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## The Whole Red Sea Al Bahr Al Ahmar

In 1993, National Geographic magazine published an article on the Red Sea. Written and photographed by David Doubilet, he had to compress a journey of 1,400 miles into a few pages. When we first read it, we were mesmerised and dreamed of being able to dive the entire Red Sea – a dream that we have since been able to realise in April 2022 with Faisal Khalaf of Red Sea Explorers (RSE). What was supposed to be a one off exploratory dive expedition has now become an annual fixture. We try and dive less visited wrecks and reefs, mixed in with some classic world class Red Sea dive site. Emphasis is placed on avoiding crowds and wherever possible, being alone.

Guided by the legendary wreck finder and tech diver of the Red Sea, Faisal Khalaf, and escorted by Farhat and Francisca Jah, this proves to be an exhilarating experience. We will be joined by Dr Jeffrey Bozanic of California, author of several books on rebreathers. This trip is open to recreational divers and Deeper Tech divers alike. RSE is an old fashioned proper diving company where the dive guides recognise prior experience. They will help and guide when needed, and allow experienced divers to dive in buddy teams.





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# Explore the Unknown Red Sea

From Ras Mohammad to Zabargat Island

MAY 5-19, 2023







## Red Sea Scuba Diving

We board the MV Nouran in Hurghada and then steam gently north to Abu Nihas. Here we do our check dives and visit the four stunning but shallow (5-90ft) wrecks. Then we will cross the Gulf of Suez to dive the Thistlegorm Wreck or the Dunraven. After this we circle the southernmost point of the Sinai Peninsula, Ras Mohammad and commence reef and wall diving. If all goes well, we will dive some lesser known sites in the national park and the classics of Shark Reef, Yolanda and Jackfish Alley. Steaming past the lights of Sharm El Sheikh we will dive on the walls of the Straights of Tiran. Once we are done, we move south to the Brothers to dive the Numidia and the Aida. We will encounter other vessels on this northern route, but we will be diving in such a manner that we avoid their company.

The Tech divers amongst us will be guided by Faisal, and taken to dive sites that are rarely if ever dived. Perhaps no other person alive knows the deep section of the Red Sea as well as Faisal does. While we dive down to a maximum 100 feet, technical divers will be seeking wrecks old and new at 200-300 ft.

Steaming south from The Brothers we will hopefully enter our own little world. The number of vessels that dive Zabargat and St Johns are few in number. The names of our dive sites may be Ras Tirombi, Claudia's Reef, Maksoor, Rocky and Zabargat. When we last dived this route we saw no other boat.



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## Rec or Tec, All Divers Are Welcome

Our voyage may also take you to Harmatta and Fury Shoals. You can expect to see all sorts of shark species, turtles, dugong, dolphins and much more.

This is an itinerary that is perfect for a scuba diver who wishes to remain at standard diving depths as well as the technically trained who can drop onto the SS Zealot (or the SS Maiden, 230ft-300ft)

Zabargad is the highest and southernmost island in the Egyptian Red Sea, that offers wall diving and shallow diving, both of which afford you with a spectacular view of the unspoiled hard and soft coral gardens found there. The reef that encircles Rocky Island drops to depth, leaving walls covered in soft corals and black coral trees. Due to the constant currents that flow throughout the year, marine life is plentiful and abundant

Faisal Khalaf, the owner of Red Sea Explorers will be dive team leader of the Tech Divers.

Recreational divers will be guided on request by the amazing RSE team.



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Scooter rentals are available. Rebreathers are supported, and recreational divers are welcome. On a Red Sea Explorers vessel every party feels as though the trip revolves around them. Technical and Recreational divers operate from the same vessels, simply diving slightly different dive sites at different times.







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## The MV Nouran

**The MV Nouran** was designed by a marine architect. On the rare occasion that the Red Sea “blows” she rides the short sharp chop of the Gulf of Suez and the Red Sea very well. Under the command of the most excellent Captain Ramadan, her crew are attentive and professional. The MV Nouran is 120 ft (36m) long and has space for 26 guests in 13 twin en-suite cabins.

