea. Its deep walls and drop-offs offer some of the most spectacular diving to be found.

Daedalus has mountainous, pristine, hard coral formations. There is also a strong chance of spotting schooling Hammerheads, and grey reef sharks.

Elphinstone, with its shear walls covered in soft corals, offers a likely encounter with Oceanic White Tip sharks at the right time of the year.

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## **South & St John's**

### **St Johns and Fury Shoals Reef System**

Sailing to the southern most reefs, these cruises depart from Marsa Ghalib or Hamata to the vast reef system of Fury Shoals and St John's.

St Johns is a vast collection of small reefs offering some of the most remote and rewarding diving in the Red Sea. Habili Ali offers giant gorgonians and black corals whilst Grey Reef, Silvertip and schools of Hammerhead sharks might be found on the west side. Habili Gafaar is a mass of soft corals teaming with shoals of Snappers, Butterfly Fish and Barracudas. Mantas, Oceanic White Tip, Grey Reef and Silvertip Sharks can be seen in the blue. Gota Kebir is a massive reef, famous for its tunnels and south plateau where Jacks and Barracudas can be seen and the occasional Manta. The tunnels are ideal for novice cave divers.

Gota Soraya is rated as possibly one of the best wall dives in the Red Sea, with overhangs and cracks in the reef wall full of Glass Fish and Sweepers and an abundance of corals, Grey Reef, Silvertip, Oceanic White Tip and Hammerheads. *Note: a minimum of 40 logged dives requested. Long overnight travel is necessary however if the weather conditions are more favourable the travelling will be done during the day.*

## **The Big Four**

### **Rocky Island, Zabargad, St Johns and Elphinstone**

On your first day start with a local site such as Ras Shona, which offers encounters with turtles and scorpionfish. As a second and night dive, Sha'ab Sharm offers wall dives where White Tips Reef Sharks can sometimes be seen on the plateau.

The boat then travels overnight to the islands of Rocky and Zabargad. Rocky is a small island with walls all around. Hammerheads can often be seen at the north tip. Manta rays, Grey Reef sharks and Whitetip Reef sharks can be encountered around the whole island. Dusk drift dives are ideal at the stunning coral slopes of Zabargad Island.

On the third day, dive the wreck of a Russian cargo boat, which is on the east side of the island. This 75m long, intact wreck, provides an alternative to reef diving. If the weather is inclement, then head to St. John's for a full day of adventure, which is only one hour away with the chance to dive Habili Ali and Habili Soraya.

A variety of sites ranging from the tiny pinnacle of Habili Gaffar to shallow coral gardens. Manta Rays are here most of the year and Grey Reef sharks patrol the wall dive sites. Caves and caverns make an alternative afternoon dive. Night dives give the chance to see Spanish dancers and hunting Morays.

On the fourth day, the first dive is at St John's, and then onto a second dive at St. John's caves, a shallow reef riddled with caves and caverns at 7m providing a great exploration dive.

Sha'ab Maksour offers another wall dive or dive El Malahi, sometimes called 'The Playground' with its myriad of channels, caverns and swim-throughs. Shiriniat at Wadi Gamal Island is a shallow reef with plenty of corals and reef life.

An early start to Elphinstone Reef, with its stunning walls of soft corals and the two underwater plateaux, one at either tip, offers the chance to see numerous sharks.

*Note: Minimum of 50 logged dives requested and no night dives permitted in the Marine Park area by Egyptian Law. These are challenging dives, with strong currents, so not for inexperienced divers. Long overnight sailing is required in order to do all the dives. All the dive sites are subject to weather conditions. Only two dives and one night dive are achievable on some days due to the travelling distance.*