

OONAS DIVERS

ESTABLISHED 1980 *Dive Adventures* FOR DIVERS, FROM DIVERS



Pre-departure Information

Red Sea Diving Safari

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Introduction



Red Sea Diving Safari – Marsa Alam – has been operating in excess of 20 years and now runs three separate Diving Villages in the South of the Red Sea Coast: Dive Village Shagra, Dive Village Nakari and Dive Village Wadi Lahami which are designed with the well-being of the environment and the comfort of the guests in mind. Their main objective is to offer quality diving and to concentrate on an environmental friendly setup with special attention to the protection of the outstanding coral formations of the area. We constantly readjust our operation to the needs of our guests.

Red Sea Diving Safari is run by some remarkable pioneers. Hossam Helmy, the owner, is a lawyer and the logistics coordinator. In the eighties he dedicated himself and his team to discover the, at that time, unknown reefs on the coastline. The team conducted the most extensive survey of the fringing reef and offshore reef topography along the 350 km coast between Safaga and Ras Banas. The team consisted of qualified PADI, SSI, IDEA and CMAS instructors and guides of different nationalities and with many years of diving experience in the Red Sea, sometimes leading back to the early eighties, when the Red Sea was still in the beginning of being discovered for sports-diving. Over the past 20 years Red Sea Diving Safari has constantly reviewed its services to suit our guests needs.

The Diving – Marsa Shagra & Marsa Nakari

The diving program of Red Sea Diving Safari is designed in a way that satisfies all divers, from experienced to less experienced levels. The diving program offers unlimited house reef diving, truck dives, night dives, boat dives and speed boat dives on offshore reefs. Not every one of the 3 locations of Red Sea Diving Safari offers the same program.

Dive Village Shagra is the main base of Red Sea Diving Safari with an outstanding house reef. It is located 253 km South of Hurghada airport, 40km South of Marsa Alam airport and 20 km North of Marsa Alam. In addition, it is situated opposite the famous Elphinstone reef. The village houses 51 chalets, 25 huts, and 40 tents.



Dive Village Nakari is the younger and smaller brother of Dive Village Shagra and has its own house reef. It is located 291 km South of Hurghada Airport, 78km South of Marsa Alam Airport, and 18 km South of Marsa Alam. The Village is situated opposite of Dolphin House reef and has no resorts in sight. The village houses 28 chalets, 11 huts and 25 tents. Nakari Village was already used as a port city in the early Roman period - remains of the ancient settlement can be seen on a hill overlooking the sea - the bay is a natural shelter along the coastline.

Unlimited House Reef Diving

The bays where the Dive villages are set up have superb house reefs which house many species of fish, an excellent variety of corals, and have excellent night diving possibilities. These bays are shallow, starting from 1-10 m. in depth and slowly dropping as they reach the outside walls of 40-50m in depth. Divers can use Zodiacs to dive or can simply get a tank and dive with a buddy. Unlimited house reef diving is available in Dive Village Shagra, Dive Village Nakari .



Truck Dives

The safari trucks travel twice a day from Dive Village Shagra and Dive Village Nakari to dive the sharms, marsas and reef walls along the coastline where easy access to the reef makes this area ideal for shore based diving. They cover approximately 100 kilometers of coastal fringing reef sites. The coastal reef reaches a maximum depth of 55 m and is heavily pitted with caves and swim-throughs. The truck dives are organized in a way that divers are not repeating the same locations during their stay.

The equipment is loaded on the Safari truck by the staff, and usually leaves between 07:00 to 08:00 in the morning and 13:30 to 14:00 in the afternoon. The flat bed trucks are open and the guests sit in the front part on mattresses, whilst the dive gear and cylinders are loaded into the back. These dives are guided and the guide will give a briefing upon arrival at the site. A tarpaulin is spread on the ground for gearing up, thus preventing the equipment from getting sandy. After the dive the guests can rinse with fresh water.



