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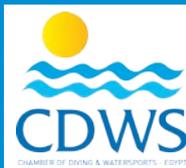


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EGYPT

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Letter from the Editor

What better time of year to launch the first issue of **BLUE**, a magazine dedicated to diving and watersports in Egypt. Summer has arrived and that's when our waters see the biggest action in terms of visitors both topside and underwater. **BLUE** will be covering a whole raft of subjects for watersports professionals resident here in Egypt as well as our many visitors. Joining us is a fantastic line-up of contributors, all experienced Red Sea divers who are extremely knowledgeable in everything from conservation to skills know-how. Our writing team includes world-renowned diving medical expert Dr Anke Fabian; underwater compact camera guru Maria Munn; Save Our Seas cameraman and marine biologist Owen Bruce; and respected technical and recreational dive instructor and author John Kean.

BLUE will also be reporting regularly on all the work being done throughout Egypt to protect our environment and all the latest industry news locally and nationally. In our community pages we will be focusing on the major issues affecting diving and watersports professionals and operations as well as some more light-hearted banter. This is very much your magazine and we are keen to have your input. If you have any interesting stories, pictures or just want to share your views, drops us a line at blue@cdws.travel

Like many, I was once a regular diving visitor here and am now proud to be a full-time resident. For me the magic of our waters is that you never know what you might see. On every dive there is always that chance of an encounter with some of the world's most celebrated marine creatures, even on local training sites.

I remember my first trip in May 2001. Shark sightings nearly every day. And while I've been lucky to have had some incredible experiences around the world as a diving journalist, some of my best ever dives have been here over the last eight years. A sunfish sighting off Jackson Reef and curious dolphins off Shark and Yolanda particularly stand out. Even in my first few weeks of living here, I have been treated to close encounters with mantas rays while diving and countless eagle rays on my morning snorkel swims. I for one can't wait to see what the rest of the year has in store and also join the community to do my bit to help protect and celebrate our incredible environment.

Here's to a fantastic action-packed summer.

Charlotte

Charlotte Boan
Editor, **BLUE**



Letter from the Chairman...

Dear readers

Welcome to the launch issue of BLUE, the official publication for members of Egypt's Chamber of Diving and Watersports (CDWS).

CDWS is responsible for the whole of Egypt. As an organisation it is responsible, not only for all diving activities, but also for all watersports activities in the country as per the mandate from the Ministry of Tourism. The scope of the CDWS is wider than any other unofficial groups before. To regulate this sector, which has not been regulated for 25 years, is not going to happen overnight. Some examples of what CDWS has already achieved include the following:

- *The introduction of a new international standard for recreational and diving service providers in Egypt;
- *The closing down of 23 illegal diving operations that never had a licence from the Ministry of Tourism
- * Due to failing to comply to ISO standards, 17 diving operators have had their Ministry of Tourism licences revoked
- *Plans have been prepared for 2010 - 2011 to implement training courses mostly financed by the Ministry of Tourism for snorkel guides and skippers
- *The development of the CDWS website which lists only legal and ISO certified operations
- *The organisation of a conference in Sharm to help to tackle the issue of illegal fishing
- * Exhibited at major diving exhibition and travel trade fairs throughout Europe and Russia

All of this has happened in just six months under the new board. We will continue to have monthly meetings with diving centres and operations to listen to all our members. By the end of this board term (three years), more changes will be in place.

To achieve all the goals we have set ourselves to ensure Egypt is not only one of the best places in the world to dive, but also one of the safest, we need the help and support of all members. The standards here are world-renowned and that is thanks to the hard work and dedication of the dive professionals who work here. Our community is passionate about the underwater world, both in terms of safety and conservation.

To really move things forward, particularly in areas of conservation work, the CDWS needs volunteers who will lead groups to help us preserve and protect our precious environment. The board and I look forward to working with you all to better the future of diving and the our marine environment.

Happy and safe diving

Hesham Gabr
Chairman of the Board
Chamber of Diving and Watersports

Editor:
Charlotte Boan
charlotte.boan@cdws.travel

Design:
Mary Gleeson
board.marketing@cdws.travel

Contributors:
Owen Bruce, Dr Anke Fabian, Maria Munn, John Kean,
Brendan O'Brien, Simon Rogerson,

Sales:
blue@cdws.travel

Published by:
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For enquiries call 00 20 12 039 8576



contributors

Maria Munn

Renowned underwater photographer and founder of Ocean Visions in the UK, Maria Munn, 38 believes the Red Sea is perfect for cameras as the diversity of life is unlike anywhere she has dived in the world. Inspired to learn to dive by BBC wildlife presenter Steve Leonard, Maria was certified in the shark-filled waters of South Africa in 2003. Following work as a holiday representative and English teacher in Spain, in 2004 she helped set up Mexico's first Reef Environmental Education Foundation field station. In 2005 she returned to the UK to develop underwater photography courses specifically designed for compact camera users.



'My job involves helping guests gain confidence in using their compact cameras underwater and coaching them in using different settings, lenses and strobes to allow them to get really creative with their shots,' she says. 'Four of my guests have already been published in diving magazines and another has just won an international competition in Bonaire.' Check out Maria's new Compact Skills column on page 22.

Brendan O'Brien

Freelance writer Brendan O'Brien had his first underwater experience aged 14 in a flooded quarry in North Wales, UK. Despite having to share the water with a couple of dead sheep, he went on to officially train with the BSAC Dundee University Dive Club four years later in 1982. Since then he has dived all over the world and has travelled to the Red Sea many times. He says the Red Sea is packed full of variety and is close and easy to get to from the UK. Although he has a 'boring job' full time with the Home Office, he gets the chance to escape underwater on assignments for UK magazine DIVER. As someone who often only has a week to meet an editor's brief, he says having a good dive guide makes a world of difference as they know the area so well. The 45-year-old gives his view on what makes the perfect dive guide on page 14.



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#55, Tiran Centre, Old Market +2 069 366 3936

Hurghada

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Top sightings on Red Sea reefs

Whale sharks, manta rays, dolphins, hammerhead sharks and seahorses are among many sightings reported by divers across the Red Sea this year. The main resorts of Hurghada and Sharm el Sheikh have seen most of the underwater action in 2009, with near-daily sightings of big animals since May.

Emperor Divers and Ilios Dive Club in Hurghada said guests are being treated to virtually guaranteed encounters with dolphins and seahorses on dayboat trips. In Sharm el Sheikh, dive guides are reporting huge number sightings of manta rays off the area's local reefs.

Sharm-based Red Sea Diving College said its guests had reported a whole raft of exciting sightings, particularly in the last week of May. These included a hammerhead shark off local reef Amphoras and leopard ray, guitar shark and dolphins in the Ras Mohammed National Park.

Many of the main centres are recording their sightings to help marine conservation organisations, such as the Shark Trust, which is appealing for all divers to report shark and ray sightings to help global research programmes. The UK-based charity said its international sightings database allows divers to share their encounters while also providing important information on different species to shark researchers around the world.

'Your sighting can have a very positive impact on our understanding of certain species and provide the best available data to support management considerations to help ensure a sustainable future for sharks, skates and rays,' said the Shark Trust. 'Any sighting or catch of any wild elasmobranch can be submitted to this database for use in not-for-profit decision-making, education, research, environmental and other public-benefit purposes.'

Dive guides and instructors have already been active in reporting big animal sightings throughout 2009, particularly those around the northern Egyptian Red Sea. To share your sightings or find out more information see the Shark Trust Sightings page at www.sharktrust.org/sd

CDWS highlights shark fishing ban

Egypt's Chamber of Diving and Watersports (CDWS) has taken direct action to inform the hotel and restaurant industry of the decree which bans the fishing of sharks in the Red Sea, after a picture of a dead shark taken at a Sharm hotel was published on the Internet.

The CDWS immediately contacted the management of the Sea Club Resort in Sharm El Sheikh about the ban when a photograph on the Internet social network site Facebook was brought to its attention. The picture shows staff at the Sea Club Resort hotel pouring water over the dead black tip shark on display in front of its guests.

Information was also sent out about the ban to the Egyptian Hotel Association and the Egyptian Chamber of Tourist Establishments by the CDWS to help prevent similar incidents in the future.

Shark populations throughout the world are under threat from over-fishing and the Egyptian Red Sea is one of the only places where a total ban has been introduced to help protect



image: Deniz Aymer

Manta sighted off Tower, Sharm el Sheikh, May 2009



image: James Dawson

Dolphins encountered in Hurghada this Spring



endangered species. The decree was issued following appeals from local underwater groups and conservationists.

The decree no. 484 for 2005 issued by the head of the General Authority for Fish Resources Development in Egypt states the ban on fishing and trading of Sharks in the Red Sea. Violation of the ban will result in people being subject to prosecution according to Law 124 for 1983. The CDWS is appealing to its members to inform the organisation of any other similar violations.

Skipper training pilot scheme launched

As part of an Egypt-wide scheme to increase the diving knowledge of boat operators, the CDWS has launched a pilot training course for 50 skippers in late June/early July. The pilot course will train skippers from a mix of diving day boats and sports boats, and will include internationally recognised seamanship skills, emergency first aid response and environmental awareness.

Following the pilot this summer, the course will then be evaluated and introduced in 2010 as a compulsory course for CDWS members. All the courses will be heavily subsidised as part of the commitment to improve knowledge and safety standards throughout the watersports industry in Egypt.

Dive centres protest against Nuweiba power plant

Dive centres in the South Sinai are appealing to all CDWS members and the public to voice their protest against plans to build a 105,000 square-metre power plant in the centre of one of Egypt's most scenic diving destinations. The Egyptian Electricity Holding Company has put forward a proposal to build a power plant in the centre of Nuweiba in the South Sinai region. This would see construction of 750MW gas-powered turbines, towering more than 80m in height in a central area of Nuweiba close to popular dive sites and a marine park.

Local divers and businesses say the power plant would have a devastating impact on the environment, both underwater and on land. If given the go-ahead, they fear tourism in Nuweiba would be destroyed and that there would be long-term disastrous implications for the local community.

In protest, Nuweiba-based dive centres started an online petition calling for the plans to be scrapped.

Egyptian non-government campaign group the Hurghada Environmental Protection and Conservation Association (HEPCA) said in a recent statement it had commissioned a group of experts to examine the situation. The group's examination, HEPCA explained, will be based on the published environmental impact assessment (EIA), which is required by the Ministry of Environment for project approval and permits.

'Without the approval of the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA) and the Ministry of Environment this project will not be executable,' said HEPCA managing director Amr Ali. 'We have been in contact with the environmental impact department of the EEAA and we have been given the confirmation that this project did not receive any approvals from their part. The EEAA requires a public hearing to garner the consent and approval of the community for a project of such magnitude and size.

'We are very confident that our colleagues at the National Conservation Sector and the EEAA will ensure that investor complies with legal and ethical standards as required by the Egyptian government.'

As well as cross-examining particular points made in the EIA report, in his letter Mr Ali appealed for divers and locals to attend a public hearing, which is expected to take place in the coming months.

