Red Sea Diving

Don’t miss out on a unique opportunity to experience the clear, warm waters of the Red Sea

With its year-round sunshine, stunning coral reefs and varied marine life, the Red Sea is one of the world’s most renowned scuba diving destinations. We’ve teamed up with Emperor Divers to give you the chance to combine the experience of scuba diving with your cruise holiday. Emperor Divers is the only Thomson-approved dive centre in the Red Sea and all instructors speak fluent English. Whether you’re a complete novice or an experienced diver, you’ll find a package to suit you - here’s just a sample of what’s on offer:

Beginners – PADI – Discover Scuba Diving
Experience the thrill of diving under the expert supervision of a PADI qualified instructor. You’ll master the basic skills in the onboard pool before going on a fun dive with your instructor on one of the beautiful Red Sea reefs. Your instructor will be with you the whole way to point out all the amazing marine wonders surrounding you.

Qualified Divers
For certified divers we have a wide range of packages available. After a briefing from an expert local guide, you can either follow them on the dive or you and your buddy can do your own investigating. Alternatively, why not explore the wrecks at Abu Nuhas or pay a visit to Salem Express?

*Please note – If you have not dived within the last 12 months you will have to complete a “Scuba Review” at an additional charge

For further information, please see the Destination Services Team

Your adventure starts here

While Thomson Celebration offers standards of service and comfort that will seriously tempt you to stay onboard, it’s the destinations that make a Red Sea Magic cruise truly special. But where do you go? What do you do? Where can you take the best photographs, see the most memorable sights or experience the real local flavour?

To help you decide, we’ve produced this guide to our most popular excursions. Once onboard, remember to come along to the port showcase so you can discover much more about the highlights of each destination and find out more about any new tours.

IMPORTANT
Tours for Aqaba/Petra (Sharm El Sheikh arrivals) or Luxor and Sharm El Sheikh (Hurghada arrivals) must be booked on arrival at the ship today.

To book, simply complete the booking form provided and hand it in at the Destination Services Centre (Deck 5) as soon as possible after your arrival.

For all other tours, bookings can be made at your leisure. However, please bear in mind that some tours fill up quickly so early booking is recommended to guarantee your place.
Aqaba, Jordan

Few places have the power to wow you quite like Wadi Rum, where soaring mountains and glittering desert sands conspire to take your breath away.

Wadi Rum - 4x4 Desert Adventure

"Vast, echoing and God-like". These are the words T.E. Lawrence used to describe Wadi Rum. Now you can see for yourself this hauntingly beautiful valley, Jordan’s most magnificent desert landscape. Marvel at huge mountains that rise out of the rose-red desert sand. If they look familiar, it may be because they landed a starring role in the hit film Lawrence of Arabia. When you get to this protected Natural Reserve, leave your coach and board a 4WD vehicle that’ll whisk you off on safari. Your tour will take in sights like the Seven Pillars of Wisdom Mountain, as well as some impressive rock formations, some of which are covered with ancient inscriptions and art. To this day, Wadi Rum is home to several Bedouin tribes whose warm hospitality is world famous. Venture inside a traditional Bedouin tent and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee with the locals. Then, re-join your coach and make your way back to Aqaba.

Remember to take some warm clothing with you - despite what you may think it can get quite cool in the desert at times.

Half day Duration Approx 5 hrs
Aqaba, Jordan

An ancient city carved into sandstone cliffs, Petra will mesmerise you with its temples, tombs and magnificent amphitheatre.

Petra - The Rose Red City

Explore what some archaeologists have ranked the 8th Wonder of the Ancient World - Petra, Jordan’s biggest national treasure. It’s a secluded site of craggy mountain tops and soaring cliffs into which most of the celebrated tombs, facades, theatres and stairways are carved. When you get to Petra, take a wander over to the entrance of the Old City of As-Siq. Then, walk down to Al-Khazneh, also known as the Treasury, which Indiana Jones fans may recognise. Your adventure continues past the Roman Theatre to the spectacular Royal Tombs, carved into the face of Jebel Khubtha, and down the Colonnaded Street. You’ll get some time to yourself to wander round taking some superb photos for your holiday scrapbook, before making your way back via the same route. Topping off your adventure is a delicious lunch at an exclusive five star hotel. This really is an unforgettable day out in one of the most timeless places in the world.

