Sharm El Sheikh Travel Guide

Sharm El Sheikh - Red Sea Paradise

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Things to do in Sharm El Sheikh

Beaches & Coastal Areas

Sharm El Sheikh boasts some of the most pristine beaches in the Red Sea, offering crystal-clear waters perfect for swimming, snorkeling, and water sports.

Must See

Naama Bay Beach

2-4 hours No Booking Needed

Map

Sharm El Sheikh's most popular beach, featuring **powdery golden sand** and calm, clear waters. The bay is lined with restaurants, cafes, and water sports facilities. Perfect for families and beginner swimmers with excellent amenities and lifeguard services. Water temperature ranges from 21-28°C depending on season.

Must See

Ras Um Sid Beach

3-5 hours No Booking Needed

Map

Dramatic rocky beach known for **excellent snorkeling right from shore**. Features colorful coral gardens, tropical fish, and stunning sunset views. Less crowded than Naama Bay with natural rock formations providing shelter. Good for both experienced and beginner snorkelers. Nearby restaurants offer fresh seafood.

Must See Book Ahead

Ras Mohammed National Park

4-6 hours including boat Book Ahead

Map

UNESCO-protected marine reserve offering **some of the world's best diving**. Features dramatic coral walls dropping to 800 meters, rare fish species, and intact ecosystems. Multiple dive sites including Shark Reef and Yolanda Reef with wrecks and pristine coral gardens. Diverse marine life includes dolphins, barracuda, and eagle rays.

Must See Book Ahead

SS Yolanda Wreck

3-4 hours Book Ahead

Map

Popular wreck dive of a cargo ship resting at 15-30 meters, now a thriving artificial reef. Accessible to intermediate divers with varied depths for different skill levels. Cargo holds contain bottles, machinery, and marine life. Excellent for wreck photography and observing reef colonization on artificial substrate.

Must See Book Ahead

Street Diving & Shore Dives

2-3 hours Book Ahead

Map

Perfect for beginners and certification courses with entry directly from shore or shallow-water boat drops. Famous shore dives include Umm Sid, Anemone Garden, and Coral Garden with depths of 5-25 meters. Ideal for building skills, exploring shallow reefs, and night diving opportunities. All major dive schools offer these accessible options.

Top Pick

Shark Bay

4 hours No Booking Needed

Map

Protected marine reserve with **exceptional snorkeling opportunities** and abundant marine life. Home to various shark species (harmless to humans), rays, and colorful reef fish. Clear turquoise waters and pristine coral formations. Slightly deeper than Naama Bay, suitable for experienced swimmers. Features a beachfront restaurant and rental services.

Top Pick Book Ahead

Pinky Beach

4-5 hours Book Ahead

Map

Secluded and tranquil beach accessible by boat, named for its distinctive **pink-tinged sand**. Excellent for swimming, snorkeling, and diving with less crowding than central beaches. Home to a friendly Bedouin community offering traditional experiences. Popular for sunset viewing and romantic getaways.

Top Pick

Sharm El Maya Bay

3-4 hours No Booking Needed

Map

Natural crescent bay with calm, shallow waters ideal for **families with children and beginners**. Protected from strong currents and waves, making it perfect for relaxation and safe swimming. Beach clubs offer loungers, umbrellas, and food service. Good visibility for beginner snorkeling directly from the shore.

Top Pick Book Ahead

The Tower (El Fanar Reef)

3-4 hours Book Ahead

Map

Iconic single reef rising from 200m depths, perfect for **advanced open water and experienced divers**. Dramatic underwater topography with strong currents creating an exhilarating dive experience. Rich biodiversity including large pelagics, jacks, and occasionally sharks. Requires good physical fitness and solid diving skills.

Top Pick Book Ahead

Tiran Island Strait

4-5 hours Book Ahead

Map

Famous channel dive site between Tiran and Sinai islands featuring **strong currents and incredible marine encounters**. Two main dive sites: Jackson Reef and Woodhouse Reef with coral walls, caves, and abundant fish schools. Best for dives with previous Red Sea experience. Seasonal migrations bring large sharks and rays.

Tips for Beaches & Coastal Areas

- Visit beaches early morning (6-8 AM) to avoid crowds and enjoy cooler temperatures
- Bring reef-safe sunscreen (SPF 50+) - UV rays are intense in Egypt
- Wear water shoes for protection from sharp rocks and sea urchins
- Best swimming season: October to May; avoid summer crowds (June-August)
- Rent beach umbrellas and loungers from beach clubs for full-day comfort
- Drink plenty of water and stay hydrated throughout the day

- Certification levels: Open Water (10-40m), Advanced (40m+), and specialized courses available at all dive centers
- Dive operators must have PADI/NAUI certification
- Peak diving season: September to April with best visibility (30m+) October-March
- Summer months offer challenging conditions with strong currents requiring experience
- Equipment rental, guides, and certification courses included in dive packages
- Multiple dives weekly; choose 2-tank, 3-tank, or live-aboard packages
- Bring dive computer, underwater camera, and reef identification guide
- Always use local guides familiar with seasonal conditions and currents

Ancient & Historical Sites

Explore Egypt's rich pharaonic heritage with visits to ancient temples, archaeological sites, and historical monuments that tell the story of one of the world's greatest civilizations.

Must See Book Ahead

Temple of Hatshepsut (Day Trip)

8-10 hours with travel Book Ahead

Map

Majestic mortuary temple of Egypt's female pharaoh, featuring **striking limestone colonnades and terraces** cut into desert cliffs near Luxor (2.5-hour drive). Beautifully preserved bas-reliefs depicting trading expeditions and religious ceremonies. UNESCO World Heritage site showcasing New Kingdom architecture. Accessible via organized day tours from Sharm El Sheikh.

Must See Book Ahead

Valley of the Kings (Day Trip)

8-10 hours with travel Book Ahead

Map

Legendary burial ground of pharaohs containing **62 royal tombs** with stunning painted walls and hieroglyphic inscriptions. Visit tombs of famous rulers including Tutankhamun and Ramesses II. Museum displays recovered artifacts including furniture, jewelry, and ceremonial objects. UNESCO World Heritage site in Luxor accessed by ferry and minibus.

Must See Book Ahead

Karnak Temple Complex (Day Trip)

8-10 hours with travel Book Ahead

Map

Massive ancient temple complex covering 247 acres with **towering columns, statues, and hieroglyphic carvings**. Among the largest religious structures ever built, showcasing work of multiple pharaohs over 1,500 years. Features the Great Hypostyle Hall with 134 columns. Sound and light show available in evenings. Located in Luxor, 2.5-hour journey from Sharm.

Top Pick Book Ahead

Luxor Temple (Day Trip)

7-9 hours with travel Book Ahead

Map

Beautifully preserved temple on the east bank of the Nile featuring colossal statues of Ramesses II and intricate reliefs. Located in the heart of Luxor town, easily walkable from hotels and restaurants. Evening light show illuminates hieroglyphics and architectural details. Less crowded than Karnak with excellent photo opportunities at sunset.

