

Dahab PADI Open Water To Advanced (13 days)

Small-group or Private Tour



Tour Facts

Trip Code – DVEGBD
Class of Tour – Standard
Maximum group size – 8
Minimum group size – 2
Activity – Diving: PADI diving course, camel ride (optional)
Activity Level – Medium
Accommodation – 11 nights in hotel (approx. 2 star), 1 overnight coach
Transport – Air-Conditioned Bus/Minibus/Car
Meals – 11 Breakfasts (B), 0 Lunch (L) and 0 Dinner (D)

Basic Itinerary

Day	Activity
1	Arrive in Sharm Transfer to Dahab
2	Introduction to Dive Centre Begin OW course
3	Dahab – PADI OW course
4	Dahab – PADI OW course
5	Dahab – PADI OW course
6	Dahab – Finish OW course
7	Begin AOW course
8	Dahab – PADI AOW course
9	Dahab – PADI AOW course
10	Dahab – Free Day
11	Dahab – Free Day Overnight coach to Cairo
12	Transfer to Hotel Pyramids & Sphinx Tour
13	Cairo - Free Day Transfer to Cairo airport

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 below, but on another date.

We add a small supplement for these departures.

Tailor-made Tours:

Finally, 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 etc.).

Options:

On all of the above types of tour, we offer various different options, which can be added to the tour. These options are listed within the itinerary below, and then in detail at the end of this factsheet and on our website.

Detailed Itinerary

Cairo Pre-Tour Option

Day 1 Arrive in Sharm (Sunday for group departures)

You arrive at Sharm-el-Sheikh airport where we greet you and transfer you on the 1 ½ hour drive through the mountains to Dahab. Here, you check into your 2 star hotel, and our First48 rep welcomes you and lets you know the plan for the next few days.

The word Dahab in Arabic means gold and refers to the fine yellow sand that colours its beaches. The Bedouin village of Assalah 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.

Overnight at 2 hotel in Dahab

Days 2 - 6 Introduction to Dive Centre, and start PADI Open Water course

On your first morning, we'll introduce you to the Dive centre, and explain what you will be doing over the next few days.

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 (a) 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 (b) The theory section, which provides basic information and principles about diving, usually with the aid of videos along with a manual, and (c) 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.

This course can be done in conjunction with our Advanced Open Water course. See our 'Open Water & Advanced Open Water courses package'

Overnight at hotel in Dahab (B)

Days 7 - 9 Start PADI Advanced Open Water course

We'll give you some free time after completing the Open Water Course, before we start on the Advanced course.

The course consists of 2 types of activities: classroom sessions and open water dives (2 Compulsory 'Core' dives, plus 3 optional Adventure Dives). Your

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Core dives will be a Deep Dive, and a Navigation Dive. Your optional 3 dives will be selected from the following: (a) Drift Dive, (b) Multilevel Dive, (c) Night Dive, (d) Underwater Naturalist, (e) Peak Performance Buoyancy, (f) 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. There will also be test 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 10 Dahab – Free Day

After the course, we give two completely free days to relax.

2 Extra Dives Option

If you want to do some extra dives, then we can arrange these. 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 Dahab – Free Day

Today is also free for you to relax in Dahab or arrange some more diving with the Dive School.

In the evening we transfer you to the overnight coach to Cairo (approx 8 hours).

Overnight on coach to Cairo (B)

Day 12 Cairo. City Tour

You arrive in Cairo early this morning, and we transfer you to a 2/3 star hotel in the city centre. During the day, we arrange a full day guided tour to visit the Pyramids and Sphinx at Giza and Saqqara.

Overnight at hotel in Cairo (B)

Day 13 Cairo. Transfer to airport

Your tour ends this next morning, and we transfer you to Cairo airport for your departure.

(B)

Options**- Booking and Paying for Options:**

All options should be booked in advance, when booking the tour. Spaces are left on the booking form to use for this purpose.

You can also arrange extra dives with the dives school while you are there, subject to the availability of the local Dive Masters and Instructors.

Cairo Pre-Tour Option

If you want to visit Cairo during your trip to Egypt, or your flights will bring you into Cairo rather than Sharm-el-Sheikh, then we offer this option to add on to the start of our diving tours. (If you choose this option with this tour, then we will change the sightseeing tour on Day 12 to visit the Egyptian Museum, Citadel, Mosques and Khan-el-Khalili bazaar, so you don't visit the pyramids twice).