This tour includes a lengthy walk although the whole trek is not mandatory. A jacket is recommended as it can get quite cold in the mountains.
Aqaba, Jordan

Ready to relax? Then head for the Dead Sea and smother yourself in mineral-rich mud, or simply stretch out on a blanket of glittering sands. This is most definitely the life.

Dead Sea Resort

For centuries, people have been fascinated by the Dead Sea. At 400 metres below sea level, it lies at the lowest spot on earth. Its extremely high salt and mineral content means it's completely devoid of life, but that's what gives the water its famous curative powers. This trip takes you to one of the most luxurious spa hotels on the Dead Sea's north eastern shore. You'll get around four hours to sunbathe, swim and smother yourself in healing minerals from the sea's muddy floor. Or you could just float away the day in the gently lapping waters. Remember, this is one place where you definitely can't sink! After a meal in the hotel restaurant, enjoy a magical sunset before heading back to Aqaba.

The entrance to the Dead Sea can be rocky so we recommend you take suitable footwear such as sandals or reef shoes. Any spa treatments you wish to take can be booked at the hotel on your arrival. Drinks and treatments are not included in the price.

Movenpick Hotel Beach Transfer

Want to do nothing more strenuous than apply the odd layer of suncream? Then come and spend some time on a private beach at the Movenpick Hotel in Aqaba. This luxurious, five star hotel has got plenty more to tempt you besides the sands, including two large swimming pools, lots of room to stretch out and sunbathe, and an outdoor café serving cool-down cocktails. On top of all that, there's a great range of watersports and activities, which you can pay for when you get there. This trip doesn't include food or drinks, but all that can easily be bought at the hotel. And as well as cafés and restaurants, you'll find some great souvenir shops, plus a handy foreign exchange service. Towels are provided, but there's a limited number of sunbeds so unfortunately they can't be guaranteed.

Due to the design of the hotel, there are a number of steps which means this tour may not be suitable for the less mobile or those with walking difficulties.
Port Sokhna, Egypt

One big open-air museum, chaotic Cairo provides a sensational insight into the lives of the ancient pharaohs while offering up all the excitement of a vibrant capital city.

Classic Egypt - Pyramids & The Cairo Museum

This full day tour gives you a glimpse into one of the world’s greatest civilisations - the ancient Egyptians. You’ll begin with a trip to the Giza Plateau to marvel at the world famous pyramids, the last remaining Wonder of the Ancient World. Then, you’ll carry on down the valley to see the guardian of this mortuary complex, the mighty Sphinx. Lunch is at a luxurious five star hotel, after which you’ll make your way to the National Archaeological Museum, which hosts the world’s most important - not to mention largest - collection of Egyptian antiquities. Your guided tour will take in everything from the Rosetta Stone (the original masterpiece is housed in the British Museum) to the priceless collection of Tutankhamun. Your next and final destination is the Papyrus Institute where you’ll see a demonstration on the art of making paper from reeds. You’ll get some free time for souvenir shopping before starting your journey back to Port Sokhna, reflecting on a magical day.
Port Sokhna, Egypt

Hold on tight. Cairo’s dazzling array of sights, including the breathtaking pyramids, promises an unforgettable adventure.

Pyramids, Memphis & The Tombs

Your adventure starts with a drive past the outskirts of the city, southwards to Egypt’s first capital, Memphis. Sights waiting to wow you here include the ruined Temple of Ptah, the fallen colossal statue of King Ramses II and the Alabaster Sphinx of King Amenopis II. Next, you’ll take the short drive to the ancient cemetery of Sakkara. Clap eyes on the world’s first monumental stone building, the Step Pyramid of King Zoser. You’ll even get to go inside one of the tombs built nearby. Afterwards, make your way to Cairo for lunch at a five star hotel. The tour then takes you to the Giza Plateau, where the last remaining Wonder of the Ancient World still stands - the magnificent pyramids. From here, it’s on to the Pyramids of Kephren and down the valley to the mysterious Sphinx. Here you’ll get some time to yourself to enjoy the sights at your own pace. Your final port of call is the Papyrus Institute, where you’ll see a demonstration in making paper from reeds. This is a magical tour of Egypt’s most spellbinding sights.