Top Pick

Local Heritage: Old Market (Souk El Sharm)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed

Map

Historic traditional bazaar featuring **locally-made crafts, souvenirs, and authentic Egyptian goods**. Vendors sell spices, textiles, jewelry, and papyrus paintings. Immersive cultural experience with traditional Bedouin hospitality. Best visited early morning or late afternoon to avoid midday heat. Excellent for authentic souvenirs and local interactions.

Tips for Ancient & Historical Sites

- Luxor day trips require early morning departure (3-4 AM) to maximize time at sites

- Book guided tours through hotel or certified tour operators for convenience and expertise
- Bring comfortable walking shoes, hat, and sunscreen for extensive temple exploration
- Photography fees apply at some temples (check beforehand)
- Ramadan hours differ - verify opening times during religious holidays
- Hire local Egyptologist guides for deeper historical insights and context
- Visit early morning for fewer crowds and best photography lighting

Tours & Activities

Adventure into the dramatic Sinai and Eastern Desert for thrilling safaris, quad biking, camel trekking, and authentic Bedouin cultural encounters under starlit desert skies.

Must See Book Ahead

Quad Biking Desert Safari

3-4 hours Book Ahead

Adrenaline-pumping off-road adventure through sand dunes and desert landscapes on powerful ATVs. Professional guides lead groups through scenic routes with stops at Bedouin villages and natural springs. Sunset and sunrise tours available with stunning desert photography opportunities. Includes safety equipment, orientation, and refreshments. Suitable for beginners to experienced riders.

Must See Book Ahead

Mount Sinai & St. Catherine's Monastery (Day Trip)

10-12 hours with travel Book Ahead

Sacred pilgrimage site featuring the legendary **mountain where Moses received the Ten Commandments**. Nearby St. Catherine's Monastery houses ancient biblical manuscripts and treasures. Pre-dawn climb to summit rewards with spectacular sunrise views over three countries. UNESCO World Heritage site combining spiritual significance with stunning natural scenery. Requires 2-3 hours from Sharm.

Top Pick Book Ahead

Camel Trekking & Bedouin Culture

3-4 hours Book Ahead

Ride traditional camels through authentic desert landscapes to experience **Bedouin heritage and hospitality**. Visit traditional Bedouin camps for tea, authentic meals, and cultural conversations. Witness traditional dress, crafts, and desert navigation techniques. Sunrise and sunset treks available with panoramic desert views. Gentle pace suitable for all ages and fitness levels.

Top Pick Book Ahead

Jeep Safari to Colored Canyon

7-8 hours Book Ahead

Scenic 4WD drive to the spectacular **Colored Canyon** featuring striped rock formations in vibrant shades of red, orange, white, and gold. Walking trails through the canyon reveal natural sculptures and geological wonders. Photography paradise with dramatic lighting conditions. Located 2 hours from Sharm, includes Bedouin guides and traditional meals.

Top Pick Book Ahead

Desert Camping & Stargazing

12-24 hours Book Ahead

Overnight desert camping experience with **authentic Bedouin hospitality under star-filled skies**. Includes traditional Bedouin meals cooked over open fires, tea ceremonies, and evening entertainment. Wake to breathtaking desert sunrises. Perfect for couples seeking romantic getaways or travelers wanting deep cultural immersion. All equipment and meals provided.

Tips for Tours & Activities

- Bring adequate water supply (minimum 2-3 liters per person) for desert activities
- Desert temperatures vary dramatically: hot days, cold nights - pack layers
- Sunset and sunrise tours offer best photography and comfortable temperatures
- All outdoor equipment and guide services usually included in tour packages
- Book tours through established operators with safety certifications
- Physical fitness required for Mount Sinai climb (3+ hours, 2,285m elevation)
- Wear protective clothing - lightweight, long sleeves protect from sun
- Visit Bedouin villages respectfully and purchase handcrafts to support local economies

Water Sports & Adventure

Experience thrilling water activities including windsurfing, kiteboarding, parasailing, jet skiing, and sailing in the perfect Red Sea conditions year-round.

Top Pick Book Ahead

Windsurfing at Naama Bay

2-3 hours Book Ahead

Map

World-class windsurfing destination with **consistent wind patterns and flat-water conditions**. Professional instruction available for all levels from complete beginners to advanced freestyle. Equipment rental includes boards, sails, and wetsuits. Best season: June to August with optimal wind. Sheltered bay perfect for learning with safety measures and lifeguards.

Top Pick Book Ahead

Kiteboarding

2-3 hours Book Ahead

Map

Extreme sport combining surfing, kite flying, and acrobatics on the open water. Multiple beaches offer excellent conditions for all skill levels. Professional instructors provide safety training, technique coaching, and supervision. Equipment provided includes kite, board, and harness. Popular year-round with seasonal wind variations.

Top Pick Book Ahead

Parasailing & Water Towing

1-2 hours Book Ahead

Map

Thrilling aerial adventure providing **panoramic views of Sharm's coastline and coral gardens from above**. Towed behind speedboats while parasailing 300-400 feet above the water. Professional operators ensure safety with life jackets, helmets, and experienced staff. Available daily from main beaches. Great for photography and adrenaline seekers.

Top Pick Book Ahead

Sunset Felucca Sailing Cruise

2-3 hours Book Ahead

Map

Traditional wooden sailing boat cruise along the Red Sea coast capturing **stunning sunset views and peaceful coastal scenery**. Romantic experience perfect for couples and families. Sailing on authentic Egyptian felucca vessels with professional captains. Refreshments and snacks included. Evening cruises feature lights reflecting off the water and possible dolphin sightings.

Top Pick Book Ahead

Jet Skiing & Speedboat Adventures

1-2 hours Book Ahead

Map

High-speed water sports exploring hidden coves, coral formations, and coastal attractions. Guided tours visit scenic locations with swimming and snorkeling stops. Professional instructors teach safety protocols and operation. Adrenaline-filled experience combining excitement with natural beauty exploration. Available for experienced riders and beginners with instruction.

Tips for Water Sports & Adventure

- Most water sports centers located along Naama Bay and Hadaba beaches
- Booking through hotels often includes discounts and package deals
- Life jackets and safety equipment mandatory for all water activities
- Optimal season for most sports: October-April with cooler temperatures
- Professional certifications available for windsurfing and kiteboarding
- Swimming ability required for parasailing and jet skiing
- Arrive early for better conditions and to secure time slots
- Underwater photography opportunities available on many water sport tours

Shopping & Markets

Discover Egyptian treasures, traditional crafts, and international brands in vibrant markets, modern malls, and artisanal shops throughout Sharm El Sheikh.

Top Pick

Old Souk (Traditional Bazaar)

2-3 hours No Booking Needed

Map

Authentic Egyptian marketplace featuring spices, textiles, jewelry, papyrus, and traditional handicrafts. Narrow winding alleys lined with small vendor stalls selling souvenirs and local goods. Haggling expected and encouraged. Vibrant atmosphere with traditional Bedouin hospitality. Best visited early morning or late afternoon. Excellent for authentic gifts and immersive cultural experience.

