

Hurghada Travel Guide

Hurghada: Egypt's Red Sea Coastal Paradise

Egypt · Generated July 12, 2026 · mycitytravelguide.com/egypt/hurghada/

Things to do in Hurghada

Beaches & Coastal Areas

Hurghada is renowned for its stunning Red Sea beaches with crystal-clear waters, golden sands, and exceptional opportunities for water sports and marine exploration.



Giftun Islands

Must See

Book Ahead

8 hours Book Ahead



Map



Wiki

Twin islands offering pristine beaches, **exceptional snorkeling**, and opportunities to spot dolphins and sea turtles. The clear waters and rich coral reefs make it ideal for both beginners and experienced divers. Day trips include lunch and water sports facilities.

Hurghada Marine National Park

Must See

Book Ahead

6 hours Book Ahead



Map



Wiki

Protected marine reserve featuring **pristine coral reefs** and diverse sea life. Offers guided snorkeling tours with experienced naturalists who explain the ecosystem and conservation efforts. Multiple dive sites within the park cater to all levels.

Red Sea Reef Snorkeling Tour

Must See

Book Ahead

7 hours Book Ahead



Map

Small group or private snorkeling expeditions to multiple reef sites with professional guides. Access pristine coral formations, encounter tropical fish species, and learn about reef ecology. Equipment provided, suitable for beginners.

Hurghada Downtown Beach (El Dahar)

Top Pick

4 hours No Booking Needed



Map

The main public beach in Hurghada's historic center, featuring golden sand, **warm shallow waters**, and numerous beachfront restaurants and cafes. Popular with families and offers direct access to the town's shopping and dining district.

Abu Ramada Diving Site

Top Pick

Book Ahead

6 hours Book Ahead



Map

Renowned diving location featuring **vibrant coral gardens**, abundant marine life including reef fish, rays, and occasional sharks. Suitable for intermediate to advanced divers with strong currents and depths up to 40 meters.



Aquarium & Underwater Observatory Top Pick

2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Located in Hurghada downtown, this facility showcases **Red Sea marine species** in large tanks and features an underwater observatory with viewing windows below the sea surface. Ideal for families and those unable to swim or dive.

Dolphin Watching Cruise Top Pick Book Ahead

4 hours Book Ahead



Map

Guided boat tours offering opportunities to see **spinner dolphins** in their natural habitat. Tours operate early morning or late afternoon with onboard refreshments. High success rate for dolphin sightings, especially from June to August.

Desert Safari & Bedouin Experience Top Pick Book Ahead

5 hours Book Ahead



Map

Off-road excursions into the Eastern Desert featuring **quad biking** or 4x4 vehicle tours. Includes visits to Bedouin camps, camel rides, traditional meal preparation, and sunset views. Opportunities to learn about desert ecology and local culture.

Windsurfing Beach Notable

3 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Popular destination for windsurfing and kitesurfing with consistent winds and shallow waters ideal for lessons. Professional instructors and equipment rental available year-round.

Tips for Beaches & Coastal Areas

- Wear reef-safe sunscreen to protect marine ecosystems
- Best visibility for diving/snorkeling in morning hours
- Book excursions in advance during peak season (November-March)
- Bring waterproof camera for underwater photography
- Water temperature: 24-29°C year-round
- Marine life is most active during cooler months (October-April)
- Respect wildlife and maintain safe distances
- Bring underwater photography equipment for memorable shots
- Tours include experienced guides knowledgeable about marine biology
- Pack binoculars for dolphin and whale watching



Ancient & Historical Sites

Discover Hurghada's history spanning from ancient Egyptian periods to modern coastal development, with museums and archaeological perspectives throughout the city.



Hurghada Museum Top Pick
2 hours No Booking Needed



Map



Wiki

Comprehensive museum displaying **Egyptian artifacts** spanning from the pharaonic period through Islamic era. Features mummies, pottery, jewelry, and manuscripts. Well-curated exhibits with informative displays explaining Red Sea's historical trade importance.



Hurghada Grand Aquarium Top Pick
2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Modern facility combining aquatic life display with **museum-quality exhibits** on Red Sea geology and maritime history. Interactive displays and educational programs for families.

El Dahar Old Town Notable
3 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Historic district preserving **early 20th-century architecture** and traditional Egyptian layout. Wander narrow streets, visit local souks, experience authentic culture away from resort areas. Genuine local atmosphere with traditional cafes and shops.

