

Dahab PADI Open Water to Advanced

14 DAYS / SMALL GROUP OR PRIVATE TOUR / STANDARD TOUR /



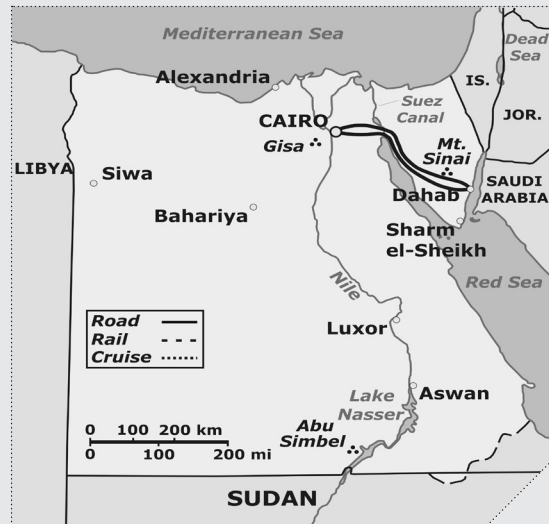
This combined course takes you from beginner to PADI Advanced Open Water Diver in the idyllic location of Dahab, on the Sinai Peninsula. Formerly a simple Bedouin settlement, Dahab is now a thriving mecca for divers from all over the world. Facing the Gulf of Aqaba, the diversity of marine life in the Red Sea is considered to be one of the world's natural wonders. It's also a great place to learn to dive with shallow reefs and professional dive schools, and a relaxed atmosphere.

FLIGHT BOOKINGS AVAILABLE

See below for details

Regular small-group departures run all year round. Call or check the website for dates and prices. Private and tailor-made options are also available on request.

Please see notes below or our website for details



FLIGHTS INCLUDED:* ✗	LOCAL PAYMENT: ✗	ENTRANCE FEES: ✗	AIRPORT TRANSFERS: ✓
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TOUR FACTS

Tour Code & Class:	DVEGOA / Standard
Group Size & Age:	Min. - 2 Max. - 8 / Min. age - 12
Activity - Diving:	PADI diving courses
Activity Level:	Medium
Accommodation:	11 nights in hotels (from 3-star), 2 overnight coaches
Transport:	A/C bus/minibus/car
Meals:	12 Breakfasts (B)

YOUR 14 DAY TOUR ITINERARY

Day 1:	Arrive in Cairo. Transfer from airport to hotel.
Day 2:	Cairo - Pyramids, Sphinx & Museum tour, overnight coach to Dahab.
Day 3:	Dahab. Introduction to Dive Centre. Begin PADI Open Water course.
Day 4-6:	Dahab - PADI Open Water course.
Day 7:	Dahab - Finish PADI Open Water course/free time.
Day 8-10:	Dahab - PADI Advanced Open Water course.
Day 11:	Dahab - Free day.
Day 12:	Dahab - Free time. Overnight coach to Cairo.
Day 13:	Cairo - City tour. Sunset felucca trip on the Nile.
Day 14:	Cairo. Free time. Transfer to airport for departure.

"Looking for more adventure? Interested in visiting deserts and oases? ...then check out our Egyptian Desert Safari tour"

To book visit: www.egypt-uncovered.com, email: tours@egypt-uncovered.com or call us on: +44 (0) 845 130 48 49 Please quote Tour Code: DVEGOA when booking

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DETAILED ITINERARY

DAY 1 / ARRIVE IN CAIRO

You arrive at Cairo airport where we greet and transfer you to your 3-star hotel. Our Egypt Uncovered rep. welcomes you, helps you settle into the hotel, and outlines the plan for the next few days.

Overnight at 3-star hotel in Cairo.