Local dive centre African Divers said: 'Nuweiba is one of the most picturesque parts of the whole southern Sinai peninsula, has an excellent and unique tourism potential, is home to two major Sinai Bedouin tribes, and has an almost unique, relatively undisturbed underwater marine life.

'Apart from the obvious enormous detrimental effects such a project will have on the local environment and population during the construction period, once operational, the plant will have a negative impact on the quality of air, will reduce the level of sunlight, increase noise pollution and, above all, will damage seriously and irreparably the marine life and coral reefs that lie all along the east coast of Nuweiba adjacent to where the plant is planned to be built.'

The petition started by dive centres calls for the Egyptian Environment Affairs Agency to withhold approval for the project, pending full investigations by internationally recognised environment agencies and consultations with local residents, businesses and non-government organisations.

To sign the petition: <http://www.thepetitionsite.com/2/stop-the-destruction-of-nuweiba-and-its-coral-reefs>



Red Sea conservation new projects appeal

Marine environment education group Red Sea Research is looking for new projects in the Dahab region to take part in. The centre has appealed for ideas and contacts related

to worthwhile long-term marine environment projects in and around the Sinai resort as part of its extensive diver conservation education programme.

Red Sea Research is based at Club Red dive centre in Dahab and offers comprehensive diving research courses to enable qualified and non-divers to participate as volunteers in worthwhile environmental projects. The group is involved in several research projects which cover most aspects of marine research.

'We have developed a modular research diving course designed to train volunteer divers to a level of competence in research diving methodology, terminology and practices in marine biological, bathymetric and geographical surveying techniques, to the standards required by the marine environmental organizations conducting research within the Red Sea,' Red Sea Research said.

Red Sea Research: www.redsearesearch.org.



BA flies back to Sharm

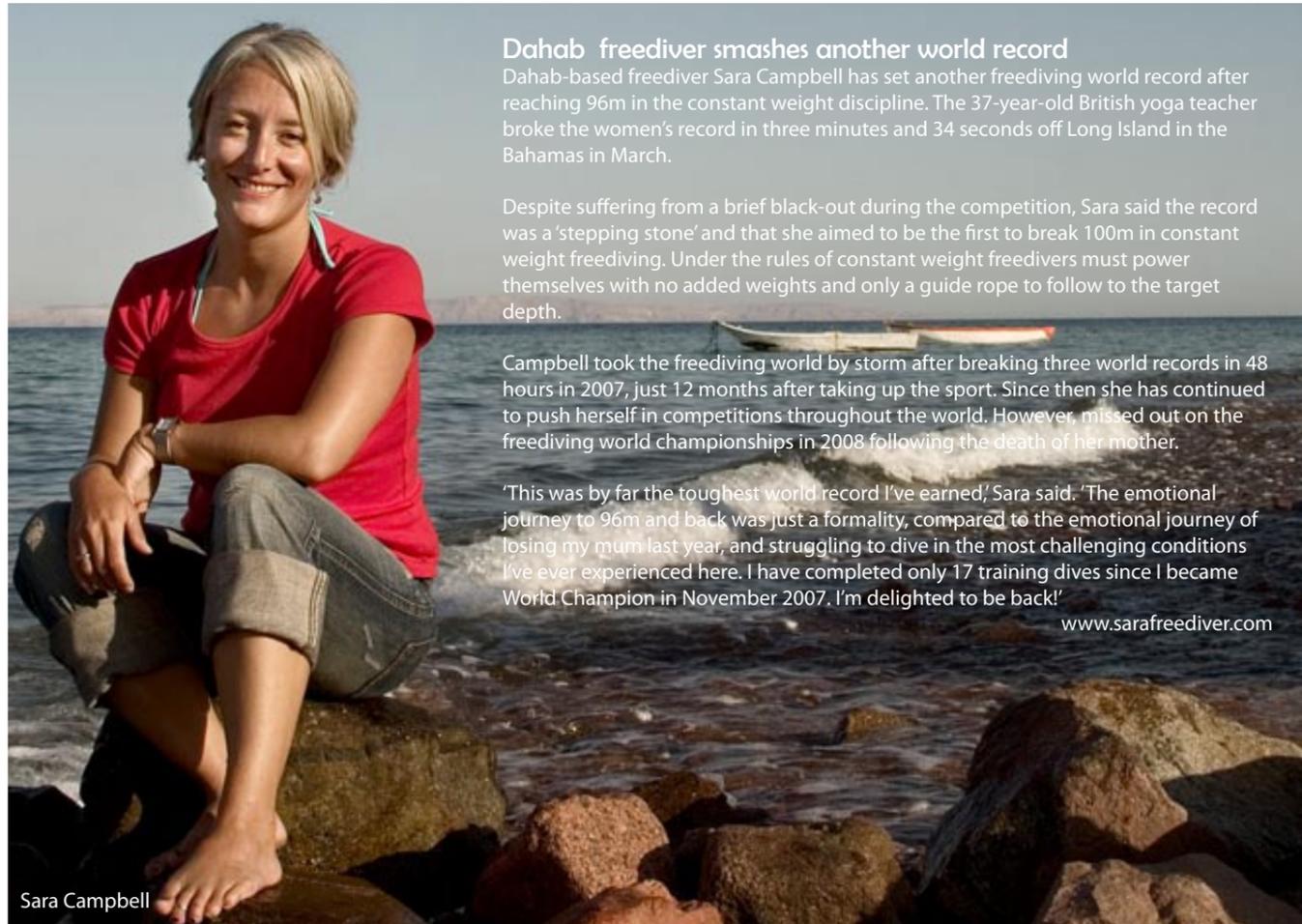
British Airways has announced the launch of new routes from London Gatwick to Sharm el Sheikh from October 2009. The airline previously operated services to the Red Sea resort through its franchise operator GB Airways, which was taken over by budget flight company easyJet in 2007.

The announcement of three BA flights a week, from 25 October will be welcomed by many divers who have seen a big reduction in luggage allowance for scuba equipment across the board. Under its current policy, BA allows passengers carrying selected sporting equipment, such as diving and windsurfing gear, an additional 23kg at no extra charge. Width and maximum load restrictions apply.

The services will use Boeing 777 aircraft configured with three classes: World Traveller, World Traveller Plus and Club World. BA said it had looked at the whole of its long haul network at Gatwick and following detailed research decided new routes to Sharm el Sheikh would prove popular.

Tickets on the new route are now on sale through www.ba.com and direct through BA reservations on 0844 493 0787. Fares from Gatwick to Sharm el Sheikh will start from £339 return including taxes, fees and charges. Flights to Sharm will depart from Gatwick on Monday, Thursday and Saturday at 10pm returning on Tuesday, Friday and Sunday at 11am local time.





Sara Campbell

Dahab freediver smashes another world record

Dahab-based freediver Sara Campbell has set another freediving world record after reaching 96m in the constant weight discipline. The 37-year-old British yoga teacher broke the women's record in three minutes and 34 seconds off Long Island in the Bahamas in March.

Despite suffering from a brief black-out during the competition, Sara said the record was a 'stepping stone' and that she aimed to be the first to break 100m in constant weight freediving. Under the rules of constant weight freedivers must power themselves with no added weights and only a guide rope to follow to the target depth.

Campbell took the freediving world by storm after breaking three world records in 48 hours in 2007, just 12 months after taking up the sport. Since then she has continued to push herself in competitions throughout the world. However, missed out on the freediving world championships in 2008 following the death of her mother.

'This was by far the toughest world record I've earned,' Sara said. 'The emotional journey to 96m and back was just a formality, compared to the emotional journey of losing my mum last year, and struggling to dive in the most challenging conditions I've ever experienced here. I have completed only 17 training dives since I became World Champion in November 2007. I'm delighted to be back!'

www.sarafreediver.com



Anniversary celebrations in Nuweiba

The first-ever diving centre opened in the Sinai resort of Nuweiba is celebrating 20 years in business this year. Diving Camp was set up in 1989 by two German diving instructors, Hartmut Jannsen and Sylvia Max to offer visitors full diving packages and training. In 2004, two new owners, Petra Zybelle and Mike Ennulat continued the business as Scuba College.

To mark 20 years of Diving Camp and five years of Scuba College, guests and friends of the centre are invited to attend a birthday barbecue on 1 September this year. If you want to join the birthday celebrations email Scuba College at info@scubacollege.com.

www.scuba-college.com



Snorkel guide training scheme

The CDWS has launched a new training scheme which will see 50 Egyptian staff members of diving operations in the Sinai region become fully qualified PADI snorkel guides for free. Those passing the qualifications will then be legally qualified to work as guides for snorkellers. CDWS dive centres across the Sinai have been invited to ask members of their Egyptian staff to apply to take part in the fully subsidised course.

Similar courses will be available to Egyptian staff in other areas of the Red Sea in the near future. For more information, or to download an application form [click here](#)



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info@cameldive.com



Naama reef cleared of waste

Car batteries and rudders were among the items gathered by volunteer divers in Sharm el Sheikh's Naama Bay for the day clean up of the reefs around Sonesta Beach. Organised by Anthias Divers, together with Scuba Schools International (SSI), South Sinai Diving Association (SSDM) and the Blue Eye FX Underwater Production, the March 2009 clean-up saw diving staff and guests bagging a staggering 132kg of rubbish at the front of the Sonesta Beach Resort.

Anthias Divers hosted an evening of entertainment for all the clean-up volunteers, who were also presented with prizes and a 'Rubbish Diver' certification card. Prizes given to those divers who collected the most rubbish included free nitrox courses, t-shirts and diving videos.

Simona Adelhoch, the operation manager of Athias Divers said work by volunteers throughout the region to clean up reefs was very important in protecting marine life from the threat of discarded rubbish. All the rubbish was taken to a Sharm-based garbage collection company to be disposed of appropriately.

'Clean-ups are ideal to organise in the low-season,' Adelhoch said. 'It would be great to see all the dive centres in Naama working together to organise a clean-up day of all the local reefs. I would like to thank my team and everyone who took part in cleaning up the Red Sea we love so much and who helped to make this event happen'

www.anthiasdivers.com



Top to bottom clean in Dahab

Earth Day in Dahab brought together 46 resident and tourist volunteers in a topside and underwater clean-up throughout the resort. Organised by Nesima Hotel & Dive Centre, rubbish on the main dive sites and beaches of Dahab was collected and bagged by divers and non-divers.

All participants were awarded with a Project AWARE Certificate of Recognition and celebrated afterwards with a slice of Nesima cake and a cup of coffee.

www.nesima-resort.com

For advice on organising an underwater clean-up, see the Project Aware recommendations: [see here](#)

Anthias Divers clean up Naama Bay



Red Sea centres clean up

Dive operations throughout Egypt have been organising a host of underwater and topside clean-ups with staff and guests, as part of an on-going mission to protect the marine environment from waste pollution. Earth Day on 22 April seemed to be the focus of most of the clean-ups organised by volunteers throughout the region.



