

Independence 2 and 3



Dear Safari Participant,

You have booked a liveaboard dive trip on one of our ships through your tour operator. To ensure that you can enjoy your diving vacation stress-free and well-prepared from the very beginning, we ask that you read the following pages.

We look forward to welcoming you aboard soon—Your local tour operator.

Arrival in Egypt

If you chose to have your visa arranged through your local tour operator when you booked—so you wouldn't have to handle it yourself—you will receive your visa as follows:

Arrival in Marsa Alam: A representative will be waiting for you in the airport arrivals hall—you'll recognize them by their "BLUEWATER SAFARIS" sign and the ship's name. They'll hand you your visa so you can start your vacation as soon as possible.

Arrival in Hurghada: Here, too, a staff member will be waiting for you in the arrivals hall before passport control—please look for our logo and the ship's name. You'll find them either at one of the counters in the hall or carrying a "BLUEWATER SAFARIS" sign for identification. They'll hand you your visa immediately so you don't have to wait in line for long. At the airport exit, after you've passed through passport control and retrieved your luggage, another staff member will be waiting for you; you'll recognize them by the "BLUEWATER SAFARIS" sign. They'll direct you to the transfer bus. Since our guests arrive on different flights, please understand that we organize a group transfer for all guests who land within one hour of each other. This may result in short wait times at the airport. We ask that you keep an eye on your luggage as you leave the airport on your way to the transfer vehicle. Occasionally, the porters or luggage handlers who offer their "help" can be quite pushy.

Arrival / Departure Day

On the day of arrival, you are welcome on board at any time of day—however, cabins may not be available until 3:00 p.m. On the day of departure, we ask that you vacate your cabins by 10:00 a.m. You are, of course, welcome to spend the waiting time on board until your transfer to the airport. Depending

on your pickup time, however, it may be more relaxing to spend the day of departure at a hotel with day-use or pool access. The cost of this is not included in the safari price. If you are interested, please speak with your tour operator.

Should it become necessary due to unforeseeable events (necessary work on the ship, technical incidents, rescheduled arrival and departure times, etc.), guests will spend the first or last night in a hotel. The costs for this will be covered by Bluewater Safaris or your airline. If you wish to spend the first or last night of the safari in a hotel of your own choosing, you will be responsible for all associated costs.

Alcoholic Beverages

On board, we offer local beer in 0.33-liter and 0.5-liter cans, local wine, and local prosecco for a fee. You can also choose from a variety of mixed drinks. Please ask your tour operator for the current on-board price list.

Medical Certificate/Diving Fitness

Every participant in a liveaboard must complete the "Health Declaration Form"; this applies regardless of whether the participant already has a medical certificate of fitness for diving. If any of the highlighted questions on the questionnaire (see note on the form) are answered with "yes," a medical certificate of fitness for diving is absolutely required to participate in the liveaboard. The medical certificate of fitness for diving must not be more than one year old. This requirement applies regardless of the participant's age. Please ask your tour operator for the form.

Equipment for Divers

In addition to standard equipment, the following items are required for every diver:

- Each diver must dive with their own dive computer (do you have a spare battery?)
- One safety buoy per diver
- One signal light or strobe per diver (in case of being swept away)
- Regulator with an alternate air source
- For night dives, at least one dive light per diver must be carried
- For tours in the marine park, we ask that you dive in a full-body wetsuit. We advise against wearing a shorty.
- If a diver is carrying an air-integrated dive computer, an additional analog pressure gauge is strongly recommended.

On board the M/Y Independence II and the M/Y Independence III, an **ENOS tracking system** transmitter is available free of charge to every diver. Weights and weight belts are available on board.

Bathrobes

Bathrobes are available on board in various sizes—your dive guide will provide you with one.

Bathrooms and Toilets

Please use shampoo and shower gel sparingly; the wastewater is discharged untreated into the sea. For the sake of the environment, please choose biodegradable products when purchasing toiletries for your vacation. Under no circumstances should you flush toilet paper or other hygiene items down the toilet; instead, please use the trash cans provided for this purpose, as flushing them can cause the toilets to clog. Repairs during the safari are usually not possible or would result in significant mess and odor.

Information Required at the Time of Booking

To approve each liveaboard, we require the following information from each guest no later than 10 days before the trip begins: last name, first name, date of birth, nationality, passport number (ID cards are not accepted), complete flight details, diving certification, number of dives, month/year of last dive, any rental equipment or 15L tanks that may be needed, as well as special considerations such as allergies or similar. Your tour operator will ask you for this information and forward it to us.

