

A Guide to Hurghada

About Hurghada

Over the last ten years the citizens of Hurghada have seen an amazing development. From the desert sand a town has risen with more than 200 hotels, booming shopping promenades and vibrant nightlife. With ever growing number of tourists and a perfect climate, this Red Sea Riviera has no off season. Hurghada has a special community where local habits and culture is presented next to resort lifestyle and behavior.

But the biggest beauty of Hurghada starts where coast ends – blue Red Sea is the reason why your dreams will stay with us. If it takes place in or on the water you can do it here: windsurfing, sailing, deep-sea fishing, swimming, but above all, snorkeling and diving. The unique underwater gardens offshore are some of the finest in the world, justifiably famous amongst divers. The warm waters here are ideal for many varieties of rare fish and coral reefs, which may also be observed through glass bottom boats.

Tourism in Hurghada

The first hotel built in the region was Sheraton hotel on Felfela road. The main development period in tourism industry started in the 1990s and is still under process. The total number of hotels has reached today 200, including modest 2 stars accommodations and huge luxury properties on the other side.



The number of tourist arrived to Red Sea in year 2008 reaches almost 2 million. More what busiest season is considered to be from September till November and March until May. Hurghada is the biggest resort in Red Sea and cheaper than the main competitor Sharm el Sheikh on Sinai.

People of Hurghada

Today the official population of Hurghada is more than 180 000, with mainly hiring in tourism sector, but also in industries like mining, fishing, construction. Many foreigners who have visited Hurghada over past years never left. Mostly working in diving, guiding, real estate and nightlife business remarkable communities of Russians, Germans, Eastern Europeans, British have developed. A part of the population growth also comes from women who have married local men and now raising the new multicultural generations of the city.

The city of Hurghada is divided into three areas- Sheraton Road, El Dahar and the Promenade.

Sheraton Road (El Sakala)

Sheraton road or El Sakala center is the main tourist street in town. It is the busiest street in town with numerous bazaars, coffee shops, supermarkets, pharmacies, banks, restaurants and night clubs. You will find many hotels on the sea side of Sakala. Across the street are situated apartments for locals and foreigners living here (especially Hadaba). Sakala square is located in the one end of the main street. Here you will find many fish restaurants and local eateries. From the beginning of Sakala in a walking distance you will find an El Arousa square – a bride or mermaid standing in the middle of the road. The street to the sea side will lead you to Hurghada Marina – the new city promenade by the marina with luxury yachts and apartments surrounded by old fisherman households. Opened in 2008, one will find in Marina many shops (incl. some high street brands), fabulous bars, fine dining restaurants, nightclubs or just nice walking area for warm summer nights.



The Promenade (Village Road)

The second famous touristic area is called Village road (El Memsha in Arabic). More than 5 km long promenade with wide and clean walking area, mainly 4

stars hotels, famous nightclubs, restaurants with international cuisine, some mall-type shopping centers and uncountable number of shops. For a first acquaintance with Hurghada, Village road is more peaceful and less harassment for tourist than one will experience in Sakala area, but therefore as well reflects much less local culture and lifestyle than any other parts of the town. Famous spots in Village road include Esplanada Mall, Kottas mall, Duty free shop, Little Buddha nightclub and Hard Rock café.

El Dahar

And then there is left El Dahar. Dahar is home for most of the locals living in the area, but as well for number of hotels, city council, aquarium, library, biggest mosques and food market. In Dahar one will find touristic and not so touristic areas, although until now, most of the areas are safe enough to sneak around and discover the other face of Hurghada. If interested in shopping, Dahar offers you streets full of bazaars and good bargains.

Beaches

Most of the beaches have been taken over by hotels. Some, usually the better ones, do not allow non-visitors to enter, even at a fee.

However, for those who choose to holiday in Hurghada's, rented flats or houses with no direct access to a beach, there are still number of nice beaches available. Here's a short list of beaches outside hotels, open to everybody and all year round. Entering the beach sometimes requires a small entrance fee. Pets are usually not allowed as Egyptians are not so big pet lovers.



Old Vic Village

In a residential area of white seafront villas, this long sandy beach is located along a bay, protected from wind and waves and thus great for kids. The beach also has a beach-volley court, water sports centre, restaurant, bar, showers, bathrooms. The entrance fee of 25 LE per person includes the use of umbrella

and sun bed. It can be found at South Corniche, Village Road, 2 km from Desert Pearl Apartments.

Elysees Dreams Beach

This is a smaller and more private than Old Vic Village, Elysees Dreams Beach offers a feeling of relaxation. Easy music, wireless internet and catering management from well-known Bulls restaurant create an atmosphere of true vacation. The place also accommodates The Bovary Health Club & Spa where sauna, gym and quality massage is available. Entrance 30 LE, including a towel, umbrella and sun bed. Sheraton Road, 500 m from Marriott Hotel.



Hed Kandi Beach Bar

Funky and fancy, this newly opened place is a perfect chill out scene for lazy days. Hed Kandi is an absolute favourite of the young, chic and trendy. Includes beach, heated swimming pool, pool bar, hot tub and VIP areas. Entrance fee of 50 LE is required, including a small water and towel. Check out Wednesday afternoon pool parties. In Hurghada's Marina Boulevard.

In addition public beaches exist in Hurghada. Mainly popular among locals and Arab tourists, public beaches do not offer much to see. Somewhat modest behaviour and clothing will do no harm when visiting such places, in order to avoid too much attention of other sunbathers. Small entrance fee up to 10 LE is usually required.