

Information to help you prepare for your diving cruise onboard RED SEA BLUE FORCE 2.

Thank you for booking your next diving cruise onboard **RED SEA BLUE FORCE 2**.

We would be grateful if you would carefully read this document that will surely help you solve some issues that may arise while planning your cruise.

Blue Force Fleet contact before traveling

If you need to contact Blue Force Fleet before the trip, you can do it through:

Email: info@blueforcefleet.com

Call center: Tel: +34 944 249 466, Monday to Friday (09.30 to 19.00 hrs.) GMT+1

Once you are traveling and in case you have an important delay or any emergency, you can contact our Call Center:

👑 Tel: +34 944 249 466 – Monday to Friday (09.30 to 19.00) GMT +1

Contact out of the call center hours in case of emergency on Saturday, Sunday, and bank holidays:

👑 WhatsApp: (+34) 649 433 785

👑 Phone & WhatsApp: +20 1224141568

Important documentation for the trip

👑 **Passport:** to enter Egypt requires a passport with a validity of at least six months from the day of the return and a return air ticket.

👑 **Tourist Visa:** Visa is not required before arrival to the country for EU citizens and most American citizens.

If you have arranged your visa through Blue Force, you will receive your visa upon arrival in Egypt from one of our representatives. Depending on your nationality, it is important to check in advance with your embassy the requisites to enter Egypt.

It is the visitor's sole responsibility to have all the required documentation to enter the country.

👑 **IMPORTANT:** Check with the Health Authorities of your country of origin about possible entry regulations to the countries in transit and destination of your trip, in this case, Egypt, and back to your country of origin and transit. **These regulations may change without prior notice, so we recommend checking the official updates.**

👑 **Health:** Don't drink tap water. If you are prone to seasickness, ask your GP for an anti-sickness treatment. Likewise, do not forget sunblock lotion and sunglasses.

👑 It is especially important to stay hydrated during your trip.

👑 **International diving certification** and NITROX certification are required.

👑 **Travel and dive insurance.**

Insurance

All passengers onboard RED SEA BLUE FORCE 2 are covered by MAPFRE Insurance Company, policy no. 698/380.

Insurance coverage includes accommodation and diving during the cruise and whenever you have booked your flights with BLUE FORCE TRAVEL your flights will also be included.

Check the general conditions and the cancellation costs coverage, medical expenses, hyperbaric chamber, baggage...on www.blueforcefleet.com

Should you like to extend the cancellation coverage, check our proposals.

If you want to extend the diving insurance coverage, we recommend contracting DAN insurance or similar.

Baggage and diving equipment

Bring comfortable casual light clothes: shorts, swimming trunks, t-shirts, and polo shirts; swimsuits, dresses, and beach wraps for ladies. During the winter months (December to April), it is recommended to have long trousers and a windbreaker or sweatshirt.

Shoes: On the boat, everyone is always barefoot. No shoes or flip-flops are used. Do not forget to include high-factor sunblock cream in your baggage.

Our scuba equipment onboard the RED SEA BLUE FORCE 2 is standard for warm water diving, with 5 mm long wet suits.

Minimum and compulsory DIVING EQUIPMENT:

- 👑 Regulator, primary and secondary second stages, and air gauge
- 👑 Dive computer
- 👑 BCD
- 👑 Mask, snorkel, and fins
- 👑 3 mm Dive suit in July, August, and September or 5 mm dive suit rest of the year
- 👑 Flashlight/diving torch
- 👑 SMB Surface Marker Buoy

The diving equipment above mentioned is the minimum and mandatory. You can bring your equipment (recommended option) or rent it onboard.

The rental diving equipment onboard is varied and of good quality and well maintained, but **it is limited**. Therefore, to guarantee availability must be booked in advance, at least 15 days before arrival. If diving equipment has not been booked well in advance or is requested once onboard, it may not be available or may have to be rented from an independent source outside the boat. In that case, prices could be more expensive than our published ones.

Arrival in Egypt and VISA

If your flights or entry VISA have been booked through Blue Force Travel, you will be assisted by one of our representatives upon arrival in Egypt (Cairo or Sharm El Sheikh).

