

Ancient Egypt / Red Sea Land & Dive Adventure

May 16th – 28th, 2011



The Great American Diving Company

401 North Main Street – St. Charles, MO 63301 – (636) 949-0880
11125 Manchester Road – Kirkwood, MO 63122 – (314) 909-7882

www.stldive.com/redsea2011.aspx

May 16th, 2011 - Day 1 - Monday – Departure

Depart New York’s John F. Kennedy International Airport this evening for an overnight flight to Cairo. Dinner and a light breakfast are served on board.

As of 9/23/09 this flight leaves at 6:30 PM and is non-stop to Cairo, Egypt.

Meals Included: Dinner (onboard)

May 17th, 2011 - Day 2 - Tuesday – Cairo

Ahlan Wa Sahlan! Welcome to Egypt, Land of the Pharaohs! Upon arrival at Cairo International Airport, your tour representative will greet you, and assist you with Visa and Customs formalities. As you drive through Cairo, you will see some interesting ancient monuments. After check-in at the hotel and time to freshen up, meet with your guide to discuss the exciting days ahead. A welcome dinner this evening will introduce you to Egyptian Cuisine.

As of 9/23/09 this flight arrives at 12:15 PM local time

Accommodations: Le Meridian Pyramids Hotel (or similar)



“Le Méridien Pyramids, nestled between the city and the wilderness, boasts unparalleled views of the majestic, ancient splendor of the Giza Pyramids. A mere glance out a guestroom window reveals one of the Seven Wonders of the World. Le Méridien Pyramids is surrounded by landscaped gardens, providing a respite of greenery amidst golden sands.

With a peerless choice of restaurants and cuisines, a Royal Club floor, a magnificent swimming pool, and spa amenities, Le Méridien Pyramids is conveniently located only twenty minutes from Cairo’s city centre.”

Meals Included: Breakfast (onboard) & Dinner

May 18th, 2011 - Day 3 – Wednesday – Cairo

Today we visit the Giza Plateau where there are three Pyramids, the greatest being that of Cheops. It took 100,000 workers more than 20 years to construct. Entrance into one of the pyramids is included. Southeast of the Great Pyramids is the Sphinx, carved out of solid natural rock in about 2650 BC, a magnificent monument with the head of the Pharaoh and the body of a lion. After lunch you will be introduced to the masterpieces of ancient art in the Egyptian Museum of Antiquities, including the Mummy Room. The museum is home to the vast findings of King Tutankhamen's tomb and other important pieces of Egypt's history. There will be time to shop at the Khan El Khalili Bazaar, known for its narrow alleys. Hundreds of shops are selling all types of Egyptian handicrafts, silver and gold jewelry, cottons, copperware, and perfumes.



Accommodations: Le Meridian Pyramids Hotel (or similar)

Meals Included: Breakfast & Lunch

May 19th, 2011 - Day 4 – Thursday – Cairo/Luxor

This morning you will leave Cairo for Luxor. Arrive in Luxor, ancient Thebes. This afternoon explore the East Bank of the Nile including the Temple of Luxor. Here, the Avenue of Sphinxes, famous for its artistic degree of uniformity, leads to the entrance of the temple where a seated colossus of Ramses II and a towering Obelisk sit. Continue to the Karnak Temple, one of the most impressive monuments of ancient art and architecture in the world. The carvings, which adorn all of the walls, depict the history and conquests of many of Egypt's Pharaohs.



Accommodations: Sonesta St. George Hotel (or Similar)



“Five-star grandeur on the banks of the Nile awaits at the Sonesta St. George Hotel Luxor. The hotel features 212 recently renovated standard rooms and has just added 118 new Royal Club rooms and suites, redefining luxury in a contemporary style.

All rooms feature flat screen television, luxurious linens and individual climate control.

Located only minutes from world-renowned historic sites including the Valleys of the Kings and Queens, Luxor Temple, Luxor Museum, and the Karnak Temple with Sound and Light Show, the hotel is an ideal setting from which to explore the area. After touring, guests relax in the hotel's Key of Life Health Club, dine in one of its restaurants, soak in the pool, or enjoy a refreshing beverage as

they overlook the Nile. Discover the mysteries of ancient civilization and the comforts of modern luxury at Sonesta St. George Hotel Luxor!”

