

Information on Dahab, South Sinai, Egypt

Hilton Dahab Resort

Explore the Red Sea at the Hilton Dahab Resort, with its private beach and onsite diving school. Soak up the sun at the sleek outdoor pool or try scuba diving or windsurfing on the golden-sand beach. Try Italian cuisine under the stars at the Portofino Restaurant, or alfresco seafood at Neptune's Restaurant. Sip cocktails as you sunbathe on the beach at the Beach Bar.

From Hilton Guest Rooms with garden views to Deluxe Rooms with sea views, all rooms at the Hilton Dahab Resort offer high-speed internet access. Just an hour from Sharm El Sheikh, the Hilton Dahab Resort boasts wireless internet access in all public areas, a meeting room for 2-80 and a range of business facilities on request

Guest Accommodations

Wake up to this bright and airy 495sq. ft room with a balcony and garden views. The Nubian-style room, in cool, calm tones, has opening windows. Catch up on work at the desk, check your emails with high-speed internet or relax in the large marble bathroom. The Twin Hilton Guestroom has a seating area

Tourist Information:

Dahab was originally a Bedouin fishing village that today is world-renowned for its many reefs immediately adjacent to the waterfront hotels, so scuba diving and snorkeling are very popular sports, especially considering the nearby Blue Hole.

One of the main attractions of Dahab are the unique on-the-ground restaurants, a mixture of Hippie and Bedouin styles developed over several decades in seaside area known as Assalah Bay. Large cushions and low tables are placed next to the sea, and decorated with colorful cloths. Most of these restaurants have fish stalls in front, where one can pick the fish of one's choice and have it prepared according to one's wishes. The menus are delicious, quite affordable, but a bit above the price level of the average Egyptian restaurant. After finishing one's food, one can just lean back in the cushions and rest for as long as you wish. The seafood restaurants along the waterfront of the down-town tourist area, known as Masbet, are good, with red snapper, calamari and lobster being highlights. The Bedouin-style seafood is based on baking in earthenware.

Dive Sites:

Dahab has numerous legendary dive sites both North and South of Dahab City center. The most famous shore diving is in the North with the dive sites of The Canyon, The Blue Hole and The Bells. The North Dahab dive sites is just a short 5 mile drive from the Dahab Hilton Resort. Sin

Famous North Dahab Dive Sites: (shore dives)

The Canyon: The closet dive site up the road from Dahab and also the most accessible for divers. The dive operation parks their truck and divers gear and get in the water right at the dive site entrance. The site is famous for a large crack in the sea floor starting at 40 feet and going down to 90 feet that is accessible by divers who wish to swim through the "Canyon." The dive site is also know for colorful hard and soft corals and schools of colorful reef fish.

Rick's Reef

Situated on the north of the Canyon dive site, this is a perfect place to make a drift dive from this location toward the lagoon of the Canyon when a mild current is present. This is a very relax dive, excellent for photography. Octopus, Scorpionfishes, Morays, school of Red Sea Goatfishes fish and Fusiliers are always around on the sandy plateau patches with coral heads. The sandy bottom often hosts Bluespotted Stingray and amazing Napoleon Wrasses can always surprised you from the blue. The sloping coral garden stretches from the entry of the dive site to the fishbowl of the Canyon of beyond. A perfect location for the snorkelers as well who can follow the divers bubbles.



The Blue Hole: A couple of miles up the road from the Canyon is small Bedouin village of restaurants surrounding a coral peninsula called the Blue Hole. The Blue Hole is a submarine pothole (a kind of cave), around 400 feet deep. There is a shallow opening around 30 feet deep, opening out to the sea and an 90 foot tunnel, known as the arch, the top of which is 170 feet. The hole itself and the surrounding area has an abundance of coral and reef fish. The Blue Hole is best fit

for technical divers and snorkelers but recreational divers experience the Blue Hole in transit to the reef wall dive sites that lie outside the shallow opening of the wall of the hole. Deep descents into the Blue Hole or through the tunnel are only for divers with proper technical diving training and equipment

The Bells: A 100 foot walk from Northern edge of the Blue Hole Bedouin village is a small pool in the coral shoreline where divers enter and go down a slopy chute called the "Bells." The chute takes divers through the coral reef line and exits on the outside reef wall at 80 feet where divers peer into the deep blue abyss as they turn South and head towards the Blue Hole. After gently swimming south for 200 feet along the sheer walls of coral, divers enter the Blue Hole over the shallow opening which faces seaward with a max depth at 30 feet deep. Divers can circumnavigate the Blue Hole watching snorkelers above and bubbles from tech divers and the occasional free diver coming up from below.

Deco stops at the Blue Hole are spent in a local Bedouin restaurant where you ride a camel or just watch divers walk by as you enjoy your lunch. North of the Blue Hole is a dive site call Ras Sbu Galum which is best reached by camel through a sand track the starts right behind the Bedouin village at Blue Hole.

