

PONGO DIVERS

- RED SEA 2026 -

Dear friends

We invite you to our Pongo Divers Red Sea trips in 2026.

This trip is organized in cooperation with our partners in Egypt and is guided by good and reliable local guides. Food is excellent and boat offers all you need for your comfort and fun during entire week.

We all fly in to Marsa Alam or Hurgada and rest is organized by us.

Trip plan:

DEEP SOUTH - **Pelagic Trail** itinerary — one of the most iconic routes in the southern Red Sea. The itinerary includes:

- **Daedalus Reef** – the Red Sea's most famous pelagic hotspot, an excellent alternative to Brothers
- **Elphinstone Reef** – renowned for shark encounters
- **Sataya (Dolphin House)** – spectacular reefs, caves, and frequent dolphin sightings

On landing transfer will wait for us on Hurgada or Marsha Alam airport and take us to the boat (no matter how many different flights we come on). On boat you will be greeted by the crew and guides. You will go through safety and equipment briefing.

If you arrive on early morning flights there is a near by lounge where you can chill out and enjoy until the transfer time.

Next morning we will be already on first dive location where we do our first dive to see how much weights we need and check all equipment. After check dive the real thing starts.

We organized this trip to see the best Red Sea has to offer, our cruise will take us to some of the best open sea locations in Red Sea where we will have a chance to dive on some great reefs where we have chance to see dolphins, sharks, big schools of fish, mantas, turtles, Napoleon wrasse....



First we will dive around Elphistone reefs which are long nice dives full of life and with chance to see some big fish and sharks. Then our boat turns around and does an all-night crossing to Daedalus Reef in open sea.

Daedalus Reef is famous for being one of rare places where Red sea is still as it once was... lot of Sharks (Hammerhead, Tresher, Oceanic...), Travellery, Tuna, Mola Mola but also unspoiled reefs full of soft coral.

After Daedalus Reef we go deep south to Sataya area to dive with dolphins, caves and swimthrought tunnels. From here, we return to Marsa Alam.

Last day we have organized transfers to Hurgada and Marsa Alam airports.

Length of trip

8 Days / 7 Nights

Departure

07 Nov 2026

Check in at 4 pm

Hurghada

Return

14 Nov 2026

Check out at 10 am

Hurghada

Dives

Approximately 19 dives in total

Experience

Advanced Open Water - 10 minimum logged dives required.

Terms&Conditions – Prices

Price without flight: 1540 Eur

(this price is on 6 diver pax minimum, if we are over 10 divers price reduces for additional 100 Eur)

Package includes:

- Transfer from/to Hurghada or Marsa Alam airport
(Please read Info on Transfers)
- Full board (breakfast, lunch, dinner, snacks, fruit, ...)
- Shared lower deck cabins, 7 nights on board last night on board or in hotel,
- Soft drinks, coffee, tea
- 6 days diving 3-4 dives a day, 2 dives on the last day
- Night dives
- Dive Guide
- Weights and 12L tanks
- For non diver, we offer 200 Eur discount – non divers can snorkel on most diving locations when we dive on reefs and with dolphins. Shark locations are not allowed for snorkelers.

Not included

Flight

Deck cabin and suits + 190 Eur per person

Environmental tax (35 € pp payable on board)

Marine Park fee (50 € pp payable on board)

Fuel surcharge (60 € pp payable on board)

Port fee (25 € pp payable on board)

Equipment rental

15L tanks – 35 Eur

NITROX: 70 Eur

Private dive guide 500 € (we will have dive guide for our group)

Nitrox in 15L tanks 125 €

Alcohol

Crew tips (recommended 70 €)

- **Total Extras without flight (marked in orange) are 240 Eur**

Alcohol we will all buy in shop ourselves on day of departure by ourselves

- Egypt Viza – online or buy directly onboard – check requierments:

Booking conditions:

We need to pay 25% reservation fee untill 30.02.2026 and rest 2 month before departure.