Public beach clean

Staff at Sharm el Sheikh-based Camel Dive Club took part in a beach clean-up for Dive for Earth Day. Ras Katy is one of the few public beaches in Sharm el Sheikh, and is popular with both guests and locals. Camel's training manager Bianca Greiner, who organised the clean-up, said: 'The 46 bags we collected equate to around 200kg of rubbish that could otherwise have ended up in the sea. About 70 per cent of [the rubbish] was plastic bags and bottles, which take years to biodegrade, and release toxins in the process.'

www.cameldive.com

Hurghada central bay clean-up

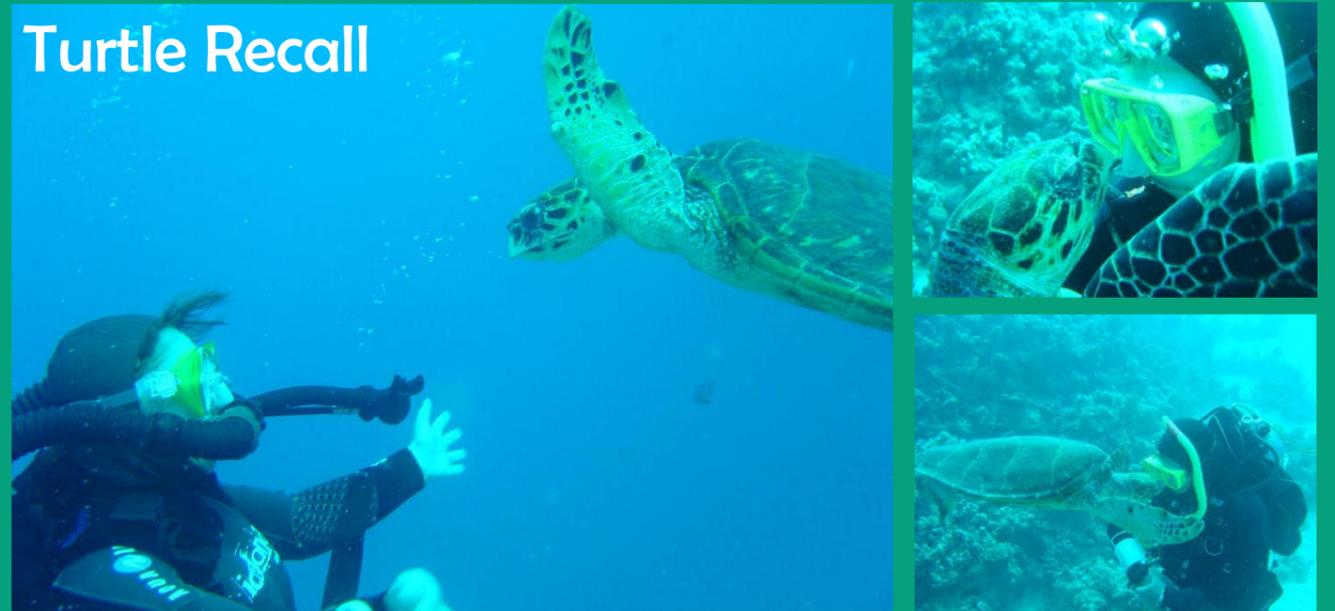
To mark Earth Day in Hurghada staff and guests from Illios Dive Club teamed up to clean up the bay and beach at the Steigenberger Al Dau Beach Hotel. The central bay is often littered with rubbish brought in by currents.

'We always tell our guests on the dive boats that it is better to bring garbage to the surface and throw it in the dustbin than to simply be upset about it being underwater,' explained Martina Aziz of Illios Dive Club. 'In 30 minutes our instructors Tarek, Sven and Rafel managed to collect three large bags of garbage. It is a small step, but a good way to help to protect the environment. Events such as Earth Day give us the chance to fight for a better awareness concerning our environment.'

www.iliosdiveclub.de



Turtle Recall



Divers on a rebreather training course were treated to an unusual encounter with a turtle off a local reef in Hurghada. The adult turtle, estimated to be around 70cm in length, came very close to nibble the divers' noses and swim under their arms.

'Ten minutes into the dive she came over to my students and I,' said Matthias Breit, managing director of Hurghada-based Dive Point and PADI Course Director. 'It was always staying close, coming under our arms, playing with our fingers and gently biting our noses. It was very unusual behaviour and certainly the closest marine encounter I

have ever had. She stayed with us for about 30 minutes.'

Briet said the divers stayed with the turtle and had to complete their skills at the end of the dive when the friendly creature left.

'I have no idea why she behaved in that way, but it just seemed as if she wanted to play with us. We checked a couple of times at the same reef to find her again, but we haven't seen anything of her since.'

www.dive-point.com

Manta on the menu

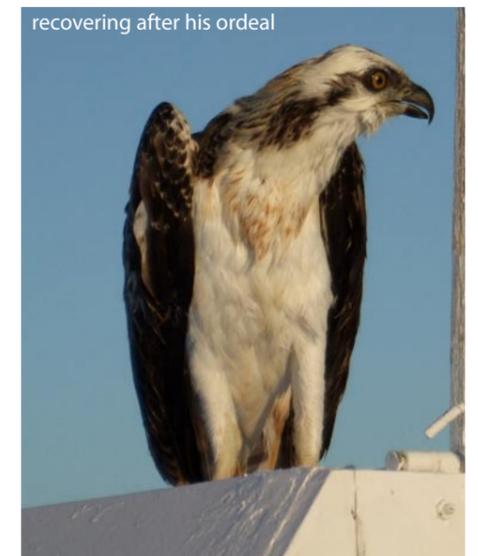
Manta and devil ray populations throughout the world are seriously threatened by an increased demand for its cartilage in shark fin soup say conservationists. The shark fin soup trade in Asia has decimated populations of sharks throughout the world and it is feared that manta and devil rays are next on the endangered list as they are being targeted for Asian menus.

Experts in Hawaii, where a complete ban on catching or killing of manta rays is set to be introduced, say ray cartilage was being mixed with 'low-grade' shark fins in cheaper versions of the soup. Exports throughout the world have increased dramatically - particularly in areas of Indonesia, where manta catches jumped from a few hundred to several thousand.

To find out more about manta rays and what conservationists are doing to try to protect this gentle giant, read the report by Save Our Sea's Owen Bruce on page 18.



Barry rescues the stranded Eagle



recovering after his ordeal

Dive boat bird rescue

A group of divers on a safari boat rescued a desert bird which had fallen into the water on the west side of Tiran. The young bird had fallen into the water and was trying to stay afloat when the divers spotted him after surfacing from a dive.

Barry Thomson, owner of the Dive Runner safari boat said: 'We grabbed hold of him and put him in the zodiac. He had obviously tried to fly and couldn't. When we got back on the boat we put him in a box on the front of the boat and fed him.'

The bird recovered from his fall overnight and flew away the next morning.

www.diverunner.com

Encounters in the Red Sea

Following rare attacks in the southern Red Sea this summer, Shark Trust patron Simon Rogerson explains why it is so important to respect each and every encounter with the oceanic white tip shark

Listen to the banter on any Red Sea dive boat – you can bet a fair amount of it will be about sharks. A good shark encounter is a special memory, often the highlight of someone's holiday, and the presence of certain sharks can be a sign of a reef's health and productivity.

Most of Egypt's sharks are naturally shy of divers, but the oceanic white-tip, *Carcharhinus longimanus*, is an exception. These sharks wander the deserts of the open seas, where food is scarce and every potential prey item must be keenly investigated. Where a grey reef or scalloped hammerhead shark would keep its distance after perhaps one curious pass of a diver, the oceanic will come in again and again, closer and closer.

Boldness – some would say aggression – is hard-wired into the oceanic's behaviour. The trait has led to some memorable encounters at reefs such as Elphinstone, the Brother Islands and St Johns, where the recent fatal attack took place. At the time of writing it was too early to determine what exactly had prompted the attack, but it seems certain that the shark had been illegally fed.

All the predatory shark species become less predictable and more dangerous when their senses are stimulated by the presence of food. The scent of fish in the water ramps up their behaviour, so if the shark in question is already bold, it can become actively aggressive towards humans, which it may see as competitors.

The Red Sea is one of the last places you can dive with oceanic white-tips. They are sometimes seen off Hawaii, where they follow pilot

whales, and on the outer banks of the Bahamas, but longline fisheries have massively reduced their presence in the Indo-Pacific. Just 20 years ago, they were the most populous large animal species on the planet, and now they are believed to be endangered. Their inquisitive nature has made them especially susceptible to longline fisheries, and their fins are prized by the Asian shark fin market.

For the most part, Red Sea encounters with Longimanus have been thrilling rather than threatening. I have spent long afternoons diving under liveboards, watching the sharks as they patrolled between the reef and the boats. Every now and then, one would approach me head on, then veer gracefully away when I exhaled. It has been observed that the sharks tend to become increasingly aggressive the longer they investigate divers. The passes get closer, and the diver may even be bumped. This is the time to get out of the water, and it's always worth remembering that a shark's thoughts turn to feeding as the sun starts to set.

In the precious moments I have spent observing sharks, I have learned an important lesson... one that you will not read in any of the textbooks. Even within the same species, no two sharks show exactly the same behaviour. They can be shy, curious, fearful, confident, even gentle. As much as you try to predict a shark's behaviour by its species, there will always be that unpredictable factor – its own personality. Accordingly, every shark encounter should be tempered with respect.

*Simon Rogerson is the editor of UK magazine DIVE
(www.divemagazine.co.uk)*



Last year 791 people were killed by defective toasters. 4 people by sharks.



The Good Dive Guide

Challenging the popular view among experienced divers that dive guides are for novices, Brendan O'Brien puts his case forward for why it's cool to follow those in-the-know.

Can you remember the first time you went diving? How your instructor would point out creatures and vistas you can still remember today? Back then your instructor and the dive guides who followed them were looked up to as the fonts of all knowledge on what lay below the surface – you'd follow them around waiting for the next thing they'd find for you to be amazed by. Despite this, you may well have been jealous of the more qualified divers, the ones that were allowed to go off and do their own thing. Suddenly the dive guides became less attractive, what you wanted was independence.

This was certainly my experience and I eventually achieved that level of trust, the recognition that once off the back of the boat I was competent enough to take care of my own buddy team. However, several hundred dives and three decades later I'm a changed man. Dive with the guide? That'll do nicely - sign me up. Given the choice between independent diving and joining the dive guide I'll always opt for the latter.

My epiphany came a decade ago while on assignment for Diver magazine on a liveboard off the coast of the Big Island of Hawaii. Also on the boat was the pioneering underwater film producer Stan Waterman, who, despite decades of experience under his belt, chose to carry out every dive with the boat's guides. Early on in the trip I asked him why. 'It's simple,' he said. 'They know where all the cool stuff is.'

For the rest of the week I joined him and the other guides and do you know, he was right. I came back with shots of macro subjects I would never have found as well as the manta ray photographs that made the lead pictures for the article – all because the guides led me to where I would find the subjects I was looking for. But diving with the guides isn't just about finding all the 'cool stuff,' it's also essential for safe diving practices.