Ras Abu Helal

Ras Abu Helal which means "Cape of the growing moon" is situated 2 miles south of the Canyon. This extensive site features an inshore reeftop dropping steeply to a sandy lagoon of 35 foot maximum depth with a semicircular shape. This dive site features also at a depth of more than 100 feet a small narrow canyon (for which the site is named as well) which lies beyond the scope of recreational diving. The surrounding coral garden throughout the site is excellent and fish life is equally diverse. Among the hundreds of reef species, notable residents are Unicorns, big Groupers, Triggerfishes, starry Puffers and Wrasses. Hawksbill turtles are also common here.

Eel Garden

This dive site is named after the huge population of Garden Eels. These small creatures swaying in the gentle current stretch for food particles passing by and disappear gently when divers are coming close by. After swimming over the reef platform the entry of the dive site is through a small channel that leads to the main reef. The sandy bottom is home for the garden eels that come out and wave with the water and friendly Batfishes. The reef slope has got an excellent selection of coral growth with both stony and soft species and this colorful and shallow reef boasts large numbers of Lionfishes, Damsels, Parrots, Groupers, Scorpionfishes and plenty of Sand Gobies. The whole area is great for photography.

The Lighthouse

Located just off shore at the lighthouse of Dahab bay it features an extending sloping reef with a good range of depths which can suit all level of divers. Look out for Seamoths (Pegasus) and Shrimpfishes on the sandy slope as you step in the water. Large pinnacles, huge cabbage coral and coral heads extend out of the point reaching depth of more than 80 feet with a diverse fish life with Surgeon and Unicornfishes, Wrasses, Triggerfishes, Breams and Morays. The sloping coral wall and the coral garden at the northern part of the reef is very healthy and boast both hard and soft species of coral and host a varied fish life like Cornetfish, Angelfish, Goatfish and school of Common Bigeyes feeding from the mild current. It is home as well to Spanish dancers very popular among the photographers. The shallow wall of the fringing reef plate, the gentle sloping reef and the abundance of marine life make the Lighthouse an excellent site for night diving.

Masbat

This dive site located in the heart of Dahab city is the ideal place to spot numerous Thorny Seahorses and Pipefishes on the very shallow ridge covered of sea grass and funnel weed. Among the inhabitants of this ridge are the Peppered, Snow-flake and Undulated Morays, juvenile Scorpionfishes and sea urchins. The field of sea grass which covered a wide part of the dive site serves as nursery grounds for many species of crustaceans and fishes and colorful Ascidiarians. At the southern tip of this pasture of the marine plants the reef margin is starting. Large coral pinnacles and rich soft coral growth with beautiful Acropora will be found along the wall. Among the huge coral formation, there is a small swim-through at around 30 meters. You could find Potatoes Groupers, Giant Morays and Unicornfishes and school of Red Sea fusiliers during your dive.

The Islands

The Islands dive site is a remarkable site for the richness and development of its hard coral reef which creates a real labyrinth to dive through. The landscape offers the opportunity to observe a large variety of Porites and Brain corals within the Island and Acropora table corals over the sandy plateau. Box fish and Crocodile fish are part of the common representatives of reef fauna that can be seen through the three pools and the sand road that lead to the small immersed hard coral island that gave the site its name. A resident school of



juvenile Barracudas and blue fin Trevallies are frequently spotted.

Golden Blocks

Golden Blocks is a pleasant dive site with a nice variety of landscape. It has a mix of sandy areas and coral gardens with plenty of different species of soft coral like Leather corals, smooth Alcyonarians, Broccoli soft coral and Feather coral. The name of this dive site is due to the two impressive coral towers covered of Anthias where the dive begins. After a patch of seagrass, among the coral garden, there are three sandy alleys. The first one starts at 35 feet and drops down to 130 feet. The second slope is like a small canyon with an interesting coral head. At the third one, you will see an imposing Gorgonian Sea Fan at 65 feet. Red sea Bannerfishes, splendid Nudibranchs, delicate Anemones and white spotted Puffers animate this interesting reef. This site is perfect for photography with a surprising wealth of life that could be captured on pictures.