Meal Included: Breakfast & Dinner

May 20th, 2011 - Day 5 - Friday – Luxor

Early this morning you will cross over to the West Bank to explore the Valley of the Kings. The Valley of the Kings houses 63 tombs belonging to the Pharaohs of the New Kingdom, including the famous tomb of King Tutankhamen. Many of the tombs, carved out of the bedrock, retain their original bright colors and fine relief's and scenes, thought to guarantee the safe passage of the Ka to the after life. Afterwards continue to Deir El Bahri to visit the mortuary Temple of Queen Hatshepsut which is considered to be one of the finest buildings in Egypt.



Accommodations: Sonesta St. George Hotel (or Similar)

Meals Included: Breakfast & Dinner

May 21st, 2011 - Day 6 – Saturday - Sharm El Sheikh

A short flight will take you to Sharm El Sheikh, the “Land of Turquoise” where rock meets coral reefs and the desert stops at the sea. Sharm El Sheikh offers rich and elegant seaside resorts and is often called the “Egyptian Riviera.” In the afternoon, you will be transferred to the port to have an orientation dive exploring the magnificent blue waters that surround you.



Accommodations: Sheraton Resort and Villas



The bright azure sea, warm sun, and 800 meters of clean white sandy beaches come together to create the paradise that is Sheraton Sharm Hotel, Resort, Villas & Spa.

Our resort is nestled on the east shore of the southern tip of the Sinai Peninsula on one of the world’s most beautiful coral reefs. Located at Al Pasha Coast, we are just four kilometers from the nightlife of Na'ama Bay and 10 minutes from Sharm El Sheikh International Airport.

Our 835 spacious guest rooms and suites are a haven of comfort and relaxation. Take in the view from your private terrace, order room service, or connect with home using the High Speed Internet Access. Relax on a chaise alongside our heated outdoor swimming pool. Enjoy some great fun with a choice of water activities. Spend a night out on the town right here in our very own nightclub, Star Studio.

Pamper yourself in the 1,600-square meter Sheraton Sharm Spa. The beautiful setting offers complete seclusion, allowing all treatments to be administered in a quiet and peaceful ambience inspired by indigenous natural treasures that ensure the ultimate spa experience.

Meals Included: Breakfast & Lunch

Number of Dives: 1

May 22nd, 2011 - Day 7 – Sunday - Sharm El Sheikh - Straits of Tiran Diving



Today you will dive one of the Sinai's most spectacular areas the Straits of Tiran. Starting from the north the first reef is Jackson Reef and on its edge rests the wreck of a freighter. The southeastern end, where the currents are weaker, is the perfect mooring place for all kinds of diving vessels. Starting your dive towards the north, you come across a forest of awesome Gorgonian fan corals dancing in the current at about 20 to 30 meters as well as a wide variety of reef fish.

The long, narrow Woodhouse Reef, a drift dive from north to south, is home to reef sharks and eagle rays. At 40 meters, you can find a small

"Satellite Reef" 18 meters in length. Its numerous caves and outstanding landscape makes it the most interesting section of the dive.

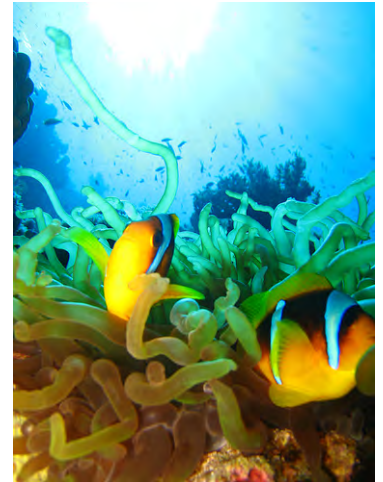
Thomas Reef is the smallest of the 4 reefs. Gordon Reef with its Lighthouse is the most eastern point of the Straits; another freighter wreck rests here on the reef table, almost parallel to the one on Jackson Reef. Discover huge



varieties of reef fish as well as large schools of groupers. On the sandy bottom at 4 to 5 meters, many Garden Eels are peeking out from the seabed moving gently in the currents.

