

Egypt – Red Sea Trip

Transfers, Excursions and Insurance

Traveling in Egypt can be made exceptionally easy when you book with Master Liveboards. We offer a range of domestic flights, hotels, transfers and short excursions that can be arranged before or after your diving holiday.

Advice on International Flights

We recommend that you book your international flight to and from Hurghada, which is served by many airlines and charter companies from all over the world. You can embark the Red Sea Master on Friday. Disembarkation is on Friday mornings between 9 and 10 am. Please note that these times may vary depending on the itinerary so please check your cruise confirmation carefully. Depending on your onward plans, you can either transfer directly to the airport or check into a hotel to enjoy the Egyptian hospitality a little longer.

Excursions

Needless to say, Egypt is home to some of the best historical treasures in the world. Take your pick from one of the few excursions below or ask for the full list of excursions that will make you get the most out of your Egyptian experience:

The Pyramids of Giza and the Sphinx

The Pyramids of Giza represent one of the greatest architectural feats of man. The last surviving member of the Seven Wonders of the World; the Great Pyramid of Giza is one of the oldest tourism attractions in the world and still attracts vast numbers of visitors every year. There are 3 main pyramids in Giza, each one being a tomb dedicated to a different Egyptian king: Kufu, Kafhre and Menkaura. On guard in front of the pyramids lies the Sphinx, carved out of a single block of stone, this enormous cat-like sculpture has mesmerized millions of visitors.

National Museum of Egyptian Antiquities - Cairo Museum

Situated in downtown Cairo, this museum is home to an extensive collection of ancient Egyptian antiquities. It features the largest Pharaonic collection in the world and thousands of interesting and unique artefacts from over 5000 years of Egyptian history. On display, for instance, is the world famous 11kg solid gold mask of Tutankhamun.

Abu Simbel

Next to the Pyramids of Giza, Abu Simbel is perhaps the most recognized monument of ancient Egypt. The two temples built for the Pharaoh Ramesses II have been attracting visitors since Victorian times. Nowadays, there is a daily sound & light show, which is not to be missed. Twice per year in February and October, the Abu Simbel Festival is held and the natural sunlight and architectural brilliance combine to make the inner sanctum of the temple light up - an experience not to be missed if you are there at the right time of year.

Valley of the Kings

Home to Tutankhamun's tomb, the Valley of the Kings is situated on the ancient site of Thebes and is the last resting place for the pharaohs and where they hoped to meet their Gods in the afterlife. To see the treasure that Tutankhamun was buried with, you will have to visit the National Museum in Cairo. However, as a matter of fact, Tutankhamun was a relatively minor king and there are many larger and more impressive tombs to discover in the Valley of the Kings.

Luxor Temple

If you travel to Luxor, a must-see is the spectacular Luxor Temple situated in the centre of Luxor. Largely built by Amenhotep III and Ramesses II around 1400BC, its main purpose was to celebrate the festival of Opet. Many rulers built on to the temple, yet it always remained a place of worship for Christians and later Muslims. A mosque built inside the temple still exists and is one of the highlights of the site. Luxor Temple is beautifully lit at night and it is well worth visiting the site at sunset.

Insurance

Master Liveboards strongly recommend that all guests carry full travel and cancellation insurance as we cannot be held liable for delays which occur during the cruise, nor any delays or cancellations of the flights, accommodation, tours and transfers we organise on your behalf. Master Liveboards works in partnership with DiveAssure and can offer you a selection of competitively priced dive and travel insurance policies, including short term and multiple trip policies. We recommend the comprehensive insurance plan Dive & Travel Plus; which has been specifically developed for diving liveaboard holidays. This insurance covers your trip expenses in the event of missing your liveaboard departure due to (flight) delays. Moreover, it provides coverage for lost diving days if for any reason the boat is required to abort the cruise; for instance, due to a guest injury, mechanical breakdown of the ship, air supply failure, inclement weather conditions, etc.

General Information

Visa and Passports

Passports must be valid for at least six months and citizens from most Western countries should purchase a tourist visa upon arrival (US\$25, EUR €18), which allows them to stay in Egypt for up to one month. Some nationalities may be required to purchase a visa prior to arrival, please consult the Egyptian Consulate in your country for more details.

Time Zone

Local time is GMT + 2hrs in wintertime, GMT + 1 hr in summertime.

Money Matters

The local currency is the Egyptian Pound (EGP). Most hotels and bigger shops will accept credit cards and there are many ATMs for cash withdrawal. Widely accepted are Euro, USD and UK Pounds.

