




Cruise Information – Swimming with Wild Dolphins

Location: Far South of Egypt – Red Sea – Sataya Dolphin Reef, Hamata–Fury Shoal National Park area

Dates: Friday 02 / 07 / 2027 – Friday 09 / 07 / 2027

Transport: by air, return flight Prague – Marsa Alam – Prague with Smartwings
+ bus transfer from Marsa Alam Airport to Hamata Port and back at the end of the stay.

The expected departure from Prague is at 01:10 on the night from Thursday to Friday. QS1222
The expected arrival in Marsa Alam is at 06:40 in the morning.
The expected departure from Marsa Alam is on Friday at 07:30 in the morning. QS1223
The expected arrival in Prague is at 11:10 in the late morning.

!!! The airline reserves the right to change flight times. Should this occur, you will be informed in advance.

Baggage: the ticket fare includes 1 checked bag of 23 kg, 1 cabin bag of 8 kg and 1 personal bag of 3 kg.

Checked baggage means baggage checked in and carried in the aircraft's cargo hold. Exceeding the 23 kg checked-baggage weight limit is subject to a fee. For technical reasons, however, no checked bag may weigh more than 32 kg or exceed a maximum total dimension of 250 cm, i.e. the sum of its length, width and height, including handles, side pockets and wheels.

Cabin baggage means unchecked baggage with maximum dimensions of 55 × 45 × 25 cm and a weight of up to 8 kg, or a musical instrument weighing no more than 8 kg and measuring 90 cm in length, 35 cm in width and 20 cm in depth (these dimensions include the case). If necessary, passengers may also take crutches, orthopaedic support devices or a foldable wheelchair on board; the wheelchair will be transferred to the cargo hold.

A personal bag means, for example, a handbag or laptop bag with maximum dimensions of 40 × 30 × 15 cm and a weight of up to 3 kg.

Combining baggage allowances (the total weight for several people in one bag) is not permitted. Cabin bags and personal bags exceeding the permitted number, dimensions or weight will be transported for a fee according to the Smartwings price list as checked baggage in the aircraft's hold.

Children under two years of age travelling on an adult's lap may carry one checked bag weighing up to 10 kg, with total length, width and height not exceeding 115 cm.

Further information about baggage and conditions of carriage can be found on the Smartwings website: https://www.smartwings.com/cestovni-informace/

Additional charges apply for extra services ordered from Smartwings or on board the aircraft, such as advance seat selection, additional checked-baggage weight or an extra checked bag. The price list for these services is available at https://www.smartwings.com/poplatky-za-doplnkove-sluzby/

Any requested service must be ordered through the intermediary and reported in advance.

Cruise Programme:

Day 1 (Friday): Arrival, transfer from Marsa Alam Airport to Hamata Port, accommodation on the boat and departure for Sataya Dolphin Reef (Hamata–Fury Shoal National Park area).

After arriving in Marsa Alam, completing the arrival card and purchasing the entry visa, you will be met at the airport by our cruise-company representative holding a "Samara Cruise" sign. You will then transfer by air-conditioned bus to Hamata Port (approx. 2–2.5 hours). After boarding, you will settle into your cabins and have breakfast. Before departure, a further formal check will take place on board, during which the relevant official will check your travel documents and the number of people on board. We will then set sail for Sataya Dolphin Reef and our adventure (approx. 2.5–3 hours). Once our experienced captain anchors the boat in the shallow lagoon of this coral reef, we will head out for our first snorkelling session (and possibly swimming with or observing dolphins). This day will mainly be about learning to use your snorkelling equipment effectively so you can get the most out of the following days. If you have never snorkelled before, we will be happy to teach you.

Days 2–6 (Saturday–Wednesday): Sataya Reef (Sataya Dolphin Reef).