Inshore boat diving

In addition to the unlimited house reef diving package with truck dives, Dive Village Shagra & Nakari offer a in-range dives by ribs or daily boat (weather permitting).

The in-range boat diving program allows divers to re-discover stunning dive sites such as Sharm Abu Dabbab or Marsa Egla Top (from Shagra Village), and Shaab or Habili Nakari (from Nakari Village) and to explore new dive sites with beautiful corals and marine life: Gabal el Rosas and Abu Nawas Garden from Shagra Village, as well as South Garden, Sharm Hesham and Ras Samadai from Nakari Village.



Please note that only unlimited shore diving packages are able to be booked in advance, all boat diving will need to be booked and paid for locally, in-shore boat dive will cost approx €10 and off-shore boat dives approx €20 per dive.

Offshore Boat Diving



From Dive village Shagra, speed boats are riding upon request to Elphinstone, which can be reached in only 15-30 minutes (according to wind conditions). From Dive Village Nakari, daily boat dives are going to Shaab Samadai, also known as Dolphin House and take about 30 minutes. Guests of Shagra, and Nakari have the possibility to dive these famous reefs and other reefs like Shaab Abu Dabbab, Shaab El Ghadeer, Shaab Marsa Alam and Shaab Sharm, using the facilities of the Dive Village and discover some of the most spectacular offshore dives of the South of the Red Sea. Boat dives mentioned here are optional and to be paid on site.

In Dive Village Wadi Lahami Village all dives are done by speed boat/RIB to the world-class sites of the Fury Shoals. This Dive village offers unguided inshore diving packages and guided offshore diving packages. Inshore reefs are reached within 5 minutes. Most offshore sites are reached within 20-30 minutes.

Diving Excursions

Guest staying at Shagra and Nakari Village can enjoy an over day/over night excursion To Dive Village Wadi Lahami Village (according to availability) to dive the untouched reefs of the Fury Shoals. Information and reservation are available upon arrival and the excursion is payable on site.

“Dive & Living The Passion”

Red Sea Dive Safari can now offer a 30 meter vessel available for over-night excursions in combination with all Dive Villages. Guests depart from Wadi Lahami by RIB and dive on the way to Sataya (Dolphin Reef, Fury Shoals), on arrival there may be the opportunity to swim with the dolphins before you join the M.Y. Fury shoal Explorer for lunch.



M.Y. Fury Shoal Explorer acts as floating restaurant and accommodation for the evenings as well as a mini safari. From here guests spend two days, one night diving or three days and two nights snorkeling the outer fringes of the Fury Shoals with twin engine 7.5 metre RIBs. The diving will follow the same principle of our 'Classic program' of 3 dives + night dive per/day at Wadi Lahami, discovering new, and unknown dive sites with our fast sea-worthy RIBs., except each day you will return to your "floating air- condition en suite chalets," and have the opportunity to interact with dolphins as you, or 'they' wish.

Please note that this option is offered as a supplement on top of your tour and is bookable and payable on site, but please let us know if you are interested in this option.

New For 2009

Red Sea Diving Safari is offering a new boat diving program called "Deep South Mini-safari – St. Johns." This is a 3-night boat diving excursion that is departing twice a week on Saturdays and Tuesdays.

We are offering a 7 day land/sea combo package; 3 nights of which are spent aboard M/Y Patriot and the remaining 4 nights can be spent at one of the villages.

This mini-safari program is a joint venture between Red Sea Diving Safari and Mirage Marine Fleet. M/Y Patriot with 10 fully air-conditioned cabins that feature en-suite facilities, TV/DVD, mini bar and safety box. Minimum of 10 people. Minimum 50 logged dives.

Trip 1: (Friday night – Monday afternoon) guests embark on Friday night for dinner and orientation. Boat leaves to St. Johns early Saturday morning for 3 full days of diving. Guests disembark on Monday afternoon.

Trip 2: (Monday night – Thursday afternoon) guests embark on Monday night for dinner and orientation. Boat leaves to St. Johns early Tuesday morning for 3 full days of diving. Guests disembark on Thursday afternoon.