Monastery of St. Paul (Deir Anba Bula) Notable
8 hours Book Ahead



Map



Wiki

Ancient Christian monastery located in the Eastern Desert, established in the 3rd century. Features **religious artifacts**, cave dwellings of early monks, and panoramic desert views. Accessible via guided tour from Hurghada.

Tips for Ancient & Historical Sites

- Museum visit best in morning to avoid crowds
- Respect dress codes when visiting religious sites
- Photography permitted in most museums but check before shooting
- English-speaking guides available; booking recommended
- Desert monasteries require advance tour arrangement



Food & Dining

Hurghada offers diverse dining options from casual beachfront shacks to upscale restaurants, showcasing Egyptian, Mediterranean, and international cuisine.

Fish Market & Casual Seafood Restaurants Top Pick

2 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Daily fresh catch at affordable prices. Select your fish and choose preparation style at casual waterfront establishments. **Authentic local experience** with outdoor seating, authentic atmosphere, and incredibly fresh seafood.

Traditional Egyptian Restaurants Top Pick

1.5 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Family-run establishments serving **authentic Egyptian dishes**: koshari, ful medames, molokhia, tagines. Often located in El Dahar district, these restaurants offer genuine local flavor at budget-friendly prices with warm hospitality.

Beachfront Sunset Dining Notable

3 hours Book Ahead



Map

Upscale and mid-range restaurants offering **panoramic Red Sea views** with sunset dining experience. Menus feature Mediterranean and international cuisine alongside Egyptian specialties. Perfect for special occasions.

Tips for Food & Dining

- Lunch is typically 1-3 PM, dinner starts late (8 PM+)
- Fresh seafood is best value at local markets vs. tourist restaurants
- Hagglng is expected at casual eateries; prices very negotiable
- Try local specialties: grilled hammour, shawarma, fresh juices
- Tap water is generally unsafe; drink bottled water



Shopping & Markets

Explore traditional souks, modern shopping centers, and local artisan crafts throughout Hurghada for souvenirs and authentic Egyptian goods.

El Dahar Souk

Top Pick

3 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Historic marketplace in the old town offering **authentic shopping experience**. Browse spices, textiles, souvenirs, traditional crafts, jewelry, and clothing. Expect to haggle; prices are negotiable. Experience genuine local commerce and culture.

Hurghada Grand Plaza

Top Pick

2.5 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Shopping and entertainment complex with **diverse retailers**, craft workshops, local artisan stalls, and cultural performances. Good for unique souvenirs and experiencing contemporary Hurghada commerce.



Red Sea Mall

Notable

3 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Modern shopping center featuring **international brands**, Egyptian designers, restaurants, cinema, and entertainment facilities. Air-conditioned comfort with diverse product selection catering to all budgets.

Tips for Shopping & Markets

- Souk shopping is best in morning before afternoon heat
- Bargaining is expected at traditional markets; start at 50% of asking price
- Avoid high-pressure tactics; walk away if uncomfortable
- Check quality and authenticity of souvenirs before purchasing
- Credit cards accepted at modern malls; cash needed for souks



Nightlife & Entertainment

Hurghada offers vibrant nightlife with beach clubs, nightclubs, cultural shows, and entertainment venues suited for diverse preferences and ages.

Belly Dancing & Folklore Shows

Top Pick

Book Ahead

2 hours Book Ahead



Map

Traditional Egyptian entertainment featuring **professional performers** in cultural costumes. Performances showcase belly dancing, folkloric music, and storytelling. Dinner shows available at resort venues and dedicated performance halls.

Sunset Cruise & Evening Entertainment

Top Pick

Book Ahead

4 hours Book Ahead



Map

Boat excursions departing late afternoon, featuring **sunset views**, live music, dinner, and dancing on deck. Mix of local tourists and international visitors. Creates memorable evening experience with Red Sea backdrop.

Beachfront Nightclubs & Bars

Notable

4 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Popular venues with **live DJ entertainment**, themed parties, international music, and signature cocktails. Most venues feature oceanfront settings, dance floors, and social atmosphere. Busiest nights are Thursday-Saturday.

Tips for Nightlife & Entertainment

- Nightclubs and bars open late (9 PM-4 AM)
- Dress code: smart casual for upscale venues
- Alcoholic beverages not allowed outside designated venues (Islamic law)
- Book dinner shows in advance during peak season
- Solo female travelers advised to stay in groups or use hotel arrangements



Tours & Activities

Hurghada is an adventure destination offering water sports, fitness activities, and outdoor experiences for thrill-seekers and active travelers.