These days follow a relaxed rhythm of swimming with dolphins, snorkelling around coral reefs and enjoying free time. The yacht's entire crew will do their best to make your stay pleasant. Participation in any part of the daily programme is voluntary. Since the main focus is swimming with wild dolphins, here is an outline of a typical day spent in Sataya Lagoon:

We get up early in the morning, but you do not have to if you prefer not to. However, this is the best time to swim with dolphins. At around 7–8 a.m. in summer time, or 6–7 a.m. in winter time, we take the speedboats out to the dolphins. In the morning they are usually most playful, jumping and swimming with us, and there are no excursion boats yet. We swim with them for one to two hours, then return to the boat, wake those who did not want to get up early, and all have breakfast together. After breakfast we rest for a while and go to the dolphins again, swimming with them for another one to two hours before returning for lunch. After lunch we rest briefly and head out to the dolphins once more. They are often very close to our anchored boat, so you can swim near the boat or simply watch them from the yacht's deck. If they are not in the mood or are already tired, we respect their freedom and observe them without disturbing them. Alternatively, rather than staying on the boat, we usually move to snorkel on the coral reef surrounding the lagoon, where we can admire beautiful corals, colourful fish, rays and sometimes turtles.

Sometimes the dolphins mysteriously disappear for a few hours. They go hunting. They usually hunt at night, but sometimes they also need to hunt during the day. Since there are no large fish in the lagoon, the whole group moves into deeper water and returns after hunting.

We therefore go out by speedboat for shared swimming and snorkelling with dolphins or on the coral reefs three times a day. However, you can snorkel and swim near the boat at any time and enjoy the sea until sunset. We spend late afternoons and evenings sharing our experiences and, if desired, meditating, exercising or dancing together…

Night swimming near the boat is not expressly prohibited, but you must discuss it with the instructors in advance. They will assess safety and, if appropriate, allow it at a specific time under their supervision.

There is also a new opportunity to enjoy an unusual experience: **night snorkelling** near shallow coral reefs, offering a view of a completely different marine world than during the day. Some marine creatures are active only after dark (beautiful feather stars, various invertebrates in full activity, etc.), while fish that are active during the day sleep at night and can be observed in greater detail. This activity costs **20 EUR per person!!!**

What can you expect? A briefing of approx. 10 minutes, a boat ride to the coral reef and 30–40 minutes of snorkelling. Torches are provided. Night snorkelling depends on favourable weather and sea-current conditions, and participant numbers are limited for safety reasons and because of limited visibility.

The spinner dolphin (Stenella longirostris) is one of the most agile cetaceans and is famous for its acrobatic leaps into the air.
It has a long, slender beak and a noticeably tall, triangular dorsal fin.
It can leap up to three metres above the surface, bending and undulating its body
or spinning around its longitudinal axis up to seven times in a single jump.

Information for those interested in scuba diving:
Qualified diving instructors will be on board. Guests interested in scuba diving are welcome.

If you do not have a certification but would like **to try scuba diving with a so-called intro dive (free of charge),** you will first receive a short briefing and then go underwater holding the instructor's hand. For safety reasons, the maximum depth is 5 metres for adults and 2 metres for children. **Intro-dives depend on favourable weather and sea-current conditions. Good health is also required!!!**

If you are already a **certified diver**, bring your certification card and dive logbook, and, if applicable, your own dive computer and wetsuit. Our experienced instructors will be happy to include an interesting dive in the programme. Usually, **around 2–3 dives can be included during the week (day dive = free; night dive = 30 EUR/person).** Maximum depth and dive options depend on your certification. Please tell us in advance if you are interested in diving, your certification level, the number of dives you have completed and when you last dived.

It is also possible to take a scuba-diving course during the week (for an additional fee). You must contact and arrange this with the instructor in advance, ideally at least several weeks before the cruise, and let us know that you are interested.

Continuing **courses** for already certified divers are also available **(for an additional fee)** and must likewise be arranged in advance.

The price, including international certification, is **300 EUR for the basic course (OWD/Level 1) and 250 EUR for the advanced course (AOWD/Level 2)**. Various specialty courses, such as Night and Deep Diver, may also be available by prior arrangement.

On Wednesday, we will say goodbye to the lagoon with our last morning and late-morning swim with the dolphins. After lunch, we will sail to Siyal Island, one of the three small islands of the Qulaan archipelago in Wadi Gemal National Park. The journey will take approx. 2.5–3 hours. On the way, we will pass through the Fury Shoal and Wadi Gemal national park areas, among numerous coral reefs and islands with wonderful shallows in every shade of blue. Once anchored at the island, you can swim in the shallow lagoon and relax on the warm sandy beach, or explore the island, which is covered with mangroves and serves as a nesting site for birds. Protected ospreys also nest here, and you can take a walk and watch these winged inhabitants of the island. Towards the end of the day, we can enjoy a beautiful sunset from the island and observe groups of other charming residents, including hermit crabs and crabs. We will spend our last evening together on the island's beach with a hookah; we can listen to music, drum, sing, dance, chat or simply watch the stars.

