

A Brief Guide to Diving in Hurghada

Hurghada, along with Sharm el Sheikh, is where it all started. These are the first two destinations of the nearly 20-year old diving history of the Red Sea.

Diving in Hurghada needs no introduction, it's already world famous. From minuscule nudibranchs to giant whale sharks, this area has it all for a perfect Red Sea diving holiday. There is hard and soft coral, turtles and dolphins, mantas and moray eels, napoleons and tuna, and much more, including the wreck graveyard at **Sha'ab Abu Nuhas**.



The Hurghada marine area is protected, as many other areas in Egypt, and diving centres here operate under environmental-friendly procedures. Starting from year 1995, local authorities, NGO's and international bodies such as USAID have co-operated in the conservation of the underwater life of the region. Nowadays, regular checks and upgrades ensure the presence of mooring buoys in all dive sites.

Hurghada Diving Services

In Hurghada only, there are more than 100 dive operators, with services ranging from scuba diving beginner certification courses to professional courses and technical diving, and providing guided dives to the area's outstanding reefs.

Most resorts in Hurghada have reliable and well-organised diving centres, officially registered at the Red Sea Diving Association for Diving and Watersports, which offer all sorts of scuba diving services, from entry-level courses to professional courses, introductory dives and diving packages, with one, two or more dives per day, for those who are certified.

Dive sites in Hurghada

With very few exceptions, diving in Hurghada is performed on daily or half-day boats, since the coastal area is mostly devoid of fringing reefs. The Hurghada diving area comprises also the Protected Marine Park of **Giffun Island** where

access is permitted only with an entrance fee (payable directly at all diving centers). The area in general is blessed with refreshing breezes from the north both in winter and summer. These breezes often turn though into strong winds which may limit access to certain dive sites. The following are just some of the most famous dive sites in Hurghada:

Gota Abu Ramada, a network of coral gardens from which the most famous is adequately named “the Aquarium”. This is a perfect place to learn to dive, with a profusion of Red Sea coral reef population.

Sha’ab Ruhr Umm Gamar, is a sort of encyclopedia of the Red Sea. A dense population of reef species and pelagics crowds this relatively small reef. The site was badly damaged a few of years ago by an outburst of the Crown of Thorns sea star, but now is again a favourite of advanced divers.



Small Giftun, is a spectacular site especially for technical divers, in the Giftun National Park. Sheer walls, caves, canyons, are a great playground for the experienced with a profusion of giant fans and black corals and big game, including whale sharks, barracudas, and oceanic white tip sharks.

Carless Reef or “moray eel house. The site, very popular in Hurghada is accessible both to beginners and experienced divers. Two coral towers close to a plateau at 16 meters, is where a big population of friendly giant moray eels make the dive an unforgettable one.

The best months to go scuba diving in Egypt are hard to classify. The entire year offers ideal weather but you may want to visit from December to march in order to dive more comfortably. At this time the weather is less intense and will not completely sweat you out.

The water temperature in Egypt varies from between 25 degrees Celsius to 30 degrees Celsius at any given time. When swimming in the area you will most likely require extra weights as the Red Sea is extremely salty and offers extra buoyancy. The visibility you will notice underwater when scuba diving in Egypt is unrivaled. You can usually see as far as 30m below the surface at any give time.

When it comes to climate in Egypt it is always warm and gets extra hot right around May where the temperatures can exceed 40 degrees Celsius. However the air cools significantly at night and the temperatures are hardly ever unbearable.