



EMPEROR FLEET - things to know before you go

Useful & Emergency Telephone Numbers:

Emperor Fleet Guest Relations & Transfers (in resort): 0020 12 7353272

Hurghada Dive Centre: 0020 12 7372125

Emperor Fleet Reservations Department: 0020 12 2340995

Communications:

In the event of an emergency, family and friends can contact our Emperor staff on any of the numbers above. Staff can then contact the boat as all our guides carry mobile phones.

On arrival:

If you have not already arranged your Egyptian visa in your home country then you will need to purchase this in the airport on arrival. Please note that visas must be paid for in cash in the exact money as change is not normally available; this will assist you in getting through immigration as quickly as possible. Stick the visa inside your passport on an empty page and proceed through Immigration Control where they will stamp your passport. For more information about Egyptian visa application procedures, including the price, please contact your local Embassy.

After passing through customs and collecting your luggage a representative from Emperor, who will be holding an "Emperor Fleet" sign, will meet you outside the arrivals building. They will direct you to your transport.

If you have booked an additional transfer before your safari boarding day there will be a representative from the company listed on your booking summary holding a sign with the lead booking name.

Early flight arrivals may be taken to Emperor Divers Centre located in Hurghada or Marsa Alam as boarding is usually late afternoon/early evening. This gives you the chance to relax for a few hours, grab a bite to eat and freshen up. You may even want to head into town from the Hurghada Dive Centre for some souvenir shopping before your connecting transfer to the boat. Otherwise your transfer will take you direct to your chosen liveaboard vessel.

Pick ups from a local hotel on your boarding day will receive a welcome letter the day before advising of transfer times to the boat. In case you don't receive it please call Guest Relations on 002 (0) 12 7353272.

Transfers to and from the boat:

You will be transferred by either air-conditioned mini-bus or private car from the airport, dive centre or hotel to the port. Your transfer may include stops along the way to collect other guests and for you to stretch your legs.

The times quoted are direct travelling times and do not take into account stops on route to allow guests to stretch their legs:

| To | From Marsa Alam Airport or hotel | From Hurghada Airport or hotel |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Marsa Ghalib Port | 20 min (6 km) | 3 hours (230 km) |
| Marsa Alam Port | 1 hour (70 km) | 4 hours (280 km) |
| Hamata Port | 2.5 hours (200 Km) | 5.5 hours (400 km) |
| Hurghada Port | not included | 20 minutes (6 km) |
| Safaga Port | 2.5 hours (160km) | 1 hour (70km) |

A snack box with a bottle of water will be provided for the Hurghada airport to Hamata Port transfer. For all other transfers please bring refreshments with you or Egyptian pounds if you wish to purchase some along the way.

Please note that due to the nature of the roads in holiday resorts, it is not always possible for your transport to drive all the way to the docking point of the vessels within the marinas. The transport will drop passengers off at the safest nearest point on the main road and passengers will disembark and walk the remainder of the way to the vessel. Boat crews and guides will assist with your luggage and ensure you are safely delivered to the boat.

Packing; remember to bring:

Personal clothing & toiletries.
Small medical first aid box & prescription medicines.
Ear plugs are recommended if you are a light sleeper.
2 photocopies of your picture ID page from your passport.

Essential paperwork; remember to bring:

Logbook with your most recent dives in, a minimum of 50 logged dives are needed for the Marine Park itineraries by Egyptian Law.
Valid diving association certification proof.
Valid travel insurance.
A copy of valid diving insurance details per person (translated in English by your insurance company if not already) stating the start and ending date of the diving cover with the exact diving insurance covered by the policy. Without this document you will be required to purchase diving insurance locally before you may begin diving.
Booking voucher & holiday details (from your travel agency if not booked direct with Emperor Fleet).

Money to pay for extras:

We accept Euros, US dollars, Egyptian pounds, Sterling pounds, Swiss francs, credit cards: VISA and MasterCard.

Nice to bring but not essential:

CDs, videos, DVDs, books, laptop, mobile phone, CD player, video and photo camera, GPS tracker, binoculars.

Cabins:

All the cabins accommodate 2 guests either in a twin berth cabin with beds side by side or bunk beds. There are suite cabins available on a limited number of boats and these have a double bed.

Bathrooms:

All bathrooms are equipped with a shower, sink and toilet. Please take extra care in the bathrooms not to slip and always use the shower curtain to help reduce the risk of water leaking into the main cabin area.

If you are not sure how to use a marine toilet please ask for instructions. Placing toilet paper down the toilet is not acceptable onboard. This not only risks blocking the system for the week but it also finds its way to the delicate reef systems causing irreparable damage. Waste paper bins are provided in all bathrooms and are emptied regularly. There is a shower attachment to all toilets onboard which is a common occurrence in the Eastern world to clean before using toilet paper. The waste paper bins onboard will not be filled with soiled paper if this method is used correctly. Please ask onboard for more information.