Top Pick

Naama Bay Shopping District

2-3 hours No Booking Needed

Map

Modern shopping area with boutiques, gift shops, and international brands along the beachfront. Upscale restaurants and cafes interspersed with retail outlets. Contemporary architecture with promenade walking areas. Popular for quality souvenirs, clothing, watches, and jewelry. Less haggling than traditional markets with fixed prices and established businesses.

Top Pick

Sharm Grand Plaza

2-3 hours No Booking Needed

Map

Large shopping mall with Egyptian and international retailers, restaurants, and entertainment. Features supermarkets, pharmacies, and everyday goods alongside luxury brands. Modern climate-controlled environment perfect for hot weather shopping. Food courts and cafes for dining breaks. Convenient for quality products at reasonable prices.

Top Pick

Papyrus Galleries & Handcraft Shops

1-2 hours No Booking Needed

Map

Specialty shops featuring authentic Egyptian papyrus paintings and handcrafted goods. Artisans demonstrate traditional papyrus-making techniques using plant fibers. Hieroglyphic artwork, decorative pieces, and jewelry available. Support local craftspeople while purchasing meaningful souvenirs. Certificates of authenticity provided for quality pieces.

Notable

Spice Markets

1-2 hours No Booking Needed

Map

Aromatic spice vendors selling saffron, cumin, sumac, and traditional Middle Eastern spices. Bulk purchases available at good prices for serious cooks. Vendors knowledgeable about spice origins and culinary uses. Perfect for authentic ingredients to recreate Egyptian cuisine at home. Sealed packages available for transport and preservation.

Tips for Shopping & Markets

- Haggling is customary in traditional souks - start at 50% of asking price
- Bring Egyptian currency (EGP) - smaller bills help negotiate better deals
- Avoid shopping during peak midday hours (12-3 PM) - crowds and heat are intense
- Authentication certificates important for papyrus and jewelry purchases
- Fixed prices in modern malls - no negotiation expected
- Traditional markets close during afternoon prayers (12:30-2 PM)
- Book tour guides fluent in your language for souk shopping
- Support local artisans by purchasing directly from makers rather than middlemen

Food & Dining

Savor authentic Egyptian cuisine, fresh seafood, and international dishes in restaurants ranging from casual beachfront cafes to upscale fine dining establishments.

Must See

Fresh Seafood Restaurants

1.5-2 hours No Booking Needed

Map

Red Sea bounty featuring daily-caught fish, shrimp, and lobster prepared to perfection. Beachfront locations allow dining with sunset views over the water. Chargrilled whole fish, grilled prawns, and seafood mezze platters. Family-owned establishments often offer best quality and authentic preparation. Choose your catch from display cases and specify cooking method.

Must See

Verde Basilico, Italian Restaurant in Sharm el Sheikh★★★★★ 4.9 (211)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed

Map

Verde Basilico, Italian Restaurant in Sharm el Sheikh is a highly-rated restaurant in Sharm El Sheikh, rated 4.9★ from 211 reviews. Located at El Souk El Kadim, Sharm El Sheikh 1, South Sinai Governorate 8761130, Egypt.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 6:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Tuesday: 6:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Wednesday: 6:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Thursday: 6:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Friday: 6:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Saturday: 6:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Sunday: 6:00 PM – 12:00 AM

Must See

Smoky Garden Cafe★★★★★ 4.9 (443)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed

Map

Smoky Garden Cafe is a highly-rated restaurant in Sharm El Sheikh, rated 4.9★ from 443 reviews. Located at El-Salam, street, Sharm El Sheikh 2, South Sinai Governorate 8753211, Egypt.

Must See

Wild West★★★★★ 4.9 (1,251)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed

Map

Wild West is a highly-rated restaurant in Sharm El Sheikh, rated 4.9★ from 1251 reviews. Located at inside Chillout station, in front of Domina Coral Bay, El Salam Road, Sharm El Sheikh 1, South Sinai Governorate 46628, Egypt.

Opening Hours

- Monday: Open 24 hours
- Tuesday: Open 24 hours
- Wednesday: Open 24 hours
- Thursday: Open 24 hours
- Friday: Open 24 hours
- Saturday: Open 24 hours
- Sunday: Open 24 hours

Must See

LaLa Churrascaria Brazilian A la Carte - Rixos Sharm el Sheikh★★★★★ 4.9 (145)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed

Map

LaLa Churrascaria Brazilian A la Carte - Rixos Sharm el Sheikh is a highly-rated restaurant in Sharm El Sheikh, rated 4.9★ from 145 reviews. Located at 2CHR+87V, Sharm El Sheikh 2, South Sinai Governorate 8753603, Egypt.

Must See

Zodiac Restaurant★★★★★ 4.7 (999)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed

Map

Zodiac Restaurant is a highly-rated restaurant in Sharm El Sheikh, rated 4.7★ from 999 reviews. Located at Rixos Sharm El Sheikh، 2CHR+97P، el gharqana، NABQ BAY، SHARM EL SHEIKH، South Sinai Governorate 8753603, Egypt.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 6:30 – 10:00 PM
- Tuesday: 6:30 – 10:00 PM
- Wednesday: 6:30 – 10:00 PM
- Thursday: 7:00 AM – 2:00 AM
- Friday: 6:30 – 10:00 PM
- Saturday: 6:30 – 10:00 PM
- Sunday: 6:30 – 10:00 PM

Must See

Terrazza Italia Sharm El Sheikh★★★★★ 4.7 (59)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed

Map

Terrazza Italia Sharm El Sheikh is a highly-rated restaurant in Sharm El Sheikh, rated 4.7★ from 59 reviews. Located at Elhadaba، Motels St, Sharm El Sheikh 2, South Sinai Governorate 8762523, Egypt.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 9:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Tuesday: 9:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Wednesday: 9:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Thursday: 9:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Friday: 9:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Saturday: 9:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Sunday: 9:00 AM – 12:00 AM

Must See

Basilico★★★★★ 4.7 (115)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed

Map

Basilico is a highly-rated restaurant in Sharm El Sheikh, rated 4.7★ from 115 reviews. Located at W9VP+436, Sharm El Sheikh 2, South Sinai Governorate, Egypt.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 12:00 – 4:30 PM
- Tuesday: 12:00 – 4:30 PM
- Wednesday: 12:00 – 4:30 PM
- Thursday: 12:00 – 4:30 PM
- Friday: 12:00 – 4:30 PM
- Saturday: 12:00 – 4:30 PM
- Sunday: 12:00 – 4:30 PM

Must See

Basata Cafe Sharm El Sheikh★★★★★ 4.7 (3,610)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed

Map

Basata Cafe Sharm El Sheikh is a highly-rated restaurant in Sharm El Sheikh, rated 4.7★ from 3610 reviews. Located at Sharks Bay oasis Resort, Sharm El Sheikh 1, South Sinai Governorate 46619, Egypt.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 10:00 AM – 3:30 AM
- Tuesday: 10:00 AM – 3:30 AM
- Wednesday: 10:00 AM – 3:30 AM
- Thursday: 10:00 AM – 3:30 AM
- Friday: 10:00 AM – 3:30 AM
- Saturday: 10:00 AM – 3:30 AM
- Sunday: 10:00 AM – 3:30 AM

Must See

C'La Vie Sharm★★★★★ 4.7 (330)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed

Map

C'La Vie Sharm is a highly-rated restaurant in Sharm El Sheikh, rated 4.7★ from 330 reviews. Located at Salam, Sally St, أول شرم الشيخ، محافظة جنوب سيناء 8761424, Egypt.

