

RED SEA AGGRES-SOR II AND RED SEA AGGRESSOR III

Egypt's Red Sea is on many divers' dream-destination bucket lists for four good reasons — gorgeous corals, unique fish life, historic wrecks and sharks every which way

acques-Yves Cousteau chose the Red Sea as the place to introduce the world to the wonders of the undersea realm; today, the sites he explored are the stuff of legend. Aggressor Liveaboards offers two yachts that make this bucket-list destination a reality for divers. Red Sea Aggressor II handles the seven-night "best of the north" itinerary, including the famed British naval ship SS Thistlegorm, sunk in 1941. Divers will find cargo rooms loaded

with Jeeps, motorcycles, trucks and tanks. Conditions permitting, *Red Sea Aggressor II* also gets divers to the Dunraven, Rosalie Moeller, Giannis D and Carnatic wrecks.

There is a host of spectacular dive sites off the southern tip of the Sinai Peninsula, including the ones in Ras Mohammed National Park. The Red Sea boasts an eyepopping array of soft and hard corals and more than 200 species of fish that are found nowhere else on earth,

BOAT SPECS Length/Beam RSAII 138 feet/26 feet; **RSAIII** 130 feet/26 feet **Passenger-Staff Ratio RSAII and RSAIII** 22-12 **Staterooms/ Beds RSAII and RSAIII** 11/11 **Bathroom** Berths have private head and shower, individual climate control and hair dryer **Sundeck** Yes, with Jacuzzi, wet bar and shaded area **Food/Beverages** Yes, including local beer and wine **WiFi** Email is available onboard through cellular when close to shore; there is a charge for incoming and outgoing email

NEED TO KNOW

HOME PORT

RSAII Hurghada, Egypt **RSAIII** Port Ghalib, Egypt **DIVE SEASON** Year-round

DIVE CONDITIONS 74-84°F

TRAVEL TIP

When flying from the U.S., the recommended flights for guests on both yachts are through Cairo and then to Hurghada or Marsa Alam (depending on the yacht), for a Saturday boarding. Keep in mind that the salinity of the Red Sea is higher than nearly any other place on the planet, so you'll need to wear a few extra pounds.

and Ras Mohammed puts this bounty on full display. Reef sharks, mantas and dolphins are likely to accompany your group as you drift over acres of colorful corals at sites like Shark Reef and Yolanda Reef. At certain times of the year, you'll find huge shoals of bohar snapper, batfish, jacks, unicornfish and barracuda.

COURTESY AGGRESSOR ADVENTURES [4]

The Red Sea Aggressor III visits the southern Red Sea.







The modern port of Hurghada—a thriving scene offering a wide array of restaurants, bars and shops—is jammed with sleek, gleaming dive yachts, but none more beautiful than *Red Sea Aggressor II*. Onboard amenities include fresh, locally influenced cuisine and loads of space for cameras and more. Most diving is done from expertly handled tenders, but you'll descend from the mother ships from time to time also, into waters bursting with glorious fields of healthy coral.

The itinerary includes the Brothers Islands, Daedalus Reef and Elphinstone Reef. Both Big and Little Brother are remarkable for their soft corals and encounters with pelagics like hammerhead sharks, oceanic whitetips and occasional thresher sharks. The spectacular Numidia and Aida wrecks clina impossibly to the wall at Big Brother. Sharks find Daedalus irresistibly attractive; heart-thumping encounters with whitetips, gray reefs, hammerheads and threshers are possible at this openocean site.

Red Sea Aggressor III also ventures farther south to put guests in the water for all the exciting action at Daedalus, Fury Shoal and St. John's. Fury Shoal's more exposed reefs and wall dives are a magnet for big fish. The southernmost location in this itinerary, St. Johns is amazing for its pristine corals and stunning water clarity. With luck, you may encounter schooling hammerheads at sites such as Habili Gafaar.

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GET MORE

For quests arriving early, Hurghada and Port Ghalib are safe cities with many restaurants, cafes and shops. Want to do both the northern and southern Red Sea itineraries? You can book a 14-day itinerary and spend 7 nights aboard each yacht. Aggressor Travel can also assist you in adding a must-do extension to your itinerary: the treasures of the Nile. See the Karnak and Luxor Temples, Valley of the Kings, Hatshepsut Temple and Colossi of Memnon, all while aboard a river cruise on Aggressor Nile Queen. End with three nights in Cairo, to see the Great Pyramids, treasures from King Tut's tomb and more.