DAY 2 / CAIRO. PYRAMIDS, SPHINX & MUSEUM TOUR

After breakfast we have a short pre-tour briefing before we take you on a tour of the pyramids & sphinx at Giza. Giza was built around 4600 years ago as a necropolis (cemetery) for the pharaoh Khufu (Cheops). The successor of Sneferu, Khufu was known as a tyrant and in his arrogance decided to have built a tomb that was bigger and better than all others. Standing 500 feet high and 750 feet at its base, the Pyramid of Khufu is an awesome man-made structure constructed of giant blocks of stone covered in a hard limestone casing. The casing has, over the years, been stripped away to leave exposed the inner block structure. Together with the smaller pyramids of Khafre (Chephren) and Menkaure (Mycerinus), the majestic sight of these enormous structures rising out of the desert is a breathtaking spectacle. Here you have the chance to climb inside one of the pyramids (there are a limited number of tickets available, so we cannot guarantee this), and also to take a camel ride (approx. £2-5 p/p for around 30mins). Close by, the mysterious Sphinx stands guard, as it has done so for thousands of years. You have another guided tour around the sphinx and some free time to walk around and take photos.

From here we take you back to the centre of Cairo to visit the Egyptian Museum, one of the world's most famous museums. The museum houses a vast collection of artefacts from Egypt's past, including the famous King Tutunkhamun display.

This evening, we transfer you to the overnight public tourist coach to Dahab (upgrades to private transfers or internal flights via

Sharm-el-Sheikh available on request).

Overnight on coach to Dahab (B).

DAY 3-7 / INTRODUCTION TO DIVE CENTRE, AND START PADI OPEN WATER COURSE

On arrival in Dahab, we transfer you to your hotel, and help you settle in, before introducing you to the Dive centre, and explaining what you will be doing over the next few days.

The word Dahab in Arabic means gold and refers to the fine yellow sand that colours its beaches. Most of the hotels and dive centres are located around the Bedouin village of Assalah, which lies along the shore of Ghazala Bay and is a collection of campsites, hotels, restaurants, shops and bars, dotted with palm trees. It is here that you will experience the Bohemian feel that makes Dahab so special. The Open Water Course is conducted over a 4 to 5-day period, and successful completion leads to full entry-level certification to the world of scuba diving.

The course itself is broken down into three sections. These are

- Confined water dives, of which you do 3, and which are usually done in a cordoned off beach area or a pool close to the beach
- The theory section, which provides basic information and principles about diving, usually with the aid of videos along with a manual, and
- At least 2 open water dives under qualified supervision and guidance.

During your confined water dives, you will complete your skills development sessions, which will include (but are not limited to): neutral buoyancy, mask clearing, regulator removal / replacement, gear assembly/disassembly and storage, equalization, no-mask breathing, cramp removal, tired diver tow, no mask swim, alternate air source, stationary free flow regulator breathing, BC inflate, oral, removal and replacement of the scuba unit (u/w), removal

and replacement of weight belt (u/w), removal and replacement of scuba unit (surface), removal and replacement of weight belt (surface), air depletion exercise.

The theory section (classroom sessions) is geared towards knowledge development, and will comprise of lectures, class participation and discussion. Students must successfully complete each section (module) before attempting the next module; there are 5 in total. There will be a final written exam. Most questions are either multiple choice or true/false.

Your Open Water dives will give you the opportunity to demonstrate dive planning, practice, and evaluation.

The course is relaxed and designed to be a comprehensive learning experience to help you reach your goal of becoming a qualified diver. Our instructors are used to teaching a wide variety of people, and will tailor the way they teach the course to your personal needs and ability.

Overnight at hotel in Dahab (B).

DAY 8-10 / DAHAB - PADI ADVANCED OPEN WATER COURSE

This course is only open to certified Open Water divers. The course consists of 2 types of activities: classroom sessions and open water dives (2 Compulsory 'Core' dives, plus 3 optional Adventure Dives). Your Core dives will be a Deep Dive, and a Navigation Dive. Your optional 3 dives will be selected from the following:

- Drift Dive
- Multilevel Dive
- Night Dive
- Underwater Naturalist
- Peak Performance Buoyancy
- Search and Recovery.

This course is designed to enhance your knowledge and awareness of recreational diving

In the classroom, there will be knowledge development sessions, in the form of lectures, class participation and discussion.

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There will also be text assignments and supplementary reading, and a final written exam. Most questions are either multiple choice or true/false.

Your Open Water Dives will involve planning, practice and evaluation. You will complete your skills development session, which will include (but is not limited to): developing natural navigational skills, concepts of limited visibility, search and recovery techniques, practising deep diving and decompression, shore diving techniques and peak buoyancy skills.

Overnight at hotel in Dahab (B).

