

A day on Dory ... chronicled by a guest

Our boat sails out every day. The diving equipment is packed into a box at the dive center in the morning and brought to the boat by the staff with a pick up. We ourselves walk to the boat, a walk of about 3 minutes. The "Dory" is at the end of the pier and is easily recognized by its name and the wide blue/yellow stripe on the hull. We make sure we are aboard the "Dory" about 8:30 am. We will bring swimwear, a bathing towel and a good mood.

On board we are met and welcomed by Mustafa, our Egyptian Dive Instructor and dive guide. He first tells us where we can leave our shoes. We walk on board on our bare feet. Then he explains the dry and wet areas of the boat. Also more information on how to use the toilets and showers. Then he explains ordering drinks and filling out the boat list. Each person is responsible for noting the drinks. At the end of each dive, dive time and depth are noted. He also points out the location and use of the oxygen tank and the location of the first aid kit.

Meanwhile, the equipment is brought on board. We immediately prepare the equipment. The 12 liter aluminum bottles are filled with at least 200 bar of breathing air. After testing the contents of the bottle, we make sure the valve is closed again. Time to find a place in the sun or shade. In the salon there is a jug of hot water. We can get our own tea and coffee.

Depending on the dive site, it is a 35-minute to an hour and a half boat ride. Arriving at the dive site, the Dory is moored to anchor lines. Often on the leeward side of a reef. Mustafa holds a briefing based on an underwater map. Things like dive depth, dive time, current, and safety stop are covered. He will assign buddy pairs and, if necessary, give inexperienced divers additional information about his role as guide. Time to don the dive gear. There is not much space on the dive deck, so we try to split the dive groups a bit. After a buddy check, it's time for a dive.

We surface after about an hour. Still under the impression of what we all saw underwater. We give the fins to the staff of the Dory and climb the stairs on board. We wait until the staff has removed the empty bottle. We immediately prepare the equipment for the next dive. Then it is time for coffee and tea and we show the pictures we took under water.

Around noon it is time for lunch. In the saloon, plates and cutlery are ready. Our cook has again done his best. What he manages to do in a small kitchen is extraordinary. There is always some kind of pasta or rice. Various salads, cooked vegetables, a potato dish and one or more meat dishes. After lunch there is time for a nap or a quick read. Or we can look up some more unknown fish in one of the fishing guides on board.

We sail to another location for the second dive. Again Mustafa holds a briefing. Another location, another reef. After the second dive there is fresh fruit ready and/or a sweet snack. The cook has baked cake, pie or some kind of oliebollen. We sail back to the port of Safaga. Depending on the dive sites, we will be back between 3 and 5:30 pm. Time for refreshment at the Beachbar.