Day 7 (Thursday): In the morning and late morning, you can still snorkel on the coral reef or swim and relax on the island's beach. After lunch, in the afternoon, we will head towards Hamata Port (approx. 40 minutes by boat), where you can pack at your leisure and say goodbye to the crew. You will remain on the boat until departure for the airport and will continue to receive all accommodation and meal services until then.

Day 8 (Friday): Departure. We will transfer you to the airport for your flight by air-conditioned vehicle.

The programme is only an outline and may be changed depending on arrival/departure times and weather conditions.

Accommodation and Meals:

Safari liveaboard boat Samara Cruise – 7-night stay in twin cabins with private shower and toilet. Electricity is available on board even when the engine is off and the boat is anchored; it is supplied by a generator. There are two generators on board. The mechanic alternates their operation: only one runs at a time, while the other is a backup. Standard electrical sockets are located throughout the boat and can be used with ordinary plugs for devices such as mobile-phone chargers, without an adapter. The boat has cabin accommodation, a restaurant, a lounge with restaurant and bar, two raised decks with a bar for relaxing and sitting, a smaller raised foredeck with a jacuzzi, and an aft deck for storing scuba and snorkelling equipment. Mobile-phone reception at the anchorage is limited. Wi-Fi is available on board but depends on mobile-network coverage, so the signal may disappear for several hours because of the distance from shore. Please inform relatives who will be in contact with you that if you are unreachable by phone or social media for several hours, there is no need to panic; you will contact them as soon as possible. Take care of all important emails before departure, etc.

Food and drinks on board – "soft all-inclusive": buffet breakfast, lunch and dinner, snacks during the day, and non-alcoholic drinks at the bar (coffee, espresso, various teas, biscuits, wafers, etc.), available 24 hours a day.

Alcoholic drinks are not included in the "soft all-inclusive" programme, but consuming them on board is not prohibited if you bring your own or buy them on the boat or on the way at duty-free, etc.

The chef will prepare meals taking the group's needs into account. For example, if there are vegetarians on board, the menu will include vegetable and meat-free dishes. You may also bring your own favourite vegetarian, vegan, other dietary or special foods, as well as favourite sweets, etc.

Packing List

The list below is only a guide. Please take your personal needs into account. Although the baggage allowance is generous (23 kg checked baggage + 8 kg cabin baggage), avoid packing items you will not need during the journey, on the boat or in the water, as storage space in the cabins is limited.

If necessary, you can purchase an extra checked bag or additional weight for the included checked bag up to a maximum of 32 kg. Both incur a fee and must be requested in advance. The carrier may refuse the request if the aircraft's weight limit has been reached!!

Snorkelling equipment: well-fitting snorkelling gear will ensure the best possible enjoyment when swimming with dolphins.

Mask (goggles) + snorkel. It is important to buy a mask that you can try on, preferably in a shop where a specialist can advise you. Different face shapes require different mask shapes. If you buy a mask without trying it on, it may not fit properly and may continually let water in. We recommend silicone masks with tempered glass.

Snorkels come with different mouthpiece sizes. If you tend to gag, try choosing the smallest mouthpiece size or a full-face mask.

When snorkelling with a traditional mask and snorkel, you breathe only through your mouth. If this may be uncomfortable for you, full-face masks are available. With a full-face mask, your mouth is free and you can breathe through both your nose and mouth. The disadvantage is that you cannot dive below the surface wearing one. Please choose only certified brands. CO_2 concentrations reaching dangerous levels have been found inside many cheaper models.

Fins. Here too, expert advice is invaluable, and you should try several models to find the ones that feel comfortable. Do not choose based on colour or design. They must not rub or press anywhere. We recommend wearing socks under your fins when snorkelling to prevent blisters, so take this into account when shopping and try them on over socks. Special thin neoprene socks are available for this purpose, but ordinary socks are also sufficient.