Boath are not refundable. Trip is made on minimum of 6 persons pax.

Egipt Viza

* Possibility of issuing visa upon arrival in Egypt, but only in the case of for an organized tourist trip. As evidence it is necessary to have travel agency voucher, travel must be organized through a charter flight and destination must be a tourist destination (not Cairo nor Alexandria).

** Tourist visa can be obtained through the e-visa system on the following website: visa2egypt.gov.eg. The single-entry tourist visa fee is 25 US dollars, and multiple-entry tourist visa fee is 60 US dollars. The visa will be issued through the site directly and can then be presented to customs upon arrival.

Flights Info.

These are companies which fly regular flights to Hurgada and Marsa Alam:

Turkish airlines

AirCairo

WizzAir

Pegasus airlines

Easyjet from –Geneva (for Bill)

Corendon Air – from Munich and Vienna

North of Hurghada and South of Marsa Alam (RMF airport not Marsa Alam the city) are not included in the free transfer, an extra charge will apply according to the distance, also extra charges apply for other days than Saturdays.

The latest time to reach the boat is Sunday before 05:00am, you can leave the boat whenever suitable for you on Friday after reaching the port & until Saturday at 10:00 if you wish to check out early. Also on Saturday you can leave your bags on board while you go sightseeing or in the lounge while waiting on your flight.

The transfer between Hurghada and Marsa Alam is about 3 hours.

The transfer between Marsa Alam airport and harbour is about 20 min.

Included transfers are available only within the designated pick-up timeframe.

- Arrival: Saturday between 12:00 and 18:00- we provide pickup from Hurghada Airport (HRG) or Marsa Alam Airport (RMF) during this time window.
- Departure: Saturday – group bus departs from the boat 8AM and arrives to:

Hurghada Airport: between 12:00 and 14:00 (approx timing)

Marsa Alam Airport: between 10:00 and 12:00 (approx timing)

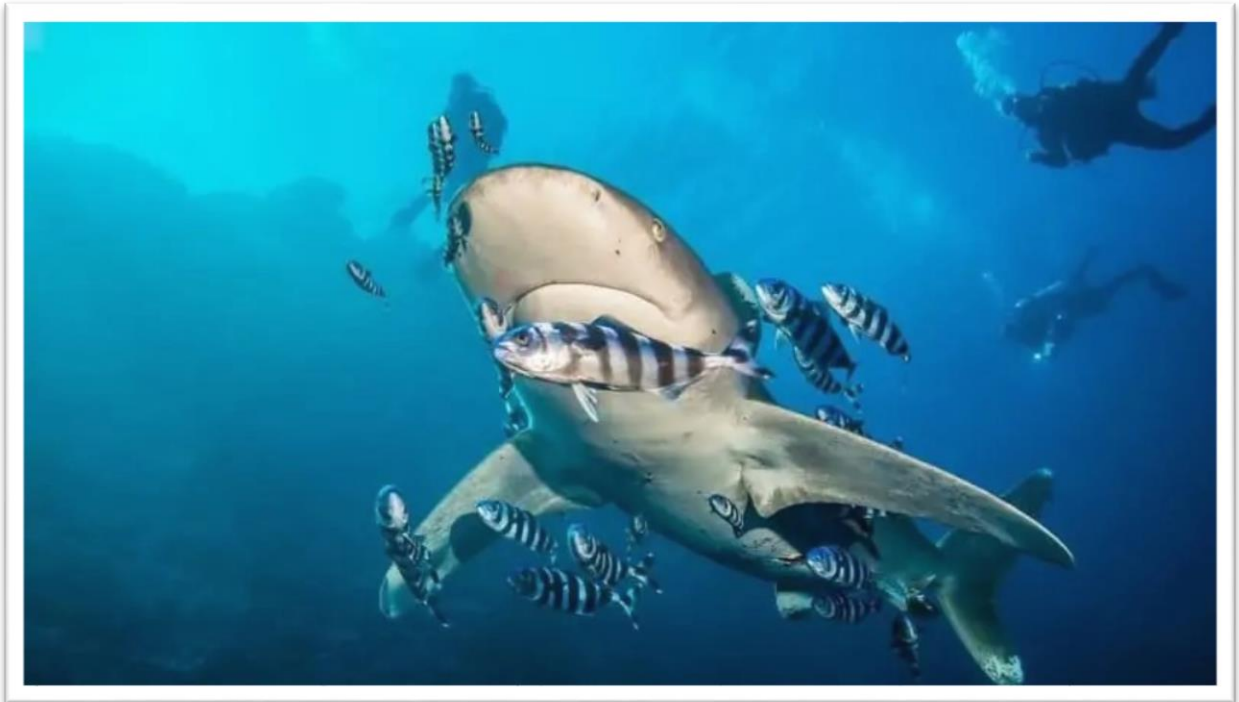
Feel free to contact me with any questions you might have on