Opening Hours

- Monday: Open 24 hours
- Tuesday: Open 24 hours
- Wednesday: Open 24 hours
- Thursday: Open 24 hours
- Friday: Open 24 hours
- Saturday: Open 24 hours
- Sunday: Open 24 hours

Must See

Fleur De Leis Cajun Steakhouse★★★★★ 4.7 (118)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed

Map

Fleur De Leis Cajun Steakhouse is a highly-rated restaurant in Sharm El Sheikh, rated 4.7★ from 118 reviews. Located at W9VM+FQP Sultan Gardens Resort، Coast Rd, Sharm El Sheikh 1, South Sinai Governorate, Egypt.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 7:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Tuesday: 7:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Wednesday: 7:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Thursday: 7:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Friday: 7:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Saturday: 7:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Sunday: 7:00 PM – 12:00 AM

Must See

Zaza beach restaurant★★★★★ 4.7 (151)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed

Map

Zaza beach restaurant is a highly-rated restaurant in Sharm El Sheikh, rated 4.7★ from 151 reviews. Located at Baron Boulevard, Sharm El Sheikh 2, South Sinai Governorate 46628, Egypt.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 9:00 AM – 7:00 PM
- Tuesday: 9:00 AM – 7:00 PM
- Wednesday: 9:00 AM – 7:00 PM
- Thursday: 9:00 AM – 7:00 PM
- Friday: 9:00 AM – 7:00 PM
- Saturday: 9:00 AM – 7:00 PM
- Sunday: 9:00 AM – 7:00 PM

Must See

Ayosha Restaurant★★★★★ 4.7 (569)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed

Map

Ayosha Restaurant is a highly-rated restaurant in Sharm El Sheikh, rated 4.7★ from 569 reviews. Located at Al General Farid, Ezzat Street, Naama Bay, Sharm El Sheikh 1, South Sinai Governorate 46911, Egypt.

Must See

Mahony Restaurant★★★★★ 4.6 (3,983)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed

Map

Mahony Restaurant is a highly-rated restaurant in Sharm El Sheikh, rated 4.6★ from 3983 reviews. Located at Naama Bay mall number 6، Sharm El Sheikh 1, South Sinai Governorate 46619, Egypt.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 12:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Tuesday: 12:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Wednesday: 12:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Thursday: 12:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Friday: 12:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Saturday: 12:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Sunday: 12:00 PM – 12:00 AM

Must See

Marlin and Caviar★★★★★ 4.6 (932)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed

Map

Marlin and Caviar is a highly-rated restaurant in Sharm El Sheikh, rated 4.6★ from 932 reviews. Located at V75Q+RP2, Qesm Sharm Ash Sheikh, South Sinai Governorate 8761020, أول شرم الشيخ، محافظة جنوب سيناء 46619, Egypt.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 9:00 AM – 1:00 AM
- Tuesday: 9:00 AM – 1:00 AM
- Wednesday: 9:00 AM – 1:00 AM
- Thursday: 9:00 AM – 1:00 AM
- Friday: 9:00 AM – 1:00 AM
- Saturday: 9:00 AM – 1:00 AM
- Sunday: 9:00 AM – 1:00 AM

Must See

Dananeer Restaurant Sea Food & Steak House★★★★★ 4.6 (1,138)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed

Map

Dananeer Restaurant Sea Food & Steak House is a highly-rated restaurant in Sharm El Sheikh, rated 4.6★ from 1138 reviews. Located at Hussein Salem, مسق, Sharm El Sheikh 1, South Sinai Governorate 8763114, Egypt.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 12:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Tuesday: 12:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Wednesday: 12:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Thursday: 12:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Friday: 1:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Saturday: 12:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Sunday: 12:00 PM – 12:00 AM

Top Pick

Egyptian Cuisine - Koshary & Street Food

30 minutes-1 hour No Booking Needed

Map

Traditional Egyptian dishes including koshary (rice, lentils, pasta, and tomato sauce), ful medames (fava beans), and ta'ameya (Egyptian falafel). Street vendors offer authentic, inexpensive meals beloved by locals. Stuffed grape leaves, grilled meats, and bread fresh from communal ovens. Immersive dining experience in casual, lively environments.

Top Pick Book Ahead

Upscale Fine Dining Resorts

2-3 hours Book Ahead

Map

Gourmet establishments in luxury resorts offering sophisticated cuisine from international and Egyptian chefs. Multi-course tasting menus, wine pairings, and elegant beachfront settings. Creative dishes blending Mediterranean, Middle Eastern, and modern techniques. Romantic ambiance with candlelit tables and attentive service. Advance reservations essential.

Top Pick

Italian & Mediterranean Cuisine

1.5-2 hours No Booking Needed

Map

High-quality pasta, risotto, and Mediterranean dishes in Sharm's numerous Italian restaurants. Fresh local ingredients combined with traditional European techniques. Wood-fired ovens producing authentic pizzas. Extensive wine lists featuring Italian selections. Casual to upscale settings available depending on venue choice.

Top Pick

Mezze Platters & Middle Eastern Cuisine

1.5-2 hours No Booking Needed

Map

Abundant shared appetizers including hummus, baba ganoush, tabbouleh, and dolma perfect for groups and samplers. Grilled kebabs, lamb dishes, and aromatic rice preparations. Traditional beverages including Arabic coffee, mint tea, and fresh juices. Welcoming hospitality and generous portions at affordable prices.

Tips for Food & Dining

- **Must-try dishes:** Koshari, ful medames, ta'ameya, grilled fish, molokhia, stuffed pigeon (hamam mahshi)
- Fresh seafood best consumed within 24 hours of catch - higher quality at lower prices
- Alcohol available at resorts and restaurants in tourist areas; verify at more traditional establishments
- Eating with right hand considered respectful in traditional settings
- Lunch (12-3 PM) offers best prices and authentic crowds at local eateries
- Dinner typically served late (8-10 PM) - early reservations less common
- Tipping 10-15% appreciated but not mandatory; round up bills for good service
- Street food safe if chosen at busy, popular vendors with high turnover
- Ramadan affects restaurant hours and availability - verify before visiting

Accommodation & Relaxation

Luxurious resorts, boutique hotels, and budget accommodations offering beachfront locations, world-class amenities, and authentic Egyptian hospitality.

Must See Book Ahead

Luxury All-Inclusive Resorts

stays vary Book Ahead

Map

Five-star beachfront properties with complete amenities including multiple restaurants, bars, water sports facilities, and entertainment. Spacious rooms with sea views, infinity pools, and private beaches. Spa services, yoga classes, and fitness centers. Comprehensive meal plans with alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages. World-class customer service and concierge support.

