



Grinning



Sarah Raley



Desert, Green PD



Abu um Gar.

At the north end of Soma Bay most kites stay at Breakers which has a contemporary design and focuses on kites and divers. From here you'll have to get a short transfer to the kite spot where there is the 7BFT school and storage facilities. This spot is offshore and the butter flat water which is great for learning new tricks. Beginners taking lessons have the benefit of rescue boats so you don't need to worry about drifting off downwind.

Because I went with a relative beginner who didn't need any more lessons, but wasn't confident he'd stay upwind all the time, we opted for the Palm Royale hotel as this has a large area of shallow water at mid to high tide. It is also a cheaper option at the moment. The hotel may be decorated like a pharaoh's holiday house but you can walk out of your air-conditioned hotel room, grab some breakfast from the buffet, walk seconds to the kite spot at the Surf Motion centre, use their compressor to inflate your kite, get a launch from one of the friendly guys working there and off you go, back for an all inclusive beer by the poolside: what could be easier! Do note, that for a couple of hours at low tide you'd need to kite in deeper water, but like 7BFT there is a rescue service. Both 7BFT and Surf Motion charge a fee for use of the area but this includes the rescue cover, and both have lounging areas, showers and a snack bar. There are a couple of schools in Soma Bay that take you on their boat to a slightly different spot and they provide lunch and snacks, and safety boats. One of them, BigDayz also based at the Palm Royale, does the day trips from Soma Bay, but also one from Hurghada, taking you to Abu um Gar, a huge offshore lagoon behind a small island. They also do weekly safaris on luxury yachts taking you to spots where the only other people you might see are fishermen, and if you're lucky dolphins.

Wherever you choose to stay in Soma Bay, if you're unlucky enough to have a no wind day there is always snorkelling, diving, and trips into the desert or to Luxor, and an hour away are the restaurants and nightclubs of Hurghada (camel steak anyone?).

There were eight years between my last two trips to Soma Bay but I won't leave it so long next time, in fact I might just have a look at prices now...



Boat near Palm Royale.



Safaga

→ SAFAGA WITH TORNADO SURF

Just four hours from Europe and only half an hour from the airport at Hurghada you will find a kite surfing paradise with Tornado Surf in Safaga. The warm and friendly atmosphere of the Kite and Surf Centre with a highly professional staff guarantees a relaxing, fun and active holiday in the Red Sea. Tornado Surf offers a daily boat trip to a fantastic kitespot in the middle of the famous Soma Bay with a wonderful lagoon and steady wind conditions. There you find a perfect environment for beginners, intermediates, free- and pro-riders. The area is so huge that sometimes you will feel like you are riding alone along your private beach. The lagoon offers a sandy area at low tide and maximum knee-deep water at high tide.

The Tornado Surf Team will assist you wherever you need help, keep an eye on you while you enjoy riding, and rescue you with the Zodiac if needs be. While you are riding, the cook prepares a great lunch on the boat making sure you are well fed for your day. Lunch is included in the boat price and is definitely worth the trip even if you do not kite. You can either bring your own kite equipment or rent it. Tornado Surf is well equipped with kites (available from 5 to 14m) and with boards from F-one. We also have helmets, shoes, wetsuits and jackets. Experienced IKO and VDWS instructors can be booked for kite lessons as well as for coaching and special clinics to improve your kite skills and help you learn new tricks. If the wind conditions are right and you still don't have enough after a long day on the sea you can accompany the return of the boat to the harbour by riding downwind from Soma Bay to Safaga.