Guiding

The diving team of Red Sea Diving Safari consists of qualified PADI, SSI, IDEA and CMAS instructors and guides of different nationalities and with many years of diving experience in the Red Sea. Members of the diving-team have extensive language skills including English, Dutch, French, Italian, German and of course Arabic.

Two guided dives per day are included in the standard diving package. The dive guide will provide a detailed briefing about the dive site and the local conditions of diving, including information about marine life, standard diving procedures and safety rules. If guests should require a more in-depth briefing, they only have to tell the guides who will be pleased to elaborate. Supervision of divers is provided according to experience, requests and



particularity of each dive site. Red Sea Diving Safari does not allow decompression diving and the maximum depth in the Red Sea is limited to 40 meters.

Diving Courses

Discover Scuba Diving and PADI Diving courses from Scuba Diver to Assistant Instructor plus CMAS Diving Courses from 1 to 3-star are available in all locations. Red Sea Diving Safari also offers diving activities for children. The PADI Courses Program includes Bubblemakers (age 8-10), Seal Team (8 – 10 years), Discover Scuba Diving (10 years and older), Junior Open Water Diver (age 10-15) and Junior Advanced open Water Diver (age 12-15). For further details please contact Oonasdivers.

Technical Diving

Twin tanks set are allowed for use only on the house reef (for an extra charge of 3 euros per dive) for technical divers only. Certification delivered by a technical diving federation should be handed to the diving center prior to the dives. Please note that Red Sea Diving Safari is not a Technical Diving Facility. Therefore the maximum depth allowed even for technical divers is still 40 meters.

Diving At Wadi Lahami



Dive village Wadi Lahami Village is settled in a sheltered bay just above Ras Banas, directly opposite the multitude off shore reefs collectively known as the Fury Shoals. It's the most southern Dive Village of Red Sea Diving Safari. This remote bay is located 393 km / 5 hours South of Hurghada Airport, 180km / 2 hours South of Marsa Alam Airport, and 120km South of Marsa Alam Town.



The Village houses 16 Chalets and 30 Tents.

From Wadi Lahami we dive the walls and habilis of the offshore reefs of the Fury Shoals and the in-shore local reefs of Wadi Lahami, some of which include Shabb Lahami, Shabb Shabroun, Shaab Mansour, Abu Galawa, Shabb Claudia, Shabb Malahi and many others, by special designed fast Ribs (Ridged Inflatable Boat). These offshore chain-reefs have very rich marine life. Pelagic fishes, such as jacks, tuna, sharks and rays are cruising visitors. The hard corals, which make up the reef topography of Fury Shoals, are believed to be the one of best examples in the world. This remote area still offers a sense of exploration and discovery. Throughout the entire Red Sea there is no comparable area blessed with the most extensive and remarkable coral forest.

This is a great opportunity to dive 'deep south' sites whilst having the freedom and flexibility of being land based. This place is for adventurous divers seeking the opportunity to discover pristine reefs, whilst living in a no frills "close to nature" expedition environment.

Offshore



Routes have been designed lasting 60 min. offering the best examples of hard and soft corals the Red Sea has to offer. A typical day in Wadi Lahami is as follows:

Breakfast is served at 06:30. We prepare for departure around 06:45 and then the adventure begins into the heart of the Fury Shoals for two dives. Coffee, tea, cake are served on the Rib between dives. We return to the Dive Village around 12:00 for lunch. After lunch and a short siesta we depart again to discover our local reefs (which we consider all our house reefs), returning

around 16:30, preparations are made for night dives, which start around 19:00 (we do request divers

bring their own torches). During dinner, dive-sites for the following day are drawn on the white board (detailed maps, recommended routes etc.).