Top Pick Book Ahead

Boutique & Mid-Range Hotels

stays vary Book Ahead

Map

Personalized accommodations with character and local charm. Family-run establishments offering authentic Egyptian hospitality. Comfortable rooms at reasonable prices with good restaurant and service standards. Often feature unique architectural styles, rooftop bars, and ocean views. Quieter atmosphere while maintaining quality amenities and location.

Top Pick Book Ahead

Budget Guesthouses & Hostels

stays vary Book Ahead

Map

Economical accommodation for backpackers and budget travelers. Shared dormitories and private rooms available. Basic but clean facilities with communal areas fostering social interaction. Located in town areas near markets and local restaurants. Limited amenities but friendly atmosphere and local knowledge from staff and guests.

Top Pick Book Ahead

Spa & Wellness Centers

1-3 hours Book Ahead

Map

Rejuvenating treatments combining traditional Egyptian therapies with modern techniques. Full-body massages, facials, body wraps, and aromatherapy sessions. Trained therapists using natural oils and organic products. Dedicated relaxation areas with hot tubs and sauna facilities. Wellness packages combining multiple treatments. Available at major resorts and standalone spas.

Top Pick Book Ahead

Beach Clubs & Day Passes

4-8 hours Book Ahead

Map

Day-use access to resort facilities without overnight stays. Private beach access, loungers, umbrellas, and shower facilities. Restaurant and bar service throughout the day. Swimming pools, water sports equipment rental, and entertainment activities. Ideal for cruise passengers or budget travelers wanting resort amenities.

Tips for Accommodation & Relaxation

- Book accommodations in advance during peak season (October-April) for best rates
- All-inclusive resorts offer best value for extended stays with multiple activities
- Naama Bay location offers most restaurants, shops, and nightlife within walking distance
- Hadaba area quieter and more upscale with premium properties
- Summer deals (June-August) offer significant discounts but higher heat
- Many resorts offer free airport transfers for multi-night bookings
- Verify Wi-Fi quality and cellular coverage before booking
- Spa treatments often cheaper than Western prices - pamper yourself
- Credit cards accepted at major resorts; cash essential for local vendors
- Room service available 24/7 at established hotels and resorts

Nightlife & Entertainment

Experience vibrant nightlife with beach clubs, bars, live music venues, and cultural performances offering diverse entertainment for all preferences.

Top Pick

Naama Bay Nightclubs

3-5 hours No Booking Needed

Map

High-energy dance clubs featuring international DJs and live music. Modern light shows, dance floors, and cocktail bars creating vibrant atmosphere. Popular venues attract diverse crowds including locals, expats, and tourists. Dress codes enforced at upscale venues. Open until late morning hours with mixed drinks and energetic ambiance.

Top Pick

Beachfront Bars & Lounges

2-3 hours No Booking Needed

Map

Casual beachside venues with sunset cocktails and ocean breezes. Live music, DJ sets, and relaxed atmosphere. Comfortable seating areas overlooking the sea. Diverse drink menus featuring classic cocktails and local beverages. Perfect for pre-dinner drinks or romantic evenings. Many feature beach access and water activities until sunset.

Top Pick Book Ahead

Traditional Egyptian Music & Belly Dance

2-3 hours Book Ahead

Map

Live entertainment featuring traditional Egyptian music and belly dance performances. Cultural experience showcasing traditional arts in elegant venues. Professional dancers performing in costume with live bands. Multi-course dinners accompanying performances. Respectful entertainment celebrating Egyptian cultural heritage. Usually offered at resort venues and dedicated entertainment centers.

Top Pick

Rooftop Bars & Sunset Views

2-3 hours No Booking Needed

Map

Elevated venues with panoramic sea and desert views particularly stunning during sunset hours. Sophisticated cocktails and appetizers served in relaxed upscale settings. Ideal for romantic evenings and special celebrations. Many feature comfortable seating, fire features, and ambient lighting creating intimate atmospheres.

Notable

Karaoke Bars

2-3 hours No Booking Needed

Map

Fun social venues for singing and entertainment. Private rooms and group areas for karaoke sessions. Full bar service and snack menu available. Welcoming atmosphere with mixed crowds enjoying sing-alongs. Equipment quality and song selection varies by venue. Popular for groups, celebrations, and casual nights out.

Tips for Nightlife & Entertainment

- Most nightclubs don't open until 10 PM - dining at 8-9 PM before clubbing is typical
- Dress codes stricter at upscale clubs - avoid beachwear and athletic wear
- Cocktails more expensive at resorts and upscale venues; local bars more affordable
- Alcohol openly served in tourist areas despite being Muslim-majority country
- Security and bouncer presence standard at major nightclubs
- Late-night transport via taxi or hotel transfer recommended for safety
- English-speaking bartenders common at established venues
- Credit cards accepted at resorts; cash useful for smaller bars
- Ramadan affects nightlife - hours and venue availability may change

Photography & Instagram Spots

Discover the most scenic and photogenic locations in Sharm El Sheikh perfect for creating memorable images and social media content.

Must See

Naama Bay Sunrise & Sunset

1-2 hours No Booking Needed

Map

Golden hour photography capturing beach, sea, and sky in dramatic lighting. Sunrise (5:30-6:30 AM) offers soft golden light with fewer crowds. Sunset (5:30-6:30 PM depending on season) produces vivid orange and purple skies reflected in calm water. Perfect for landscape, silhouette, and beach photography. Use wide-angle lenses for expansive compositions.

Must See

Ras Um Sid Lighthouse & Reef

2-3 hours No Booking Needed

Map

Iconic lighthouse with surrounding rocky formations and vibrant coral gardens. Stunning elevated vantage points for landscape photography overlooking the Red Sea. Underwater photography of colorful coral and tropical fish. Accessible rocks provide dramatic foreground elements. Best photography before sunset and after sunrise when light is directional.

Top Pick Book Ahead

Underwater Photography & Snorkeling

2-4 hours Book Ahead

Map

Colorful coral gardens and tropical fish photographed beneath the surface. Vibrant blues, yellows, and oranges of reef life. GoPro and underwater camera equipment essential. Shallow reef areas provide best light penetration. Clear water visibility of 20-30+ meters creates stunning underwater images. Early morning dives offer best sunlight angles through water columns.

Top Pick Book Ahead

Colored Canyon & Desert Landscapes

6-8 hours Book Ahead

Map

Dramatic striped rock formations in vivid reds, oranges, and whites creating natural abstract compositions. Wide-angle photography captures canyon walls and sky contrasts. Midday harsh shadows create strong contrasts; avoid direct sun angles. Morning and late afternoon light produces warmer, more flattering tones on colored rocks.

Top Pick Book Ahead

Bedouin Culture & Portrait Photography

3-4 hours Book Ahead

Map

Authentic portraits of Bedouin people, traditional clothing, and desert lifestyle. Always request permission before photographing people. Distinctive dress, jewelry, and facial features provide compelling human interest photos. Early morning light in desert camps ideal for portraits. Respectful cultural exchange while capturing images.