Documents Required on Site

- 1 copy of your passport; it must be valid for at least 6 **months** beyond your departure date
- the "Health Declaration" form and/or a copy of the medical certificate of fitness for diving, which must not be older than 1 year. — You can find more detailed information under the heading "Certificate / Fitness for Diving."
- Dive Log
- Valid diving certification—a copy to be retained in our records. Without proof of a valid diving certification, we reserve the right to exclude the guest from diving activities
- Diving accident insurance—for more detailed information, see the "Diving Accident Insurance" section

Please bring these documents and their copies with you on board; do not send them in advance via email to your tour operator.

Payment on Board

All prices on board are listed in euros. Foreign currencies may sometimes be subject to a less favorable exchange rate on board. We accept €, \$, and Egyptian pounds. Credit cards (Mastercard/Visa) are accepted. The boat owner charges a 3% fee for this (the amount to be paid is converted into Egyptian pounds for this purpose).

Onboard Shop / Onboard Prices

In our onboard shop, we offer clothing and other small items. A current price list—including prices for alcoholic beverages, rental equipment, and spare parts—is posted on board or can be obtained in advance from your tour operator.

Check Dive

The dive guides will accompany the first dive after departure—the so-called check dive—and assess the diving skills of all guests. The check dive also serves to test the functionality of the equipment and ensure the correct amount of weights.

Spare Parts

Each guest should bring the most important spare parts for their equipment—especially for the regulator—themselves. Please also remember to bring spare batteries for dive computers, camera gear, etc.

Flight Booking / Diving Luggage

If you did not book your flight through your tour operator, you are required to inform them yourself of your flight details and any possible flight schedule changes. Otherwise, we cannot guarantee a timely pickup. Any additional costs for the transfer will be the responsibility of the guest. Check with your tour operator or airline regarding the options for bringing diving gear.

Fresh Water / Showers

Our liveaboard vessels begin each tour with full fresh water tanks and are equipped with two or three desalination systems. Nevertheless, we ask that you use fresh water sparingly and avoid taking multiple long showers per day or rinsing your diving equipment after every dive.

Lost or Damaged Luggage

If you notice at the airport that your luggage has been damaged or lost, you must immediately have a report (PIR) issued at your airline's counter at the airport—our staff member at the airport will be happy to assist you with this.

Health

Please bring your own first-aid kit and check whether any medications you are taking are safe to use while diving. Every safari participant is obligated to ensure their physical fitness and, by registering, agrees to do so. If a guest fails to comply with this requirement and Bluewater Safaris consequently refuses to provide a service, any resulting costs or lost booking services shall not be borne by Bluewater Safaris. Bluewater Safaris shall in no event be liable for bodily injury or property damage resulting from illness, mental health issues, misconduct, or other acute limitations in the safari participant's fitness to participate.

Beverages

During the safari, tea, Nescafé, soft drinks, and water are available to you free of charge at all times. Bringing beer on board and storing it in the ship's refrigerators is not permitted. Consuming alcoholic beverages in our transfer vehicles is not permitted.

Towels / Beach Towels

Each guest receives a lightweight beach towel for outdoor use. A bath towel and a small hand towel are provided for each guest in the cabins. The bath towel and small hand towel are changed once during the safari—and several times during longer safaris.

Internet / Wi-Fi / SIM Cards

Wi-Fi is available free of charge on the ships. Connection availability and quality vary depending on the route and cannot be guaranteed by us. Generally, Wi-Fi is only available while we are within range of the cellular network and is not intended for large data transfers! If you need a larger data plan, you can purchase a SIM card at the airport (after customs clearance).

Cabins

You are welcome to book your preferred cabin (subject to availability) in advance. Deck cabins on the M/Y Independence II are subject to an additional fee. You can find a cabin layout for both ships on our website under the "Service" section. If you'd like to book a single cabin, this is possible for a surcharge on top of the safari price.

Every cabin on the lower deck of the M/Y Independence II has portholes. However, please ensure that the portholes are closed during the voyage; otherwise, your cabin may be flooded by seawater. We assume no liability for damage caused by portholes left open.

Air Conditioning

All cabins and interior areas on our ships are equipped with individually adjustable air conditioning systems. The air conditioning systems do not facilitate air exchange! Please turn off the air conditioning as soon as you leave your cabin or when you are in the cabin with a porthole, window, or door open. Our crew members on board are instructed to check for compliance and to take action in case of violations.