divingcenterpongo@gmail.com

Sincerely

Borko Pusic
PONGO DIVERS





About Dives

Why to dive on Pelagic trail itinerary?

Unique Shark Encounters: The itinerary is specially designed to increase the chances of encountering hammerhead sharks, particularly at Daedalus Reef, offering divers a thrilling big fish experience. At Daedalus, divers have the chance to encounter up to five types of sharks, making it an ideal destination for thrill-seekers looking for big pelagic encounters.

Dolphin Interaction at Sataya: The itinerary includes snorkeling and diving opportunities in the Sataya region, known for its frequent dolphin sightings, offering a unique chance to interact with these playful marine mammals.

Diverse Pelagic Species: The itinerary promises a rich diversity of pelagic species, including manta rays and various types of sharks, making it ideal for divers seeking big fish adventures.

Scenic Coral Gardens and Caves: Dive sites like Elphinstone and Sataya offer not only pelagic encounters but also beautiful coral gardens and caves, providing a mix of underwater scenery.

Year-Round Diving: With consistent diving conditions and warm waters throughout the year, the Pelagic Trail offers an excellent opportunity to dive with some of the most sought-after marine life in the Red Sea at any time.

What to Expect on a Daedalus Reef

Due to its remote nature, choosing a liveaboard to **Daedalus Reef** is necessary to appreciate this amazing dive area fully. East of Marsa Alam, about 80 km/50 miles offshore, Daedalus Reef, also known as Abu Kizan, lies within a marine protected zone. At the center of the reef, the Egyptian Navy built a lighthouse on a small man-made island originating in the 1860s, which was then rebuilt in the 1930s. A long fixed pier stretches from the lighthouse out to the edge of the shallows.

Daedalus has a large shallow reef with drop-offs at the sides. It varies from a few meters of beautifully clear water to the deepest point for recreational divers at 40 meters/ 130 ft. This means Daedalus has the best of both worlds. On the largely unspoiled reef, there are stunning corals, tropical fish, and Napoleon wrasse for divers to enjoy. In the deeper sections, out in the blue, the pelagics: **sharks, mantas, and tuna shoals**, can be seen passing through.

For technical divers, other areas are only accessible to those with experience and equipment for going deep. The wreck and debris of the Zealot steamer are very popular for rebreather and side mount diving.

Daily Schedule (example)

Morning - The first dive will normally be a dawn dive. After a quick snack and coffee, you will have a briefing before heading to the dive deck. The deeper dives will be first, and divers will enter directly or by tender boat from the liveaboard. After breakfast, a second briefing will be followed by the second dive. The dive times will vary depending on the depth of the dives and air consumption.