Tips for Photography & Instagram Spots

- Bring polarizing filter to reduce water glare and enhance sky colors
- Waterproof phone case or GoPro recommended for beach and underwater shots
- Sunset photography: position sun at side angles for dramatic lighting, not directly into camera
- Sunrise timing: check local sunrise time and arrive 30 minutes early
- Reef photography: stay 1-2 meters from coral to avoid damage while capturing detail
- Always request permission before photographing people, especially in Bedouin communities
- High ISO (800-1600) necessary for underwater photography in low light
- Clean lens frequently due to salt water spray and sand
- Back up images daily to cloud storage or backup drive
- Use tripod for stable landscape and night photography

Beach Bars

Real, highly-rated Beach Bars in Sharm El Sheikh, sourced from Google Places (rating above 4★).

Must See

Rixos Beach Bar★★★★★ 4.8 (520)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed

Map

Rixos Beach Bar is a highly-rated beach bar in Sharm El Sheikh, rated 4.8★ from 520 reviews. Located at 2CHR+GQR, Sharm El Sheikh 2, South Sinai Governorate 8753603, Egypt.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 9:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Tuesday: 9:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Wednesday: 9:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Thursday: 9:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Friday: 9:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Saturday: 9:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Sunday: 9:00 AM – 12:00 AM

Must See

Motion Sharm El Sheikh★★★★★ 4.8 (505)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed

Map

Motion Sharm El Sheikh is a highly-rated beach bar in Sharm El Sheikh, rated 4.8★ from 505 reviews. Located at La Strada Mall, Sharm El Sheikh 2, South Sinai Governorate 46628, Egypt.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 4:00 PM – 4:00 AM
- Tuesday: 4:00 PM – 4:00 AM
- Wednesday: 4:00 PM – 4:00 AM
- Thursday: 4:00 PM – 4:00 AM
- Friday: 4:00 PM – 4:00 AM
- Saturday: 4:00 PM – 4:00 AM
- Sunday: 4:00 PM – 4:00 AM

Must See

Sky Bar & Lounge★★★★★ 4.7 (143)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed

Map

Sky Bar & Lounge is a highly-rated beach bar in Sharm El Sheikh, rated 4.7★ from 143 reviews. Located at نعمه باي، Sharm El Sheikh 1, South Sinai Governorate 46911, Egypt.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 5:00 PM – 2:00 AM
- Tuesday: 5:00 PM – 2:00 AM
- Wednesday: 5:00 PM – 2:00 AM
- Thursday: 5:00 PM – 2:00 AM
- Friday: 5:00 PM – 2:00 AM
- Saturday: 5:00 PM – 2:00 AM
- Sunday: 5:00 PM – 2:00 AM

Must See

Palms Bar & Grill★★★★★ 4.7 (89)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed

Map

Palms Bar & Grill is a highly-rated beach bar in Sharm El Sheikh, rated 4.7★ from 89 reviews. Located at Shark's Bay 296, مرسى لأول الشيخ، محافظة جنوب سيناء 8764020, Egypt.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 9:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Tuesday: 9:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Wednesday: 9:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Thursday: 9:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Friday: 9:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Saturday: 9:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Sunday: 9:00 AM – 11:00 PM

Must See

Camel Bar & Rooftop★★★★★ 4.6 (354)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed

Map

Camel Bar & Rooftop is a highly-rated beach bar in Sharm El Sheikh, rated 4.6★ from 354 reviews. Located at St Naama Bay، Malek Al Bahrein, Sharm El Sheikh 1, South Sinai Governorate 46619, Egypt.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 6:00 PM – 1:00 AM
- Tuesday: 6:00 PM – 1:00 AM
- Wednesday: 6:00 PM – 1:00 AM
- Thursday: 6:00 PM – 1:00 AM
- Friday: 6:00 PM – 1:00 AM
- Saturday: 6:00 PM – 1:00 AM
- Sunday: 6:00 PM – 1:00 AM

Must See

Azure Lounge★★★★★ 4.6 (24)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed

Map

Azure Lounge is a highly-rated beach bar in Sharm El Sheikh, rated 4.6★ from 24 reviews. Located at 58 Gardens Bay, أول شرم الشيخ، محافظة جنوب سيناء 46628, Egypt.

Opening Hours

- Monday: Open 24 hours
- Tuesday: Open 24 hours
- Wednesday: Open 24 hours
- Thursday: Open 24 hours
- Friday: Open 24 hours
- Saturday: Open 24 hours
- Sunday: Open 24 hours

Must See

Beach Bar★★★★★ 4.6 (52)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed

Map

Beach Bar is a highly-rated beach bar in Sharm El Sheikh, rated 4.6★ from 52 reviews. Located at Al Fanar, Street Om El Seid Hill, أول شرم الشيخ، محافظة جنوب سيناء 8762601, Egypt.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 10:00 AM – 7:00 PM
- Tuesday: 10:00 AM – 7:00 PM
- Wednesday: 10:00 AM – 7:00 PM
- Thursday: 10:00 AM – 7:00 PM
- Friday: 10:00 AM – 7:00 PM
- Saturday: 10:00 AM – 7:00 PM
- Sunday: 10:00 AM – 7:00 PM

Must See

Reef Oasis beach bar★★★★★ 4.6 (32)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed

Map

Reef Oasis beach bar is a highly-rated beach bar in Sharm El Sheikh, rated 4.6★ from 32 reviews. Located at R8X6+V6M, Village Entrance, Sharm El Sheikh 2, South Sinai Governorate 8762301, Egypt.

Must See

Jolie Ville Beach Bar and Coral Reef★★★★★ 4.6 (39)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed

Map

Jolie Ville Beach Bar and Coral Reef is a highly-rated beach bar in Sharm El Sheikh, rated 4.6★ from 39 reviews. Located at W9PJ+8GG, Sharm El Sheikh 2, South Sinai Governorate 8764001, Egypt.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM
- Tuesday: 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM
- Wednesday: 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM
- Thursday: 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM
- Friday: 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM
- Saturday: 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM
- Sunday: 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM

Must See

Lagoon Pool Bar★★★★★ 4.6 (101)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed

Map

Lagoon Pool Bar is a highly-rated beach bar in Sharm El Sheikh, rated 4.6★ from 101 reviews. Located at 2CHQ+PQC، el gharqana، NABQ BAY، SHARM EL SHEIKH، South Sinai Governorate 8753603, Egypt.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM
- Tuesday: 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM
- Wednesday: 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM
- Thursday: 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM
- Friday: 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM
- Saturday: 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM
- Sunday: 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM

Must See

Sky Lounge Cafe★★★★★ 4.6 (93)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed

Map

Sky Lounge Cafe is a highly-rated beach bar in Sharm El Sheikh, rated 4.6★ from 93 reviews. Located at Shark's Bay 296, أول مرش الشيخ، محافظة جنوب سيناء 8764020, Egypt.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 5:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Tuesday: 5:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Wednesday: 5:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Thursday: 5:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Friday: 5:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Saturday: 5:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Sunday: 5:00 PM – 12:00 AM

Top Pick

Beach Bar Grand Oasis Resort★★★★★ 4.5 (81)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed

Map

Beach Bar Grand Oasis Resort is a highly-rated beach bar in Sharm El Sheikh, rated 4.5★ from 81 reviews. Located at X93R+5PV Grand Oasis Resort, Sharm El Sheikh 2, South Sinai Governorate 8765103, Egypt.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM
- Tuesday: 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM
- Wednesday: 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM
- Thursday: 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM
- Friday: 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM
- Saturday: 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM
- Sunday: 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Top Pick