Health

The general standard of medical care in Egypt varies per location but overall, it is fairly poor. It is recommended to take the usual precautions with uncooked food and refrain from drinking tap water. Protect yourself from the fierce Egyptian sun; heat strokes are fairly common.

Language and Religion

The Egyptians speak Arabic, while English is spoken as well in the tourist areas. The population is predominantly Muslim: 88%. Around 10% of the population is Christian; most Christians belong to the Coptic Orthodox Church. There are small groups of Jews and Baha' i people.

Climate and Weather

Egypt has hot and dry summers and fairly moderate, cool winters; the air temperature can easily touch 40°C in summer, while winter reaches a more comfortable 18-23°C with occasional rain and cool nights. Take care all year round when exposed to the sun as it can be intense. In the desert area, temperatures are even more extreme, both hot and cold.

Water Temperature and Exposure Suits

Diving in Egypt is possible all year round. Water temperatures vary from 20C in December up to 29C in August. Recommended are a 3 or 5mm full wetsuit (summer) and a 5 or 7mm full wetsuit (winter) with a hood/vest in case you feel cold.

Life on Board

Food and Drink

All Master Liveaboard vessels provide guests with a choice of international and local cuisine, served buffet style in the indoor air-conditioned dining area. We cater to special dietary requirements; please inform our reservations team prior to your trip to ensure we have plenty of dishes to suit your needs. A range of black, green and herbal teas and drinking water are commonly available as well as instant coffee. A selection of fresh fruit is readily available, as well as some “naughty” treats should you feel peckish in between meal times. Guests may also select beer or wine for an additional fee.

Clothing and Footwear

Dress on board our vessels is very casual and most guests feel comfortable in little more than swim wear, shorts and t-shirts. A sweater is advised for cooler nights, particularly after multiple dives. We do request that guests respect the wishes of others by donning clothing for meal times. As a rule, we respectfully request that guests do not wear shoes while indoors on the vessel, though most guests prefer bare feet on board anyway; however island visits may require sturdy sandals or cross-trainers.

Electricity

On board the Red Sea Master we have European two-pin sockets, 220V / 50Hz.

Smoking

Smoking on board is permitted in designated outdoor areas.

Safety on Board

Emergency Management

All Master Liveaboards crew members undergo rigorous training in emergency management procedures. A thorough boat safety briefing will be provided by your Cruise Director at the start of your trip during which all guests will be requested to participate in a life jacket drill. Further practice scenarios may be performed during your cruise to assist our crew in keeping their skills sharp.

Emergency Equipment

Each of our vessels is equipped with modern safety features such as automated life rafts, EPIRB, satellite communication and emergency pumps. Each guest will be offered the optional rental of a Nautilus Lifeline, which can be used to communicate your location to the vessel, or coast guard in the unlikely event you find yourself drifting away from your liveaboard.

First Aid

Master Liveaboards vessels are equipped with a fully stocked medical first aid kit for treating minor injuries and ailments as well as for assisting trained medical professionals in remote locations. Each yacht has a full complement of medical grade oxygen which can be administered to divers through DAN kits or unit specific attachments. You will also find on board an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) which has been proven to greatly increase the survival rate in the eventuality of cardiac fibrillation. Our

dive teams are all qualified emergency responders. Should you feel unwell at any point during your cruise, please seek the advice of your cruise director who will be able to assist you.

Staying connected

The Red Sea Master has been kitted out with wireless internet access. The Wi-Fi on board can be used free of charge and will be available wherever there is a signal for email and web browsing. Please note that Egyptian internet is not of European standard and access will be limited (mainly available when closer to land).

Payments on Board

Optional Extras

Master Liveaboards offer a range of services to make your stay on board even more enjoyable. We offer the following services for an additional fee: • Nitrox • Beer • Wine (750ml bottle) • Dive equipment rental • Exclusive Master Liveaboards merchandise: T-shirts, polo shirts, hoodies, Fish ID books, logbooks, SMB, reels, toys, jewellery, etc. All prices on board are quoted in GBP; however, we accept USD, EUR and EGP in cash as well. We can also accept debit cards and all major credit cards with the exception of American Express, however a surcharge will apply for credit card payments. The exchange rate for other currencies will be based on the current rate at the time of settling the bill. Guests are advised to bring from 250 – 400 USD (or equivalent currency) for any optional extras.