Inshore

Routes have been designed lasting 60 min. offering the best examples of hard and soft corals the area has to offer. A typical day in Wadi Lahami is as follows: Breakfast is between 06:30 and 08:30. After breakfast the briefing for the first dive with maps etc...The journey is only a few minutes to all the sites. The dives are made with the RIB following the divers, so you will be collected wherever you wish to surface. After each dive you will return to the Dive Village for refreshments or meals. There are 2 dives before lunch and the 3rd dive is after lunch and a short siesta. Preparations for the night dive are made around dusk and the night dive is made on the closest reef to the Dive village (Torfa).



Other Activities Available At Wadi Lahami

Kite & Wind Surfing



Wadi Lahami also has a well equipped Kite and Wind Surf- Station. Due to part of the bay being of soft sand, it is the perfect environment for beginners, (the on site Instructors carry full insurance and offer fully accredited VDWS & IKO certifications) and for experienced Kites, there is the freedom to kite or surf away from the bay, where during the season you can find some very challenging waves. Various courses, storage and rescue packages available. 1 off lessons & courses available as well has full rental equipment, please request a price list.

Bird Watching

Wadi Lahami Village is situated beside the protected mangrove area (Hamata) which boasts one of the best areas for "Twitching" (bird watching) along the Red Sea coast. Many waders and shore birds roost and nest close by the mangrove swamps. These include the white heron, night heron, striated heron and sometimes the spoonbill. The sooty falcon is a possible visitor in the summer, and of course not to forget the magnificent ospreys which are nesting in the winter. In summer, the white-eyed gull can easily be seen, as well as the white-cheeked gull and the Caspian tern. The gull is quite special as its breeding range is restricted to the Red Sea. In fall and spring thousands of small birds like swallows, stone-chats, pipits, wagtails and kingfisher can be seen. Also we have a special guest "The Goliath Heron" living amongst the near by mangroves. With the dramatic mountain backdrops and tranquil seascapes offered from Wadi Lahami photo opportunity's are in abundance.



Accommodation

Beach Safari Tents



Tents are located near the beach. Inside each tent (3,5 x 3,5 meters) there are two beds, 2 meters apart and they are supplied with 2 sheets, blankets (not necessary in summer)

and a pillow per person. The housekeeping team is very accommodating and should one of the guests need an extra blanket or additional bedding, they should just ask.

When you arrive at the Dive Villages the staff will explain how the tent flaps can be used to stop sand from entering the tent. The tents have electricity for lighting, battery recharging and computer use. The tents have the use of communal showers and toilets with all modern comfort (running hot and cold water). The toilets empty to a septic tank and so flush. To avoid blockages all used paper should be placed in the bin beside the toilet. The guests should bring their own towels for the beach and for the regular use and showering. In addition, they should bring cosmetics such as shampoo, shower gel, toothpaste etc. Sheets and pillowcases are changed regularly by our housekeeping.



Mandarrah Huts

(Not available at Dive Village Wadi Lahami)



The Mandarrah is an ancient Egyptian term, which describes a guest room for the very close friends or relatives in the Egyptian house. The guests can use the facilities of the house like the toilet and kitchen et cetera. The Mandarrahs are located behind the tents on the side of the wadi, overlooking the bay. The huts have 2 beds with sheets, blankets and a pillow each. There is a bedside table with a lamp, and a clothes cupboard, plus a fan. The Mandarrahs are 3.5 X 3.5m with domed roofs and 2 windows. This desert styled architecture is very

effective and they stay cool enough without requiring air-conditioning.

Guests staying in Mandarrahs have the use of a communal hot shower and toilet block, which are also in a stone building with vaulted roofs. These toilets empty to a septic tank and so flush. To avoid blockages, all used paper should be placed in the bin beside the toilet. The guests should bring their own towels for the beach and for the regular use and showering. In addition, they should bring cosmetics such as shampoo, shower gel, toothpaste etc. Sheets and pillowcases are changed regularly by our housekeeping.



Madyafa Chalets



The term Madyafa comes from the ancient Egyptian era and it means a bigger room in the Egyptian house. The Madyafa is 24m² stone building with domed roofs. This desert style architecture is very effective and stays cool enough without requiring air-conditioning. In addition there are two terraces of 8m² with bamboo chairs. One of the terraces has a mountain view while the other one is facing the sea.