Climate and Clothing

The Red Sea has a dry desert climate. During the summer months, daytime temperatures exceed 35°C, and it cools only slightly at night. Lightweight, loose-fitting clothing is comfortable during this time. During the winter months, temperatures drop to 15°C in the evenings, but even during the day, when temperatures are around 20°C, a fleece jacket or a warm sweater is recommended.

You can check with your tour operator for current temperatures. Remember to bring ear protection (a hat, headband, or similar), sunscreen with a high SPF, and high-quality sunglasses year-round.

Local Contact

For on-site emergencies, our manager Ahmed (German-speaking) is available at 0020-122-7766942. (Please dial the number exactly as shown from a German cell phone.)

CMAS / PADI / IAC Courses

We ask that you submit a written request in advance for any diving courses you wish to take. All courses are conducted exclusively by our dive instructors on board. Since not all of our dive instructors are Specialty Instructors for every specialty course (e.g., deep diving, etc.) and belong to different organizations (e.g., PADI, etc.), we ask for your understanding if it is not possible to offer the desired course. However, we'll be happy to try to schedule our guides accordingly for the courses you're interested in.

Rental Equipment

As a rule, there is no rental equipment available on board the ships. We therefore recommend that, if you need rental equipment or individual pieces of gear, you notify your tour operator at least 10 days before the trip begins, providing as precise a size specification as possible. In the event of damage to or loss of rental equipment, you are responsible for covering the resulting costs. There is no insurance coverage for damaged or lost equipment—this also applies to our guests' personal equipment.

Marine Park

Night dives, swimming, and snorkeling are generally prohibited in the marine parks. Access to the islands is not permitted. To participate in dives within the marine parks (Brother Islands, Daedalus Reef, Rocky Island), we recommend a minimum of 50 logged dives as a prerequisite.

Medical Supplies on Board

Our vessels carry only a limited supply of medications; therefore, please bring your own small first-aid kit. Diving-safe seasickness tablets are available, as are local medications for diarrhea. Our crew members have no medical training and are not authorized to administer medication. Guests bear full responsibility for any medication they take on their own.

Minimum Number of Participants

In the rare event that the minimum group size of seven guests is not reached, we reserve the right to cancel the tour up to a maximum of four weeks before the safari begins. In this case, you will be notified immediately by your tour operator.

Nitrox

Nitrox membrane systems are available on our ships. Should the Nitrox system fail and Nitrox cannot be provided, there is no entitlement to compensation.

Scuba Tanks

The booking includes one 12L aluminum tank. 15L aluminum tanks, a second 12L aluminum tank (see also the section on Rebreather/ Sidemount) as well as 12L or 15L steel tanks are subject to a fee and must be

pre-ordered from your tour operator no later than 10 days before the trip begins. All dive tanks are equipped with DIN connectors; INT adapters are available on board if needed

Rebreather / Sidemount

If you wish to bring your rebreather, please contact your tour operator well in advance. For sidemount divers, we are happy to provide a second 12L aluminum tank on board. There is a fee for this, and it must be pre-ordered through your tour operator no later than 10 days before the trip begins. Please note that our dive tanks do not have special sidemount valves.

Smoking on Board

Smoking is strictly prohibited in all enclosed areas of the ships. The ships are equipped with smoke detectors that respond to even the slightest amount of smoke and have been installed for your safety. Please use the ashtrays provided and do not throw "remnants" overboard.

Life-saving Equipment

Life jackets are provided for all guests (in the cabins) and the crew. Additionally, dry-chemical fire extinguishers are located in all cabins, the salon, and the engine room in case of fire. Each vessel is equipped with two self-inflating life rafts for emergencies; you will receive instruction on their operation and location during a detailed safety briefing upon boarding.

Itinerary / Dive Sites

You have booked an itinerary with planned dive sites—your tour operator will provide you with these details. Our dive guides and captains will adhere to these routes as much as possible. Weather conditions, ocean currents, technical issues, logistical considerations, or local legal requirements may result in deviations from the route and the advertised dive sites. The final decision rests with the captain, who is responsible for the safety of all persons on board and the vessel. There is no guarantee of specific dive sites within the reachable area of the advertised route. On the southern tours, the distances between individual dive sites can be very long in some cases. In poor weather conditions, the vessels' travel times may be extended to such an extent that the dive sites listed in the itinerary cannot be reached. Our vessels undergo regular professional maintenance; however, technical difficulties may still arise. Should this occur, our dive guides and crews will do everything in their power to minimize any inconvenience to guests and will attempt to repair the damage while still at sea. Despite the possible events mentioned above, the captain must bring guests to the scheduled check-out location on time—therefore, route changes or shortcuts are possible. If dive sites cannot be reached due to force majeure—such as bad weather, changes in the permit situation, technical malfunctions, or similar circumstances—there is no entitlement to compensation.