Scuba Diving Certification Courses

[Must See](#)[Book Ahead](#)

3-4 days [Book Ahead](#)

Professional diving schools offering **PADI certification** programs from beginner (Open Water) to advanced levels. Courses conducted in Red Sea with experienced instructors. Equipment provided; multiple daily schedules available.

Parasailing & Jet Skiing

[Top Pick](#)

2 hours [No Booking Needed](#)

Adrenaline-pumping water sports available at main beaches. Parasailing offers aerial views of coastline and marine life. Jet skis available for hourly rental. Safety equipment and trained operators provided.

Kiteboarding & Windsurfing School

[Top Pick](#)[Book Ahead](#)

3-4 hours [Book Ahead](#)

Professional instruction in **kiteboarding and windsurfing** suitable for all levels. Lessons conducted at designated beach areas with consistent wind conditions. Equipment rental and certification available.

Desert Quad Biking & 4x4 Tours

[Top Pick](#)[Book Ahead](#)

5 hours [Book Ahead](#)

Off-road adventures exploring Eastern Desert terrain. **Self-drive quad bikes** or guided 4x4 vehicle tours available. Experience desert landscape, visit Bedouin camps, enjoy star-watching. Suitable for beginners to experienced riders.

Tips for Tours & Activities

- Book water sports in advance, especially during peak season
- Wear protective gear and follow safety instructions carefully
- Best time for water sports: early morning (fewer crowds, better conditions)
- Underwater photography gear recommended for diving activities
- Hydration essential; bring water for all outdoor activities



With Kids

Hurghada caters to families and those seeking relaxation with kids' clubs, spa facilities, and calm beach areas suitable for all ages.

All-Inclusive Resort Facilities

Top Pick

Book Ahead

varies Book Ahead



Map

Major resorts offer **comprehensive family amenities**: kids' clubs, animation programs, multiple pools, water slides, dining venues, spa services, and entertainment. All-inclusive packages provide convenience with meals and activities included.



Spa & Wellness Centers

Notable

2 hours Book Ahead



Map

Full-service spas providing **therapeutic treatments**: massage, facials, body wraps, steam rooms. Many located within hotels. Skilled therapists offer traditional Egyptian and international wellness treatments.

Aqua Park & Water Fun Centers

Notable

4 hours No Booking Needed



Map

Family entertainment facilities with **water slides**, wave pools, lazy rivers, and swimming areas. Safe, supervised environment ideal for children. Snack facilities and shade areas available.

Tips for With Kids

- Resort kids' clubs offer supervised activities and entertainment
- SPF 50+ sunscreen essential for children (reapply frequently)
- Quiet beach areas less crowded in mornings
- Book spa treatments early; popular slots fill quickly
- Water quality excellent; swimming safe for families

Practical Information

Seasonal Guide

October-April is optimal with temperatures 20-28°C, low rainfall, and clear skies. This period offers comfortable weather for diving and outdoor activities with excellent underwater visibility.

May-September brings heat (30-40°C), occasional rough seas, and occasional dust storms. However, water temperature peaks (29°C) and prices drop significantly. Humidity can be high. Marine life abundance increases June-August.

Month	Temp (°C)	Water Temp (°C)	Rating
Oct-Nov	25-30	27-28	★★★★★



Dec-Feb	20-25	24-25	★★★★★
Mar-Apr	25-32	25-27	★★★★☆
May-Sep	32-40	27-29	★★★☆☆

Getting There

International Flight: Hurghada International Airport (HRG) receives direct flights from Europe, Gulf countries, and Cairo. ~5.5 hours from Cairo by road (4-5 hour drive, 450 km).

From Cairo: Flights (1.5 hours, multiple daily) or overnight buses (10-12 hours). Domestic airlines: EgyptAir, Air Cairo. Buses: Go Bus, Super Jet available.

Local Transportation

- **Taxis:** Abundant, affordable, negotiate fare beforehand. Standard meter system in some vehicles. White taxis with meter preferred.
- **Microbuses:** Cheap local transport between districts; crowded, authentic local experience.
- **Car Rental:** Available at airport and downtown; international license required. Roads generally good condition.
- **Bicycles/Scooters:** Rentals available; useful for resort areas and short distances.
- **Walking:** El Dahar old town and beachfront areas walkable; intense heat midday.