The chalets have their own facilities of cold/hot shower and toilet and are furnished with two beds, wardrobe, side table, dressing table with a mirror and a fan.



The guests should bring their own towels for the beach. Towels are provided for showering. In addition, they should bring cosmetics such as shampoo, shower gel, toothpaste etc. Sheets and pillowcases are changed regularly by our housekeeping.

Other Facilities

Food & Drinks

The guests will be provided with 3 wholesome meals a day and with cake in the late afternoon. Meal times are flexibly set according to dive schedules. Please inform us in advance for vegetarian menu or other special dietary requirements. In case of doing a night dive, you should inform the staff if you would like to have dinner before or after diving. Normal soft drinks (Pepsi, Sprite, Fanta), mineral water, tea, coffee, and hot chocolate are free and included in the full board package. In addition, we offer ice cream, espresso, (fresh) juices, light soft drinks, chocolate bars, crisps and souvenirs like T-shirts, post cards and books as items to be purchased from the cafeteria. Egyptian beer is also available at extra cost. All the extra's and purchases will be settled at the end of your stay. Breakfast, lunch and dinner are served in our sea view restaurant.



Meeting Shades

A spacious meeting shade on the waterfront is furnished with tables and chairs and has mattresses for relaxing and sunbathing as well as a water cooler for fresh mineral water. The white boards in the meeting shade inform guests about the diving program of the following days. There are also some games to borrow and books to read on the library shelf inside the shade. The meeting shade is supplied with electricity at night.



The Abbabda

If you want to get away from the camp for an hour or so, just a short walk along the beach to the other side of the tents you will find the Bedouin coffee shop and bar, The Abbabda.

The Abbabda is not included as part of your Red Sea Dive Safari package so any drinks and such must be paid for before you leave after each visit. The Abbabda is a fantastic meeting point for both the afternoon and evenings, you can enjoy traditional coffee's, fruit teas, beers, wine even a G&T, and for the smokers if you fancy you can even partake in a traditional Shisha (waterpipe / hooker).



Diving Equipment / Battery Recharging

Full diving equipment can be hired on site and is included free of charge for the participants of the Open Water Course. As the equipment choice is limited and the Dive Villages are located in the desert, we need to be informed about equipment requests prior to arrival (please indicate sizes for booties, wetsuits and BCD). Guests with their own equipment should bring thick soled booties, essential for shore based diving. Please note that alternate air source (octopus, or air2) is compulsory. 12 Litre aluminium tanks with single valve, DIN or international, are available and stored in the compressor room. A supply of full tanks is always available in the diving shade for diving on the house reef. 15 Litre tanks are available on request for 3 Euro per dive extra. Fresh water pools are at disposal for rinsing equipment, camera and computers. An electricity bank (220 V) allows recharging batteries.

Equipment Hire

Nitrox is available at all villages for €2 per 32% fill, bookable in UK, payable locally.

The following prices are Weekly rates	Prices In Euro – Payable Locally
Full Equipment per Day (incl.: ABC, Regulator with pressure gauge & Octopus, BCD and Wet - Suit)	30
Full Equipment (as above) for 5 days	140
Full Equipment (as above) + Computer for 5 Days	180
Full Equipment (as above) for 6 days	150
Full Equipment (as above) + Computer for 6 Days	200
The following prices are daily rates	
Regulator with pressure gauge & Octopus	10
Octopus	4
BCD	8
Full Wet - Suit	7
Half Wet - Suit	4
Mask & Snorkel	3
Booties & Fins	6
Depth gauge	4
Compass	4
Computer	10
Torch (per night dive)	10

Please note at Wadi Lahami 15 litre tanks are not available as they do not fit in the tank racks of the RIB's. For safety reasons no cylinders are allowed to lie within the boat space. The dives are conducted to allow guests to dive safely with 12 litre cylinders.