Book in advance. Pay in advance

Day 0 – Arrive in Cairo

You fly to Egypt on Saturday (for group departures), and are met at Cairo airport and transferred to a 2/3 star city centre hotel.

Overnight at hotel in Cairo (B)

Day 1 – Cairo. Pyramids Tour

The following day (Sunday for group departures) we arrange a guided tour to visit the Pyramids and Sphinx at Giza and Saqqara.

In the evening you board the overnight coach to Dahab (approx. 8 hours). You are met on your arrival in Dahab on Monday morning, and transferred to your hotel. You now continue with the standard diving tour itinerary on Day 2.

Overnight on coach to Dahab (B)

2 Extra Dives

This option adds 2 extra dives into your tour, to be arranged during your free time 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 in advance. Pay in advance

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, please ask for a tailor-made tour.

The price includes a night in the 2 star hotel, breakfast, all taxes and transfers.

Book in advance. Pay in advance

**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 Standard level groups, then if you do not select the single supplement, then you may share a twin room with another traveller (same sex) in the group.

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

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the Tour**

- All Accommodation
- Meals as indicated on the itinerary
- All transfers
- Services of Divemasters and Instructors as indicated on the itinerary
- All diving Instruction and course fees
- Provision of all diving equipment
- All Transport
- PADI Certificate

**Not Included in the Price
of the Tour**

- International airfares
- Visa costs
- Meals not indicated in the itinerary
- Entrance Fees
- Drinks, snacks, tips, and other personal expenses
- Travel Insurance – please see the policies available on our website
- Any other items not mentioned above

Accommodation

Our standard diving tours use good quality hotels (approx. 2 star) in which all rooms have air-conditioning and en-suite bathrooms. The hotel in Dahab has a swimming pool, and is located around 300m from the sea, and 400m from the Dive School.

Hotels used on this tour:
(subject to availability)

Dahab – La Reine or Yasmina Hotel (**)
Cairo – Zayed Hotel (**/**)

At certain times of the year or where circumstances dictate we may need to use different hotels from the ones 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.

www.first48.com

Transport

We provide a private transfer by air-conditioned car, minivan or minibus between Sharm-el-Sheikh airport and Dahab, and for any sightseeing tours in Cairo. The optional journey to and from Cairo is done using an air-conditioned public tourist coach.

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.

Transfers

All our tours include a 24-hour meet & greet service in Sharm-el-Sheikh airport.

The tour includes private airport arrival and departure transfers and all other transfers.

Our representative will meet you after you go through Passport Control in Sharm-el-Sheikh airport, and transfer you straight to your hotel (approx. 1 ½ hours)

If you are flying into Egypt, then our representative will meet you in the immigration hall, before you go through passport control. He/she will help you with your visas, and then take you straight to your hotel (about 30 mins)

**Group Sizes & 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 First48 is to use only local guides and tour leaders where possible and for more details on our reasons for this please visit the 'Tour Class' 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.

www.first48.com

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, no refund will be issued.

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

www.first48.com

Documentation

You will be expected to produce evidence of Certification and proof of your last dive(s), before commencing any dive(s) **for any tour or course other than the Open Water course.**

Proof of previous dives will be expected in the form of a logbook, complete with stamps (from a Dive Centre). If you cannot produce this evidence the Dive Centre will reserve the right to refuse your diving at their discretion. No refund would be issued in this event, so please be sure you have your logbook and card with you.

Extra Dives

We cannot guarantee that all of the options on approved diving courses (i.e. the adventure dives you do as part of your Advanced Open Water) will always be available. Changes will occur (subject to availability) and are entirely at the Dive Centre's (School'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 (School'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.

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Dates & Prices

Our small group departure dates are listed on our website and on a separate dates & prices sheet.

We can also run the tour privately for you on any other dates for a small supplement, or customise it to make a tailor-made tour to fit your personal requirements.

Please contact our knowledgeable sales staff for more help on creating the right tour for you.

Health

For up to the minute health information & vaccination requirements for Egypt we recommend that you contact your GP or a travel clinic (1st Contact have a travel clinic with free advice tel. 0800 0393073). General vaccination recommendations for Egypt include Tetanus, Typhoid, Polio and Hepatitis A.



Visas

British, European, and many other nationalities can obtain their Egyptian visa on arrival in Cairo airport (cost £10). All African nationals will need to arrange their visa in advance. For further information on your visa requirements, please contact us, or checkout the visa pages on our website.