Pataya beach club★★★★★ 4.5 (1,018)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed

Map

Pataya beach club is a highly-rated beach bar in Sharm El Sheikh, rated 4.5★ from 1018 reviews. Located at 2CRP+GCW Nabq bay, Sharm El Sheikh 2, South Sinai Governorate 8753801, Egypt.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 9:00 AM – 4:00 AM
- Tuesday: 9:00 AM – 4:00 AM
- Wednesday: 9:00 AM – 4:00 AM
- Thursday: 9:00 AM – 4:00 AM
- Friday: 9:00 AM – 4:00 AM
- Saturday: 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
- Sunday: 9:00 AM – 4:00 AM

Top Pick

Pirates Bar★★★★★ 4.5 (64)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed

Map

Pirates Bar is a highly-rated beach bar in Sharm El Sheikh, rated 4.5★ from 64 reviews. Located at El-Salam, خليج نعمة، Sharm El Sheikh 1, South Sinai Governorate 8763121, Egypt.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 10:30 AM – 12:00 AM
- Tuesday: 10:30 AM – 12:00 AM
- Wednesday: 10:30 AM – 12:00 AM
- Thursday: 10:30 AM – 12:00 AM
- Friday: 10:30 AM – 12:00 AM
- Saturday: 10:30 AM – 12:00 AM
- Sunday: 10:30 AM – 12:00 AM

Top Pick

Splash Pool Bar★★★★★ 4.5 (24)

1-2 hours No Booking Needed

Map

Splash Pool Bar is a highly-rated beach bar in Sharm El Sheikh, rated 4.5★ from 24 reviews. Located at XC82+556، الغرقانة، شارك باى، Sharm El Sheikh 1, South Sinai Governorate 8766102, Egypt.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Tuesday: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Wednesday: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Thursday: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Friday: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Saturday: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Sunday: 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM

Practical Information

Optimal Visiting Seasons

October to April (Peak Season): Ideal weather with temperatures 20-28°C, low humidity, and clear skies. Minimal rainfall, perfect for water sports and outdoor activities. Busiest tourist season with higher prices and crowded attractions.

May to September (Summer Season): Hot temperatures reaching 35-40°C, intense UV radiation, and calm waters. Lower prices and fewer tourists. Challenging conditions for land activities but excellent for diving with exceptional visibility. Requires heat management and hydration.

Shoulder Seasons (Early October, Late April): Moderate temperatures 25-32°C and fewer crowds. Good compromise between comfort and avoiding peak season crowds and prices. Weather generally stable for outdoor activities.

Avoid: July-August offers scorching heat making outdoor sightseeing challenging. Ramadan affects restaurant hours and alcohol availability, though not prohibitive for tourists.

Getting Around Sharm El Sheikh

International Access: Sharm El Sheikh International Airport (SSH) hosts flights from major cities. Approximately 15 km from downtown requiring 20-30 minute transfer. Hotel transfers, taxis, or rental cars available.

Within the City:

- **Taxis:** Abundant and affordable, but negotiate fares beforehand. White and black vehicles common. Uber available in tourist areas with fixed pricing.
- **Rental Cars:** International license required. Roads well-maintained but traffic chaotic. Driving on right side of road. Not recommended for unfamiliar drivers due to traffic customs.
- **Buses:** Cheap public transportation connecting major areas. Limited English signage and irregular schedules.
- **Walking:** Naama Bay and town centers easily walkable. Coastal promenades pleasant for casual strolls.
- **Hotel Transfers:** Most resorts offer transportation to attractions. Pre-arrange through concierge for convenience.
- **Organized Tours:** Hotels arrange daily tours with transportation, guides, and sometimes meals included.

✈ Airport Transfer

Sharm El Sheikh International Airport (SSH) to city center:

- **Taxi:** Metered or fixed-rate taxi to Naama Bay hotels in about 20 minutes, typically 350-500 EGP
- **Private Transfer:** Pre-booked air-conditioned car or minivan direct to your resort in 20-40 minutes depending on the bay, around 15-25 USD

- **Hotel Shuttle Bus:** Shared shuttle bus arranged through many resorts or tour operators, 25-45 minutes depending on stops, often included or around 5-10 USD per person
- **Rental Car:** Self-drive rental picked up curbside, roughly 20 minutes to Naama Bay, from about 25 USD per day

What to Buy & Shopping Areas

Traditional Souvenirs: Papyrus paintings featuring hieroglyphics, scarabs, and Nile scenes (with authenticity certificates). Handcrafted jewelry using turquoise, lapis lazuli, and semi-precious stones. Textiles including scarves, table runners, and wall hangings with traditional patterns.

Spices & Food Products: Egyptian spices like cumin, saffron, sumac, and cardamom in bulk quantities. Dried hibiscus flowers for traditional tea. Dates, nuts, and traditional sweets. Authentic Egyptian coffee with cardamom flavor.

Clothing & Accessories: Cotton clothing and lightweight fabrics suited for hot climate. Traditional Egyptian gallabia robes and headscarves. Leather goods including bags, belts, and sandals. Sunglasses, hats, and cover-ups for beach protection.

Cosmetics & Personal Care: Dead Sea mud masks and cosmetics. Egyptian oils and natural fragrances. Henna (temporary tattoo paste) for traditional body art. Kohl eyeliner in traditional Egyptian style.

Best Shopping Locations: Old Souk in downtown offers authentic goods and haggling culture. Naama Bay shops feature quality merchandise with fixed prices. Sharm Grand Plaza modern mall provides variety and climate control.

Annual Events & Celebrations

Islamic Calendar Holidays: Ramadan (varies yearly, 2026: March 1-29) affects restaurant hours, alcohol availability, and cultural atmosphere. Festive evening meals and spiritual observances. **Eid Al-Fitr** follows Ramadan with celebrations and holiday closures. **Eid Al-Adha** (Islamic New Year) features animal sacrifices and family gatherings.

Egyptian National Holidays: Revolution Day (January 25) celebrates 2011 uprising with patriotic events. **Sinai Liberation Day (April 25)** honors military achievements. **Egypt Day (July 23)** celebrates 1952 revolution with parades and celebrations.

Water & Adventure Festivals: Windsurfing competitions during peak wind season (June-August). Diving championships featuring professional athletes and competitions. Kiteboarding events attracting international athletes.

Cultural Events: Traditional Bedouin festivals in desert camps celebrating heritage. Seasonal celebrations at resorts with live performances and special dinners. International tourism events promoting Red Sea attractions.

Sample 5-Day Itinerary

Day 1 - Arrival & Beach Relaxation: Arrive at airport and transfer to hotel. Settle into accommodation and explore Naama Bay area. Sunset at beachfront cafe or bar. Early dinner at casual seafood restaurant near hotel. Rest and adjust to time zone.

Day 2 - Snorkeling & Coastal Exploration: Morning snorkeling at Ras Um Sid with guide. Lunch at beachfront restaurant. Afternoon exploration of Old Souk and shopping. Evening massage or spa treatment. Dinner at mid-range restaurant in Naama Bay with sea views.