In the rare cases of no-wind conditions you can choose from a variety of activities. From the boat you could go diving or snorkelling, do wakeboarding or stand-up paddling, or just relax in one of the hammocks or bean bags and enjoy a lovely day out on the Red Sea. On land you can book a full-day trip to Luxor, go on a Quad-Tour, visit a typical Bedouin village in the desert, go for a shopping trip to Hurghada or El Gouna, or use the low wind for a romantic trip with the catamaran directly from the beach in front of Tornado Surf Centre. Just ask the staff and they will try to make everything possible! The Tornado Surf Team will pick you up wherever you stay - either directly in Safaga with the shuttle bus or at Soma Bay with the Zodiac. This way you can choose your accommodation according to your budget and comfort needs - a nice pension, a middle class hotel or even a 5 star residence.

Kids are welcome of course and can learn the exciting sport as well - your small ones can start their kite career on board with a professional instructor while you enjoy your free time and kiting, knowing your youngsters are in good hands. After your kite day you can either enjoy a relaxing evening in one of the bars and coffee shops in Safaga or go for a party night in Hurghada or El Gouna.



→ DAHAB KITESURF CLINIC WITH SPORTIF

If you are an independent kitesurfer and looking for a group holiday where you can work on your technique, a Sportif Kite-surf Clinic could be the answer. Sportif, established in 1982, have been offering expert led coaching holidays where top UK pro coaches provide a mix of daily theory and on water coaching. For 2014, you can join British Champion and BKSA Coach, Lee 'Pasty' Harvey for a week of Kitesurfing in Dahab, Egypt. The emphasis of the week will be to improve your overall kitesurfing level with 5 days of coaching tailored to your individual needs. "Whether you are looking to land your first jumps or start making carving turns on a directional, Dahab is the perfect location with consistent wind and flat warm water," says Lee. With over 15 years' experience coaching kitesurfing, sailing and competing at the best locations in the world, he should know.

The course is suitable for anyone who is able to kitesurf upwind and change direction. Coaching will be split between group sessions and personal coaching on the water with morning warm ups, kite specific fitness, daily debriefs and evening theory sessions. Lee will build on your overall knowledge and ideal for learning to ride waves from one of the very best UK Pro coaches. "I believe that every sports person benefits from coaching, whether just starting out or going for Olympic glory." The Dahab Camp will be based at the North Kiteboarding centre, beachside Kiteers Lodge, Italian restaurant & bar from 17-24 May 2014. The price is £695 / €845 including all coaching and accommodation. To book call Sportif on 01273 844919 or see www.sportif.travel.



Sharm El Sheikh



→ SHARM EL SHEIKH WITH KITE JUNKIES

Sharm El Sheikh's subtropical climate means that temperatures through the year range from about 18 to about 40 degrees Celsius, with the sea temperature staying roughly between 21 and 28 degrees. Most of the year, the wind is 18 to 25 knots, which is excellent for consistently good kitesurfing conditions. Similar to neighbouring Dahab, which shares the same wind line, the wind in Sharm El Sheikh is good for kitesurfing all year round, but especially strong between October and April. A coral reef around the lagoon ensures a flat and shallow area.

Kite Junkies offers beginners a range of certified training courses endorsed by the IKO (International Kiteboarding Organization) & BKSA (British Kitesurfing Association). The centre is located within the Regency Plaza Resort and Sea Beach Resort, which is just 10 minutes from the airport. It's a perfect spot because there's over four square kilometres of flat water, which means it's safe for newcomers starting out, and it's also a good place for the more advanced surfers to try out new tricks. There are designated areas to separate kitesurfers of different abilities, and staff are always on hand to ensure no-one finds themselves out of their depth.

All the teaching on Kite Junkies' dedicated beaches are carried out by their own instructors, who are qualified and insured. Multilingual instruction is available from native speakers of English, Polish, Russian, and other languages. Kitesurfers can take advantage of a range of services offered - including having your kit packed away for you when you come back from the water! You can hire Ozone kites and Nobile boards to suit the conditions during your stay, whether for a day, a week, 10 days or 2 weeks. Service Packages provide a range of services including storage, rescue, landing and launching, wind meter, Wi-Fi and much more.