Our staff will be waiting for you with a Blue Force sign. They will be situated just before the Passport Control and will assist you with the visa. Once you get the visa, they will also assist you with your connecting flights, if necessary.

Arrival in Sharm El Sheikh and transfer to the boat

The nearest arrival airport to embark will be Sharm El Sheikh (SSH). RED SEA BLUE FORCE 2 operates from Saturday to Saturday on all trips. So, all the routes will have the embarking and disembarking day on Saturday.

Upon arrival at the airport, after picking up your luggage, one of our representatives with the **Blue Force** Sign will be waiting at the exit of the arrivals lounge (please be sure that you have sent us all the necessary information for the transfer such as arrival time, airline...)

We are at your disposal for anything you might need, from claiming lost luggage to delayed luggage.

Once everything is finished, we will make the transfer by bus from the airport to the port where our staff will be waiting for you.

Estimated time from Sharm El Sheikh Airport to TRAVCO Marina, Sharm el-Sheikh Port: 20 minutes.

For those passengers that have not booked the flights through Blue Force:

The transfer included in the price from the airport to the boat will be done exclusively on Saturdays and from the airport. Therefore, it is particularly important to inform Blue Force about your flight timetable to arrange your transfers.

Boarding time on the BLUE FORCE 2 starts at 19.00 hrs. on Saturday.

On the arrival day or the day after, the cruise director will make the boat briefing, introduce the staff, and explain the safety rules, onboard services, mealtimes, social conventions and day-to-day details on board. As well as the completion of the required documentation, taxes payment, and collection of any diving materials rented in advance.

The ship will sail on Sunday as soon as possible (as soon as the port authorities confirm that the pre-delivered documentation matches that of the passengers on board and authorize the departure).

Disembarking

We usually arrive at the TRAVCO Marina, Sharm el-Sheikh Port on Friday afternoon. Dinner and night will be onboard.

Disembarking will be before 10.00 am. on Saturday.

The transfer to the hotel will be done on Saturday morning before 10.00 am.

Estimated time from Port to Hotel in Sharm El Sheikh: 20 minutes approx.

IMPORTANT: Check with the Health Authorities of your country of origin about the possible entry regulations to the destination countries of your trip, in this case, Egypt and back to your country of origin and in transit.

Forbidden in Egypt

It is forbidden to import the following items: spearfishing guns, fishing nets, DPV (scooters), and flying drones.

It is not recommended for women to go topless whilst on board.

Local time in Egypt

Time in Egypt is GMT+2

Meals

All meals onboard RED SEA BLUE FORCE 2 are based on a buffet that changes daily and usually includes vegetables, chicken, beef, fish, seafood, fruits, pasta, rice & soups. Breakfasts are based on a buffet that includes, sausages, pastries, white & brown sliced bread, cereals, milk, yogurts & fresh eggs (omelet, scrambled, fried...). Free cold & hot water, coffee & tea are available 24 hours a day.

If you need any special diet or have any food intolerance, you must inform us at the time of booking. We will try our best to accommodate your requests and needs as far as possible. However, if you suffer severe intolerance or problems with the diet, you should also assess taking your food.

Drinks

Due to the current restrictions on the supply of alcoholic beverages in Egypt, only soft drinks, beer, and Egyptian wine are optionally available on board.

Towels

In each cabin, you will find a beach towel and a shower towel per guest. These will be changed in the middle of the week.

While the COVID-19 risk continues we will take special care in the cleaning of the towels.

Electricity

The electric system in Egypt is 220 v, 50 Hz, and the usual plugs are double pin Type C, like European.

Currency and Payment

The official currency in Egypt is the Egyptian Pound (EGP). American dollars, Euro, EGP, or credit cards are accepted in almost all markets, restaurants, hotels...

Onboard RED SEA BLUE FORCE 2 all prices are in € Euros.

Onboard expenses such as taxes, rentals, drinks, boutique... can be paid **in cash with USD & Euros** or by **credit card** (VISA & MASTERCARD with a **4%** surcharge).

Personal or traveler checks and American Express cards are not accepted onboard.