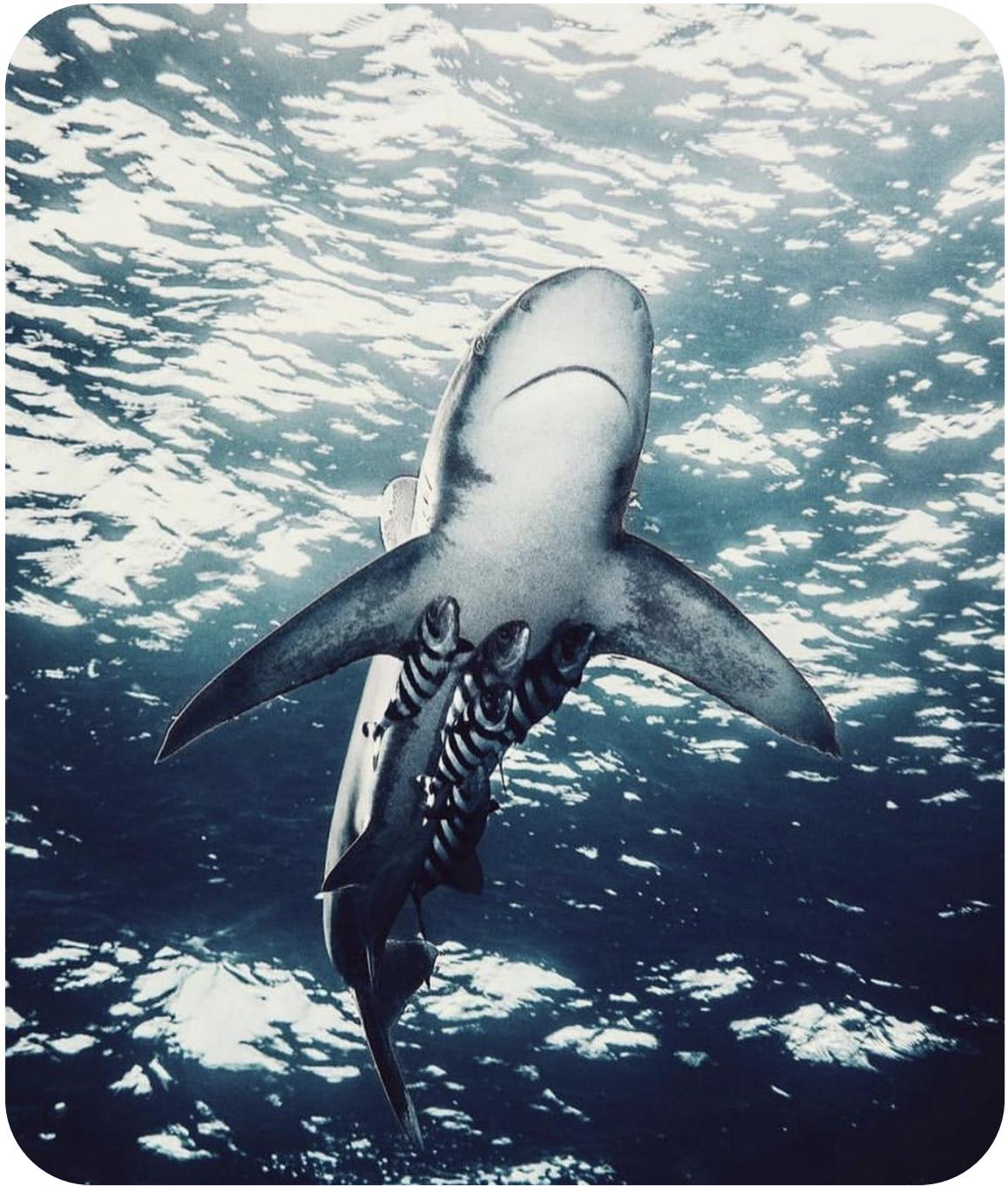
Afternoon - After lunch and a break on board, there will be another two dives in the afternoon. These will likely be shallower reef dives where you can look at the coral and anemone city. Sadly, there is no night diving within this marine protected area. This is for conservation and safety; the currents and general conditions can be difficult even during the day.

