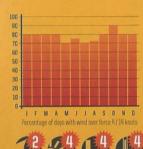
046 / AFRICA / EGYPT / MARSA ALAM / EL NAABA

ANNABEL VAN WESTEROP, CORE PRO RIDER



FI Naaba is just 30 kilometres south of the airport in Marsa Alam (RMF) and Hurghada (HRG) airport is 220 kilometres away. Tour operators, as well as the Pro Center, offer

THE TOMMY FRIEDL PRO CENTER teach all levels in kitesurfing and windsurfing all year at a max ratio 4:1. Cabrinha, Core, NP also provide safety boat cover. www.tommy-friedl.com info@tommy-friedl.com



ON THE WATER

A playground paradise for all watersports lovers, 220 kilometres south of Hurghada, El Naaba in Marsa Alam feels far away from mass tourism on the edge of the desert. If you're looking for a simple, peaceful and relaxing holiday, it's ideal.

A hundred metres offshore there's a round. potato-shaped reef that protects the beach from shorebreak and focuses the waves out on the reef, 25° / 77°F and in summer around 28° / 82°F. separating two bays: Beach Bay and Surfers Bay. Kitesurfing and windsurfing take place in Surfers Bay and there's an additional kite lagoon with no windsurfers or swimmers. Riders of all levels will be happy there and you can even find some small wave riding conditions sometimes directly out front of the kite centre at Surfers Bay. The first 50 metres are shallow and easy to launch from and the waves don't start breaking until 200 metres out, so the inside area is very safe and encouraging for beginners and intermediates. Surfers Bay is suitable for riders at waterstart levels or those just riding upwind. Windsurfers also share this lagoon, but there's enough space for everyone. At a kilometre
The resort site however has a very relaxed long, the kite lagoon is a superb alternative for both beginners and advanced riders with its glassy waters. Advanced freestylers will enjoy the turquoise-blue water that remains flat even in strong winds due to the protection from the reef.

You can kite safely, even in strong winds as there are no restrictions on landing your kite anywhere around the lagoon and then walking back to your starting point but there are a few sharp stones, so it's recommended to wear booties if you're less advanced.

The waves outside run cross-onshore with the wind. Outside the bay they can get bigger on the really good days - even up to two or three metres on occasions.

The Tommy Friedl Pro Center run a shuttle service twice daily between the hotel and lagoon with a transfer time of ten minutes. Otherwise pay for a private transfer or walk back, which takes 30 minutes.

WIND, WEATHER AND WATER

The best season for kitesurfing is from October to March with cross-on winds. The air temperature averages 20 - 30°C / 68 - 86°F and you'll need a spring suit in winter, a shorty from March until May and just boardies / bikinis / rash vests from May to September. Winter water temperatures average 20°C / 68°F in the spring, in autumn

OFF THE WATER

The Three Corners Equinox Beach Resort is the closest accommodation to the spot with professional service and excellent Belgian cuisine. The hotel's extensive beach area leads you directly to the Pro Center where you'll launch from.

Port Ghalib is a well developed, modern, luxury tourist area 65 kilometres away with a marina, evening entertainment and a range of dining options. The town of Marsa Alam is more like Hurghada was 15 years ago and isn't as developed, but the locals are very welcoming. atmosphere with natural experiences being the main focus of your stay here. You can dine at the hotel or at the marina and there are also some small shops and a supermarket inside the hotel.

If the wind doesn't blow then there's SUP, yoga, beach volleyball, or slack-lining at the Pro Center, where there is also a bar that hosts movie nights on the beach. El Naaba also offers great snorkelling and diving.



Ready to rip the flats

