HOME

Egypt is the home destination for lots of European divers that got enough from the cold waters in their country. The Red Sea has tropical fish, clear blue water and the temperatures are generally warmer, from 18C/65F in January till 30C/86F in July and august. The best time to go is in May or by the end of the year in October or November. The water is still warm and there are lesser tourists.

Egypt used to be The African Hotspot for sunseekers. Now, in this political climate, people are afraid to go. Don’t be scared! Go instead! First, it’s cheaper and second, there will be more place for you as all the rest stays away. I’d go back this second if I could.

Diving in Egypt is divided in three areas: The Sinai Peninsula, with Sharm El Sheikh, Dahab and Taba, the north of the mainland with El Gouna, Hurghada and Safaga, and the south with Marsa Alam and El Quesir. Apart from this, there are also two liveaboard routes that visit The Brothers and then north to Ras Mohamed and the Thislegorm wreck, or go south to Elphinstone and Daedalus Reef.

DAHAB

Dahab is a town on the Sinai Peninsula, at the Gulf of Aqaba. It is famous for its technical diving and the Blue Hole! You can stay in Dahab, or you can do a day trip from Sharm El Sheikh.

Blue Holes are big diving attractions. There are only three in the world: Dahab, the Bahamas and Belize. This one, however, has a bad reputation as being the deadliest dive site in the world. It has The Diver’s Cemetery as a nickname, and yes, next to the place of entry, there is a wall with all the names of the drowned divers. They get stuck in the tunnel, called ‘The Arch’ and goes from the Blue Hole to the Red Sea, died of narcosis or panic attacks… It is a deep swim through so you shouldn’t just attempt it, if you don’t have the right level and gear.

I wasn’t a big fan of the Blue Hole. There was nothing to see, except a hole that goes 120 meters/400 feet deep. But it is a signature dive so you have to do it one day, no?

Another known dive in Dahab is The Bells. People like to start in The Bells and come up in the Blue Hole. As it is on the outer side, you have to watch out for the current.

Water temperatures change between a chilly 20C/68F in winter and a nice 28C/82F in summer. Take the right wetsuit!

EL GOUNA

El Gouna is my favourite in Egypt! I have been diving there several times, with family and alone.  
The reason why I like this town so much, is that it has more or less all dives you do from Hurghada but it’s lots easier and safer to go for a walk or for dinner. As a woman alone, I kinda like that. I always call El Gouna the Disneyland of Egypt as it is a created city. It has lots of islands and lagoons, all connected to each other and looks like a little Venice in the desert. It is very fake but it is enjoyable. When you come in into town, your car or bus will be fully checked at a check-point and only lately, people started living there full time.

El Gouna is part of the Red Sea Riviera and is located 25km/15.5 miles north of Hurghada. This part of Egypt can have strong winds so waves can be funny. The water temperature goes from 16C/60F in winter till 30C/86F in summer.

There are 4 recreational wrecks on an outer reef, 2 hours away from El Gouna. Those ones you won’t go to if you’re diving from Hurghada! Because winds can be tricky and the site is rather far away, they won’t always be dived on. The history behind these sunken boats is interesting and will nicely be explained.

Another interesting site is Dolphin House on Shaab El Erg. If you don’t see dolphins during the dive, you will probably meet them on your way to there.

From El Gouna, you can book little diving trips for 1 or 2 nights up to Ras Mohamed and the Rosalie Moller and Thistlegorm wreck next to the Sinai Peninsula. These wrecks are famous and worth going if you have the time. You do have to have your advanced level and preferably nitrox too.

I always dived with Easy Diver Academy (EDA) when I was in El Gouna. They have their dive center in the hotel Three Corners Rihanna. If you’re not staying in this hotel, they come and pick you up in yours. EDA has great instructors and guides. The manager, Serge, will always try to make your diving wishes come true. Some of my family members did their courses with EDA and I was happy with that.