A year after my Stan Waterman experience I almost ended up being swept out into the open ocean during a dive off a small set of islands

near to the French Caribbean island of Guadeloupe. We'd gone ahead of the guide as the dive was a very leisurely one but half way through freak weather conditions brought on a current that we initially thought was part of the encounter. But then it picked up and before long we were hurtling along the seabed at a most uncomfortable rate of knots. We managed to find a rocky outcrop where we hid from the current and after a few minutes we made the decision to head for the surface – by the time we reached it we were about half a mile from the dive boat. Fortunately we managed to swim over to a coral head that we could just about stand on and from this position we managed to attract the skipper's attention.

The dive guide and his team were already onboard. He'd remembered the conditions from a dive he had done a few years earlier and knew at an early stage in the dive that he needed to abort it. No-one could have predicted these circumstances, but it does serve as an example of how conditions can change rapidly and it's local knowledge that might just keep you out of harm's way.

But there are those who put themselves in perilous situations despite warnings from dive guides about dangerous conditions. On too many occasions I've seen divers nod their heads as their guide provides them with the information they'll need for a safe dive only to get in the water and ignore it all.

On another assignment in the Maldives, ignoring the guide's instructions very nearly led to a tragedy during a challenging drift dive. The guide had briefed us that we needed to enter the water, descend as a group and bottom out in blue water at 33m. The current would then take us to the lip of a vertical wall that we could grip hold of, spin round and watch the big pelagics from. I stuck to the guide like glue as I could sense there was an element of risk, but the others didn't and went too deep. They were pushed by the current along the wall and then forced up and over the lip missing the opportunity to grasp it. I did see them, but only for a moment as they were tumbled along the top of the reef by the current destroying a few sea fans along the way. They ended up over a mile from the dive boat and were only rescued when the pick up boat from the floatplane passed them. I guess the lesson is, if you want to see the 'cool stuff' or more importantly stay as safe as you can, use the services provided by your dive guide. After all, isn't that what you're paying for?

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Diving ahead on eco-holidays



Diving operators are leading the way in meeting the growing demand for eco-friendly holidays. Red Sea liveaboard operator and Responsible Tourism award-winner blue o two is even encouraging guests to pick up litter on their diving holiday.

Eco-tourism is a term thrown around a lot in the travel market to try to persuade the environmental conscious holidaymaker to part with their hard earned cash and feel good about it. However, the term eco-friendly seems to have as much ambiguity surrounding it in the holiday market as the organic tag on supermarket food. What exactly constitutes an eco-friendly holiday? Can it mean as little in some countries as recycled toilet paper in your hotel room? Problem is, as punters we rarely get to see behind the scenes and witness 'eco-friendliness' in action.

For divers on the other hand, it is easier to quantify the eco-credentials of a holiday package. This is mostly down to the fact eco-tourism is nothing new to the diving industry. Tens of thousands of dedicated divers over the last few decades have parted with a lot of money to volunteer for marine studies throughout the world, particularly in education gap years. Caring about the marine environment is in our nature – not difficult to understand it's in our best interest to protect and preserve what we enjoy underwater. For the second year running Red Sea British-owned liveaboard operator blue o two has been recognised in the UK Responsible Tourism Awards for its particular moves to encourage green diving tourism. In 2007 it won Best in a Marine Environment and was then highly commended by judges in the 2008 awards.



The judges said that blue o two had developed 'a new business approach to diving in the Red Sea, a highly competitive price-driven market, demonstrating that responsible diving is possible for a mainstream business and establishing a way of doing business.' As well as having marine experts on board various trips to help educate guests about marine conservation specific to the Red Sea, the company also works closely with the Hurghada Environmental Protection and Conservation Association (HEPCA) on clean-ups and to draw up new operational procedures and standards for all dive boats operating in the Red Sea. This, it says, is to try to prevent damage to the marine environment by dive boats and divers.

The major success of its campaign has been the clean-ups. British divers have been happy to pay to take part in a series of underwater clean-ups as part of their liveaboard holidays with blue o two. These trips are subsidised to help encourage guests to take part. They have now proved so popular; the liveaboard operator is now running regular clean-up trips year-round.

'Simply by seeing that divers are prepared to spend time and money on holiday to clean up the reefs makes a big impact on the boat crew and encourages them to adopt more environmentally friendly ways of

living at sea, from waste disposal to the cleaning materials they use,' says the blue o two clean-up project manager Natalie Tyler. 'We can't pinpoint the waste problem at one group - everyone is responsible for looking after the future of the sea.'

Guests are provided with mesh bags and other equipment to pick up rubbish from around the Red Sea's most littered shorelines between regular safari dives. Together with HEPCA, blue o two is focusing on cleaning reefs that are accessible by daily snorkelling and diving vessels.

As part of the scheme named Heyah (meaning 'life' in Arabic), conservationists plan to collate statistical analysis of the collected waste, such as weight and items found. There are usually two or three clean-ups scheduled in a weeklong trip.

Guests have found a huge mix of rubbish, such as glass, light bulbs, netting, fishing line, yoghurt, butter and jam containers, clothes items, plastic bags, broken plates, glasses and mugs, oil and water filters, cardboard boxes, paper, beer and soft drink cans and various tins, plastic water bottles, as well as beer, wine and soft drink bottles.

The stranger items recorded by blue o two; include a near-complete wardrobe and discarded underpants. Before each clean-up, divers are briefed on the importance of not removing rubbish that has become a marine creature's home.

The Hayah project is funded purely by blue o two, creating affordable eco-tourism for most divers.



'Everyone should be able to afford to help,' says blue o two company director Jason Strickland. 'We want to prove that responsible tourism is possible for a mainstream business in this industry. From getting our divers actively involved to the education of our crew. We want to show that responsible tourism is not only possible, but vital if we are to sustain the dive travel industry in the future.'

www.blueotwo.com
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Manta mouth feeding

image: Guy Stevens

Spring has seen a huge number of manta ray sightings, particularly around the southern tip of the Sinai this year. To mark a month of mighty manta spots, **SAVE OUR SEAS** cameraman **Owen Bruce** kicks off his Red Sea Life series by looking at these 'angels of the sea'. Photographs by Guy Stevens.

Manta rays are the largest of the 500 ray species, reaching wingspans of more than 8m and weight exceeding 2,000kg. Mantas reach this enormous size by feeding solely on minute plankton.

They have large modified fins at the front of their head called cephalic lobes, which are unfurled while feeding to guide large volumes of plankton rich water into their enormous mouths. Once inside their mouths, modified gill rakers then filter out the plankton. The cephalic lobes are rolled up into hornlike projections when not in use – these 'horns' give rise to the family name 'devil ray' which includes the mantas and their smaller cousins the mobula rays (*Mobula tarapacana*). Unlike stingrays, manta rays have no sting in their tail and despite their considerable size are completely harmless to humans.

In 2008 manta ray researcher, Dr. Andrea Marshall of the Save Our Seas foundation, proved that there are two individual species of the ray we divers normally call the manta ray, possibly even a third. Based in Mozambique, Dr. Marshall used DNA and morphological analysis to describe a slightly smaller residential manta ray species (*Manta birostris*) and a larger migratory pelagic species (*Manta alfredi*). The smaller, more common species reaches sizes of up to 4m. The common manta will stay in

one area all year feeding away from the reef in the blue and regularly visiting cleaning stations on the reef.

The larger pelagic species is an ocean traveller. It travels great distances as it follows plankton on ocean currents, and relatively little is known of its behaviour. It has a far more elusive nature and is only ever encountered on offshore reefs and seamounts, where it travels to be cleaned or to follow plankton blooms carried close to reefs by ocean currents. This species can grow considerably larger than the resident mantas. Its size and behaviour varies slightly from the smaller resident species, as does its shape and colour. Both species are present in the Red Sea and regularly sighted throughout Egyptian waters. The smaller resident species is resident along the Egyptian coastline, while the larger pelagic mantas often visit the deeper offshore reefs of the Marsa Alam area and dive sites in Tiran and Ras Mohammed.



Manta mouth feeding

image: Guy Stevens

Pelagic mantas are far less curious towards divers than their smaller

relatives, and will generally shy away when approached. The dive sites around Near, Far and Middle Gardens in Sharm always seems to be a hot spot in the summer months for manta rays and their fellow planktivores, the whale sharks. This could be explained by an



Pelagic giant manta

image: Guy Stevens

MANTA MAY

upwelling of nutrient rich water that results in a localized summer plankton bloom in that area.

Conservation: Sadly, manta rays face many threats, both natural (it's not uncommon to see mantas with great circular chunks bitten out of their wings by large sharks) and from man. Pollution and even the propellers of boats can impact manta ray populations. However, the greatest threat is directly from fishermen. Manta ray flesh is a highly valued food source throughout the world. Their dried gill rakers are particularly desirable in traditional Chinese medicine. Mantas often succumb to gill nets intended to catch tuna and other open ocean species as wasteful bycatch. These factors have seen a rapid decrease in manta populations world wide and have led to their CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) status of 'near threatened'. But as yet total protection for these magnificent rays is still absent.

Both manta ray species are under threat and the recent classification for both species has great implications for their conservation. The more localised populations of the smaller resident mantas are prone to regional extinction in some areas, mainly because of local fishing pressures. The giant manta ray faces dire human threats because of the demand for their gills and flesh and their nomadic lifestyle.

Knowing so little about their movements and behaviour make it very difficult for scientists to formulate protection policies for the newly described pelagic manta ray. Effective conservation is made more complicated by the fact that they cover great distances on their migrations and in doing so cross many invisible legal boundaries.

Effective manta ray protection for both species must come in the form of total global protection from fishing and preventative measures to avoid by-catch such as reducing the usage of gill nets in open oceans. Instilling the understanding that manta rays are far more valuable to local communities as assets to the dive tourism industry than as a food source will help to reduce the impact of fishing. In Egyptian waters manta rays are still relatively abundant with regular sighting by divers and snorkellers year round. Summer is peak season, so if you are lucky enough to encounter this magnificent creature, spare a thought for where it may have come from and what its future may hold. And don't forget to record the sighting.



Marine Biologist Owen Bruce, 28, learned to dive in the Red Sea in 1996 and has worked all over the world since as a dive guide and marine life expert. He trained as a cameraman with the Malaysian-based company Scubazoo and now works as Save Our Seas Foundation HD camera crew.

For more information on the groundbreaking manta ray research conducted worldwide by the [Save Our Seas Foundation](http://www.saveourseas.org) and numerous other conservation, education and production



Interview:

Sara Campbell

Dahab-based Sara Campbell hit the freediving scene like a whirlwind back in 2007 when she smashed three national records within 48 hours – all in 12 months of taking up the sport. Two years on, the 37-year-old is now on the verge of becoming the first woman in the world to break the elusive 100m in the constant weight discipline. In constant weight, competitors power themselves with no added weights and only a guide rope to follow to the target depth.

While the loss of her mother last year saw Sara miss out on the 2008 world championships, the British freediving wonder has clearly sent the message out with her staggering records this year that she is back and even stronger. Her depth record of 96m, completed in three mins and 34 seconds at the in the Bahamas in April, with just 17 dives under her belt this year, highlighted what incredible ability she has physiologically, physically and psychologically.