Hired dive equipment is paid for on site in Euro, Sterling or credit cards at the Dive Villages (5% surcharge on credit card payments). Hire equipment is subject to 10% sales tax.

If you require a wetsuit we will need to know your height & whether you are small, medium or large build, plus we will need your foot size if you require booties. Please complete section 'F' of our booking form with your size requirements and send or fax it to us.

All booked dive tours include free weights, belts & cylinders.

Tour Overview

Arrival In Egypt

Once you arrive at Marsa Alam or Hurghada airport you will need to purchase your Egyptian entrance visa, you will find the booth to the right hand side of the arrivals lounge at Marsa Alam airport, and to the left at Hurghada, your visa will cost approximately £10 or equivalent in alternate currency.



Once you have passed through immigration and baggage collection you will meet with your Red Sea Diving Safari representative outside of the airport, your representative will be holding a Red Sea Diving Safari board so that he is easily identified, you will then be escorted to your air conditioned minibus for your transfer to your chosen Eco Village.

Arrival At Red Sea Diving Safari



Once you arrive at your Village your luggage will be unloaded by the staff while you proceed to check in, your passport will be taken from you and locked within the village's safe, and you will be given your Mandarah or Madyafa key or number to your tent. Your main luggage will be delivered to your accommodation within an hour, at the cafeteria not far from reception you will have a short briefing for your morning meeting times and where to get breakfast, after this you are free to go to your room or stop and relax after your day of travelling.

Dive Timetable – Marsa Shagra & Marsa Nakari

On your first day your shake down dive is likely to take place around 9am, during the rest of the week the house reef is open to you from 6am until 9pm/10pm (depending on summer or winter months). The early morning Elphinstone boat departs Shagra approx 5.30am, Elphinstone may also be available along with other off shore boat dives at approx 11am and 2pm. The guided truck dives depart between 7am & 8am, and 1pm & 2pm.



Food Timetable

Breakfast is served from approx 7am until 9.30am, Lunch from 12pm until 2pm, and dinner 7.30pm until 9.30pm, please check this on arrival as times may change with seasons, afternoon cake is served between 4pm & 5pm, its fresh and warm so worth setting your watch for.

Last Day

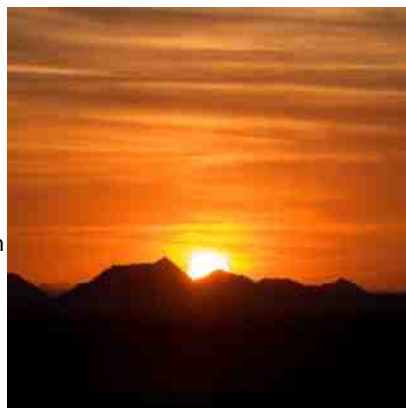
Every good thing has to come to an end, but although the diving may be over you still have the day at leisure to snorkel, relax and maybe take one of the optional excursions that are available.

Reception will be very happy to help you organise a few hours quad biking, horse riding or camel trekking through the desert, or you can just laze under the Egyptian sun reflecting on your week's experiences.

Cultural Excursions

Excursions are available from Marsa Shagra & Marsa Nakari, Red Sea Desert Adventures who have been working from Marsa Shagra for many many years (also the owners of the Bedioun Coffee Shop), we use Red Sea Desert Adventures as they work closely with the local Bedouin's to promote a different kind of tourism in their area.

Other excursions are available that haven't been listed below such as horse riding or quad biking in the desert, land surfing, wind surfing etc etc, please ask your tour advisor for further details.



Excursions Available

Sunset Tour €40 per person:

This tour take you to a traditional Madyafa (Bedouin guesthouse). It is undisturbed by light or sound and offers its family basic comforts. Here you enjoy the hospitality of the Bedouins. The trip departs sometime in the afternoon depending on time of year and is just a 20 minute drive away.