Salon / Restaurant

Please do not wear wet diving or swimwear in the lounge/restaurant. We ask that you wear at least shorts and a T-shirt when coming to meals.

Satellite Phone

Each of our ships is equipped with a satellite phone. In an emergency, this allows us to contact the mainland at any time. These phones do not have constant reception and are therefore not intended as guest phones for incoming calls. Should guests need to make important calls, we will of course make the satellite phone available for a fee.

Sleeping on Deck

You are welcome to sleep on deck at any time of year. Please bring a sleeping bag—the cushions on the sun deck can serve as a mattress. However, bed linens, pillows, blankets, and mattresses from the cabins may not be taken out onto the deck.

Footwear

Wearing shoes indoors on board is prohibited. In outdoor areas, bathing shoes or lightweight sailing shoes are permitted; most guests prefer to walk barefoot.

Language

Each safari is accompanied by a German-speaking guide. Our Egyptian guides speak English and, in some cases, German; the crew speaks Egyptian Arabic and, in some cases, a little English.

Electricity / Outlets / Charging Station

220-volt AC power is available 24 hours a day. You do not need an adapter for the outlets on board. There is a charging station on the dive deck for lights, cameras, etc. The use of any chargers in the cabins is strictly prohibited—fire hazard!

Dive Operations and Planning

Before each dive, our dive guides provide guests with a detailed briefing on the dive site, its unique features, and any potential hazards. They also discuss the planned sequence of each dive from start to finish. We ask that you follow these briefings closely and ask any questions during the briefing itself—this way, other divers can benefit as well. Please remember: there are no stupid questions, only stupid answers :-)

Since the beginning of 2019, the CDWS has slightly tightened the rules for liveaboard dives in Egypt, and violations of existing rules are now immediately penalized.

1. Marine Parks

: The requirement to participate in dives at marine parks is a minimum of 50 logged dives; this now also applies to St. John's. If guests cannot provide proof of this minimum number, we must exclude them from diving in these areas.

2. Depth Limits

Dives during the liveaboard will be conducted in accordance with the depth limits applicable to a diver's respective certification level, and these limits must be observed; that is:

- The depth limit for an Open Water Diver is a maximum of 18 m
- The depth limit for a CMAS* diver is a maximum of 20 m
- for Advanced Open Water Divers, the depth limit is 30 m
- A deep diving certification is required for dives up to 40 m

3. Wreck Diving

A wreck diving specialty is required to dive inside a wreck. If this certification is not held, the wreck may only be dived from the outside.

We ask for your understanding that we must strictly adhere to these guidelines and ask that you communicate these guidelines to your guests during the booking process.

Divers are welcome to complete a certification course before or during the liveaboard.

Dive Guides

All Bluewater Safaris vessels typically have 2 dive guides on board. In exceptional cases, when occupancy is less than 11 guests, there will be at least 1 guide. Our dive guides are always happy to assist you with advice and support. They are not required to accompany every dive; this applies in particular to night dives. Please let us know if you'd like a guide to accompany you—our guides will be happy to show you the highlights of each dive site.

Dive Safari Boat Change

If the booked vessel is unable to operate the tour for logistical or technical reasons, your tour operator will inform you of the changes.

Diving Accidents

Liveaboard trips sometimes take us to remote locations far out at sea—where communication options are limited. Our boats are equipped with first-aid kits and emergency oxygen for initial treatment. Transporting an injured diver to the nearest hospital or hyperbaric chamber may take up to 8 hours or longer, depending on the circumstances. Therefore, you should always remember not to take any unnecessary risks.

Diving Accident Insurance

While this is not strictly required, it must be noted that taking out such insurance is mandated by the authorities for diving trips to Egypt. Please check with your tour operator for more information.