Daedalus Reef Underwater

The reef is less than a kilometer long and 100 meters wide, with drop-offs all around. The deepest areas of the site are around 40 meters/ft. and currents can be very strong. Visibility is very good despite often rough conditions. Divers can expect between 20 to 30 meters and 65 to 100 ft. The water temperature varies from 24 to 30 degrees 75 to 85 Fahrenheit.

Fortunately, Daedalus is in pristine condition, with soft and hard corals and many tropical reef fish. 'Anemone City,' an entire section of the reef covered with anemone, is a macro photographer's dream.

In deeper waters, the position of Daedalus reef so far offshore makes it ideal for encounters with passing pelagics. **Hammerheads** and oceanic whitetips are just some of the big sharks you can hope to encounter around Daedalus. In the south of the reef, there is also a chance to see solitary **thresher sharks**, easily distinguished by their long pointed tails. In the summer, there is also a chance to see whale sharks passing by in the blue.



What to expect on an Elphinstone Reef

Liveaboards to Elphinstone Reef take divers to one of the best-loved dive sites in the Red Sea. Around 30 km/19 miles North of Marsa Alam, the reef is named after the British Admiral George Elphinstone due to his time spent in Egypt during Napoleon's time. It lies just under the surface with only a few small waves to indicate it is even there. From the surface, it looks like a long, yellow oblong under the surface, with a shallow reef and then deep drop-offs to the sides.

Elphinstone is a very popular site for liveaboards running dive safaris in the **Red Sea**. There will normally be a few dive boats here during the day, although not too many, as this site is only for advanced divers.

The site offers crystal clear waters, coral and gorgonia just meters under the surface, and a host of beautiful tropical fish. As for the bigger aquatic life, down on the plateaus at either end of the reef, you can encounter oceanic whitetips and hammerheads in the winter months. Mantas and the fierce tiger sharks are more common in the warmer season. Whatever the season, though, Elphinstone is teeming with life and makes a fantastic dive.

Daily Schedule (example)

Morning - The first dive will be early, around 6 am to make the most of the peaceful early mornings. The dive briefing will be before breakfast, but you should be able to grab a quick coffee and snack while the guide fills you in on the reef. The dives will be from a small tender boat, which will drop the divers according to the current direction.

Afternoon - After lunch, there will normally be another two shallower dives. Divers should be careful with their profile since they can be doing five dives a day, leading us onto the night dive! There is no night diving in many of the best dive sites in Egypt, but at Elphinstone, it is allowed. Liveaboards can offer sunset dives on the walls and reefs. This is only for those who feel comfortable, though the depth and currents are not for inexperienced divers.

Elphinstone Underwater

The reef consists of two plateaus at the North and South and one Eastern and one Western wall, each good for seeing different life. The Northern plateau drops down like a set of steps only a hundred meters wide. They begin at 5 meters/16 ft. and slope to 20 meters/65 ft before a sharp fall to 40. This is a great place to see smaller pelagics, such as giant trevally and reef sharks.

The South Plateau starts around 25 meters/80 ft and slopes gently to 40 meters/130 ft before dropping off at around 45 meters/150 ft. This is the place to see oceanic whitetips passing by with their Pilot fish followers. These beautiful sharks come surprisingly close, making this a unique opportunity for stunning photographs and close encounters. For technical divers with the right training, around 60 meters, a tunnel passes between the two

walls called the Elphinstone Arch. The arch is home to an intriguing old fable that a sarcophagus-shaped outcrop of coral contains the remains of an Egyptian pharaoh!

The two walls on either side start at 1 meter and go down into the abyss with hundreds of little ledges and hiding places for all kinds of creatures. Beautiful corals, triggerfish, Napoleon wrasse, and great barracuda are just some of the inhabitants here. Elphinstone seems to have it all between the four sides, and if luck is on your side, there have been sightings of hammerheads and whale sharks there, too.