DAY 11 / DAHAB, FREE DAY

Your last 2 days are left free in Dahab for you to relax or to do some recreational diving. You can also visit Mt. Sinai and St. Catherine's monastery (though discuss with your dive centre about the 24 hour rule if you plan to climb the mountain), and we also offer a 4x4 desert jeep safari to the Coloured & White Canyons, and the Ain Khudra Oasis.

Some of the best dive sites in the area include:

- A wall dive down to the **Eel Gardens** is a must for divers of all levels. Bottoming at fewer than 20m, there are few other sites that get you this close to Garden Eels in their natural habitat.
- **The Lighthouse** offers a variety of routes, for all levels, and is especially popular as a night dive. This dive can be combined with a drift dive from the **Eel Gardens**.
- **The Fish Bowl** is an enclosed circular cavern filled with small goldfish. Access is via beautiful coral gardens and there are several entrance/exit points, starting at 12-15m.
- **The Islands** is a collection of small islands that provide a maze of beautiful coral gardens. A max depth of approx 16m means plenty of sunlight and an unequalled diversity of marine life.
- Drift dive along a coral wall at **Rick's Reef** and over the top of **The**

Canyon. At only 20m (max) depth, this dive is suitable for all levels.

- The experience of finning across the centre of the **Blue Hole** after a wall dive down to about 30m makes this site extremely popular. At over 50m wide and 100m deep, this deep pool also provides access to an archway (about 50m down) that exits into the deep blue sea.
- **The Bells** is a crack in the reef that exits at about 30m to reveal the bottomless ocean.

Overnight at hotel in Dahab (B).

DAY 11 EXTRA OPTIONS

2 extra dives option

Desert jeep safari option

See pages 3-4 for details

DAY 12 / DAHAB, FREE DAY

After another free day today, you leave this evening, and we transfer you to Cairo on the overnight public tourist coach (approx. 8 hours).

Overnight on coach to Cairo (B).

DAY 13 / CAIRO. CITY TOUR

You arrive in Cairo early this morning, and we transfer you to a 3-star hotel in the city centre. During the day, we arrange a guided tour of the city of Cairo, visiting the famous Egyptian museum, the Citadel, mosques, and the Khan-el-Khalili bazaar.

In the evening we take you on a sunset felucca cruise on the Nile.

Overnight at 3-star hotel in Cairo.

DAY 14 / TOUR ENDS

Your time is free this morning, until we transfer you back through the mountains to Sharm-el-Sheikh airport for your flight home.

(B).

SMALL GROUP, PRIVATE AND TAILOR-MADE TOURS

SMALL GROUP DEPARTURES:

We have regular small group departures on this tour throughout the year. Departure dates are given on our website, and on request.

PRIVATE DEPARTURES:

You can also choose to do the tour privately, following the itinerary above, but on any other date. We add a small supplement for these departures. Please contact us first to check availability.

TAILOR-MADE TOURS:

This tour can also be used as a base for a private tailor-made itinerary, to be run on any dates. You can make adjustments as per your own requirements (for example, combining your diving with one of our other tours visiting Luxor and the Nile Valley).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

OPTIONS:

Booking and paying for options:

Options are split into two types

A - Those that must be booked in advance (mainly accommodation based). Prices for these are set in GB Pounds and must be booked and paid for in advance of your arrival.

B - Those that may be arranged in Egypt (eg. Extra Dives, Jeep Safari). Prices for these are set in Egyptian Pounds, and they are paid for while you are in Egypt. This gives you more flexibility and means you won't lose out if you were to book an option in advance and then not do it.

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A - ADVANCE BOOKING OPTIONS

These may be booked by selecting them on our online reservation form, and can also be added after you have made your booking, subject to availability at the time. Prices are given on our website, or on request.

Single room supplement

If you want to guarantee yourself a single room throughout the tour, then we need to add a single supplement charge.

If you are a single traveller joining one of our diving tours, then you also need to add this option, as we do not share rooms on our diving tours.

Note: *Couples will always be given a private double room, and triple/family rooms are available on request.*

Extra days -

These are available on request in Dahab before and after the tour starts and finishes. If you'd like to extend the options at the start and end of the tour in Cairo, these are also available. The price includes a night in the 3-star hotel, breakfast, all taxes and transfers. Single supplements apply, and triple rooms are available.