Tipping

At Master Liveaboards we believe that tipping is a matter of personal choice. Should you feel that your crew has made your holiday extra special; then they will certainly appreciate a tip, in cash only. An envelope will be provided for your convenience by your cruise director and gratuities then divided equally amongst all the crew, including the captain and dive guides.

Diving Information

Guests' Level of Diving

Master Liveaboards welcomes everyone from non-divers to seasoned divers. Each destination has different diving conditions based on the season and time of the trip. Depth limits given by the Cruise Director must be followed. Whilst most of our trips are suitable for each and every experience level, there may be some dives offered that are not suitable for beginners. Your cruise director will be able to advise you whilst on board, however if you have concerns regarding the conditions of the destination you wish to visit then please contact your agent or the Master Liveaboards reservations team.

Scuba Equipment

Since some of the domestic airline carriers in the regions we operate have strict check-in luggage limits, all Master Liveaboards vessels provide rental equipment, including: • Aqua Lung Wave BCD • Aqua Lung Regulator - complete with alternate air source and depth/pressure gauge console • Wetsuits – 5mm full • Mask • Fins - full foot or open heel and boots depending on destination • Underwater torch • 15 litre tank • SMB (safety sausage)* • Dive computer*

*** Please note that the use of a dive computer and SMB is compulsory on our vessels. For your safety, Master Liveaboards asks all guests to always dive within the limits of their dive computer and make a safety stop at the end of each dive.**

12 litre tanks, weight belts and weights are provided free of charge. Underwater Photography and Videography Our vessels offer specialised features for underwater photographers and videographers, such as ample storage space, individual storage drawers for cameras and peripheral items and

designated charging areas. Our crew is thoroughly trained in the handling of delicate camera equipment and will bring your cameras to/from the tenders for you.

Diving Health

Flying after Diving Current studies show that you should wait at least 24 hours after multiple repetitive dives before you fly. Please bear this in mind before you book your onward international or domestic flights. **Diving Insurance** Diving insurance is mandatory aboard all Master Liveaboard vessels, irrespective of destination. Your insurance must cover all of your scuba diving and snorkelling activities, including the costs for recompression chamber treatment and emergency air evacuation. Whilst many general travel insurance companies will cover scuba diving activities, they often fall short on recompression treatment or evacuation. Master Liveaboards can offer short-term diving insurance coverage (1-4 weeks), though we recommend that you contact our reservations team regarding insurance at least 1 week prior to your cruise departure date to ensure adequate time for arrangements. **Diving Emergencies** In the unlikely event a dive accident occurs, there are several hyperbaric facilities in Egypt: in Hurghada, El Gouna, Hamata, Marsa Alam, Safaga, and Sharm el Sheikh. A specially trained emergency team is constantly standing by. We strongly urge that all guests dive well within recognised limits, follow Dive Guides' advice and, of course, purchase specific dive insurance before their trips.

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The Red Sea Master In Focus with Saeed Rachid Saeed Rashid of 'Focus Visuals' is the host of our exclusive 'In Focus' photography workshops onboard our Red Sea Master vessel. He shares our commitment to education, quality of service and respect for our oceans. A seasoned diver and an award winning, published photographer, both above and below the water, he is an energetic and enthusiastic teacher who is committed to helping you get the most out of your camera and pass on some 'tricks of the trade'. Being a lecturer at Bournemouth University and popular speaker at UK dive shows, Saeed will guide you through the underwater photography process from start to finish. He will not only help you to develop your skills to spot and frame your subject to its full potential underwater, but also show you how to polish your images using a variety of simple postproduction techniques when back onboard. "My aim is to make learning fun, promoting confidence and participation. You can relax and enjoy a memorable holiday, whilst enhancing your underwater photography skills and who knows maybe teach me a top tip of your own!" - says Saeed Rashid. Over the course of the liveaboard week, there is plenty of time to learn new skills and the warm, clear waters of the Red Sea provide the perfect environment to practice! You do not even need to own a camera to get involved - you can hire all equipment from Master Liveaboards! Should Saeed be unable to host an 'In Focus' week, a suitable replacement will be employed to make sure the 'In Focus' specialist itinerary can still take place. Up to four dives a day will be scheduled, three of which will be 'In Focus' dives where Saeed will be in the water. Out of those three 'In Focus' dives, one will be a night dive. In order to improve your skills on this itinerary you may dive some sites on more than one occasion. Please be aware that laptop hire is not available onboard, so to ensure you get the most out of Saeed's post-production expertise you may wish to bring your laptop (with editing software if needed) along with you. Saeed's trips follow various itineraries on the Red Sea, both north- and southbound.