

READ BEFORE YOU LEAVE

Contacting Emperor Fleet in resort: Country Code is 0020 + local number – 1st 0.
Emperor Fleet: 0020 122 7353272 King Snefro: 0020 122 2340997

In the event of an emergency, family and friends can contact our Emperor staff on any of the numbers above. Staff can then contact the boat as all our guides carry mobile phones.

Passports & Visas: All guests must have a passport valid for at least six more months after arrival and must purchase an Egyptian entry visa. Guests are responsible for checking with an Egyptian Embassy that, for the passport they hold, a visa can be issued on arrival in Egypt. If you have booked your flight, transfers and hotel through a travel agent or tour operator then they are responsible for arranging a visa for you.

If you have booked a course, hotel package, Liveaboard or diving service with Emperor Divers then we can assist you with a "Meet and Greet Visa" service. This service must be arranged at the time of booking.

Sharm el Sheikh additional notes: The above "Full Egypt" tourist visa is required to dive at Ras Mohamed, Thistlegorm, Dunraven or to travel anywhere outside of Sinai.

Insurance: Emperor Divers will not be responsible for any financial loss incurred by issues beyond our control such as, but not limited to; weather, 'Act of God' or changes made by the local authorities. It is your responsibility to ensure you have purchased comprehensive dive and travel insurance cover specific to your booking and to bring proof of this with you to show the guides when you check in. You are responsible to check that these include:

- Dive Injury Insurance: covering all risks, costs and expenses likely to be incurred as a result of a diving injury, including but not limited to re-compression chamber treats, air evacuation, and loss or damage to possessions. This insurance should cover all scuba diving or water sports activities that you are likely to undertake during your trip, and
- Medical Evacuation Insurance: covering all risks, costs and expenses likely to arise from a diving or non-diving injury requiring your evacuation to a place of specialist care, including but not limited to low altitude air evacuation; specialist treatment and direct; and indirect losses; and
- Comprehensive Travel Insurance: that includes changes or cancellation to your travel plans, loss or damage to your luggage and contents.

Emperor Divers uses Indepths Insurance (Divemaster UK), which is available to purchase on board or at our dive resorts. As a temporary member you will be able to gain insured member benefits, pricing information can be found on the relevant product price list or contact us reservations@emperordivers.com.

On arrival: After passing through customs and collecting your luggage at either Hurghada or Marsa Alam Airport on the day when the safari starts you will be met **outside** the arrivals building by a representative of Emperor who will be wearing an Emperor T-Shirt and holding an Emperor sign at the below timings and airports. **IMPORTANT** - If your flight is early or late then it is possible that you may not find the representative. Please wait 10 minutes and then call the relevant Guest Relations number: **Emperor Fleet: 0020 122 7353272 /King Snefro: 0020 122 315 0612.**

Transfers to and from the liveaboard: Emperor offers a courtesy 'shared' transfer on the day of arrival and the day of departure to/from port or to a local hotel at set timings, they are not private per booking. This may require waiting at the airport for guests from other flights or collecting guests from local hotels. We do our best to limit the waiting times involved. Guests will not be permitted to wait at the airport for longer than 1 ½ hours. If the time between the arrival of your flight and the next complimentary transfer is beyond this, you may be charged for a transfer to a nearby meeting/waiting point with facilities and shade. You will then be collected en route to the boat. Transfers can be arranged to suit your flight arrival and departures at an additional cost and must be advised at the time of booking.

If you are not sure which airport transfers are included in the price of your safari or if any charges are applicable to other airports, please check with us. Guests departing on an International flight are required to arrive at the airport 3 hours before their flight and 2 hours before a domestic flight.

If guests wish to begin or continue their vacation in the same resort as the boat's departure/arrival, transfers are included on the day of embarking and disembarking only. All additional transfers and accommodation can be arranged at an additional cost and must be advised at time of booking.

WELCOME LETTER - If you are staying at a local hotel before your boarding day on the liveaboard, you will receive a welcome letter the day before advising of transfer times to the boat. In case the hotel front desk does not deliver the letter please call the relevant Guest Relations number: **Emperor Fleet: 0020 122 7353272 /King Snefro: 0020 122 315 0612.**

Waiting time before/after your flight: We have some local agreements that can offer day use facilities. In all cases food, drinks and other services are not included and are payable locally. Check in at the hotel is from 10:00am and check out at 18:00pm. Please check our pricelist for or email reservations@emperordivers.com for more details.