Affectionately known as Mighty Mouse – she only measures in at 4ft 11in in height – Sara has been a Dahabian for nearly five years. Her new life in the freediving Mecca followed many years spent in the London rat race running a high-level PR company. She describes her move to Egypt as a courageous jump, and one that eventually led her on a path to world freediving champion status.

What brought you to the Red Sea?

I came on a week long holiday back in December 2004. I was stressed out and wanted to learn to scuba and do some yoga to relax. I was running my own PR company in South London and teaching yoga. In just a few days, Dahab worked it's magic and I ended up phoning home to tell them I wasn't coming back for Christmas. I think it was a bit of a shock to my family, but I wasn't ready to go back to the stress of London at that time of year.

Then as it came closer to going home, I was worried about heading back to London. I knew the city would take its grip on me again and that any thoughts of moving to Dahab would just become a holiday dream. Two days after arriving back, however, I was off again to Egypt. I made a big commitment, but it was the best decision I could have made.

Why did you start freediving?

When I first moved to Dahab I used to think that freediving was dangerous. I had a flatmate fairly early on who suffered a lung squeeze. Having seen him in yoga struggling, it put me off. I was also not psychologically ready to take on freediving at the time – I'm very competitive and didn't want to end up pushing myself beyond my limits.

My yoga students who were freedivers kept saying I should give it a go because I could hold my breath for so long in classes. A year later I said: 'Okay, fine.' I loved it. It just made me so happy. When you freedive you have to clear your mind, you can't carry the daily bullshit with you.

How do you think freediving compares to scuba?

The word 'free' really sums it up for me. I remember when I was at the Blue Planet Aquarium in the UK for a charity dive in the shark tank and was told I had to wear scuba. They weren't sure how the sharks would react to me freediving. It was my first time in scuba for two years. There were things I suddenly couldn't do. The freedom of movement in freediving is amazing compared to scuba. Although we share a love of the ocean and the underwater environment, scuba divers remain spectators while freedivers become part of the environment, become

the fish. I have to admit though when I freedive in the Blue Hole and see the family of tuna at 50m in the entrance to the beautiful arch, then I do wish I had a tank to stay there for a while.

What makes a good freediver?

If someone has the physical ability, then it is the mental aspect which makes them a good or brilliant freediver. I have started coaching now and I am seeing a lot of people turning early from a dive because they have had a negative thought. Yoga has been central in helping me to reach a point of relaxation and deep meditation for the dives and not to allow the mind to bring in negative thoughts.

What's special about freediving in Dahab?

Freedive Dahab's Lotta Ericson [former world and national record-holder from Sweden] and Linda Paganelli [national record-holder from Italy] coached me from the very beginning and took me through the competitions. I had excellent teachers. Dahab is a freediving Mecca; you are always seeing the top-level competitors coming through. But they are always so willing to help newbies and take time out. They are so open and supportive.

What goes through your mind when you are diving to depths of 100m on a single breath?

I'm focusing on the dive process and what happens to my body. You have to focus 100 per cent on what you are doing and be totally in the now. It's all about being in the moment. In one of my training dives I experienced severe nitrogen narcosis symptoms. It was a rushing, pounding sensation, as if I could hear every single cell in my body working. I focused on equalisation and keeping nitrogen narcosis in perspective to make sure I stayed in control.

What's the best place in Egypt to freedive?

Well, the Blue Hole for training is awesome.

When I was on a blue o two liveaboard last year I got to freedive the Thistlegorm. It was my first wreck and I loved it, even though there was quite a bit of current and a lot of boats. Then we went to Abu Nuhas and it was like a millpond. I dived the Giannis D for about two hours. Each dive time was longer because I was enjoying it so much. For marine life, I love all sorts. I once had a cleaner wrasse come and sit in my hand which was great. I've also had lovely dives in Naama with a turtle and eagle rays. I'd love to swim with whale sharks, that's as long as I don't freak them out too much.

What would be your ultimate achievement?

Well at the moment it's all about 100m, but can you imagine 120m? I still have air in my mouth at 100m on training dives. However, it's all about having the strength to come back up.

At what point will you stop competitive freediving?

I don't know. I love freediving. It's not about numbers and records – they're a bonus, but not a driving force. The future? Well, I've met someone and it looks like being 'the one'. I also want to have kids, so who knows.

One of the keys to Sara's meteoric success is her yoga and meditation. When Sara discovered freediving she had been practicing and teaching Kundalini Yoga for years. Kundalini builds a strong self-belief system, developing confidence and the courage to test the body and try new things. It also teaches us surrender and trust, and supreme mental focus and control, all of which are major factors in successful freediving. Sara combines her yoga and meditation expertise with her experience as a fitness instructor and her aquatic skills to help other freedivers 'Discover their Depths' – a unique and powerful approach to developing freediving skills.

Contact details: sara@sarafreediver.com
tel: 012 744 5646 / www.sarafreediver.com

“I'm focusing on the dive process and what happens to my body. You have to focus 100 per cent on what you are doing and be totally in the now. It's all about being in the moment.”



Compact cameras: choosing the right underwater system



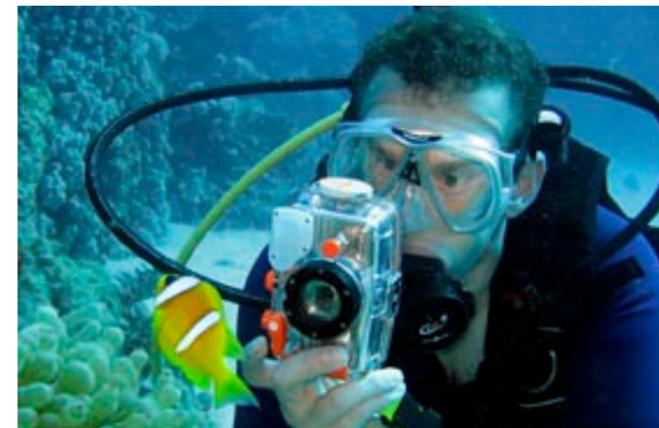
Before you even get wet in underwater photography you are faced with a whole mass of systems and gadgets from which to choose to take the shots you want on your dive. In the first of her new skills and advice series for photographers, compact underwater camera aficionado **Maria Munn** offers her advice on buying the system that best suits you.

Underwater Photography is now easier than ever before thanks to the huge advancement and choice in affordable underwater housings for digital compact cameras. Easily manageable and user-friendly little compacts are often a great toy to tuck into the BC pocket so that spectacular encounter can be captured. So what do you look for when choosing a compact camera for underwater use?

Megapixels

Will more megapixels give you a better picture and should you ditch your older model for a newer one? A six-megapixel camera can produce some beautiful A3 prints. On canvas a six-megapixel image can be blown up to 2m-high – more than big enough for most homes. It is true that the newer cameras out today have the ability to take photos underwater much faster as there is less shutter delay and you can also crop the photograph far more and still be left with a reasonably sized image when choosing a camera with 10 megapixels or more (just watch out for digital grain/noise creeping into an image when shooting at higher film speeds).

However, as long as you get close to your subject (within a foot for macro shots) and fill the frame with your subject, press your finger half-way down to focus before taking your shot, there is no reason why you can't take fabulous photographs with older camera models. And of course if you like taking photographs of static subjects such as wrecks or smaller subjects like clams and corals, a slower shutter delay is never going to cause a problem. The top tip is to make sure that your film speed is set to 200 to ensure sharp shots.



Housing controls

Before purchasing, make sure that you can see the controls underwater and that you have access to the on/off buttons, film speed and white balance settings during a dive. Also, make sure the battery has some chance of lasting at least an hour or more (always buy a spare one just in case).

Being able to pre-set the camera's white balance with a white card or the palm of your hand whilst underwater has made it so much easier to bring colour back into any underwater photographs. It offers a great way for any beginner to get started into the wonderful world of underwater photography. For those looking to make underwater photography a more serious hobby, the need for full manual controls where you can change both the aperture and shutter speed independently is a must. These features allow you to get really creative shots underwater.

Accessories

So what accessories does your compact really need to be able to get great underwater shots? Unfortunately, there isn't a simple answer to this as it all depends on the individual and what subjects they are planning to shoot. Do you like taking photographs of close-up subjects such as anemonefish or lionfish, for example? If so, you might not need to purchase any extras as your built-in flash will do a superb job in capturing these subjects. Just remember to set your flash to forced flash, press the macro (often depicted with a tulip icon), keep your finger pressed half-way on the shutter release button to focus first, and get within a foot of your subject for wonderful colour and punch to your subject.



Strobe

For those who have one of the newer Canon Powershot Range in Canon housings, such as the G7, 9 or 10 models you will need a small strobe to be able to avoid shadow issues caused by the housing's port being larger than the Ixus models.

Wide-angle lens

The Red Sea is unique in having so many world-class wrecks and caverns to explore, not to mention big animals, making a wide-angle lens a must-have accessory for any compact camera. Make sure that you can add one on at a later date before purchasing if you happen to be a wreck-junkie like me. Different manufacturers such as Epoque, INON, Sea & Sea or Fantasea make wide-angle lenses, which can either be attached direct to the housings or can be attached via an adaptor. Just remember to make sure that it is firmly in place before a dive, otherwise it may end up as treasure for a future diver to find.



Video Mode

The Video Mode in the newer models is now much better to be able to record underwater video. Canon Ixus or Powershot users can access their white balance menu while in video mode and can shoot in beautiful colour by presetting the white balance with a white card. They can also record wrecks in black and white in fairly good definition. The newer Sea & Sea models, such as the 1200, also make it possible for divers to record in high definition while also accessing the white balance menu. Other models will need an external filter or a Magic Filter to be able to replace colour while in video mode. With all the models, always remember to push the macro button while in movie mode for extra definition and sharpness. Making an underwater movie has never been so easy or so much fun.

Whether you are shooting pictures or video, the principles are the same, always remember to get as close as possible to your subject, (without harming any corals or disturbing the marine life) and get level or underneath your subject. Underwater Photography can be really addictive and I'm already looking forward to sharing more tips and tricks to ensure you all come home with fabulous photos in future editions. Stay safe and have fun!

Maria runs tailor-made Underwater Photography Trips for Digital Compact Cameras for all levels in Nuweiba, Egypt with Emperor Divers.

Find out more: www.oceanvisions.co.uk

How Green Is Your Team?



Monitoring coral reefs

In the first of a new series to explore the work watersports businesses in Egypt are doing to help preserve the marine environment, BLUE checks out Clean Sharm award-winners Camel Dive Club.



Sharm el Sheikh based Camel Dive Club & Hotel has been awarded the first-ever Clean Sharm Company of the Month award to recognise its initiatives to help the environment. The centre developed its Eco Tribe group in September last year to help to preserve the marine environment and educate guests and the local community about the importance of eco-friendly diving tourism.

As well as organising a number of clean-ups both underwater and topside at places such as Ras Katy public beach, the Eco Tribe has organised lectures at St Joseph's school in the Hadaba area to educate local children about the marine environment.