Moray Gardens

This dive site is situated in a protected bay 30 min south of Dahab just between Golden Blocks and 3 Pools. The bay is always sheltered from the wind. This gentle dive condition makes it an easy and relax dive that can suit both beginners and experienced divers. The dive starts with a sandy slope followed first by a coral formation which is a good place to look for Scorpionfishes and Anemonefishes and then by an extensive patch of sea grass where Hawksbill Turtles have been seen. There are beautiful table coral and coral garden at a depth of 80 feet where it is common to see the Red Sea Nembrotha (nudibranch). Heading north takes you to an interesting reef with sandy alleys streaming down and a coral slope with a black coral at 100 feet. It is very common to dive with a shoal of Fusiliers around, to meet some Bluefin Trevallies, and see many Groupers and thousands of Basslet and Anthias. On the shallower part of the reef, there is an amazing coral garden with numerous table corals and colorful pinnacles. Look out for the Bluespotted Shield Slug and Network Pipefish. Heading south from the entry point, swim over a huge hard coral garden and find a surprising glassfish pinnacle at about 75 feet. This section of the reef is perfect to spot octopus. Coming on shallower depth a sandy road will take you back to the entry/exit point enjoying this living aquarium with Sergeant fishes, Cornetfishes and juvenile yellowfin Barracudas. By the end of the dive the sandy slope is perfect for the safety stop and allows you to often see Seamoths in buddy pair and on the last shallow coral block an amazing Ornate Ghost Pipefish.

Three Pools

The name of this dive site comes from the three real natural pools formed in the reef. These pools have a sea grass and sandy bottom no deeper than 15 feet. Look out for hidden Moses Sole on the sandy bottom. After passing the third pool here is the open sea with hard coral slope and sandy alley on your left. Cabbage corals, Porites and Brain Corals are part of the incredible coral garden. Good chance to encounter Triggerfishes, numerous Butterfly fishes and Puffers. It is a place where the snorkelers could also enjoy the beautiful underwater world.

Umm Sid

This dive site is situated between The Three Pools and Caves dive sites. The entry follows a narrow sandy slope and the reef plates start on both side of it. On the right side a huge coral block starts from 50 feet and reach 15 feet and is covered of a good variety of soft and hard corals, Sponges and Damsel fishes and Anthias. The dive is done toward the north section.

Following the sandy slope there is a small garden of Eels and a patch of sea grass with double-ended Pipefish. Along the reef plate, look out for Scorpionfishes and coral Groupers. The Red Sea fusiliers and Unicorns are very common here as well. Swimming over the sandy plateau, you will be surprised by the quantity and quality and sizes of the Acroporas (table coral). Soft corals like Alcynarians and yellow Broccoli covered numerous colorful pinnacles. Giant morays can be spotted among the different coral blocks. The short wall is full of life with Goatfishes, Bigeye Emperors, Snappers, Butterflyfishes, Chromis, Anemonefishes, Cornetfishes, Red tooth Trigger. A very colorful dive.

The Caves



This site is the last of the series of sites on the southern coast of Dahab before the Gabr El Bint National Park. It centers on two shallow and large open front caverns, deeply undercutting the reef table close to shore. They are well worth a visit: there are covered with soft corals, sponges and black corals and inhabited by a resident huge Pufferfish and the shy Peppered Morays. The dive along of the reef sections on both sides of the caverns is as interesting as the caves. Inlets and surf tubes lead onto the sloping body of the main reef where a large cover of hard and soft coral and lively population of reef and schooling fishes are

present.

One day Camel dive safari

Ras Abu Galum

Different and important ecosystems are present in the protected area of Ras Abu Galum such as well developed coral, beautiful coastline bordered by high mountains. Ras Abu Galum can be reached by camels. The one day camel dive safari is the most popular and the best way to enjoy this famous dive location where two or even three dives can be done in summer. After reaching the Blue Hole by jeep, and loading the camels with the diving equipment, the camel ride will take you on a path along the fascinating rocky coast for an hour and a half. The dives will give you the opportunity to see a fantastic underwater landscape. On the North part of the coast after entering in a pool with sandy bottom, swim over the small ridge of coral and at about 20 feet a huge Madreporae tower with plenty of glassfish will be in front of you. Then a hard coral plateau with massive pore coral, beautiful table coral, Broccoli coral start will where Breems and Parrots and Angelfishes make their home. On the south part of the dive site, the plateau gives place to a fantastic drop off with beautiful tower of coral on the top. Huge pufferfishes, school of Trevallies, Emperorfishes and Snappers are living here.

One day Camel dive safari

Gabr El Bint

Gabr El Bint means the "Tomb of the girl" and it is the southern dive site of Dahab. Part of the attraction of this site is the novelty of the commute- by camel loaded down with high-tech diving gear along the inaccessible coastline between Dahab and Nabeq. The first dive is done to the

north of a hard coral buttress that you can see from the shore. The underwater landscape is fantastic with a wall running around the north point of a curving bay and descending to more than 165 feet decorated with table corals, black coral. Within the bay, the wall begins at around depth of 30 feet to 65 feet and give life to shelters and small caves, it is of outstanding beauty. The second dive is done south of the hard coral buttress. In shore, a large sandy lagoon dotted with coral heads lies just next to a hard coral buttress. It is an excellent place to spot Rays and numerous Crocodile fishes. The upper reef slope widens with a true forest of soft corals. It is exceptional and teeming of life. Beautiful Gorgonians and impressive Cabbage corals lie down between 400 and 100 feet. This is one of the most unusual sites along the Sinai coast and well worth the journey.