Clothing for the water: swimsuit + UV-protection shirt or a high-neck Lycra shirt worn over your swimsuit to protect your back and shoulders from sunburn while snorkelling. Leggings or shorts. A short, lightweight wetsuit is also an option (useful in April, May, September, October and November). Choose a UV shirt in bright colours rather than black, grey or blue-grey so you are easier to see at sea and the boat guides can spot you more easily. Bring a multifunctional scarf or similar item to keep wind out of your ears on the boat and protect your head from the sun while snorkelling. Again, brighter colours are recommended.

Clothing for the boat: 2–3 short-sleeved T-shirts, 1–2 tank tops, shorts (or a skirt), dresses, shirts, a sweatshirt, a sarong (a large wrap worn over swimwear by women), a hat, sleepwear and one beach towel for wiping off salt water. Towels for drying off after a shower are provided in the cabin. Water-resistant slippers or flip-flops are useful for walking on the sand when visiting the island. People generally walk barefoot throughout the boat.

Clothing for travel: remember that airport terminals and aircraft are air-conditioned. Pack socks, a sweatshirt (or shirt), longer shorts or trousers (or a longer skirt) in your hand luggage; for children, bring a small pillow and blanket, etc. Decide what to wear and which shoes to travel in according to the weather at departure. You will not need trainers or trekking shoes elsewhere in Egypt.

Other items: camera (waterproof or with an underwater housing), video camera including batteries or charger, mobile phone and charger, binoculars if desired, other electronics, USB flash drive or other storage device, toiletries, medication, sunscreen (factor according to individual needs; one bottle is usually enough), beach bag or backpack, sunglasses and, if needed, prescription glasses or contact lenses, PASSPORT!, flight ticket, proof of insurance, money, writing materials, notebook, a good book, and a suitable water bottle to take with you on the boat (a canteen or insulated bottle that keeps water cool for longer), etc.

Bringing drones and similar flying devices into Egypt is strictly prohibited. They may be confiscated at the airport, and you may have an unpleasant encounter with Egyptian National Security!! Please leave your flying companion at home this time.

Warning: please read the ingredients when choosing sunscreen. Products containing OXYBENZONE (Benzophenone-3) are particularly unsafe for human health, dolphins and other marine life. Oxybenzone (chemically 2-hydroxy-4-methoxybenzophenone, $C_{14}H_{12}O_3$) is an organic compound used as a synthetic UV filter and an ingredient in creams. It is a benzophenone derivative. It forms colourless crystals that dissolve easily in most organic solvents. Oxybenzone is often used in sunscreens because it absorbs UV radiation. In combination with sunlight, it can cause allergic rashes or cosmetic acne. This organic compound has been found to penetrate the skin, where it acts as a photosensitiser. Exposure to light then increases the production of free radicals, making the substance potentially carcinogenic. It disrupts human hormonal activity and is also extremely harmful to marine life—even at very low concentrations in water, oxybenzone completely blocks coral reproduction.

Price:

2–9 July 2027 – Samara Cruise – CZK 43,500 per person

The price includes:

Return flight: Prague – Marsa Alam – Prague with Smartwings
(includes 1 checked bag of 23 kg + 1 cabin bag of 8 kg + handbag)

Accommodation: 7 nights in twin cabins with private toilet, shower and beach towels on the Samara Cruise safari boat (two people per cabin).

Cruise route: the route and destination are in the Fury Shoal area (located approx. 200 km south of the Marsa Alam area), where the boat will anchor in Sataya Reef Lagoon.

Food and drinks: Soft All-Inclusive – freshly prepared meals daily, buffet service in the restaurant and non-alcoholic drinks available at the bar 24 hours a day.

Transfers: from Marsa Alam Airport to Hamata Port and back.

Programme and assistance from guides and instructors: speedboat guides during dolphin encounters and coral-reef snorkelling, plus the services of the permanent crew and guides on board.

Wi-Fi on board.

Introductory scuba dive for interested guests or a guided dive for certified divers.

The price does not include:

Additional charges for extra services ordered from Smartwings or on board the aircraft, such as advance seat selection, additional checked-baggage weight or an extra checked bag. The service price list is available at https://www.smartwings.com/poplatky-za-doplnkove-sluzby. Any requested service must be reported in advance.

Surcharges for special activities: night snorkelling, night diving and diving courses.