Diving for Qualified Divers: The maximum depth for diving in the Red Sea is 40 metres unless you are a qualified Technical diver with an equally qualified buddy; please email reservations@emperordivers.com for more details. On some dives the recommended depth is below 18m therefore advanced or Deep Diver training is advised. Your maximum diving depth will be dependent on your level of training and experience. It is your responsibility to check what depths your insurance policy covers you for before your arrival. Emperor require all guests to have a minimum of 30 logged dives for cruises that visit the marine parks. For Thistlegorm you should have a minimum of 20 logged dives. Please check each itinerary for further information. Unpredictable and strong currents are to be expected anytime and anywhere. All divers are required to dive in a buddy team and be able to complete each dive with your buddy or following your guide. If you are an Open Water Diver when joining, we recommend having advanced experience or taking your PADI Advanced Open Water course on board to maximise your enjoyment from the trip. Inexperienced and beginner divers may find some dives challenging and may be asked by the Cruise Director to skip dives that are not suitable for their diving experience. Experienced divers can dive in a buddy pair unguided. There will be no diving on arrival and departure day. Divers must ensure that they leave a minimum of 24 hours between their last dive and their flight departure (or going to altitude). All divers are required to dive in a buddy team; should you be a single diver a buddy will be allocated onboard. All divers are required to dive in a buddy team; should you be a single diver a buddy will be allocated onboard. Decompression diving is not permitted on recreational diving safaris. Solo diving is strictly prohibited.

Guides: All Emperor Fleet boats have a minimum of two guides on board. For all diving sites visited en route our dive guides will give you a detailed and comprehensive dive briefing before you enter the water. When the guide is in the water, they will remain with the group to navigate the site and to look out for any interesting marine life to show you. The dive guide will not provide any dive training during the dive and you and buddy dive together at your own risk. As qualified divers, you are responsible for your own and your buddy's safety during the dive and to 'plan your dive, dive your plan' using a personal dive computer. You must begin, execute and end the dive with your dive buddy. You are expected to be able to dive to a standard as per the certification and experience requirements outlined and as such complete the dive with your buddy or by following the dive guide. The guides may decide upon seeing each diver's ability not to enter the water for every dive and will remain onboard providing surface support only. Generally, the guides will only participate in a maximum of three guided dives per day.

Skills Review & Check Dive: Many agencies recommend a Skills Review if it has been longer than six months since your last dive. Emperor Maldives advises divers to follow the agency recommendation for safety reasons. The Skills Review should be completed prior to your arrival in resort and signed by an instructor in your diving logbook. Evidence of the date of your last dive should be shown in your logbook to avoid problems on check-in. Every diver, regardless of their qualification or experience will be required to participate in a check-dive, normally the first dive and prior to commencing normal diving activities. This dive allows you to orientate yourself in your diving environment and acquaint yourself with your equipment. In the interests of safety, Emperor Maldives reserves the right to restrict diving activities if the instructor has any concerns regarding diver safety.

Courses: We offer a range of PADI courses onboard, from the Advanced Open Water Course to Specialty courses such as wreck, deep, night, navigation, underwater naturalist and peak performance buoyancy to name a few. Pre-booking is required and courses are subject to availability and itinerary.

Medicals: All diving guests joining a Liveaboard are required to sign a [self-declaration medical](#). If you are taking part in a [PADI](#) course on-board, you are required to sign a medical form prior to starting the course. If you have, or think you have, any of the medical conditions listed you will need signed clearance from a doctor valid within 12 months of your planned liveaboard. Where doctor's clearance is needed, we ask you to arrange this before arrival where possible and to bring it with you to avoid any delays, additional costs or even missing the trip.

Marine Park fees: These are included in the price of your safari package. IMPORTANT - Night diving is not allowed in the Marine Parks at Brothers and Daedalus and this curtails our ability to offer more than 3 dives per day while in these parks.

Dive equipment: The boats have ample storage space for your equipment and there is a spares box onboard. We suggest that you bring the following:

- Mask, snorkel, fins, boots, wetsuit, regulator, BCD, torch, SMB (with a minimum of 5 metres of line to deploy during the safety stop) and a dive computer with spare batteries.
- Wetsuits should be 3 – 7mm depending on the time of year. Water temperatures range from 24°C to 28°C April to October, and 19°C to 24°C November to March.

All divers are required by Emperor Fleet to use a dive computer and SMB each for every dive and a torch each for night dives throughout their safari experience for safety reasons. Equipment is available for rent from Emperor Divers. A range of spare equipment is stocked onboard; however, the main storage is located at the diving centre. To avoid disappointment, we ask that you pre-book equipment before you arrive in resort.