The Bedouins will prepare Bedu-style coffee, tea and bread for you. A short camel ride will give you a taste of their way of travelling. Not far away is a well where they water their goats, sheep and camels, its the perfect place to enjoy the light show of the setting sun as it disappears behind the mountains.

The tour takes about 2.5 hours and returns after sunset.

The Gold Tour €45 per person:

On this excursion you research ancient history and experience the natural beauty of the desert.

From the Bay Nakari we follow Wadi Anba Ut to the west. On the shore there are the remains of a roman harbour which was the starting point for the caravan route that will be followed on this journey.



Along the track you'll see different roman mining settlements where milling stones can still be found that were used to separate the gold from the stones. Later on during the tour you will visit an old well with hieroglyphic rock drawings dating back to the Ptolemaic times - the last Pharaohs of Egypt. In the shade of an acacia tree the Bedouin's will prepare refreshments such as tea and coffee. On the way back to the coast we pause shortly to enjoy sunset.

The whole trip takes about 5 hours.

Shelatin Tour €80 per person:



Shelatin is a trading place about 260km south of Marsa Alam. As the area inbetween Marsa Alam and Sudan has only recently been open to tourism you have the chance to to witness today's development of society and trading in this area.

Shelatin is the most important tribal market in this part of southern Egypt. It's a melting-pot of different cultures. The real Africa starts here.

Sudanese bring camels and mostly handmade items, trading them for necessity goods not available in their country. You will meet the Rashaid, a wealthy bedu tribe completely dressed in violet, who are the main

camel breeders. The Bishari and the Ababda are tribes that have their origins further south. They carry a whip or a dagger as symbols of their status. After finishing their business they return to which ever remote places they came from.

The tour starts at 7:00 am reaching Shelatin after a three hour drive along the spectacular coastline of the Red Sea. In Shelatin we stroll around the market. Little shops are spread out over the market area with an incredible amount of various goods. the variety of goods offered is simply amazing, feel free to bargain but please be respectable.

We recommended covering clothing for all our trips. Here you **have** to wear them! remember, these people are not used to our way of life and may be offended by disrespectful clothing. Clothes should be loose and covering. Taking photos is possible but asking first prevents misunderstandings.

OPTIONAL: On the way back we stop at a Bedouin fishing village El Golaan for lunch. The village is located at a lovely lagoon. The fish the bedouins prepare is the catch of the day.

We will be back late afternoon.

The Emerald Cities €90 per person

This tour combines some of the best sights of the Eastern Desert. Fantastic landscapes, the most spectacular archaeological sites and a night in the desert.

Although it cannot be guaranteed the sighting of wildlife such as gazelle is quite common.

We leave after an early breakfast. Following the Red Sea for one and a half hours to the south where we enter the **National Park "Wadi el Gemal"**.



The park is named after the valley "Wadi el Gemal" (valley of the Camels) which cuts through the mountain range from the East to the West. This Wadi was well known throughout history as an important trading route. Along the road we find many traces of this desert's history, roman caravan stations, tombs of the Blemmye tribe (the ancestors of the Bedouin's), and more.



After two hours off-road we reach an area where emeralds were mined since pharaonic times. There are settlements long forgotten but well preserved.

We first arrive at the roman village of Geli. There the gems were prepared for their further transport to the Nile. It is one of the biggest settlements in the area. Not so well preserved but impressive by scale. You will make a short walk up a nearby hill from where you oversee the large desert plains of this area.

After a short drive you reach the village Marfuah. Also a roman settlement where emeralds were mined, after a short walk over the sand dunes we take lunch.

The National Park's most known ancient settlement is Sakit. Sakit is famous for its well-preserved roman houses and its temple cut out in living rock. We have a walk through the ruins of the village. If there is still time we will visit the emerald mines.

From there we take a road back to the coast and arrive at the lodge during the late afternoon.

Desert Night €70 per person

Being in the desert at night is something very special. Away from touristy beaches you can enjoy the absolute silence under a crystal clear night sky.