It is a popular habitat for eagle rays and reef sharks who mainly cruise at greater depths, but are often spotted popping up for lunch to look at the divers.

On the way to and from Tiran always look out for dolphins. They love to swim along with the boats.



Accommodations: Sheraton Resort and Villas

Meals Included: Breakfast & Lunch

Number of Dives : 3

May 23rd, 2011 - Day 8 – Monday - Sharm El Sheikh – Ras Mohammed

Today you will have an opportunity to enjoy three dives beginning at the “masterpiece” of wall dives Ras Mohammed. It has been said, that if there were just one place in the world to dive that would be Ras Mohammed. The Wall extends from the eel garden in the north to a large rock formation in the south called the Shark Observatory.



Above the surface is a sheer limestone cliff with a fringing reef below. Drifting southward with the gentle current, every ledge and crevice has something different to offer. Colorful soft corals grow from overhangs, surrounded by Anthias, which flutter around the wall like butterflies. Giant gorgonian fans, up to 15 feet across, spread horizontally on some of the ledges.

A few areas, especially in deep crevices, are dark and devoid of life, while others are brilliantly colorful and alive with activity. Caves provide refuge for soldier fish, hatchet fish, and silver sweepers. If you look upward, you will notice schools of jacks or tunas, a shark or eagle ray.

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This site will keep you in awe!

Accommodations: Sheraton Resort and Villas

Meals Included: Breakfast & Lunch

Number of Dives : 3

May 24th, 2011 - Day 9 – Tuesday – Sharm El Sheikh - Thistlegorm

There is no area in the world comparable to the site that you will dive today. Imagine diving in an underwater World War II museum to view a unique piece of military history and dive into the past. The SS Thistlegorm was sunk by German bomber planes in World War II. It rests at the bottom of the sea for over sixty years. Located in the Straits of Gubal, Northern Red Sea this famous vessel has been the subject of much activity and drama during its life as a merchant ship and now as an excellent dive site.



In 1941 it was destined for British troops in North Africa to deliver supplies. Though described on the manifest as "MT" (Motor Transport), this non-description hid a wide array of Land Mines, Shells, Ammunition, Weapons, Bedford Trucks, Armored Cars, Bren-Carriers, BSA Motorcycles, Trailers, Vehicle spares, Aircrafts, Radios and a great deal more. Also on board were two sets of rolling stock to Egyptian Railways, each comprising a 0-6-0 Railway Engine, one Tender, and one Water Carrier being carried as deck cargo.

After two months of sailing, the Thistlegorm landed in Egypt and was assigned "Safe Anchorage "F", and waiting for orders to proceed to Alexandria. The Germans were based in Crete. Greece was alerted of the anchorage and released two bombs right over her bridge. Both penetrated No 5 hold - aft of the bridge, detonating a great deal of ammunition. The explosion sent the two locomotives spiraling into the air, as the ship was ripped open like a huge tin can.

Even to this day, the rear decks are peeled back towards the bridge leaving many divers wondering what exactly they are looking at. Some accounts have even described this as "Armour Plating!" Caught unaware, the Thistlegorm had no time to defend itself and quickly sank while the crew abandoned ship. In 1956, Jacques Cousteau found the Thistlegorm and kept it a secret until the early 1990's when a group of divers happened to discover her. Despite extensive damage aft of the bridge, the main section is upright and on an even keel. You will never forget this site!



Accommodations: Sheraton Resort and Villas

Meals Included: Breakfast & Lunch

Number of Dives : 3

May 25th, 2011 - Day 10 – Wednesday - Sharm El Sheikh/Dahab/Sharm El Sheikh

Today you will leave Sharm El Sheikh to Dahab a Bedouin fishing village that is world-renowned for its many reefs immediately adjacent to the waterfront hotels. Explore the North and South of Dahab. The most famous shore diving is in the North with the dive sites of The Canyon, The Blue Hole and The Bells.