Nitrox: Emperor Fleet vessels are equipped to offer Nitrox facilities and Nitrox fills are free of charge on all Emperor Fleet boats. On Emperor Asmaa / MAX itineraries Nitrox fills are offered subject to demand and availability. Nitrox packages are available for King Snefro guests who would like to dive on Nitrox for the majority or full week. Nitrox is also available on a per fill basis. We ask that you inform the dive guide prior to the tanks being filled so that they can ensure that your tank is filled with the correct gas in time for your dive.

Tanks & Adapters: All Emperor and Tekstreme tanks are fitted with 5/8's DIN valves. We strongly advise divers with M26 regulators to note that when travelling outside of Europe tanks with M26 valves or adapters to fit M26 regulators to 5/8's DIN tanks may not be available. These adapters cannot be purchased in countries such as Africa, Asia, etc and we have limited stocks available for rent. Please remember to either bring your own adapter with you or check with us regarding availability at the time of booking.

Photo & Video equipment: Recharging facilities are available onboard. You are asked not to charge items in your cabin left unattended or while you sleep for safety reasons.

Snorkelling/Non divers joining a dive boat or liveaboard will be required to complete a liability form at the time of check in. Snorkelers can only enter the water when an Instructor/Guide is on the boat to observe or unless accompanied in the water by a certified diver and will be required to wear a floatation aid at all times.

The Captain: An important man! He will decide, with the dive guides, where you go and when. Should he think the weather is not quite right then it is fair to assume he has a reason. Often sites in the Red Sea can look like a millpond on the surface and to the uninitiated seems perfectly acceptable to dive. However, if the captain and guides say no, please accept their decision. Safety is the foremost concern of our knowledgeable captain and dive guides. The sea is a dangerous place when not respected, so please accept the alternative plan as best you can.

Cabins: All the cabins accommodate two guests either in a twin berth cabin with beds side by side and single bunk beds in an L shape. Cabins are allocated prior to arrival. There are suite cabins available on a limited number of boats and these have a double bed. Suite / Single berth cabins are generally pre-sold, however if they are available upon arrival, they will be offered onboard for an additional supplement.

Bathrooms: All bathrooms/wet rooms are equipped with a shower, sink and toilet. Please take extra care in the bathrooms not to slip and always use the shower curtain when available to help reduce the risk of water leaking into the main cabin area. If you are not sure how to use a marine toilet, please ask for instructions. Placing toilet paper down the toilet is not acceptable onboard. This not only risks blocking the system for the trip, but it also finds its way into the delicate reef systems causing irreparable damage. Wastepaper bins are provided in all bathrooms and are emptied regularly. There is a shower attachment to all toilets onboard for cleaning before using toilet paper, which is a common occurrence in the Eastern world. The wastepaper bins onboard will not be filled with soiled paper if this method is used correctly. Please ask onboard for more information.

Linen service: You will be provided with two cabin and one deck towel and a bathrobe for your week's liveaboard. You can bring a personal towel for diving purposes if you wish. The housekeeping crew will clean your cabin daily, generally after your first or second dive of the day. Towels and bed linen will be changed once during your week onboard. This means you will have clean linen on arrival and will be changed around midweek. For any additional cleaning required after your cabins daily clean please speak to the guides who will be able to assist you.

Hot water: Short showers are the order of the day on liveaboards as hot water is in short supply. We ask guests to shower at different times to ensure everyone enjoys a hot shower.

Air-conditioning: All Emperor Fleet liveaboards have air-conditioning units but the effectiveness can be limited. Air-conditioning takes a lot of power so often cannot be run when other items, like the compressors, are running. The open nature of the boats also reduces its effectiveness. To run the air-conditioning all night requires the engine and generator to run which does create some noise. During the summer months, many divers opt to sleep on the sundeck. All boats offer centrally controlled air-conditioning.

Food & Drink: The meals onboard are usually buffet style with a variety of meat, chicken, fish, pasta, rice and vegetable dishes served with a choice of salads. Crisps/chips, cakes, biscuits and fresh fruit is available throughout the day. Water, soft drinks, tea and coffee are complimentary and available 24 hours. **We ask you to bring with you a personal, refillable drinking water bottle.** Red wine is included during dinner on all boats. Feel free to bring your favourite snack as these can be quite limited in Egypt. Chocolate is available onboard for an additional charge. **For any special dietary requests, such as vegetarian, please inform us prior to arrival.** We source items locally, therefore items such as, but not limited to; wholemeal pastas or flour, gluten free products or soya substitutes are not typically available.

Alcohol: Beer & wine taken from the onboard stock are charged extra (payable onboard). Guests are welcome to bring their own alcohol onboard. Guests will not be permitted to dive after consuming alcohol or under the influence of a hangover as this seriously impairs your judgment and increases your risk of decompression sickness. If the guides deem that you are unfit to dive you will be asked to sit out the dive. Your safety and wellbeing are paramount so this request by the dive guides will only be made to avoid accidents.