Top Tips for Elphinstone Reef

- The current here is fairly regular North to South but that isn't guaranteed and it is strong around 2 knots or more so be prepared.
- The site is very popular; later in the day, it can get a little busier; a liveaboard is best as you will get in the water before anyone else.
- Set a depth warning on your computer. No one knows how deep the waters around Elphinstone go; the clear water makes it easier to go deeper than you intended.



SATAYA DOLPHIN REEF

Sataya Reef, also known as Dolphin Reef, is one of the most iconic dive and snorkeling destinations in Marsa Alam, Red Sea, Egypt. Famous for its resident pods of spinner dolphins, Sataya offers an extraordinary chance to swim alongside these playful marine mammals in their natural habitat. The reef is also home to a vibrant ecosystem, including clownfish, butterflyfish, parrotfish, groupers, blue-spotted stingrays, and occasionally green sea turtles. The coral formations are rich and colorful, featuring both hard and soft corals that create a spectacular underwater landscape.

INSURANCE

This trip is taking place in remote areas and we will do everything in our organizational power to make it as safe as possible. However diving, driving, boating carry certain amount of risk.

Pongo divers will assist you in any difficult situation but do not carry any legal obligation toward you on this trip concerning any diving accidents (diving is organized by Egyptian company), traffic, boating or traveling. So please have your Insurance coverage on the level so we can assist you easier if anything happens and you avoid additional cost.

- On this trip you have to have dive insurance before boat departs
- Take a look at these different dive insurances, We recommend that you have diving covered but also include non-diving accidents in your insurance plan as it will be 100 times worth while if you need any assistance.

<https://www.daneurope.org/en/home>

<https://diveassure.com/en/>

<https://diveassist.org/membership/>

THE BOAT



The boat's routes include remote destinations and marine parks in the Red Sea, providing access to pristine dive sites. It accommodates up to 28 guests, ensuring a balanced environment between community and privacy.

The crew is real “treasure” of the boat- always here to help, very friendly but experienced and professional.

15 cabins: **14 twin superior client cabins** and 1 dive guide cabin. All 14 clients cabins equipped with

- private shower and toilette facilities,
- air condition.

6 cabins are located on the upper deck and 8 cabins – on lower deck.

There are no clients cabins next to engine room on the lower deck. The dive-guide cabin and the storage room are located next to engine room.



Security measures aboard for shark-areas scuba diving :

All scuba diving activities conducted in shark-infested areas adhere strictly to the established regulations set forth by the Hurgada Environmental Protection and Conservation Association (HEPCA) and the Chamber of Diving and Water

Sports (CDWS). We meticulously ensure compliance with all official requirements and promptly make any necessary adjustments as per the guidelines provided. In order to maintain a proactive approach, we maintain regular and direct communication with the CDWS, allowing us to closely monitor the prevailing conditions at sea.

Some of the examples of the rules we follow: organizing dives with sharks exclusively in large groups, this strategic approach creates an illusion of increased size, effectively reducing the perception of individual divers as potential prey to the sharks. Immediately submersion is imperative. Remaining on the surface, engaging in surface swimming, or snorkeling in areas inhabited by sharks is strictly prohibited.

Security measures :

-During our trips to shark-inhabited areas, we provide comprehensive briefings to all participants. These briefings are conducted in strict accordance with the official protocols established by both the Hurghada Environmental Protection and Conservation Association (HEPCA) and the Chamber of Diving and Water Sports (CDWS). Our briefings are designed to ensure that divers are well-informed and prepared for encounters with sharks.

-Our boat holds an official license for operation, which is granted by the Red Sea Police and renewed on a seasonal basis. This license serves as a testament to our compliance with all relevant regulations and safety standards set forth by the authorities. To ensure the utmost safety and adherence to regulations, our boat and crew undergo a mandatory inspection conducted by the Red Sea Police before each departure. This comprehensive check is designed to assess the boat's seaworthiness, emergency equipment, and compliance with all required safety measures. Only upon successfully passing this inspection do we receive a departure permit, allowing us to embark on our diving expeditions.