A basic package must be purchased in order to kitesurf at the centre. ☉



CENTRES IN EGYPT

KITE JUNKIES SHARM EL SHEIKH



Season: All Year Round- 365 days a year
Why Go?: Perfect Conditions; Flat water Lagoon, shallow water, deep water, cross on wind
Wind Factor: Wind all year round- Winter months from Oct til March have stronger winds
Riding on Offer: The lagoon is split into two areas; Free riders have a huge area directly in front of the launching and landing area, beginners have a huge area upwind of the landing and launching area. For those more adventurous a 20 min ride upwind will see you in a bay where you'll find more moderate rolling waves.
Flight Factor: From UK flight time is roughly 5 hours
Where to Stay: There is a wide choice of hotels in Nabq and the centre itself is located at The Regency Plaza.
Tuition and Equipment: Kite Junkies offer beginners certified IKO and BKSA training courses so you're assured that you're in safe hands with one of our instructors. As well as Level I, II, and III Beginners courses which cover everything from basic kite skills to your first riders, KJ can put together a tailor-made package of instruction to help your skills develop. Kite Junkies are distributors for Ozone Kites and Nobile Boards.
Flat Day Fun: Lots of activities in Sharm; diving, snorkelling, SUP's, Quad Bike racing, Moto Cross, Golf, etc
Contact: www.kitejunkies.com / info@kitejunkies.com
 +2 0122 010 6831 / +44 161 408 6831

TOMMY FRIEDL PROCENTRE HURGHADA



Season: Year Round. Best time Spring and Autumn.
Why Go?: Hurghada is still one of the best locations for learning to kitesurf with flat water, lagoons and superb centres offering flexible packages.
Wind Factor: Cross shore from left in the morning. Cross onshore in the afternoon. Best Wind June-October.
Riding on Offer: A shallow launch that reaches 5m into the lagoon guarantees a good start here into a perfect flat water area. Beyond the bay, with the wind blowing cross shore from the left, you will find a classic swell of 1m.
Flight Factor: 5 hour flight time from the UK
Where to Stay: There are a few 3 & 4* resorts in which are in walking distance from the kite centre and spot, but there are lots of options in Hurghada.
Tuition and Equipment: The ProCenter offers only the newest kite boarding rental equipment from Core/ Carved and storage for all guests with private equipment. For those eager to learn this amazing sport PC offer an extensive training program and top Instructors from all over the world will teach you from Beginner level to the latest New skool manoeuvres.
Flat Day Fun: Volleyball, wakeboarding and quad bike safaris in the desert, go-carting and trips to the Titanic Aqua Park. The best of Egyptian cultural excursions - Luxor and the Valley of the Kings are offered as a day trip
Contact: info@tommy-friedl.de / www.tommy-friedl.de

TORNADO SURF SAFAGA



Season: Open all year around. There are two main seasons - the summer from April to October and winter from September to March.
Why Go?: Tornado Surf is an independent water sports center offering a warm and friendly atmosphere so you can enjoy your holidays to the fullest - much cosier and more sociable than you would find it in the big centers.
Wind Factor: Strong thermal winds provide good to very good kite and windsurfing conditions virtually all year round.
Riding on Offer: The Soma Bay is one of the best kite spots in the Red Sea and offers great conditions for all skill levels. In the huge lagoon with 2 km² of shallow, knee to hip-deep water, beginners will find an ideal place for learning.
Flight Factor: 5 hour flight time from the UK
Where to Stay: The Tornado Surf Team will pick you up wherever you stay - either directly in Safaga with the shuttle bus or at Soma Bay with the Zodiac. This way you can choose your accommodation according to your budget and comfort needs.
Tuition and Equipment: Tornado Surf Center always offers you up-to-date Equipment from F-One. You can choose single hourly lessons in groups or private, or one of the beginner or refresher packages. Tornado Surf also offer special coaching lessons and camps.
Contacts: www.tornadosurf.com / Safaga@tornadosurf.com
 +20 (0) 10 97502639

