

Sharm el Sheikh

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Sharm el Sheikh, also known as "Sharm", is one of the major dive destinations in the Red Sea, if not even in the world. As I spent as much time as I could on the boat I can't say much about Sharm itself, but there is no doubt that this is a typical holiday resort with lots of hotels, bars, restaurants, tourist shops and the like. It's probably safe to say that it is not a place for people who want to get away from it all.

However, as a diving destination Sharm is an excellent base to explore world famous dive sites like the Straits of Tiran and Ras Mohammed, as well as the Dunraven and the Thistlegorm wrecks. Something of interest might be the water and air temperature. If the air is too hot in summer or the water too cold in spring will pretty much depend on what you are used to. For myself the water temperature in summer is just alright, while I try to avoid the sun wherever I can at that time. In spring I really had to get used to the water temperature of 22-23°C, and although there were sunny skies, the wind can easily make me freeze once I get out of the water, and getting back into the (wet) wetsuit for the second dive was a bit of a challenge.

If you are planning to go there it might be a good idea to do some research about how many other tourists or divers you would have to expect in a given season. There are something like 380 (!) boats in Sharm, a number that includes all dive boats, snorkelling boats and glassbottom boats. In summer you might find up to 15 dive boats on a single dive site, so be prepared.

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