Linen service:

You will be provided with two towels for your week's liveaboard. Bathrobes are available on Platinum class boats only. We do advise you to bring a personal towel for diving purposes. The housekeeping crew will clean your cabin daily, generally after your first or second dive of the day. Towels and bed linen will be changed once during your week onboard. This means you will have clean linen on arrival and this will be changed around midweek. For any additional cleaning required after your cabins daily clean please speak to the guides who will be able to assist you.

Food & Drink:

The meals onboard are usually buffet style with a variety of meat, chicken, fish, pasta, rice and vegetable dishes served with a choice of salads. Fresh fruit is available throughout the day.
The boat caters for all dietary requirements as we work closely with the chef to plan your meals. For any special dietary requests such as vegetarian please inform us prior to arrival.
Feel free to bring your favourite snack, as these can be quite limited in Egypt. Chocolate is available onboard for an additional charge.
Water, soft drinks, tea and coffee are complimentary and available 24 hours.

Alcohol:

Beer & wine taken from the onboard stock are charged extra (payable onboard). Guests are welcome to bring their own alcohol onboard.

Guests will not be permitted to dive after consuming alcohol or under the influence of a hangover as this seriously impairs your judgment and increases your risk of decompression sickness. If the guides deem that you are unfit to dive you will be asked to sit out the dive. Your safety and well being are paramount so this request by the dive guides will only be made to avoid accidents.

Behaviour:

Anti-social or aggressive behaviour will not be tolerated and individuals who cause a disturbance to other guests may be removed from the vessel.

Entertainment:

There is a variety of nightly entertainment ranging from Night Dives (not available in the Marine Parks by Egyptian law) to watching DVDs or simply relaxing on the sundeck comparing fish stories. Feel free to bring your favourite DVDs to share.

Hot water:

Short showers are the order of the day on liveaboards as hot water is in short supply. We ask guests to shower at different times to ensure everyone enjoys a hot shower onboard.

Air-conditioning:

All Emperor Fleet liveaboards have air-conditioning units but the effectiveness can be limited. Air-conditioning takes a lot of power so often cannot be run when other items, like the compressors, are running. The open nature of the boats also reduces its effectiveness. To run the air-conditioning all night requires the engine and generator to run which does create some noise. During the summer months many divers opt to sleep on the sundeck.

Diving:

All diving is guided on our Liveboards with a minimum of one of the dive guides in the water with the group while the other is coordinating on the boat. All divers are required to dive in a buddy team; should you be a single diver a buddy will be allocated onboard. The maximum depth for diving in the Red Sea is 40 metres unless you are a qualified Technical diver with equally qualified buddy. Your maximum diving depth will be dependant on your level of training and experience. Courses are available onboard to increase your training, please email info.safaris@emperordivers.com for more details. Decompression diving is not permitted on recreational diving safaris. Solo diving is strictly prohibited.

All tanks have DIN fittings and International adapters are provided onboard.

The boats have ample storage space for your equipment and there is a spares box onboard.

The Captain:

An important man! He will decide, with the dive guides, where you go and when. Should he think the weather is not quite right, then it is fair to assume he has a reason. Often sites in the Red Sea can look like a millpond on the surface and to the uninitiated seem perfectly acceptable to dive. However if the captain and guides say no, please accept their decision. Safety is the foremost concern of our knowledgeable captain and dive guides. The sea is a dangerous place when not respected, so please accept the alternative plan as best you can.

Nitrox:

All Emperor Fleet vessels except MY Emperor Orchid are equipped to offer Nitrox facilities. Nitrox packages are available for guests who would like to dive on Nitrox for the majority or full week. Nitrox is also available on a per fill basis. For the per fill basis we ask that you inform the dive guide prior to the tanks being filled so that they can ensure that your tank is filled with the correct gas in time for your dive. Nitrox fills are chargeable on Silver Class boats and free of charge on Gold & Platinum Class boats.

Dive equipment:

We suggest that you bring the following:

Mask, snorkel, fins, boots, wetsuit, regulator, BCD, torch, SMB (with a minimum of 5 metres of line to deploy during the safety stop) and a dive computer with spare batteries.

Wetsuits should be 3 – 7mm depending on the time of year. Water temperatures range from 24°C to 28°C April to Oct, and 19°C to 24°C Nov – Mar.

Equipment is available for rent from Emperor Divers. Although a range of spare equipment is stocked onboard, the main storage is located in the dive centres, so we ask that you pre-book equipment before you arrive in resort to avoid disappointment.

All divers are required by Emperor Fleet to use a dive computer & SMB each for every dive and a torch each for night dives conducted throughout their safari experience for safety reasons. These items are not included in the full equipment package deal and must be ordered individually in advance.

For equipment rental rates please click this link http://www.emperordivers.com/info_equipment.php or contact info.safaris@emperordivers.com for more details.

Courses:

We offer a range of PADI courses onboard, from the Advanced Open Water Course to Specialty courses such as wreck, deep, night, navigation, underwater naturalist and peak performance buoyancy to name a few. We can also offer BSAC training on board on request. Pre-booking is required and courses are subject to availability and itinerary.