'Camel received the award for various important measures that contribute to a cleaner Sharm, and protection of the unique South Sinai eco-system both on land and underwater,' said Clean Sharm. Clean Sharm is an active community group, which was set up to help promote environmentally friendly waste disposal and clean-ups in residential areas of Sharm el Sheikh.

Clean Sharm highlighted a number of green measures taken by Camel within its dive centres, hotel, bars and restaurants that made it a worthy award winner. These include a ban on plastic bags within all of its outlets and the installation of a 40-kilowatt generating solar panel in the centre's training pool – the first system of its kind to be used in the Middle East. Other initiatives include the reduction of printed paper use and a towel re-use programme, which has reduced the laundry within the hotel by 30 per cent. Outside the Camel complex, the centre has purchased four new dustbins for the central Naama Bay jetty to tackle the problem of discarded rubbish

in the water. Disposable plastic cups have also been banned from all its diving boats and replaced by re-usable mugs.

Eco-Tribe is headed and organised by one of Camel's technical diving instructors Cath Bates who continually updates staff on environmental issues, news and provides education materials specific to the local marine ecosystem. She says such measures ensure factual information is given to guests about the local marine life, as well as raising awareness about the Red Sea marine environment. Guest speakers from around the world, such as well-known shark conservationists have been invited to present to staff and guests at the Camel Tribe Gatherings on Friday nights in the Camel Bar. These are well attended by staff and guests. Presentations at Camel are also organised to help to inform local tour company representatives about the Red Sea and how to help encourage non-divers to avoid harming the environment.

Much of Camel's Eco Tribe work underwater relies heavily on staff dedicating their time to take part in particular projects, including monitoring coral and underwater life on local reefs and uploading sighting data to help marine conservation research projects around the world.

The Eco-Tribe actively supports and provides data for a quite a number of worldwide projects: Coral Watch reef monitoring, Shark Trust sightings database, Red Sea Turtle Project, among others, as well as collections of signatures for campaigns such as European Shark Week.

'To receive the first-ever Clean Sharm award is recognition of all the hard work has given the team a real boost. It is surprising how much



Eco-Tribe organiser Cath Bates



Team from Camel collect the Clean Sharm award



The Eco-Tribe team

support we have had from all the departments in Camel, not just the instructors in the diving centre,' says Cath. 'Many of my colleagues were shocked when I showed them statistics of clean-up items collected across the globe. We have discussed that Project Aware believes the world's reefs may be gone in the next 50 years. If we don't try to reduce carbon emissions and change the course of global warming, our kids may not enjoy diving as we do. Clean Sharm makes us recognise that the community can pull together and make simple but effective changes.'

Cath says there are lots of other schemes in the pipeline for the Eco Tribe in 2009. In July and August this year two marine biologists from Plymouth and Manchester universities will be hosted by Camel to help guests and staff learn more about biodiversity. The trips will be fully funded by the centre, as an education-exchange scheme.

Camel Eco Tribe: www.cameldive.com/eco-tribe.htm
Clean Sharm: www.cleansharm.org.



A sponsored bin at Naama Jetty



Beach clean-up at Ras Katy

Are you a Green Team?
email us your eco-credentials at charlotte.boan@cdws.travel

Camel School

Egypt's resident watersports professionals report on their favourite dry-land short breaks.

Long-term Sharm el Sheikh resident and regular St Catherine's National Park visitor Clare Mucklow joined the two-day trip organised by Mohamed's Camel Camp in April 2009. For more information see: www.yallajabaleya.com



Learn to ride a camel independently, in a day? And without saddle sores? This was our mission, as I and five other slightly sceptical but enthusiastic ladies descended the wadi (valley) to Mohamed's camel camp in St Catherine's National Park.

Our Bedouin teachers selected a camel for each of us, and demonstrated how to use sounds and physical contact to manoeuvre them. The secret to a comfortable camel ride lies in the shape of the saddle, so we learned how to adjust it for a perfect fit. To everyone's amazement, after a morning equally divided between learning, practicing, and laughing, we had mastered enough to make a short trek. Supervised by our teachers, we kept the camels at a comfortable pace as we passed Byzantine ruins and gardens, becoming confident enough to jog in places. By now my camel, Simsim, and I, had bonded. With a growing sense of achievement and exhilaration (and no saddle sores), I knew I would be coming back.

Clare Mucklow

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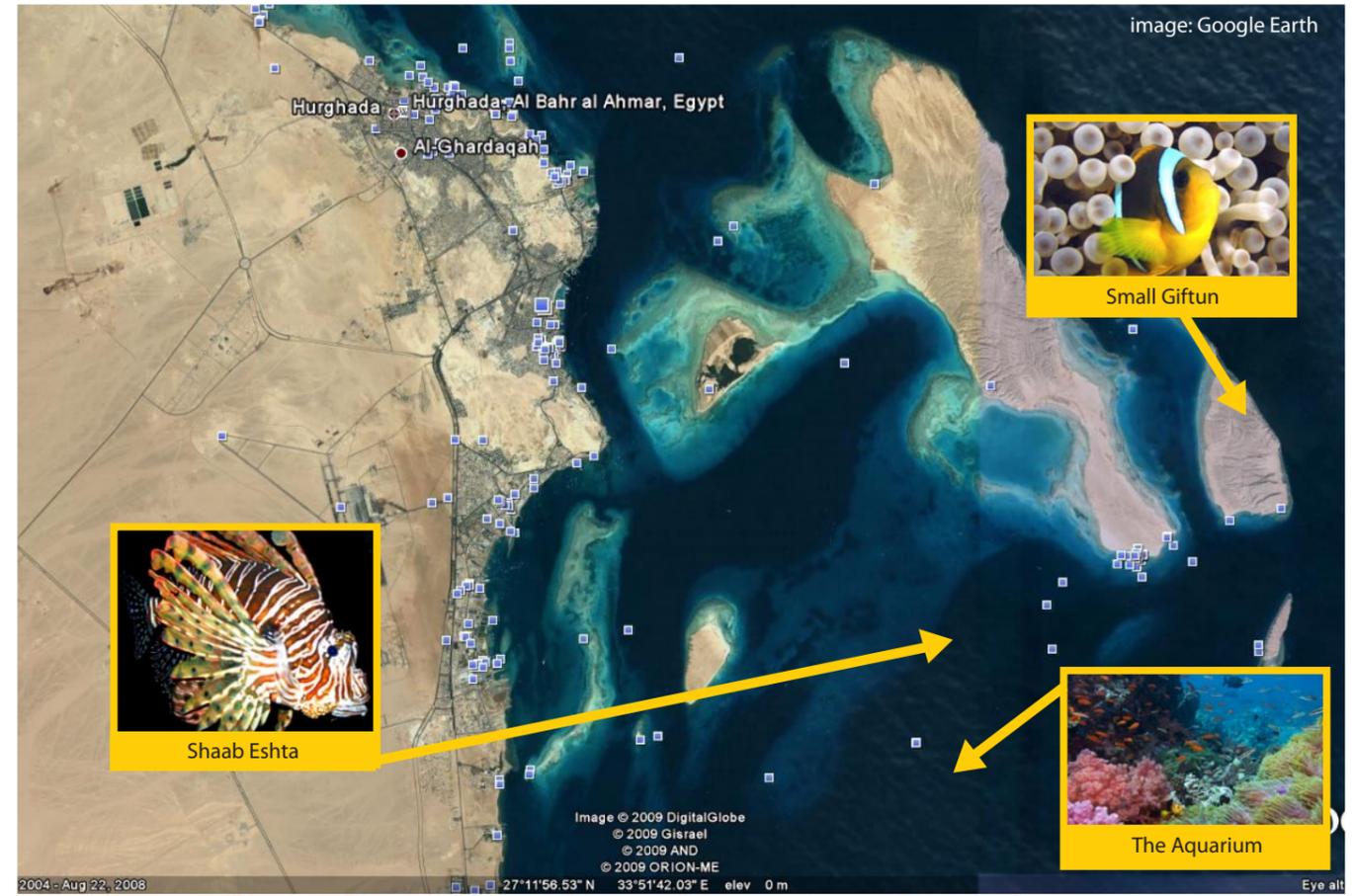
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Next issue: August / September 2009

HURGHADA TOP THREE

One of the Egypt's oldest and most established diving destinations, Hurghada is well known for its excellent variety of wrecks and reef sites to explore. The underwater treats here are not exclusive to those with scuba; it also has some fantastic spots for snorkellers, all within easy reach of its 40km of beaches. We don our masks and snorkels and take a look at the pick of Hurghada's best.



Small Giftun

The Giftun islands in the National Marine Park are a must-visit for both divers and snorkellers. Best done as a full day trip, it takes around one hour to reach the shore, where you can lunch and relax at the stunning Mahmya Beach between snorkels. Mahmya Beach is one of the only constructions allowed on Giftun and has a famous seafood restaurant, bar and beach lounging area. The Small Giftun snorkelling area is of depths of between 6m and 18m and, as it is the protected area of the south, is exposed to very little or no current. Visibility is generally excellent, with a range of between 10m and 20m. If you venture onto the plateau, you are virtually guaranteed to see napoleons and moray eels. All over you are likely to find a variety of life, including blue spotted rays, painted triggerfish and crocodilefish.

The Aquarium

Also reached by boat and covered as a full-day excursion, the Aquarium is an excellent site for snorkellers as it is covered in reef and fish life and has visibility ranging from 20m to up to 35m. Ranging from depths of between 5m and 16m, you will find yellowfish, banner fish, blue cheek butterflyfish, masked butterflyfish, yellow snapper, goatfish, crocodilefish and sweet lips. Some of the larger visitors to the Aquarium include giant morays, jackfish, turtles and eagle rays. In September, watch out for the titan triggerfish carefully guarding their nests. The area around the Aquarium is exposed to very little current.

Shaab Eshta

Translated as 'cream of the reefs' in Arabic, Shaab Eshta is a reef split by a narrow channel and offers fantastic diversity in life and typography. Reaching depths of between 6m and 13m, the visibility is generally around 10m to 20m range. In the turtle grass look for schools of lionfish and bluelined emperorfish, as well as stingrays, turtles and even sea horses. Venture between the narrow gullies in the reef and you are likely to find a school of goatfish, sweetlips and snappers. Go south to find a resident school of hatchetfish. On the rubble slope you are likely to spot stonefish, humpback scorpionfish and crocodilefish. Keep one eye out around the reef for a Malabar grouper often seen patrolling Shaab Eshta.

Special thanks to Ilios Dive Club in Hurghada (www.iliosdiveclub.de) for its help with this feature.

Plastic not-so-fantastic



Plastic bags are a major topic being discussed by residents throughout the Red Sea's diving destinations, as a total ban of their use looks set to happen this year. According to a Sharm el Sheikh resident-led conservation group Clean Sharm a plastic bag ban in South Sinai and Red Sea will likely start from 1 August 2009.

'From that day alternatives for plastic bags should be used, such as the cotton bags for shopping that will be made available to consumers by Clean Sharm, if necessary, and bio-degradable bags for garbage collection,' Clean Sharm said.

The group has been working tirelessly to push for the ban and educate not only tourists and the expat community about the damage caused by plastic bag waste, but also local schools and shopkeepers. It is currently appealing for volunteer help (www.cleansharm.org).