Only USD notes from 2009 and onwards will be accepted. Accepted c € or USD notes must be in perfect condition without any marking, writing, or scratches.

If you do your shopping outside the boat, it is possible to pay in cash with Egyptian pounds & Euro & dollars (at the exchange rate they consider); although you may get your change only in Egyptian pounds.

Photo & Video

Onboard you will find space for your underwater cameras and a freshwater container to rinse them after diving.

During the trip, pictures and videos are usually taken; some of them might even be published on social media like Facebook and Instagram. If you do not want any photos or videos of you being published, please let us know.

Onboard communication

There is a wide mobile telephone system in Egypt with the nationwide network coverage. Check roaming fees and activation system with your phone company.

It is important to stress that the internet quality and intensity are not very good and can even be void depending on where the boat is situated in Egypt.

If you wish to have an internet connection for you and your friends (if you share it), you have the choice of buying a SIM card at Hurghada airport for unlocked mobiles, iPads, tablets... Sometimes we have them for sale onboard, but it cannot be guaranteed.

Note that WhatsApp voice calls do not always work in Egypt.

Boutique

There is a boutique onboard where you can buy some souvenirs of the boat, as well as some diving stuff such as t-shirts & hoodies.

Onboard activities

During the safari, an intense dive program will be developed for qualified divers is developed.

There are complementary activities planned for non-divers such as snorkel.

Includes and does not include

It is important to remember what is included and not included in the price of the cruise, which is summarised below:

The Price includes the following:

- 👑 7-night accommodation (Saturday to Saturday) on board the BLUE FORCE 2 in a shared double cabin.
- 👑 3 daily meals (breakfast, lunch & dinner) some snacks in between dining hours are usually available, such as cookies, pastries, fruit...
- 👑 Cold & hot water, coffee, tea.
- 👑 Daily diving plan according to weather conditions, sailing schedule, and flight schedules allow.
- 👑 Diving guide.
- 👑 Single valve S80 tank INT/DIN, air, weights.
- 👑 1-night hotel in Sharm El Sheikh (on the "Extended North" route) in a shared double room and half board (breakfast and dinner included). Drinks non included.
- 👑 Airport – boat - airport transfers, and for "Extended North" route boat – hotel transfers.
- 👑 Basic travel, dive & cancellation insurance (up to 1500 €) (Check insurance terms & conditions on www.blueforcefleet.com)

The price does NOT include the following;

- 👑 International & domestic flights.
- 👑 Entry Visa.
- 👑 Local taxes, harbor, and Dive taxes: 110 € per week (payment onboard)
- 👑 Service taxes: 100 € per week. Service taxes will be distributed to all crew members (payment onboard)

OPTIONAL:

- 👑 NITROX: 50 € per person per week.
- 👑 Alcoholic drinks and soft drinks.
- 👑 Dive equipment rental and S100 tank.
- 👑 Single supplement in Sharm El Sheikh 50 € (for "Extended North" route)
- 👑 Possible fuel fluctuations and/or local taxes if there is an important or sudden price rise in such costs.

The above-mentioned taxes must be paid onboard on the arrival day. The prices are in Euros. It is possible to pay in either USD or Euros (at the corresponding exchange rate) in cash or by credit card (VISA or MASTERCARD) with a 4% surcharge. American Express is not accepted.

Service taxes will be shared amongst all crew members. Your generosity will be most appreciated by the crew members who will work hard all the week to make your stay on board RED SEA BLUE FORCE 2 satisfactory.

Safety onboard

Our passengers/divers' safety onboard the RED SEA BLUE FORCE 2 is our priority and we understand that the best safety measure is common sense, prevention, and following the rules listed by our expert guides team.

Despite all this, we rely on full safety equipment onboard. We have Oxygen providing equipment, an automatic defibrillator, and a complete medic first aid kit.

If a diver does not accept the safety rules indicated by our staff, we reserve the right to forbid him from diving. No refund will be given.