The trip starts in the afternoon, so you don't miss the sunset. There are two possibilities to reach the campsite deep in the mountains. By **car** it's just a one hour drive, for the more adventurous by **camel** it's three hours.

Near the campsite there is an easy to walk up mountain from where you can see the sun setting behind the wide desert planes. During the evening you will be cared for by local people who make tea, coffee and dinner. On request the Bedouins can prepare goat for dinner, a local speciality (similar to Lamb but less fatty, great to try).

Astro Tour €30 per person

The Eastern Desert's night sky gives you a unique possibility for stargazing. Undisturbed by noise or light you really can experience the space surrounding our little planet Earth. The Astronomy Center of Marsa Alam is unique in Egypt. Built in the mountains of the desert it is undisturbed by noise or light from the nearby hotels.

The tours are led by trained people who help you to understand the mystery of the Universe.

We tell you about the star-signs and their mythologies, show you Life-Color Images from our



Telescope on Wide Screen, and explain basic astrophysics. A special laser is used to support the explanations.

For about seven days during each month the moon is too bright to see many stars. Watch the moon with binoculars and get all the information about it while enjoying the scenery. The desert illuminated by the moon is spectacular to experience.

The tour starts after dinner and takes about 2 hours.

Each of the above tours require a minimum of 4 participants. For the Astro Tour minimum of 10, if we are unable to secure you're tour in advance we will inform Red Sea Safari & Red Sea Adventures of your intention to book on arrival.

Travel Information

Sleeping Arrangements

All accommodation is based on 2 sharing, Mandarah's & Madyafa's will carry a single supplement for sole occupancy, however there is no charge for a single tent.

Language

The official language is Arabic though English and many other European languages are widely spoken.

Religion

Muslim & Christian.

Tipping

We are frequently asked about tipping the staff – how much, and in what currency. We recommend a tip of about £20 per guest or the equivalent alternate currency, there is staff tip box available in each reception, however personal tipping is often appreciated.

Time

GMT + 2.

Electricity

115-220 volts Continental 2-pin plugs are standard, a European 3 pin adaptor will be required.

Average Egyptian temperatures

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Air	20°	22°	24°	28°	32°	34°	37°	39°	37°	34°	26°	22°
Sea	20°	20°	21°	22°	24°	25°	26°	28°	28°	26°	24°	22°

Dive Sites

All dive sites and itineraries are weather and sea condition dependent and are decided by the skipper and dive guide. We do not guarantee sharks as although reef sharks are territorial they tend to be very shy and the larger pelagic sharks are cruisers and you are simply lucky if you spot them.

Dive Guides

Your dive guide has a responsibility to cater for the least experienced diver within a group. If you feel that you would like to do more advanced diving than that being offered, if the guide is looking after someone with less experience, - speak to the guide and at their discretion you should be able to conduct your own dives in buddy pairs. The maximum depth of the Red Sea is 40m. The guides will give briefings before each dive - if you feel that you require a more in-depth briefing, please tell the guide and they will be pleased to elaborate.

Passport & Visa

All nationalities require a valid passport (valid for at least six months from the date of return departure), English and EU guests can obtain an entrance visa on arrival for €20.

Communications

Most mobile phones will work at all 3 villages (sorry).

Currency

Euro, Sterling, Egyptian Pound, US Dollar are accepted at all locations, Credit Cards are accepted, credit card will carry a 5% surcharge, and all local purchases are subject to 10% Egyptian sales tax.

Health Information

Before travelling overseas it is always advisable to speak to your GP or other qualified medical practitioner.

Baggage

Please refer to your airline website for latest baggage allowances.

Contacts

If relations wish to contact you urgently, they should telephone the Oonasdivers office on 01323 648924.

Insurance

Comprehensive insurance is a vital part of your holiday and it is a condition of booking that you have such cover, it should cover all aspects of your holiday including diving, please provide us your policy details for our files. Oonasdivers can supply a Scubasure policy from as little as £40 please ask us for more details or a sample policy.