➔ Airport Transfer

Hurghada International Airport (HRG) to city center:

- **Taxi:** Metered or negotiated taxi to Hurghada city center takes about 20 minutes and costs around 150-250 EGP
- **Private transfer:** Pre-booked private car or minivan to hotels in El Gouna or Sahl Hasheesh takes 20-45 minutes and costs roughly 300-600 EGP
- **Hotel shuttle bus:** Many resorts run scheduled shuttle buses from the airport, typically 20-40 minutes and included or around 100-200 EGP if booked separately
- **Ride-hailing (Uber/Careem):** Available from the arrivals area, around 15-30 minutes to central Hurghada for approximately 100-180 EGP

What to Buy

- **Spices & Herbs:** Saffron, cumin, paprika, Egyptian blends in traditional markets
- **Textiles & Clothing:** Gallabiya (traditional robes), scarves, cotton fabrics, embroidered items
- **Souvenirs:** Papyrus paintings, alabaster figurines, brass items, Egyptian perfumes
- **Jewelry:** Cartouche necklaces, gold, silver, turquoise pieces
- **Handicrafts:** Leather items, beaded sandals, pottery, woven baskets
- **Seafood:** Dried fish, bottled sea salt for souvenirs

Shopping Tips

Souks: Price haggling is expected and enjoyable; offers typically start at 30-50% of asking price. Build rapport; accept tea while negotiating. Best bargains achieved 3-4 PM when vendor fatigue sets in.

Modern Malls: Fixed prices; no haggling. Higher cost than souks but guaranteed authenticity and quality. Payment options: cash and credit cards.

Currency: Egyptian Pound (EGP); USD accepted at tourist areas. ATMs widely available. Visa/Mastercard accepted at most establishments.

Annual Events & Celebrations

- **Islamic Holidays:** Ramadan (month-long fasting), Eid al-Fitr (3 days), Eid al-Adha (4 days). Modified schedules at restaurants/shops; less crowded resorts. Dates vary annually per lunar calendar.
- **Egyptian National Holidays:** Revolution Day (January 25), Sinai Liberation Day (April 25), Egyptian Armed Forces Day (October 6). Parades and celebrations in downtown areas.



- **Hurghada Marathon:** Annual event typically November; attracts international runners; route includes coastal highlights.
- **Red Sea Festival:** Seasonal beach festivals with music, food, cultural performances (dates vary).
- **International Film Festival:** Occasional screenings and cultural events at resort venues.

Note: During Ramadan, dining and entertainment schedules change significantly; daytime eating not observed publicly out of respect.

Sample Day Itineraries

Day 1: Snorkeling & Beach Relaxation

Start 7 AM with hotel breakfast. 8 AM: Join group snorkeling tour to nearby reefs (4-5 hours including equipment, guide, refreshments). Return 1 PM; lunch at beachfront restaurant. 3-5 PM: Relax on beach, swim. Evening: Dinner at casual seafood restaurant in El Dahar. Sunset drinks at beachfront bar.

Day 2: Desert Adventure

7 AM early breakfast. 9 AM: Desert safari starts with quad biking through dunes or 4x4 tour. 11 AM: Visit Bedouin camp, camel ride, traditional lunch. 3 PM: Return to city, rest at resort. 6 PM: Sunset cruise departs with dinner and entertainment. Midnight: Return to hotel.

Day 3: Cultural Immersion

9 AM: Visit Hurghada Museum, learn Egyptian history (2 hours). 11:30 AM: Explore El Dahar old town, browse souk markets, lunch at authentic restaurant. 2 PM: Siesta at hotel. 5 PM: Taxi to Monastery of St. Paul (requires guided tour). Evening: Early dinner, explore downtown entertainment.

Day 4: Deep Diving Experience

For certified divers: 6:30 AM breakfast, 7:30 AM join dive boat to Abu Ramada site (professional guide, 2 dives, 6 hours total). Afternoon: Rest, hydrate, decompress. Evening: Casual dinner, relaxation. For non-divers: Morning boat tour of protected marine park with snorkeling and marine education.

Day 5: Leisure & Preparation

Morning: Spa treatment or massage (2 hours). Late morning: Final beach time, photograph sunset. Lunch at favorite restaurant. Afternoon: Shopping at Red Sea Mall or souk for last-minute souvenirs. Evening: Special dinner reservations, pack for departure.