Pyramids, Mohammed Ali Mosque & The Nile

This fabulous tour starts with a drive to Cairo to take in the Citadel of Saladin and the Alabaster Mosque of Mohammed Ali. You’ll get the chance to go inside the mosque and soak up incredible views of Old Cairo. Afterwards, your adventure takes you to the banks of the Nile, where a river boat waits to whisk you off. Sail Egypt’s famous river, tucking into a tasty buffet-style lunch while Egyptian music and dancing entertains you. Next up is Cairo and a trip to the Giza Plateau to behold the magnificent pyramids. There’s a great viewpoint where you can take some really impressive photos for your holiday album. From here, you’ll drive closer to the Pyramids of Kephren, before heading to the mysterious Sphinx, where you’ll get some time to yourself to soak up these famous sights. Your last stop is the Papyrus Institute where you can watch paper being made from reeds. A spot of souvenir shopping rounds off the day, then it’s time to head back to the ship.
Safaga, Egypt

The city of Luxor is the jewel of the Nile, where magnificent temples, shrines and monuments pepper the dusky banks of the meandering river.

Luxor - Karnak & The Valley of The Kings

Mesmerising Luxor is filled to bursting with awe-inspiring monuments. First up is a photostop at the Colossi of Memnon. Crane your neck and gaze upwards as you stand in the shadow of these two towering statues. Afterwards, carry on to the West Bank to walk through the Valley of the Kings. This famous necropolis is where the pharaohs found their final resting place and hoped to meet their Gods in the afterlife. Of course, the most famous of all the tombs found here is the one belonging to boy king, Tutankhamun. Nearby, lies the Temple of Queen Hatchepsut. Set at the foot of a 300 metre rock, it's one of Egypt's most striking monuments. From here, you’ll make a quick stop at an alabaster shop before tucking into a tasty lunch at a five star hotel. And last, but by no means least, you’ll visit the Karnak Temples, once the most important place of worship in Egypt. It’s a jaw-dropping complex of sanctuaries, kiosks, pylons and obelisks dedicated to the Theban Gods.

Paradise Island - Swim, Sun & Snorkel

Seen the monuments of Luxor before? Then why not head for a lovely little island where you can swim, relax and soak up all that hot Egyptian sunshine? We’ll take you to the marina where you’ll board a private motor-boat that’ll whisk you off to Giftun Island. Part of the Maritime National Heritage of Egypt, it’s real postcard stuff all right. Once you reach Giftun, the time is yours to stroll along the sands, swim in the crystal waters or sail out to sea for an hour’s snorkelling. The island is at the southern tip of a beautiful, 2km-long reef, so you’re guaranteed an incredible underwater experience. Afterwards, tuck into a delicious buffet lunch, perhaps take another dip in the sea, then head back to the marina where your coach will be waiting to take you back to the ship. It’s a great way to recharge your batteries.
Safaga, Egypt

Stretch out on golden sands. Don mask and flippers and dive the Red Sea. Or discover the underwater world without even getting wet. The choice, as always, is yours.

**Makadi Bay Hotel Beach Transfer**
This resort has snatched one of the best spots in Egypt, directly on the Red Sea. It’s got its own private beach lapped by clear waters - the perfect spot to lie back and relax. Included in your ticket price is round-trip transport, a towel on arrival and a welcome soft drink. And there’s a great selection of activities which you can pay for in Euros when you get there. Subject to availability, we’re talking things like snorkelling, glass-bottom boat trips and windsurfing. Of course, if you’re looking to do nothing more than chill out, then just relax by the pool or take a dip in the deliciously warm waters of the Red Sea. Your time is your own, so you might decide to browse the small shops in Makadi Bay and pick up a few souvenirs for the people at home. It’s entirely up to you.

**Seascope & Hurghada City**
Don’t fancy the thought of squeezing into a wetsuit and strapping on an oxygen tank? Well that doesn’t mean you have to give the underwater world a miss altogether. This trip is the perfect way to find out what all the Red Sea fuss is about without getting wet. Seascope is a glass-bottom boat with a difference. It takes you three metres under the surface so you’re surrounded by the coral and fish for which these sparkling waters are so famous. See, video and photograph these underwater delights through gigantic panoramic windows from the comfort of your own swivelling chair. It’s secure, it’s air-conditioned, and it’s just like sitting in a great big aquarium, with the bonus of staying bone dry. Put simply, it’s the easiest way to delve beneath the waves. After your Seascope adventure, we’ll take you to Hurghada city centre where you’ll have about an hour to explore and perhaps pick up a few souvenirs before returning to the ship.