Diving onboard the RED SEA BLUE FORCE 2

- ✠ During your week on-board, up to 3 or 4 dives per day are planned in normal conditions (including day and night dives). Depending on the port authorities issuing departure permits and the planned navigation of the route, the dives on Sunday can be reduced.
- ✠ The arrival at the port will be on Friday afternoon (mandatory before the sunset). So, depending on the route, weather conditions, and or planned navigation, dives can be reduced this day.
- ✠ The cruise manager will give a briefing before every dive regarding dive spot conditions, sea life, precautions, safety rules, communications, and ecological tips, as well as some other specific details for every dive.
- ✠ All the dives will start either from the boat platform or the auxiliary boat.
- ✠ The tank is filled before every dive with NITROX or air. It is the sole responsibility of each diver to check the proportion of oxygen in his/her tank. It is compulsory to have the NITROX certification to dive with NITROX. If you are not certificated, you can take the course onboard.
- ✠ The first dive (check dive) will be used for checking the equipment, the proper weights, and buoyancy control as well as for enjoying the sighting of species at the chosen dive spot.
- ✠ At the end of every dive, the mandatory safety stop will be done.
- ✠ A **Surface Marker Buoy (SMB)** is mandatory for the safety stop as well as a **dive computer**. For the night dives at least one **torch** per person is required.
If you do not have any of these items, you can rent them onboard.
- ✠ The tanks usually used are the S80 with INT/DIN with a single valve.
If you want, you can rent an S100 tank (to guarantee availability, must be booked in advance).

Scuba Diving Certification

To dive on this cruise, the minimum certification required is Open Water Diver or similar, as well as NITROX if you are going to use it. For higher safety and enjoyment of the dives made during the cruise, we recommend Advanced Open Water or similar.

If you do not hold the suitable certification, doing the courses before going to Egypt is recommended, but if this is not possible, Advanced & NITROX Diver courses are offered onboard.

Ask for the prices of courses and certifications.

Age restrictions for diving

Most International Training Organizations consider 12 years old as the minimum age for a certified diver. On the Blue Force 2 the minimum recommended age for diving is 15 years old. All under 15 who want to dive must hold the required certification and dive accompanied by a responsible adult.

Safety standards for diving

For your diving safety, it is indispensable to comply with the following requirements

- ✠ All divers must hold a diving certification internationally recognized. It is mandatory to show the certification to the diving staff.
- ✠ For safety matters and higher pleasure in the dives, we recommend that you hold Advanced Open Water or similar.
- ✠ We recommend diving with NITROX for which certification for its use is required.

- 👑 All divers must have the basic equipment or rent it to Blue Force (we stress the need to book it before boarding).
 - 👑 For all divers to have their equipment, optimal maintenance is essential in diving.
 - 👑 All divers must be in optimal health conditions for diving. It is compulsory to carry the filled and signed medical statement (attached with the vouchers for the trip) and the medical certification for dive if necessary.
 - 👑 All divers must attend the briefing given by the staff before every dive.
 - 👑 Due to the special characteristics of the support boat, all divers must fend for themselves to go onboard after each dive.
 - 👑 Due to local diving regulations, diving alone and decompression diving are not allowed.
 - 👑 All divers will get into and out of the water during the dives as per the diving staff instructions.
 - 👑 All divers will have a dive computer and SMB during dives and at least a flashlight/torch for night dives and in the Wrecks.
 - 👑 Diving under stress, anxiety, intoxication, drugs, and/or any similar substances intake, after drinking alcohol or under any other situation that can affect negatively to the physical or psychical diver state is forbidden.
 - 👑 In the Red Sea is forbidden to:
 - Dive with gloves,
 - Carry a knife
 - Touch corals and any sea species
 - Take any object from the wrecks and seabed.
 - 👑 A health insurance assistance program covering diving is compulsory in Egypt.
 - 👑 If a diver does not hold the suitable certification for the type of dive to be made, or if the dive guide in charge of going along with the divers, considers, for any reason, that a client is not qualified for a dive, he will be empowered not to allow the client for the dive. Blue Force is not liable for making a deduction of it.
 - 👑 Due to the sea conditions, weather conditions, or any other factors, the crew reserves the right to modify all or part of the itinerary without warning. Money will not be returned for such a reason.
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