The Canyon: The closet dive site from Dahab and also the most accessible for divers. The dive operation companies park the vehicles; divers gear up and enter the water right at the dive site entrance. The site is famous for a large crack in the sea floor starting at 40 feet, going down to 90 feet and is

accessible for divers who wish to swim through the “Canyon.” It is also known for colorful hard and soft corals and schools of colorful reef fish.

Rick's Reef, situated on the north of the Canyon dive site, is a perfect place to make a drift dive toward the lagoon of the Canyon when a mild current is present. This is a very relaxing dive, excellent for photography. Octopus, Scorpion fishes, Morays, school of Red Sea Goatfishes fish and Fusiliers are always around on the sandy plateau patches with coral heads. The sandy bottom often hosts Bluespotted Stingray and amazing Napoleon Wrasses. The sloping coral garden stretches from the entry of the dive site to the fishbowl of the Canyon of beyond.

The Blue Hole: A couple of miles up the road from the Canyon find a small Bedouin village of restaurants surrounding a coral peninsula called the Blue Hole. The Blue Hole is a submarine pothole around 400 feet deep. There is a shallow opening around 30 feet deep, opening out to the sea and a 90 foot tunnel, known as the arch, the top of which is 170 feet. The Hole itself and the surrounding area have an abundance of coral and reef fish.



Return to Sharm El Sheikh.

Accommodations: Sheraton Resort and Villas

Meals Included: Breakfast & Lunch

Number of Dives : 3

May 26th, 2011 - Day 11 – Thursday – Sharm El Sheikh

The day is at your leisure or you can take one of two optional tours: St. Catherine's Monastery and Mt. Moses or Petra, Jordan.

Accommodations: Sheraton Resort and Villas

Meals Included: Breakfast

ST. CATHERINES MONASTERY & MT. MOSES

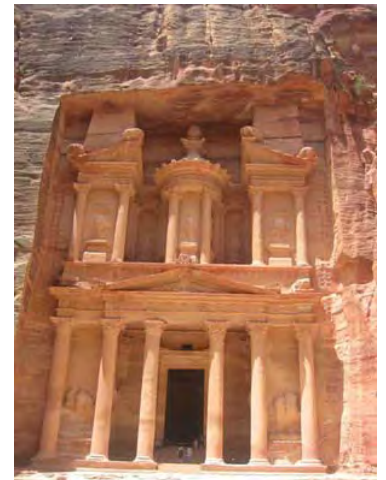
Depart before sunrise for St. Catherine's. For those interested in climbing Mount Moses you will have the opportunity to do so. Located at the foot of Mount Moses, St. Catherine's Monastery was constructed by order of the Emperor Justinian between 527 and 565. Built around what is thought to be Moses' Burning Bush, which has a chapel built atop it is a spectacular natural setting for priceless works of



art, including Arab mosaics, Greek and Russian icons, Western oil paintings, paintings on wax, fine sacerdotal ornaments, marbles, enamels, chalices, reliquaries, including one donated by Czar Alexander II in the 19th century, and another by Empress Catherine of Russia in the 17th century. However, of perhaps even greater significance is that it is the second largest collection of illuminated manuscripts (The Vatican has the largest).

PETRA, JORDAN

This morning you will leave Egypt by fast ferry over to Jordan where you will visit the ancient city of Petra. Climb atop your horse for a ride to the main entrance to the "lost city of Petra". Much of Petra's appeal comes from its spectacular setting deep inside a narrow desert gorge. From the main entrance, you walk into the siq, which ripped through the cliff walls, you will pass inscriptions in ancient languages.



Petra's most famous monument is the Treasury (the final scene of Indian Jones and the Last Crusade was filmed here). You will also see a 3,000-seat theater from the early 1st Century, tombs baths, and funerary halls temples.

May 27th, 2011 - Day 12 – Friday - Sharm El Sheikh/Cairo

Return to Cairo today. This evening enjoy a farewell dinner.