Day 3 - Water Sports & Adventure: Morning quad biking desert safari with Bedouin village visit. Traditional lunch with local hosts. Afternoon parasailing or jet skiing from main beach. Sunset felucca sailing cruise. Evening dining at fine establishment.

Day 4 - Diving or Advanced Exploration: Full-day diving excursion to Ras Mohammed or wreck dive (advanced certification). Includes breakfast, lunch, and boat transportation. Evening relaxation at beach club with sunset. Casual dinner recovery meal.

Day 5 - Departure or Extended Stay: Morning shopping at Naama Bay boutiques. Light breakfast and last-minute souvenir purchases. Beach time or final snorkel before airport transfer. Late-afternoon departure with memories of Red Sea paradise.

Alternative Day 4/5 Options: Mount Sinai day trip from nearby location. Colored Canyon jeep safari. Cultural immersion with overnight Bedouin desert camping. Luxor day trip for pharaonic temple exploration (2.5-hour drive).

Best Photography Locations & Timing

Golden Hour Spots: Naama Bay beach during sunrise (5:30-6:00 AM) and sunset (5:30-6:00 PM) offers soft, warm lighting. Ras Um Sid lighthouse provides elevated vantage points with dramatic light angles. Rocky outcrops create natural foreground elements for composition.

Water Photography: Underwater reef photography best during midday (10 AM-2 PM) when sunlight penetrates water most effectively. Naama Bay shallow waters ideal for beginner underwater photography with minimum equipment. Clear visibility of 25-30+ meters during peak season allows distant subject photography.

Desert Photography: Colored Canyon early morning (6-8 AM) or late afternoon (4-6 PM) light enhances rock striping and color contrast. Avoid harsh midday shadows (11 AM-3 PM). Wide-angle lenses capture canyon scale and formations.

Landscape Photography: Panoramic beach views best from elevated positions at Ras Um Sid. Use polarizing filter to reduce water glare and enhance sky saturation. Morning light creates warm tones; afternoon light produces cool, dramatic shadows.

Portrait & Cultural Photography: Bedouin camp visits offer authentic cultural portraits. Early morning light in desert camps provides soft directional lighting. Always request subject permission before photographing people. Evening camp fires create warm atmospheric lighting for candid shots.

Technical Tips: Bring backup batteries for desert heat drains power faster. High UV reflection requires sunglasses and UV filters. Clean saltwater spray off lenses frequently. Bracketed exposure shooting helps with challenging high-contrast scenes. Early morning and late afternoon provide optimal light quality for most subjects.

Power & Voltage Information

Electrical Standard: Egypt operates on 220V AC at 50Hz frequency (different from US 110V 60Hz). Most modern devices handle both voltages, but verify before connecting.

Plug Types: Predominantly Type C (two round pins, European standard) and Type F (two round pins with grounding clips). Some older buildings feature British Type G (three rectangular pins). Universal travel adapters recommended covering multiple standard types.

Power Reliability: Major hotels and resorts have stable 24/7 electricity. Downtown areas and older buildings may experience occasional power cuts during peak heat (rare but possible). Backup generators common in commercial establishments.

Power Outlets: Most hotels provide USB charging ports alongside standard outlets in rooms. Universal charging adapters widely available at airport shops and hotel gift shops. Multiple outlet power strips useful for charging multiple devices simultaneously.

Safety Considerations: Verify appliance voltage compatibility before use. Avoid touching wet hands while using electrical devices. Power surge protectors recommended for sensitive electronics. Unplug devices when leaving rooms for extended periods.

Charging Solutions: Most hotels offer free device charging at front desk and in rooms. Cafes and restaurants provide charging stations for guest devices. Car rental facilities often have charging capabilities. Power banks (portable chargers) useful for extended outdoor activity days.

Egyptian Cuisine & Dining Guide

Must-Try Dishes: Koshari - layered rice, lentils, pasta, chickpeas, topped with tangy tomato sauce and crispy fried onions. Egypt's beloved street food. **Ful Medames** - slow-cooked fava beans mashed with garlic, lemon, and olive oil. Breakfast staple. **Ta'ameya** - Egyptian falafel made from fava beans (not chickpeas), served in pita with tahini sauce. **Grilled Fish** - whole Red Sea catch charcoal-grilled with simple lemon and olive oil seasoning.

Additional Specialties: Mahshi - vegetables stuffed with rice and spices (grape leaves, eggplant, zucchini). **Hamam Mahshi** - roasted pigeon stuffed with seasoned rice (delicacy). **Molokhia** - leafy green soup with garlic and cilantro. **Shakshuka** - poached eggs in spiced tomato sauce.

Dining Culture & Etiquette: Right hand used for eating in traditional settings (left hand considered unclean). Tea served throughout meal, often without asking. Bread (aish) central to every meal, used to scoop other foods. Hospitable hosts offer generous portions; leaving food insulting but acceptable when genuinely full.

Meal Timing: Breakfast (5-8 AM) light, often koshari or ful. Lunch (1-3 PM) main substantial meal. Dinner (8-10 PM) lighter repeat of lunch or seafood. Ramadan changes meal timing with pre-dawn suhur and post-sunset iftar feasts.

Beverages: Turkish Coffee - thick, cardamom-scented coffee served in small cups. **Egyptian Mint Tea** - fresh mint leaves in hot water with sugar. **Fresh Juices** - orange, mango, guava, and pomegranate freshly pressed. **Hibiscus Tea (Karkade)** - tart, refreshing traditional drink. Alcohol available at resorts and tourist restaurants.

Food Safety: Eat at busy restaurants with high food turnover. Avoid unpeeled raw fruits and vegetables. Stick to bottled water; ice machines in hotels reliable. Street food safe at busy vendors with obvious freshness. Diarrhea common for visitors; loperamide available at pharmacies.

Tourist Passes

Sharm El Sheikh International Airport Card

Transit pass for non-visa-exempt visitors requiring entry documentation. Arrival cards issued at airport border control. Departure tax sometimes collected at exit. Verify current requirements based on nationality at embassy or official government website.

www.egypttoursportal.gov.eg

Diving Certification Cards (PADI/NAUI)

Required certification cards for all recreational diving. Levels include Open Water (40m max), Advanced Open Water (40m+), and specialized courses. Issue and renewal through certified instructors. Plan certification courses before trip or complete upon arrival. Digital and physical cards both accepted by dive operators.

www.padi.com

Ras Mohammed National Park Pass

Entry permit required for Ras Mohammed National Park diving and snorkeling. Available through dive operators and tour companies at reasonable cost. One-day or multi-day passes available. Protection fee supports marine conservation efforts. Mandatory for boat access to protected area.

www.epa.gov.eg

Egyptian Visa (Tourist Visa)

Required entry document for most nationalities (verify specific requirements). Valid for 30 days from entry date. Obtained at airport on arrival (Tourist Visa) or at embassy pre-trip. Passport validity minimum 6 months. Visa extension possible but requires documentation. Check current requirements at Egyptian embassy.

www.egyptembassy.net