WATERPROOF WORLD MARSALA



Season: All year long / Best conditions autumn and spring.
Why Go?: Flat Water inside and Waves outside, 7,5 km² pure fun. Limited to a maximum of 60 Kites.
Wind Factor: Constantly blowing from 4-6 bft / Main wind direction North to North-East so Side to Side onshore from left/ no buildings windward.
Riding on Offer: We offer a 7,5 square kilometer big lagoon suitable for all kind of riding styles. In front of the Center there is a small lagoon with sandy bottom and shallow water surrounded by some reef plates. Depending on the tide it is Knee to breast deep and around 400x200 meters big. Perfect for beginners and advanced riders who can not stay upwind. 3,5 kilometers upwind you got the perfect spot for Photo shootings. Or training the latest wakeday move. A Sliderpark is being planned as well.
Flight Factor: Easy to go from Europe to Marsa Alam or Hurghada. Check Egypt Air, Easy Jet, Thomson.
Where to Stay: In front of the kite spot is the All-inclusive Mirage Moon Hotel.
Tuition and Equipment: NP-Cabrinha Kites and Boards. All are semi private or private courses. Special is the Downwinder from the top of the lagoon or the Pro lagoon safari to El'naaba.
Flat Day Fun: Diving or snorkeling in front of the kitecenter or on several nearby spots.
Contact: www.waterproofworld.eu / mail@waterproofworld.eu
 0020 1288396193

AGENTS SPORTIF TRAVEL



Established in 1982, British company Sportif has been offering specialist sports holiday packages for over 30 years. They have over 40 kitesurfing locations to choose from suitable for beginners to experts. Destinations include the Red Sea, Greek Islands, Spain and the Canaries, Morocco, Cape Verdes, Caribbean - Aruba, Cabarete & Tobago, Kenya, Zanzibar, Mauritius, Vietnam, Phillipines and Brazil.

Red Sea Resorts: Choice of 6 kitesurf destinations. Dahab Dahab Bay is perfect families and those wishing to take beginner lessons. Outside Dahab Bay is best for independent and advanced kitesurfers.
El Gouna Best for independent kitesurfers with options for boat based kite safaris and hotels from £399.
Soma Bay Excellent choice of luxury hotels with huge flat water area and kite excursions to Tobias Island.
Safaga Best value 3*, 4* & 5* all inclusive hotels with centres directly on the beach.
Sharm El Shiek English run BKSA centre with budget hotels - very lively resort.
Hurghada All inclusive hotels with many bars,

restaurants & nightclubs in town.
Services: Sportif centres offer rental and instruction packages using the latest kit from all the leading manufacturers including North, Cabrinha & Best. The 'Kite Easy' package provides storage for your own gear, use of the centre's compressor, rescue and information on the local conditions plus activity programme such as weekly beach party & excursions. Experienced professionals will help you set up and provide assistance if you need it. Additional sports at the centres include windsurfing, surfing and SUP.
Instruction: Daily lessons are available for beginners, improvers and advanced for 1 hour to 1 week courses. Learn to Kitesurf courses are either 3 (£180) or 5 days (£275) with 2 hours instruction per day including kit.
2014 Kite camps: UK Coaches and North Pro Riders Kirsty Jones and BKSA Coach Lee Harvey to Dakhla, Morocco (Mar-June), Dahab (May), or Mauritius (Sept).
Accommodation: Sportif provide a choice of 3*, 4* or 5* hotels, apartments and villas with transfers, car hire, visas, kit rental & instruction pre-booked & ATOL protected. Discounts are available for groups & juniors.
Holiday Packages: Sportif will recommend destinations to suit your level with 1 week from £599 and 2 weeks from £799 including hotel, flights & transfers. International bookings welcome. Their website has a range of special offers, galleries, videos and descriptions of the area and what's on offer.
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