Accommodations: Fairmont Heliopolis Hotel

Meals Included: Breakfast & Dinner



“The Fairmont Heliopolis offers a convenient location just 5km from Cairo International Airport. Heliopolis is a tree lined suburb of Cairo that is home to Egypt’s Diplomatic and Presidential offices. The hotel is three miles from Tree of the Virgin and the Roxy shopping district. It is also six miles from Saint Marco's Cathedral and 12 miles from Egyptian Museum, the Pharaonic Village, Khan El Khalily (Old and Oriental Market), the citadel, and the Nile.

The hotel features a wide range of facilities and personalized service for business and leisure travelers. The warm, inviting lobby provides a preview of the well-designed touches included throughout the property, from a variety of full-service restaurants and bars to 588 comfortable guest rooms with High Speed Internet Access.

Relaxing is easy while on property. Stretch in our fitness facility. Unwind with a massage or in the sauna. Play a few sets on one of the 3 outdoor tennis courts or 2 indoor squash courts. Or, make a splash at one of our two outdoor swimming pools.

Indulge in authentic Lebanese cuisine and belly dancing at our Lebanese restaurant, Al Dabke or crafted pasta at Leonardo’s. Live music will keep you entertained until the closing bell at Dart’s English Pub. From spring through early winter, you can spend the evening under the stars and around the pool area while enjoying local entertainment. “

May 28th, 2011 - Day 13 – Saturday - Departure

Your Ancient Egypt and the Sinai tour ends today as you are escorted to the airport. Arrive home your heart and mind filled with happy memories of ancient and modern day Egypt.

Meals Included: Breakfast

Please Note: This itinerary sequence is subject to change due to hotel availability, dive boat regulations, weather conditions, and government restrictions.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Price \$4999.00 / diver (double occupancy)
\$5599.00 / diver (single occupancy)

Logistics

- Roundtrip international airfare between New York & Cairo
- Domestic airfare Cairo/Luxor-Sharm El Sheikh/Cairo
- All transfers: Cairo/Luxor/Sharm El Sheikh/Dahab
- Sightseeing and transfers by deluxe motor coach exclusively for our group
- Private English speaking guide throughout Egypt exclusively for our group
- Full day sightseeing Pyramids (entrance into 1 pyramid)/Sphinx- Egyptian Museum of Antiquities including entrance into the Mummy Room-Citadel and Khan El Khalili Bazaar – Private tour guide
- Half day tour in Luxor of the Karnak and Luxor Temples – private tour guide
- Half day tour in Luxor of the West Bank including entrance into King Tut's tomb – private tour guide
- Hotel taxes and service charges
- Transfer of dive equipment and all luggage: Cairo to Sharm El /Sheikh – Sharm El Sheikh/Cairo
- Porterage
- Private plain clothes security agent with the group
- Local travel agent with the group at all times for support
- Luggage Tags, Travel Bag, Passport Wallet and First Aid Kit

Accommodations / Meals

- 2 nights accommodation in Cairo at the Le Meridian Pyramids Hotel or similar
- 2 nights accommodation in Luxor at the Sonesta St. George Hotel or similar
- 6 nights accommodation in Sharm El Sheikh at the Sheraton Hotel and Resort or similar
- 1 night accommodation in Cairo at the Heliopolis Fairmont Hotel or similar
- 11 breakfasts, 6 lunches and 4 dinners (plus meals on the plane)

Diving

- 4 1/2 days of dive excursions – 13 dives total (3 dives per day excluding 1st day of orientation dive, and Nitrox)
- Premium dive trips – all day, lunch served on board the boat
- One dive day includes private motor coach trip to Dahab
- All dives are upgraded dives – better locations, etc.

NOT INCLUDED

- U.S. Departure Taxes & Airport Security (current \$285 – subject to change)
- Domestic air within the U.S.
- Items of a personal nature such as laundry, telephone calls, internet services, dive equipment (beyond tanks & weights), National Park fees, soft drinks, coffee, tea (except at breakfast), mineral water, alcoholic beverages, passport fees, gratuities for drivers, guides, transfer personnel, travel insurance, etc.....