**Hurghada City Transfer**
Just an hour’s drive from the ship lies the small resort town of Hurghada. You’ll visit the two main areas of town on this transfer, with around 90 minutes free time in each place to eat, drink, shop and explore at your leisure.
Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt

Don't miss out on the chance to see Egypt's principal resort. Even if you're flying home - all tours are still available to you!

Ras Mohamed by Boat

Hoping to see some of the Red Sea's famous marine life? Then this is the perfect opportunity. Ras Mohamed is a peninsula, bordered to the west by the Gulf of Suez, and to the east by the Gulf of Aqaba. The water here reaches depths of up to 2000 metres as it's the beginning of an enormous cleavage in the earth's crust which separates the African and Eurasian continental plates. So why are we telling you all this? Because the coral reef at Ras Mohamed is believed to be the most magnificent in the world. Unrivalled in its beauty and diversity, it's home to over 1,000 species of fish. Statistically speaking there are more fish per square metre in the northern Red Sea than anywhere else on earth. On this boat trip you can snorkel with the fish or simply lie back and relax on the boat. The choice is yours.

You'll need to bring a towel with you. Snorkelling gear is not included but can be hired locally for €9. Please bring the correct change.

Naama Bay Transfer

So where's the best place to do some last-minute shopping before you fly home? Naama Bay of course! This purpose-built resort area is Sharm El Sheikhs premier tourist development. It's made up of top hotels, welcoming cafés and a whole host of shops catering for holidaymakers.

This easy transfer gives you around three hours there, and the coach will return to the ship in time for all our passengers flying home to the UK on Thursdays. The transfer time to and from Naama Bay is approximately 30 minutes.

This tour is not guided but accompanied by an escort.
Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt

Whether you want to tick off a list of famous sights or kick up colossal clouds of sand as you sidewind through the desert, sun-drenched Sharm El Sheikh is the place to head.

Glass Bottom Boat

See the best of the Red Sea without getting wet. From the comfort of a glass-bottom boat, admire magnificent coral reefs and sea grass that sway dreamily with the waves. It’s a bit like peering into the most incredible tropical aquarium you’ve ever clapped eyes on - only this one’s the real deal. The boat offers an hour and a half’s fun for adults and kids, and you can either discover the secrets of the deep or simply sit on deck and soak up the sun. Bliss.

Quad Bikes

Egypt isn’t just about pharaohs, pyramids and ancient monuments. You can trek or dive, enjoy the sun, sea and sand, or even try your hand at adventure sports. So get ready to kick up a sandstorm as you bounce across the desert on your very own quad bike. You’ll be part of a convoy of bikes snaking your way across golden dunes and cruising round the foot of rugged mountains. If you like a little adrenaline rush served up with your suntan then this is most definitely the trip for you. You’ll get two hours of unlimited fun, including a pitstop at a Bedouin tent where you’ll get a cup of tea and a taste of the Bedouin culture.

This trip is only available to over 16s.
Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt

St Catherine's Monastery

Tucked at the foot of the mountain where Moses is said to have received the Ten Commandments, St Catherine’s Monastery is one of the world’s most important centres of religious pilgrimage. Among the gems you’ll find here are a library packed with ancient manuscripts and icons—a collection second only to the Vatican’s—and a 6th-century church thought to lie on the site of Moses’ Burning Bush. Priceless works of art line up to dazzle, including Arab mosaics, Greek icons and Western oil paintings. The monastery even has a small mosque and a chapel which houses the skulls of monks. Highlights of your guided tour include the Emperor Justinian’s 6th Century Church, the Mosaic of Transfiguration, the Chapel of the Burning Bush and Jethro’s Well. Afterwards, tuck into a buffet lunch at a five star hotel before returning to Sharm El Sheikh.

This tour is only available to guests who arrive in Hurghada.

Key

- Great Choice for Families
- Limited Spaces Available
- Beach or Water
- Scenic Tour
- Shopping Time
- Lunch Included
- Refreshments Included
- Easy Walking
- Medium Walking
- Active Walking
- Full day Duration Approx 9 hrs

Please note: wheelchair users should consult the Destination Services team before booking any tour.

Notes