Participation Requirements

To participate in our liveaboard trips, you must have completed a diving certification. If you have fewer

than 30 logged dives, please notify your tour operator. For trips to marine parks, proof of 50 logged dives is required. If your last dive was more than one year ago, please also notify us. The dive guide has the discretion to exclude guests who do not meet these requirements or who lack sufficient diving experience from dives at certain dive sites or under challenging conditions (current, swell, depth, etc.). You must follow the instructions of our dive guides and the boat crew. Violations may result in exclusion from further diving activities; any lost booking services will be at the safari participant's expense. International and national diving safety regulations must be observed. Diving is at your own risk. The maximum diving depth is determined based on certification and is limited to 40 meters.

Itinerary

You can inquire about the planned itinerary for each safari with your tour operator. The boat departs from the harbor the morning after the day of arrival. Depending on the route, 2–4 dives are offered per safari day. On the day before departure, the boat returns to port by approximately 4:00 p.m. Our meal service as part of the booked full-board package begins upon your arrival on the boat and ends upon your departure from the boat.

Transfer

If you booked the transfer through your tour operator, a staff member holding a sign that says "BLUEWATER SAFARIS" will be waiting for you at the airport exit and will direct you to the transfer bus. Since most of our guests arrive on different flights, please understand that we organize a group transfer for all guests whose flights land within a 1-hour window. We appreciate your understanding should there be any waiting times. Tipping the bus driver is not expected.

Tipping

More so than in many other countries, a "bakshish" is expected in Egypt. For the crew on board, we recommend the following tips per safari participant:

1. €75.00 for a regular week-long tour (6 days of diving)
2. €120.00 for a 9-day tour
3. €130.00 for a 10-day tour
4. €150.00 for a 14-day tour

The amounts listed above are merely a guideline. Tipping is, of course, a voluntary gesture—a thank-you for particularly attentive service provided by the crew and guides. We'll take care of the tips for the transfer drivers for you

Water Bottles

To avoid unnecessary waste, we offer aluminum water bottles for purchase on board. You're also welcome to bring a water bottle from home and help yourself to the water dispensers on board at any time

Environmental Protection

Excerpt from the legal provisions on environmental protection:

1. Hunting, fishing, collecting, or breaking off corals, shells, etc., is prohibited.
2. Dumping any kind of material—such as trash, oil, grease, etc.—into the sea is prohibited.
3. There is a general ban on anchoring in protected areas.
4. Feeding fish and birds is prohibited.
5. Wearing gloves is discouraged.
6. Walking on coral and reefs is prohibited.
7. Taking coral, seashells, snail shells, or similar items is strictly prohibited.
8. Carrying muck sticks, pointer sticks, or reef sticks is generally prohibited.
9. The use of a reef hook is discouraged and is not necessary in this dive area.

Violations may result in fines and/or imprisonment. In addition, the authorities reserve the right to impose a temporary professional ban on the responsible captain and guide, as well as to revoke the vessel's operating permits for a specified period.

Meals on Board

Our chefs “conjure up” three meals a day. Between meals, you'll always find small snacks and/or fresh fruit available. Chilled soft drinks and drinking water can be found in the publicly accessible refrigerators, or you can help yourself to water from the water dispensers. Consumption of local alcoholic beverages, tonic water, or similar items is to be noted independently on the beverage lists provided. If you have any food intolerances or allergies, or specific food preferences or aversions, please inform your tour operator no later than 10 days before the trip begins. In the case of intolerances (gluten, lactose, etc.), please understand that alternative products are usually unavailable or very difficult to obtain in Egypt. Therefore, we ask that you bring along any items you would not want to go without while on board.

Visa

If you chose to obtain your visa through your tour operator upon booking, you will receive your visa upon arrival as follows:

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Upon arrival in Hurghada: Here, too, a staff member will be waiting for you in the arrivals hall before passport control—please look for our logo and the ship's name. You'll find them either at one of the counters in the hall or carrying a "BLUEWATER SAFARIS" sign for easy identification. They'll hand you your visa immediately so you don't have to wait in line for long.

Currency

The local currency in Egypt is the Egyptian pound. You can pay with euros both at the airport and in most shops at the port.

We look forward to seeing you

Your local tour operator

All information in this PDF comes from the boat owners and/or their management, not from Omneia. We naturally strive to keep all information up to date, but we cannot accept any liability for the content of the texts or their accuracy. No rights or claims of any kind may be derived from this information. It does not constitute a warranty of quality, nor does it form part of a travel contract.

We wish you a safe flight and an exciting liveaboard trip!



All details subject to change. Current prices and availability at:
<https://omneia.de/en/good-to-know>