B - OPTIONS AVAILABLE IN EGYPT

You will receive more information on all the options available to you while you are in Egypt in the Welcome Pack we provide on your arrival, together with information on how and when to book and pay for them with your guide or our local reps.

Prices are set in Egyptian Pounds but payments may also be made with hard currency (GB Pounds, Euros, US Dollars) at our local exchange rate at the time, which is set monthly. Credit card payments are also accepted in Cairo for these payments (3% fee).

Refresher Dive

If you have not dived for over 6 months, then you must do a refresher dive before you can start the course. An instructor will go over your skills and knowledge with you, to ensure you are ready to begin the course and dive again without hands-on supervision. You can also take up this option if you just want to brush up on your skills before starting the course.

Book & pay in advance OR in Dahab.

2 Extra Dives

This option adds 2 extra pre-booked dives into your tour, to be arranged on one of your free days in Dahab. You can arrange exactly when and where to take these dives with the dive school while you are in Egypt.

We can also offer more extra dives if required - please contact us for more details and prices.

Book & pay in advance OR in Dahab.

Jeep Safari in Dahab

One on of your free days in Dahab, you can head into the desert for a 4X4 jeep adventure. Firstly we take you to visit the impressive Coloured Canyon where we walk for around 2-3km and admire the many coloured rocks, and worn rock formations. We then continue the bright green Ain Khudra Oasis where you can relax among the many palm and date trees, and enjoy a traditional Bedouin cooked lunch. Our next stop is the White Canyon, which also has strange rock formations but looks completely different to the coloured canyon. There is a ladder and steep path with a rope handrail at the end of the canyon so you need to be relatively fit for this trip. Finally we take you back to Dahab to relax for the evening.

Book & Pay in advance OR in Dahab.

INCLUDED IN THE PRICE OF THE TOUR:

- Accommodation
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary
- All transfers, including 24-hour airport transfer service
- Services of dive masters and instructors as indicated on the itinerary
- Diving instruction and course fees
- PADI course manuals
- Provision of all diving equipment
- All transport
- Certificates proving completion of courses

NOT INCLUDED IN THE PRICE OF THE TOUR:

- International airfares
- Visa costs
- Meals not indicated in the itinerary
- Drinks, snacks, tips, and other personal expenses
- Entrance fees to sites visited on the Cairo
- PADI certification card
- Travel insurance
- Any other items not mentioned above

ACCOMMODATION:

Our Standard level diving tours use good quality hotels (approx. 3-star) in which all rooms have air-conditioning and en-suite bathrooms. In Cairo, subject to availability, we like to use a pyramid area hotel with a pool in the summer months, and a city centre hotel when it is cooler in the winter months. The hotel in Dahab has a swimming pool, and the normal hotels we use are located within walking distance of the dive centre.

Hotels used on this tour (subject to availability):

Cairo (3-star):

- Zayed Hotel, Oasis Hotel.

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Dahab (3-star):

• Oricana Hotel, Dyarna Hotel or similar.

At certain times of the year or where circumstances & availability dictate we may need to use a different hotel from the one listed above. In this event alternative hotels will always be of a similar standard.

Please see our website for more current details of the hotels that would be used on the tour.

MEALS:

We include breakfasts only in our diving tours in Egypt. This is because you will need to start relatively early, and we have found it more convenient for you to take breakfast in the hotel.

The opportunities for eating out for lunch and dinner in Dahab are extensive, cheap, and of good quality - most people find that the food here is one of the highlights of their stay.

TRANSPORT:

This tour aims at bringing you as close to the real Egypt as possible and not cocooning you from it. To this end we use public transport wherever we feel that it meets our high standards, this includes air-conditioned coaches between Cairo and Dahab. We also use private air-conditioned minibuses for all the sightseeing tours and transfers. All coaches and minibuses are fitted with speed limiters.

Upgrades are available to private vehicles and internal flights via Sharm-el-Sheikh if required.

TRANSFERS:

The tour includes a 24-hour airport meet & assist service in Cairo airport, your arrival and departure airport transfers and all other transfers.

Our representative will meet you in the immigration hall of Cairo airport, before you go through passport control. He will help you obtain your visas if required, and then take you through passport control, assist with

collecting your luggage, and then take you directly to your hotel.

INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS:

In order to keep our tours flexible, and to make them accessible to as many people as possible, we do not include your international flights in the set tour itinerary or price.

However, we do hold an ATOL (UK flight sales license) and are happy to book your flights for you. If you let us know your ideal dates and departure airport, then we will be happy to provide you with some flight options that we can arrange for you. You can then choose whether to book the flights through us, or make your own arrangements. Either way, your airport arrival & departure transfers are included.

TOUR LEADERS/GUIDES:

In order to provide the most personal service, and to make sure that you get as much out of our diving tours as possible, we like to keep our groups small. We therefore set the maximum number at 8 and the minimum at 2 people.

Our local reps in all the towns and cities en-route are also at your service.

Our policy at Egypt Uncovered is to use only local guides and tour leaders where possible and for more details on our reasons for this please visit the 'Tour Type' page on our website.

There still aren't enough qualified Egyptian diving instructors to go around however, so when we do use Western instructors, these will have worked in Dahab for some time, and know the country and surrounding dive sites well.

DIVING:

When you are booking dive(s) and diving courses in advance, you should consider the possibility that you might not elect (for whatever reason) to use one or more of those dives. Dives are strictly non-transferable, and no refund would be issued if

you did not use up all your dives. In the eventuality of a diving problem occurring whilst on one of our dive packages or courses, unfortunately no refund can be issued.

More information on diving with us is available on the diving pages of our website.

EXTRA DIVES:

We cannot guarantee that all of the dive sites and options on approved diving courses will always be available. Changes will occur (subject to availability) and are entirely at the Dive Centre's discretion. Also, we cannot confirm where you will do any 'Extra Dives' that you book. The Dive Centre will endeavour to satisfy customers where possible, but it is entirely at the Dive Centre's discretion and local diving conditions at the time.

COUNTRY GUIDE:

For an in-depth overview of Egypt, please checkout the country guide pages on our website.

DATES & PRICES:

We run regular small-group departures on this tour, normally every two weeks, throughout the year. These departure dates and prices are listed on our website and on a separate dates & prices sheet available on request. We can also run the set tour itinerary privately for you on other dates, subject to availability of instructors at the dive centre.

We can also customise the itinerary to make a tailor-made tour to fit your personal requirements.

HEALTH:

Scuba-diving has its own special considerations with regard to your health. Please ensure you read the medical information on our website relating to scuba-diving. We will also send you a copy

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of the standard PADI medical questionnaire after you have booked, which you will need to complete before you start any diving.

For up to date health information & vaccination requirements for Egypt we recommend that you contact your GP or a travel clinic (1st Contact travel clinic gives free advice tel. 0800 0393073).

General vaccination recommendations for Egypt include Tetanus, Typhoid, Polio and Hepatitis A.

VISAS:

Many nationalities (including UK, USA, European, Australian, Canadian) can obtain their Egyptian visa on arrival in Cairo airport (cost US\$15 or equivalent).

All African nationals will need to arrange their Egypt visa in advance.

RESPONSIBLE TOURISM:

We take responsible travel seriously, and as well as taking this into consideration when we design our itineraries, and select the people and agents we work with, we also donate £2 for every person travelling on of our Egyptian tours. This is split between two projects - the Dar Al Rahman orphanage in Cairo, and a desert clean-up project in Wadi Rayan, near Al Fayoum. If you would like to visit or support either of these projects while you are in Egypt, please let your guide or our Cairo representatives know. Full details of our responsible travel policy are given on our website.

PRE-DEPARTURE INFORMATION:

After booking, we will provide you with detailed information to help you prepare for the tour. This will include helpful advice on money, health, insurance, tipping, climate, clothing etc.

Further information is also available in the County & Travel guides on our website.

YOUR SPACE @ UNCOVER THE WORLD:

We have launched a community space for use by past, present and future travellers with us. Here you can make contact with fellow travellers in your group before you travel, or share photos and stay in contact with them after you return home. You can also ask questions of our staff and read updates on itineraries and destination news etc. For further details, please check...

<http://yourspace.uncovertheworld.travel>



Excellent company & amazing diving!

ANN WILLIAMS



We are fully bonded for your complete financial protection.



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Travel Trust
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