In Hurghada, environmental group HEPCA has been looking at similar schemes to provide cotton and canvas bags as alternatives.

Banning plastic bags has become a global phenomenon over the past few years. The recent jaw-dropping revelation that the ban in China has saved 1.6 million tonnes of oil in a year, shows what impact our simple shopping carrier bags can have on the environment. The ban in China was introduced a year ago and has significantly reduced waste and helped change attitudes, according to the China Chain Store and Franchise Association.

Plastic bag use in China has fallen by two-thirds, as consumers have now grown accustomed to using their own re-useable bags. That's a saving of 40 billion dumped plastic bags.

Anyone who needs further evidence of the detrimental impact plastic pollution, need look no further than the shocking photographs of the vortex of rubbish floating in the Pacific between Hawaii and the US mainland. This floating plastic waste is the size of Texas and is growing. More than 80 per cent comes from land around the Pacific and North America.

The ocean and its inhabitants remain the main victims of this pollution problem. Discarded plastic is responsible for the death of many seabirds, turtle, whales and seals around the world. There are an estimated 46,000 pieces of non-degradable plastic in every square mile of the ocean posing a threat to around 267 species.

Among the records of dead animals from the Marine Conservation Society database in the UK was an endangered leatherback turtle which was found with 57kg of plastic bags blocking its insides. A minke whale was found washed up in France with 800kg of plastic bags inside its gut.

And it's not only the actual plastic that poses a threat, but also the chemicals in the plastic, which have been found to cause problems in the immune systems of animals. A plastic bag may take anything from 450 to a thousand years to break down, but even when you reach that point, the dust of microscopic particles it produces could send fatal toxins down the marine life food chain.

This doesn't make for light reading. That's why many in our community are looking into and promoting plastic bag alternatives for shopping.

Your views:



What's the best way to encourage communities and tourists in Egypt to stop using plastic bags?

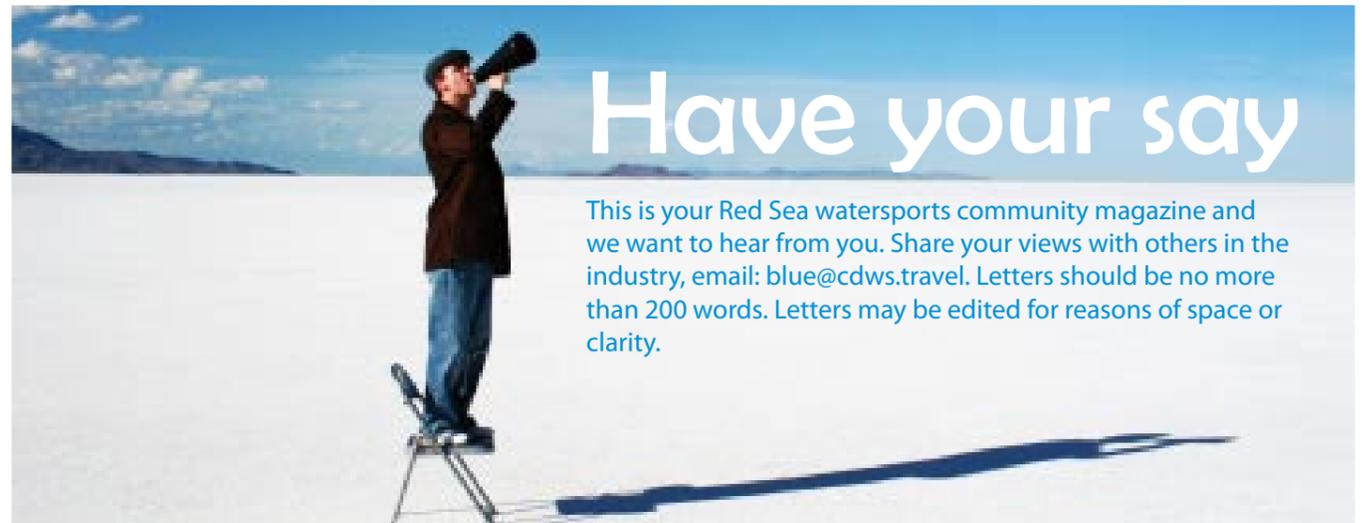
'No plastic bags for free in the supermarket any longer, like Europe. Raise money to give cotton bag to locals with less money, such as kids in schools. Perhaps a welcome gift from hotels to tourists could be a cotton bag with hotel logo.' *Martina Aziz, dive centre marketing manager in Hurghada. She uses a basket to carry her shopping.*

'Let people use cotton bags to put their shopping in.' *Ahmed Nubi, divemaster in Dahab. He uses his backpack to carry his shopping.*

'Charge at least 5LE for each plastic bag at a shop. Educate the sales persons and community about the problem plastic bags cause, as many still don't know. Sell cotton bags at the counter or give out re-useable paper bags for free instead of plastic bags.' *Matthias Briet, dive centre managing director in Hurghada. He uses cotton bags he bought in Europe in 1993 to carry his shopping.*

'Charge for plastic bags.' *Sigrid Moors, dive centre marketing manager and open water instructor who works in Dahab. She uses her 'Cuban basket' to carry her shopping.*

'Don't make them available. Hit the retail sector and offer free promotional bags with advertising on them at a low cost.' *Victoria Bell, safari boat reservations manager in Sharm el Sheikh. She uses a bag made from recycled material that folds down to compact size for her shopping.*

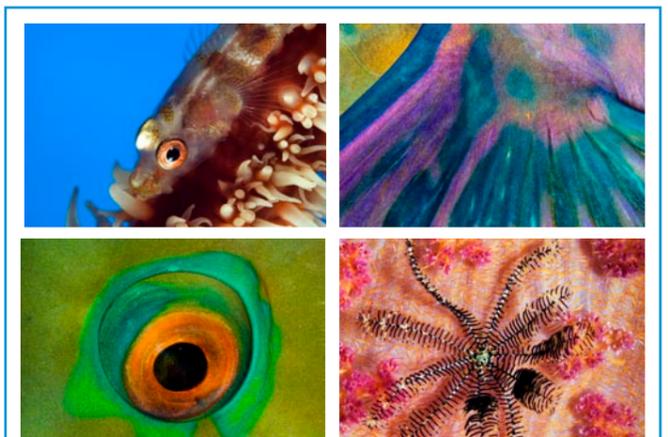


This is your Red Sea watersports community magazine and we want to hear from you. Share your views with others in the industry, email: blue@cdws.travel. Letters should be no more than 200 words. Letters may be edited for reasons of space or clarity.



Celebrity look-a-likes

Do you know a watersports professional working in Egypt who looks like a famous celebrity? Send your pictures to blue@cdws.travel



Get the picture

Can you identify the Red Sea creature from these fantastic underwater art pictures taken by Kimmo Hagman? Answers in issue 2.

I Heard a Rumour That...

Rumours, rumours, rumours, you'd have to have your head buried in the sand underwater not to hear a few when living in Egypt's hot spot diving destinations. And, it seems, sometimes too much desert sun and salt water in the ears can make you believe the craziest of things. To help us filter out some of the best and funniest bar stories, our Sharm el Sheikh resident gossip guru will be reporting in their own unique style straight from the divers' mouth

'Apparently they were going to plant pineapple trees on the Hilton Fayrouz beach and the Teletubbies were going to be at the planting opening ceremony. Seriously! Okay, well, we started this rumour one night years ago over a few drinks at the Pirates Bar, and made bets as to how long it would take to come right back to us.

I bet on 24 hours, and would you 'pineapple and eve it', the very next evening a fellow Sharmer excitedly came to us with almost the same rumour! It wasn't just the Teletubbies hitting town to plant the pineapple trees. Apparently, Elton John was also coming to sing a slightly altered rendition of one of his most popular songs now called 'Pineapples in the Wind'.



Rumours. You either love them or hate them. They are so often wrong, but they just won't stop. I just heard a rumour that the dustmen are coming round more often and that we have loads of new bins. Yeah right, like I believe that!

[Ed's note: well, we can happily report the bin rumour is true, shame about the Teletubbies though]

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100% pure rush
100% pure kiteboarding

Ever wondered what it's like to feel the power of the wind lift you from the surface of the sea?

Colona Watersports is offering one lucky reader the chance to learn to **KITEBOARD** with a **two-day IKO Kiteboarding Level 1** course at its centre in Hurghada **WORTH 220 EUROS!**

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a road less travelled...



image: Sinai Divers

'And what seems to be the problem young man?'

'Well Doctor, every time I drink my tea I get a pain in my right eye. Should I switch to coffee?'

'No, just try taking the spoon out of the cup first!'

Advice is freely available in the dive industry too, but what do we say to our guests and students when they come to us with the problems they experience in the water? Like a doctor, we have been trained to diagnose and remedy in a wide variety of areas where a diver can benefit and improve. Here's a typical wish list from some divers looking to step up a notch or two:

- Lower air consumption
- Perfect buoyancy control
- Superior problem solving and risk management ability
- Better understanding of equipment
- An increase in knowledge but in an interesting and exciting way
- New things to see
- New things to do
- Longer underwater
- And maybe going deeper underwater

Sometimes we offer specialty courses in these areas, which are often one or two day short courses. However, more recently many are finding that a three-day entry-level technical diving course will also give them everything they need and more. The good thing about technical dive training is that all areas of your diving improves. It's not just about learning new skills. A technical diving instructor, for instance, is also a recreational diving instructor. That is a pre-requisite for the rating.

It's not all about going deep and talking funny, as some may think. To go deep, you have to learn shallow first. For pilot training you have to learn to fly low before you can fly high. To perform surgery, you have to first be a doctor and at least dress a wound or two first. Technical instructors have at least ten diver ratings under their belt, including four at professional teaching levels, including recreational. In other words, they've done exactly what recreational professionals have done and much more.

So how can a tech instructor help with your recreational diving? Well, their mastery of equipment, knowledge, buoyancy control and dive planning has been achieved through the stages of recreational and into technical decompression diving, where breaking ceilings or exceeding depth is not an option. Keeping to plan and knowing breathing gas consumption at all times makes them very efficient and relaxed divers. They look slow and graceful, even with extra tanks, because moving around exerting energy increases breathing rates and shortens a dive. A relaxed diver is not just more capable of solving a problem but also of avoiding them in the first place. Learning advanced buoyancy and weighting techniques on technical courses will give you this level of competence.

A beginner recreational diver certification requires a diver to hover for at least a minute on a qualifying dive. A technical dive requires you to maintain good buoyancy for the entire dive. And that's barely scratching the surface. Tech courses, by their very nature, get you closer to in-water perfection more than any other form of dive training.

Afterwards, you can take your newly acquired skills back into single tank recreational diving and hover like a Harrier jump-jet. The only thing that will drop like a stone is likely to be your air consumption rate.

The Red Sea is home to many established technical diving instructors. Tap them on the shoulder and ask a few questions. We're more than happy to chat about how we can help you grow. Safe and happy diving.