Travel insurance and medical expenses: please make sure that the insurance plan you choose covers boat cruises (and scuba diving too, if you plan to dive). Read the terms and conditions of your insurer carefully. Some insurers classify sea cruises as high-risk sports; in such cases, additional high-risk-sport coverage is required!! We also recommend cancellation insurance to cover cancellation fees if you are unable to participate for medical or other serious reasons.

Egypt entry visa (currently 30 USD per person, including children) – payable at the airport on arrival. If possible, prepare the exact amount in USD. This will avoid unnecessary delays and confusion when converting the equivalent amount from EUR or Egyptian pounds to USD.

Entry fee for Sataya and Wadi Gemal national parks (currently 140 USD per person; collected on board).

Tip for the boat crew, known as "baksheesh", collected once at the end of the stay as a thank-you and expression of satisfaction with the service. The usual tip is **60 EUR per person.**

Payment Terms:

Payment schedule – cruise dates 2–9 July 2027:
Booking deposit: CZK 5,000 – non-refundable, payable within 7 days of submitting the application.
1st instalment: CZK 14,000 – please pay by 14 January 2027
2nd instalment: CZK 14,000 – please pay by 14 March 2027
3rd instalment: CZK 10,500 – please pay by 14 May 2027
Fees payable on site:
Egypt entry visa USD 30 + national park entry fee USD 140 + crew tip EUR 60

Cancellation Terms:

Cancellation by the participant

Cancellation must be notified in writing (by email). The date on which the organiser receives the notice is decisive.

Cancellation fee: If participation is cancelled, all payments due by the cancellation date under the payment terms are forfeited. No further payments are required. The cancellation fee is therefore:

by 13 January 2027: CZK 5,000 (booking deposit)

14 January – 13 March 2027: CZK 19,000 (booking deposit + 1st instalment)

14 March – 13 May 2027: CZK 33,000 (booking deposit + 1st and 2nd instalments)

from 14 May 2027: CZK 43,500 (100% of the price)

If any payment due by the cancellation date has not yet been made, the participant must pay it.

Replacement: The cancellation fee is reduced to CZK 5,000 (the non-refundable booking deposit) if the participant finds a replacement or if the organiser fills the vacated place with another person, no later than 26 June 2027. Other payments made will be refunded by the organiser within 14 days after the replacement has paid the full price. Name changes are not possible after 26 June 2027.

Late payment: If any payment is not made on time and is not made within an additional period of 7 days, the organiser may cancel the participant's booking. In that case, the same conditions apply as if the participant had cancelled.

Unused services: No refund is given for services not used for reasons attributable to the participant (e.g. failure to show up for the flight, being refused boarding or entry to Egypt due to an invalid passport or missing documents, or leaving the trip early). Any related costs (e.g. alternative transport) are borne by the participant.

Change of dates or destination: Flight dates and the destination cannot be changed.

Cancellation by the provider: If the cruise or flight is cancelled through no fault of the participant by the cruise provider SEA REEF, the ticket agent (Fatima Jalout travel agency) or Smartwings, the organiser will refund the payments made to the extent that the organiser receives them back, within 14 days of receiving them.

Force majeure: If the cruise or flight cannot take place for reasons beyond the control of the organiser, the provider, the airline or the participant (e.g. flight cancellation, lockdown, or a travel ban to Egypt issued by the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs), the cruise provider SEA REEF will offer an alternative solution, such as rescheduling or a voucher. Payments made can only be refunded to the extent that the organiser receives them back from the provider or the airline.

Cancellation insurance: In view of the above conditions, we strongly recommend taking out cancellation insurance, which covers the cancellation fee in the event of illness or other serious reasons.

By signing the application, the participant confirms that they have read and agree to these cancellation terms.

Please Remember:

You need a passport to travel to Egypt. This applies to adults and children alike.

WARNING!!!! Your passport must be valid for at least 6 months after the end date of your stay in Egypt!!!! Check this in advance!

Please email a copy of your passport (the page with your photograph) no later than **21 days before departure**. It is needed to obtain the required permission for the boat to leave the port from the relevant local authorities. SEA REEF undertakes not to use participants' passport copies for any purpose other than processing this departure-permit application, and not to pass them to any other parties except the authorities requiring these documents to issue the departure permit. Without these documents, the Egyptian authorities may delay the boat's departure.

We will send you the electronic itinerary for the group flight approx. 4–5 DAYS BEFORE DEPARTURE!!!

Please return the completed and signed application form (separate document) by email.