The saloon and cabins are fully air conditioned. The saloon is spacious and is equipped with TV, DVD and stereo. Meals are served buffet style, and snacks and all drinks (except alcohol) are included on-board. There are 2 large sundecks for relaxing. The dive deck offers plenty of space for all of your equipment and for divers to gear up.

**Tech specs:** Cabins 13 x Twin bed /Guests 26/ Crew 10 / Dive guides 2 /Zodiacs x2/ 3 x Nitrox Membrane Compressor/ Navigation and safety: GPS/Echoplot/plotter VHF/DSC/ Radar/ Satellite text device



## Dive Expedition Costs:

**Full voyage: \$3,586.00**

### **Included:**

- \* Return Airport Transfers Hurghada to the vessel moored in Port Ghalib/Hurghada
- \* 2 nights in a 4-Star Hotel in Hurghada prior to boarding
- \* 14 nights in shared accommodation on board
- \* Meals, snacks, tea, coffee, water, sodas, juice while on board
- \* 12 days of diving with tanks and weights, 3-4 dives per day (last day 2 dives only)
- \* Nitrox (for Nitrox certified divers)
- \* All marine park fees and taxes
- \* Escorted by Jeffrey Bozanic and Raf and Cisca Jah

### **Not included:**

\* International flights/domestic flights, large tanks / twin tanks / technical rebreather diver support/ helium/ other gas/ scooter rental, Egyptian visas, equipment rental, alcoholic drinks, travel insurance (mandatory), dive insurance (mandatory), tips, gratuities, items of a personal nature, any item not mentioned above in the 'included' paragraph. Single Surcharge: please contact us for availability and rate.

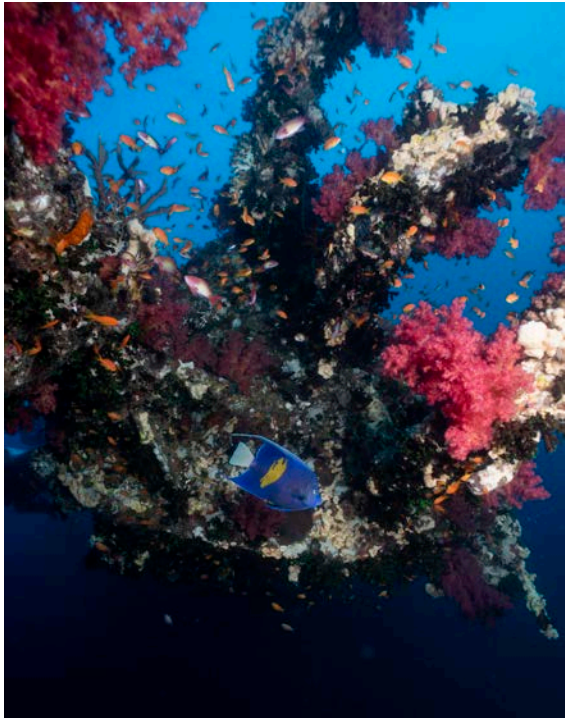
Recommended minimum tips: \$200 for the vessel crew, dive guides at your discretion.





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### Requirements:

Recreational: Dive C-card; electronic, printed or physical. Proof of insurance that covers diving accidents and hyperbaric treatment (DAN recommended). Open water diver certification with minimum 20 logged dives (ideally 30 plus), and ideally have dived in the last year. If you have not dived recently, please book a refresher dive before you arrive on the boat.

You must have an SMB (surface marker buoy) and reel and know how to use it, as well as a dive computer. A Nautilus Lifeline personal dive beacon is highly recommended.

### Technical Divers:

Please contact Jeff Bozanic for requirements.

[jbozanic@gmail.com](mailto:jbozanic@gmail.com) 714-747-2727