Emperor Fleet encourage divers to use Nitrox onboard and therefore on all Emperor Fleet boats we offer the PADI Nitrox course free of charge. You will only need to pay for your materials and certification which is a fee of 99 Euros which includes:

- * PADI Certification Fees
- * Exam and student materials i.e. manual and Dive Tables

The fee is payable on board and subject to 10% sales tax. You will need to pre-book this before arrival so we can ensure all the Crew Pack will be onboard for your arrival.

Photo & Video equipment:

Recharging facilities are available onboard. You are asked not to charge items in your cabin left unattended or while you sleep for safety reasons.

Shopping:

There is a selection of fish books, T-shirts and dive related items available onboard.

MEDICAL & DECLARATION:

There are Rules and Regulations in place from the Chamber of Diving & Watersports, Egypt. We ask all guests to fill in and sign a medical form before departing on a Liveboard. If you have any medical conditions listed on the form, you will need to get signed clearance from a doctor before your arrival onboard. We send a copy of this form and the Rules and Regulations with all bookings. You can also view the form at www.emperordivers.com/prices.html.

Please inform the dive guide if you are taking medication or suffer from allergies.

Insurance:

Every effort is made to ensure that you have a safe trip but we do require all divers to have valid insurance from a reputable company that covers diving accidents. You will need to bring proof of this with you to show the guides when you check in. Emperor Divers & Fleet use INDEPTH Insurance which is available to purchase onboard. As a temporary member you will be able to gain insured member benefits. This cover is not currently available through any other insurer.

Passports:

All guests must have a passport valid for at least 6 more months after arrival and must purchase the Egyptian entry visa. Please bring 2 photocopies of your passport ID page with you to check in.

Marine Park fees:

These are included in the price of your safari package.

Environmental Tax and Port departure fee:

These are included in the price of your safari package.

Tips on board:

Emperor Fleet believes that tips should be on a voluntary basis depending on the quality of your service from the guides and the crew. You will find two envelopes in your cabins; one for crew and one for guides. The general recommendation is 20 Euro per person for the guides and 20 Euro per person for the crew. Please feel free to leave what you think is acceptable.

Checkout:

There are two check-out times, you will be informed by the guides when you board which one is applicable to your safari:

1. After breakfast, usually between 09am and 10am at the latest; flight time dependant. You will be transferred to the airport or an Emperor Dive Centre if your flight is later in the day. Day rooms can be booked on request and are subject to availability and an extra charge. Overnight rooms are recommended for anyone with a flight departing after 20:00 on the day of departure - these can be booked on request and are subject to availability and an extra charge.

Please note that the last meal / drinks provided as part of the package booked is breakfast on the last day.

2. On the last diving day you will disembark to accommodation booked in twin rooms on a half board basis (evening meal on the night of arrival and breakfast the following morning), courtesy of Emperor.

The check out time to the hotel is dependent on the itinerary/boat/port of departure and the guides will communicate this with you.

Luggage:

Emperor Fleet will transfer you and your luggage from the boat to the airport / hotel on your departure. Whilst you may be advised on where to store your luggage, you leave your belongings there at your own risk.

Health:

Check with your local doctor for recommended vaccinations. And remember to bring any prescribed medicines.

Telephone:

Egypt Country Code is +20 + local number.

Time:

2 hours or 1 hour ahead of GMT – daylight savings time can be different to the rest of the world due to Ramadan in some years.

Electricity:

European 2 pin electrical sockets using 220 volts

Communications:

VHS Radios, Satellite Telephone and Personal Mobiles.

Language:

English is the most common language. We also have Italian, German, Dutch, French and Spanish speakers. The crew speaks Arabic often with some English.

Currency accepted onboard:

All prices are in Euro but we accept Euro, US dollars, Egyptian pounds, Sterling pounds, Swiss francs and credit cards: VISA and MasterCard

And finally:

If you have never been on a liveaboard before, then expect a few adjustments from normal life in order to enjoy your week. Space is restricted on board any boat and on some liveaboards privacy is lessened and you will need to be prepared to share the communal toilets and showers on the dive deck although the vast majority of Emperor's boats have ensuite facilities in the cabins. Divers don't necessarily make good sea travellers and sea sickness can be a real problem for some. Do take precautions if you are not sure and please ask advice from others who have taken liveaboard holidays before. Liveaboards are a great experience, offering some superb diving opportunities. If you approach the limitations with the right spirit then you will have a great trip with fantastic diving at sites that are simply not accessible by day boats.

If you experience any problems during the week, please ensure that these are raised with the dive guides as soon as is practically possible. The guides can remedy the problem on the boat the majority of the time. However if something remains unresolved make sure you raise it with the Fleet Manager at the end of your week. With all the will in the world, problems cannot be resolved unless you highlight them. If you have any concerns, please raise them.

For more details, please email info.safaris@emperordivers.com or via our website www.emperordivers.com