



## Red Sea Riviera Apartments - Hurghada, Egypt.

More ideas for fantastic days out in and around Hurghada.

### Monasteries of St. Paul & St. Anthony

Hidden deep in the Eastern Desert Mountains, at around 200 km north of Hurghada, lie the two monasteries which founded Christian monasticism. Built in the IV century AD, these monasteries are a must see for any history buff. Two self-contained villages with mills, wells, bakeries and orchards, these monasteries are where Coptic monks still observe rituals that have hardly changed in 16 centuries. With timeless devotion, the monks conserve the precious icons and hundreds of Middle Age manuscripts which they will proudly show to any visitor. The easiest way to visit both monasteries is to hire taxi for the day. Call the Coptic Patriarchate in Cairo at 02 9600025 to check about opening times and closing days.



### Wind Surfing

For wind surfing holidays, Hurghada is a must, it is where the Red Sea adventure began. Wind surfers were coming here before there was an international airport, the 3-4 hour transfer from Luxor was worth it. Now it is a well established resort for wind surfers, divers and sun worshippers with the airport only 10 minutes away. There is wind throughout the year, with some of the best in the Summer. It is also very popular in winter as it is a good break from the British climate. The original fishing village has now built up into an international resort with many hotels stretching along the coast to the north and south of the town. It is worth a visit to the old part of town at Osaka where you will find the real Egypt.



### Kite Surfing

Currently, the hippest water sport of the moment, kite surfing guarantees high adrenaline, fun and a rush that will stay with you for a long time. Kite Surfing is rapidly expanding in town due to the local weather conditions: virtually permanent wind and endless sunny days. So far, two water sports centres are specialized in kite surfing, both highly professional and with marvelous beaches just perfect for all board water sports: Colona Water sports at Magawish Village, and Pro Center Tommy Friedl at Jasmine Hotel, both on the South Corniche on the Safaga Road.

### Giftun Island

Giftun Island is the Hurghada hallmark visible from the whole 45 km city coast a coppery desert island reachable in about an hour boat trip. Part of the Red Sea Islands National Park, it boasts the most beautiful tropical-like beaches in the area. Only recently, special permission from the government has allowed the establishment of a couple of beach bars and restaurants: a true must for whoever visits the region. Most diving centers and tour operators offer a full day excursion to this paradise. A day spent snorkelling on the outstanding reefs around the island, lounging later on on the sparkling white sand beaches or swimming in the turquoise lagoons makes an unforgettable experience and the kids will love it too!



### Desert Safari (quads or jeep)

Another highlight for your holiday in Hurghada is without doubt a desert trip. When you turn your back to the turquoise waters and the bustling hotels, what opens before your eyes is one of the most fascinating places on earth. A vast expanse of sand, rocks, mountains and secluded oasis's, which is the land of the Bedouins. The safaris can be usually experienced either for a half-day or a full day basis. The ways to visit this natural sanctuaries are various and all exciting. The most traditional is with 4x4 vehicles, combined with a camel ride once you reach your destination. But another way is with the adrenaline-pumping quad runners or 4 wheels motorbikes designed for the bumpy off road soil. If you are driving your own vehicle, be aware that it is forbidden, for your own safety, to leave the asphalt roads - so it is mandatory to explore the area with an organized excursion. All tour operators and hotels offer a selection of desert safaris including night time safaris which finish with a great barbecue under the stars.

### Mons Claudianus

This is an archaeological site, which dates back to when Egypt was a province of the Roman Empire (from 30 BC to 641 AD), situated at around an hour and half drive southwest of Hurghada on the road from Safaga to Qena. At Mons Claudianus you can visit the granite mines, the largest and best preserved Roman site in the Eastern Desert, which once housed thousands of soldiers and quarrymen. The Pantheon, Hadrian's Villa and the Temple of Venus in Rome are all locations where the beautified blocks and columns of granite were taken directly from Mons Claudianus. Most tour operators offer an excursion to this fascinating site, but



it can also be reached by renting a taxi for the day. If you choose to go with a taxi, stop on your way back for a swim and a snack in the beautiful beach of Sharm el Naga.

### Beach Parties

Beach parties have been a tradition in Hurghada since the times when the town was still a quiet sleepy outpost for only a few specialized diving tour operators. A beach party involves principally, a nice beach obviously, plus a big bonfire, a barbecue, a good sound system, loads of chilled beer, millions of stars and a positive barefoot mood. Nowadays the beach parties in Hurghada involve also fire acrobats, live bands, performing dancers, light shows, famous **DJ's performing live and much more**. One of the most famous, between the locals, is the monthly Full Moon Party at **The Chill** or their weekly **Thursday** party. Also popular with the tourists is the Papas Beach Club, with many groovy European bands playing live regularly. Both venues are open every day from 9 am until very late at night, but the parties usually start heating up at about 11 pm. Check out flyers and posters around the town or call to know more about the week program. The Chill is in El Tabia Beach, Sheraton Road, Sekala, info line 012 3962020, and Papas Beach Club is in El Sakia Beach, Sekala, info line **012 2416511**.



### Souk Scanning

The souk in Hurghada is a dive into the real Egyptian life. Located in Hurghada downtown, it is a network of main roads and tiny alleys where you can find virtually everything, from tourist souvenirs to fresh produce from the Nile valley, to stalls selling typical food and **tailors who will make you**, in a day, a traditional gallabiya. You can also find impressive jewelers, henna tattoo artists, papyrus crafts and copper workers all in an air full with the perfume of hundred spices and with the evocative soundtrack of the calls for prayers of the muezzin. When shopping in the souk, be aware that it is a tradition to haggle with the shopkeeper about the price, along with accepting a cup of the mint tea which all shops offer to their customers.



### 1001 Nights Show at Fantasia

In a 1001 Nights palace just 10 km off Hurghada downtown, it is a full immersion in an exotic timeless oriental atmosphere. The dinner with the highlights of the traditional Egyptian food is served during a marvelous show, which takes you from the age of the Pharaohs and the ancient cults to the oriental legends of Sherezade, through to the folklore of Nubian drums and the amazing ability of the belly dancers. Check with your tour operator for entrance tickets and reservations.



### Sindbad Submarine

For those who prefer to stay dry but still want to discover the impressive underwater life and the million hues of blue in the Red Sea, this yellow submarine is an unique experience. A half-day journey with Captain Nemo to see with your own eyes what Jacques Costeau dubbed an underwater paradise. The submarine transports up to 44 passengers and dives down to 22 m. underwater. Tickets and departure from Sindbad Beach Resort, South Corniche, Hurghada, or check with your tour leader.



Red Sea Riviera Apartments - Hurghada, Egypt.