Instagram & Photography Locations

Sunset Photography

- **Downtown Beach (El Dahar):** 5-6:30 PM captures golden hour with city skyline, crowds diminish, warm light on sand and water
- **Giftun Islands:** Golden hour from boat reveals crystal-clear waters, colorful boats, vibrant island landscapes
- **Beachfront Promenade:** Tree-lined paths with sunset backdrop, architectural elements, local vendors

Underwater Photography

- **Coral Reefs:** Morning 8-10 AM offers best visibility, vibrant fish colors, intricate coral formations
- **Giftun Islands Snorkeling:** Shallow reefs ideal for snorkel photography, colorful fish, clear water
- **Desert Monastery:** Morning light emphasizes architecture, desert landscape, atmospheric religious site

Daytime Moments

- **Souk Markets:** Morning hours (7-10 AM) show vendors, colorful spices, authentic activities, natural lighting
- **Beach Scenes:** Parasailing, jet skis, swimmers create dynamic compositions 10 AM-2 PM
- **Desert Safari:** Golden hour in desert creates dramatic shadows on dunes, silhouettes of camels/riders



Pro Tips

Bring waterproof camera/housing for underwater shots. Early morning golden hour (6:30-7:30 AM) and late afternoon (4:30-6 PM) provide optimal lighting. Midday 12-3 PM light harsh; avoid overhead sun. During Ramadan, evening atmosphere unique with decorated streets and lanterns. Blue hour photography (dusk 6:30-7:30 PM) captures twilight resort illumination beautifully.

Electrical Standards

Voltage: 220V, 50 Hz (consistent throughout Egypt)

Plug Types: Primarily Type C (European 2-pin round plugs) and Type F (German/Swiss 2-pin round plugs). Some older buildings use British Type G (3-pin rectangular) plugs.

Travel Adapters

Universal adapters recommended as outlets vary. Most hotels provide adapter services at front desk. USB charging ports increasingly common in modern facilities and resorts.

Power Considerations

- **Reliability:** Generally stable; occasional brief outages in older areas. Resorts have backup generators.
- **Surges:** Use power strips with surge protection for sensitive electronics
- **USB Chargers:** Bring USB power adapter; USB outlets limited
- **Voltage Converter:** Most modern devices auto-convert 110-240V; check device specs before use
- **Backup Power:** Power banks recommended for outdoor/beach activities

Must-Try Egyptian Dishes

- **Koshari:** Lentils, rice, pasta, tomato sauce with vinegar. National dish, affordable, ubiquitous street food.
- **Ful Medames:** Fava bean stew with garlic, lemon, olive oil. Traditional breakfast staple.
- **Molokhia:** Leafy greens soup served over rice, unique Egyptian flavor.
- **Grilled Hammour:** Red Sea white fish, flame-grilled, served with fresh lemon and sides.
- **Shawarma:** Spiced meat (chicken/lamb) wrapped in pita with tomatoes and sauce.
- **Ta'ameya:** Fried fava bean patties, Egyptian falafels, crispy exterior.
- **Basboosa:** Coconut or semolina cake topped with almonds, sweet and aromatic.

Seafood Specialties

Red Sea cuisine emphasizes fresh catch: grilled fish, calamari, shrimp, lobster. Request daily catch at local restaurants; price typically lower than pre-set menus. Traditional preparation: grilled whole with lemon, garlic, minimal seasoning.

Dining Etiquette & Tips

- **Meals:** Lunch 1-3 PM (main meal), dinner 8 PM+ (lighter meal)
- **Hospitality:** Tea/coffee offered as welcome gesture; accepting expected but not obligatory
- **Payment:** Service charge (10-15%) often included; additional tipping appreciated (5-10% cash)
- **Dietary Restrictions:** Vegetarian options abundant; halal required for Muslims
- **Water Safety:** Drink bottled water only; ice made from filtered water at reputable establishments

Tourist Passes

Hurghada Tourism Card

Multi-day pass offering **discounted entry** to museums and attractions including Hurghada Museum and Marine Park. Valid 3-7 days depending on package. Beneficial for culture-focused itineraries. Available at tourist information centers and major hotels.



All-Inclusive Resort Pass

Day passes for non-guests allowing access to resort facilities: pools, beach, restaurants, entertainment. **Costs 30-80 USD** depending on resort and amenities. Popular alternative to daily excursions; reserve in advance during peak season.

Diving & Water Sports Package

Multi-day diving certification or unlimited dive packages offered by dive schools. **3-day PADI Open Water certification** costs ~300 USD including all dives and equipment. Package deals with hotels often provide discounts.

Red Sea Tour Operator Combo Passes

Tour companies offer bundled packages combining snorkeling, desert safari, and dinner cruises at **20-30% discount** versus individual bookings. Valid 3-7 days; flexible scheduling. Compare offerings from multiple operators for best value.