Behaviour: Anti-social or aggressive behaviour will not be tolerated and individuals who cause a disturbance to members of staff or other guests may be removed from the boat.

Entertainment: There is a variety of nightly entertainment ranging from Night Dives (not available in the Marine Parks by Egyptian law) to watching films or simply relaxing on the sundeck comparing fish stories.

Internet: All our liveboards are equipped with Wi-Fi and internet is available when a mobile signal is present normally only nearby or in port. We provide a limited data package for each guest via a code that may be used on one device at a time on a complimentary basis. Further codes for extra data or to be able to use another device simultaneously are available to purchase on board for modest fees. It is advised that you are aware how to deactivate software and application updates and cloud-based file transfers on your device(s) before arrival or you may find that you consume the data package very quickly. Signal strength can vary which may result in intermittent and/or slow connections. This service is provided by Emperor as a courtesy, but the service is dependent on the local mobile provider, there are often days where no signal is available on most itineraries.

Shopping: There is a selection of fish books, T-shirts and dive related items available onboard.

Luggage: Emperor Fleet will transfer you and your luggage from the boat to the airport hotel on your departure. Whilst you may be advised where to store your luggage, you leave your belongings there at your own risk.

Health: Check with your local doctor for recommended vaccinations. And remember to bring any prescribed medicines.

Taxes & Fees: Environmental tax and port departure fees are included in the price of your safari package. A 14% Sales tax charge will be applicable on payments made in resort.

Tips on board: Emperor Red Sea believe that tips should be on a voluntary basis depending on the quality of your service from the guides and the crew. You will find an envelope in your cabin and the general recommendation is €75 (Euro) per person. Please feel free to leave what you think is acceptable and it will be equally shared between the guides and crew.

Packing; remember to bring:

- Your own re-useable drinking water bottle
- Personal clothing & toiletries
- Small medical first aid box & prescription medicines
- Ear plugs are recommended if you are a light sleeper
- Water-proof bags to store electronic items (land camera, passports) in case of water damage whilst on board
- Note: Hard suitcases are hard to store on a boat so please use roll up/collapsible style bags where possible

Essential paperwork; remember to bring:

- Logbook with your most recent dives in
- Valid diving association certification proof
- Valid travel insurance
- A copy of valid diving insurance details per person (translated in English by your insurance company if not already) stating the start and ending date of the diving cover with the exact diving insurance covered by the policy. Without this document, you will be required to purchase diving insurance locally before you may begin diving.
- Booking voucher and holiday details (received from your travel agency if not booked direct with Emperor Fleet).

Nice to bring but not essential: Media portable drives, tablet/laptop, mobile phone, video/photo camera and chargers.

Currency accepted onboard: All prices are in Euros, but we also accept US dollars, Egyptian pounds, Sterling pounds and credit cards: VISA and MasterCard accepted, but please note all payments have to be converted and charged in Egyptian Pounds. Tips cannot be paid by credit card. Please check with your bank any international charges and exchange rates.

Time: 2 hours or 1 hour ahead of GMT – daylight savings time can be different to the rest of the world due to Ramadan in some years.

Electricity: European 220v 2 pin, 220v international multi and 2.5A USB electrical sockets. Electrical devices are not to be left charging unattended in any areas on-board, including cabins.

Communications: VHF radios, satellite telephone and personal mobiles.

Language: English is the most common language. We also have Italian, German, Dutch, French and Spanish speakers. The crew speaks Arabic often with some English.

And finally: If you have never been on a liveboard before, then expect a few adjustments from normal life in order to enjoy your week. Space is restricted on board any boat and on some liveboards privacy is lessened and you will need to be prepared to share the communal toilets and showers on the dive deck although all Emperor's boats have en suite facilities in the cabins.

Divers don't necessarily make good sea travellers and sea sickness can be a real problem for some. Do take precautions if you are not sure and please ask advice from others who has taken liveboard holidays before. Liveboards are a wonderful experience, offering some superb diving opportunities. If you approach the limitations with the right spirit, then you will have a great trip with fantastic diving at sites that are simply not accessible by day boats.

If you experience any problems during the week, please ensure that these are raised with the dive guides as soon as is practically possible. The guides can remedy the problem on the boat majority of the time. However, if something remains unresolved make sure you raise it with the Fleet Manager at the end of your week. With all the will in the world, problems cannot be resolved unless you highlight them. If you have any concerns, please raise them.

For more details, please email reservations@emperordivers.com or via our website www.emperordivers.com