John Kean

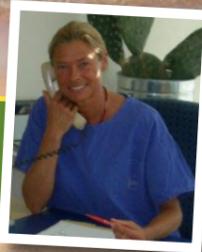


A well-known name in technical diving in the Red Sea, John Kean is a long-term resident of the Sinai and has worked in the diving industry for 11 years. Both a PADI Master Instructor and a TDI Trimix Instructor, he still actively teaches and guides at all levels of diving. John has more than 1,000 student certifications and over 4,000 Red Sea dives to his name. He is the author of *SS Thistlegorm: The True Story of the Red Sea's Greatest Shipwreck* and also writes regularly for European-based diving magazines.

Nitrox use: the pros and cons for working divers



The majority of dive centres and safari boats offer oxygen enriched air (EAN) in a bid to make scuba safer and reduce the incidence of decompression sickness (DCS) among diving tourists. But what about dive guides and instructors, is it the best gas for them? In the first of her series of columns on medical issues, world-renowned diving doctor Dr Anke Fabian explores the question.



Nitrox reduces the nitrogen saturation when diving according to air tables remarkably, however, at the same time it increases the percentage of oxygen uptake and ppO_2 (partial pressure of oxygen) with increasing depths. Some dive guides and instructors prefer to stick to compressed air over nitrox. The reasons given are mostly connected to the fear of oxygen toxicity. But is this a real cause for concern?

Let's first compare the advantage of a reduced nitrogen uptake with the risks caused by a higher oxygen level. There are two forms of oxygen toxicity with two different target organs: lungs (chronic oxygen toxicity) and the brain (acute oxygen toxicity).

Also known in medical fields as the Lorraine Smith Effect, pulmonary oxygen toxicity is a direct time/dose relationship on the lungs caused by a direct effect of O_2 when the ppO_2 is continuously exceeding 0.6 bar for a long period. It leads to a thickening of the lung membranes, swelling, collapse of the alveolus (small sacks for gas exchange) and lung oedema (liquid in the lungs). This then causes an insufficient gas exchange and a lack of oxygen. Medically speaking, this concerns mostly patients in intensive care units. In diving – especially with air oxygen enriched air (nitrox) – the time is comparably shorter depending on the depth. Still, it takes a minimum of ten to 15 hours exposure time at ppO_2 of 1.7 bar to force the first, even non-permanent, damage of the lungs. Dive guides may want calculate the dive profile and necessary decompression times for such a dive!

The second form of acute oxygen toxicity targets the brain in the form of generalised cramps and fits, which are very similar to an epileptic fit, often referred to by medical professionals as the Paul Bert Effect. It mostly leads to unconsciousness and drowning, as there is almost no way to survive it under water. The acute oxygen intoxication depends mostly on the actual ppO_2 (critical ppO_2 is 1.7), but is also related to

the dive time, temperature, individual daily condition and breathing frequency (oxygen uptake) during the dive. Recommendations for the MOD (maximum operating depth) in nitrox and the bottom- or decompression mixes in technical diving are given below the critical ppO_2 at 1.4 or 1.6 in consideration of the additional risk factors. A 100 per cent mix of oxygen is the only life-sustaining medical treatment, which is scientifically proven to be beneficial as a first treatment in case of a dive accident, irrespective of the gas mix used by the diver.

Other disadvantages of using nitrox include explosive risks (dealing with 100 per cent pure oxygen at the filling station) and the need to have special equipment (depending on the oxygen percentage in the gas mix). Each tank needs to be analyzed for O_2 content in the presence of the proposed user or by the user himself – this takes time, as there is usually only one analyzer available at any one time. Another possible mistake could be the selection of an inappropriate mixture for the depth of the particular dive.

Advantages for nitrox users in relation to the nitrogen saturation in all body compartments (slow and fast tissues) are either a longer no-stop time on the basis of equivalent air depth, or a safer decompression if one sticks to the air tables. The advantages of diving with nitrox on an air-table are obvious in all cases where reducing the risk of decompression sickness risk in areas such as a PFO (patent foramen ovale) which leads to shunting microbubbles within a small hole in the heart; those with history of decompression sickness; or divers with a high body mass index.

Recommended use of nitrox

So when thinking about the benefits and risks, while keeping the depth limits for recreational diving in the Red Sea in mind (40 m), one

Nitrox myth buster:

Does diving on nitrox reduce tiredness and the incidence of headaches after diving?

There is no scientific proof that the use of nitrox makes a dive less tiring or prevents headaches. Some divers actually report this to be the case, for others there is no change.

Is nitrox compensating for nicotine and alcohol consumption, decompression mistakes or fast ascents?

No. The use of nitrox can make a dive safer when the user sticks to the rules. It never compensates and excuses mistakes and behaviours of the diver on land or in the water.

Should a dive accident after a dive on nitrox or other oxygen enriched gases be treated with 100 per cent normobaric or even hyperbaric oxygen?

Yes. In any case without discussion – 100 per cent normobaric oxygen is even indicated after acute oxygen intoxication with cramps or fits.

wonders how anybody is still diving on compressed air. But we have also to consider a typical work day of a dive guide or instructor, as this mostly requires repetitive diving as well as 'yoyo' profiles to attend to all divers in a group.

As doctors, we would in general agree on the use of nitrox to minimize the residual nitrogen time as much as possible and reduce the risk of decompression sickness for all our dive guides and instructors. However, a dive above a well-protected sandy bottom which ends at 20m is a scenario very different to diving a drop-off at Brother Islands where there is a risk of losing a diver to depth or currents. In such situations, you are faced with the risk of exceeding the depth limit of the gas mix used.

With all of this in mind, it is near impossible to give an overall and universally valid general recommendation for the use of nitrox for professional divers working in recreational diving.

Before every individual dive, one has to consider the worst case in regards of the depth. The dive guide might find himself in a situation where he faces the difficult decision between rescuing a lost diver from a deeper depth than his actual gas mix as nitrox would allow. For this he puts himself at risk and compromises his responsibility to the rest of the group.

A reasonable approach to the issue then seems to be to use nitrox mixes in recreational diving, whenever the depth is, or can be, limited, such as repetitive shallower dives, confined areas, when diving with children, and with beginner groups and intro-divers.

NEW WRECK BOOK - AVAILABLE HERE

Review extracts of the original title
 "...Bursting with never-seen-before photography...this book features eyewitness accounts of Thistlegorm's final moments. Detailed descriptions of the wreck today complete this book, making it a must for any Red Sea wreck fans."
Sport Diver Magazine

"...John Kean is the author of the most definitive book ever written about this icon shipwreck."
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 The first full-length photograph of SS Thistlegorm underwater (four page pull-out)
 Previously unpublished photographs of Thistlegorm on the surface in Argentina during WW2
 Interview with award winning BBC documentary maker Caroline Hawkins, who produced 'Last Voyage of the Thistlegorm'
 Rare archive material, survivor war records and personal letters from the Albyn Line
 Pictures of newly discovered wreckage found 150m from the ship's resting place
 SS Thistlegorm – news of the latest moorings project
 Diving the wreck – a day at sea and how to get the most out of your trip

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By John Kean
SS Thistlegorm – The True Story of the Red Sea's Greatest Ship Wreck



available at Beyond Limits €29 & online at
<http://www.ssthistlegorm.com/html/bookshop.html>

Photo By Yann Vautrin



Situated to the far north of the Egyptian Red Sea, the relaxed diving resort of Taba is a popular location for those looking to get away from the crowds and explore the vibrant reefs that fringe the tip of the Gulf of Aqaba. This Sinai Peninsular town is famed for its macro life and is one of the best places in the Red Sea to encounter frogfish in virtually current-free conditions, as well as a plethora of small critters such as octopus, morays, nudibranchs, pipefish, stonefish, and sea moths.

Good visibility and lack of current means Taba's waters offer an excellent environment in which to learn to dive and also provide hassle-free conditions for underwater photographers. There are few dive boats operating in the area, so there will only ever be a few divers on each dive.

Overlooked by the neighbouring countries of Israel, Saudi Arabia and Jordan around the Gulf of Aqaba, another advantage of a stay here is the day trips available to some of the region's best topside attractions, such as the stunning rock-carved city of Petra, the Wadi Rum desert, the Dead Sea, Jerusalem and Cairo.

There are more than 25 dive sites around Taba, with more still being discovered. Most of the diving available is by a short boat journey. To tune in with the relaxed approach to holiday time here, centres offer flexibility on the number of dives visitors wish to do each day with full day, half day and single dive trips available by boat. One of the best dives around Taba is the Canyon, where you are likely to see a colourful collection of frogfish at a coral bommie around 5m. Moving across the sandy bottom, which is peppered with tiny critters and stonefish, you reach a split in the reef that descends to 30m. The reef wall here is encrusted with life, including octopus, ghost pipefish and more frogfish. The Black Coral dive site, also accessible by shore, is where you will find a cleaning station for coral groupers as well as a huge collection of moray eels and hunting lionfish.

The Aquarium is another top site, as it offers a very gentle drift dive past life-filled coral bommies and a mass of fish swimming around the cleaning stations.

The standard of house reef diving here is excellent, with a chance to see life such as turtles, beautiful red anemones and good soft and hard coral cover.

The town of Taba itself can be split into three areas: Taba Village, which is located close to the Israeli border; Taba Heights approximately 20 minutes drive south where there is a complex of hotels; and also the Taba Coast area where there are yet another two large hotels.

Getting there: By far the easiest way to get to Taba is to fly direct into Taba International airport. Alternatively visitors can fly to the southern Sinai resort of Sharm El Sheikh and be transferred by road 180km through the desert mountains and coastal roads. The transfer takes between two and three hours. Taxis can be arranged through the dive centre at a cost of approximately 400LE (Egyptian Pounds) each way. Alternatively the transfers can be arranged by the tour operator if you opt for a holiday package with accommodation, flights and diving included.

The following diving operators in Taba have met ISO standards EN 14467 / ISO 24803 for diving as agreed with Egypt's CDWS, the Austrian Institute of Norms and the European Underwater Federation.

Red Sea Waterworld
 Taba Heights
<http://www.redseawaterworld.com>
info@redseawaterworld.com
 Telephone: 0020 69 3580099

Werner Lau
 Morgana Beach Hotel - Taba
www.wernerlau.com
taba@wernerlau.com
 Telephone: 0020 10 5054076

Aqua-Sport Taba
 Hilton Taba Resort
 Movenpick Taba
www.aqua-sport.com
info@aqua-sport.com
 Telephone: 0020 69 3530140 or
 0020 10 6354441



image: Red Sea Waterworld



image: Red Sea Waterworld



Map: ©Etudes et Cartographie, Lille



image: Red Sea Waterworld

image: Red Sea Waterworld

TABA: A RESORT NOT JUST FOR DIVERS..



For destination guides on all the Red Sea resorts and a full list of diving centres and liveaboards in Egypt certified to EUF standards please visit www.cdws.travel



One of the coolest and challenging watersports activities on offer in Egypt, kitesurfing is attracting a growing band of visitors to these shores. But what is it all about and what courses are available? [BLUE](#) finds out.

SURFERS UP!

What is kitesurfing?

Similar to wakeboarding or surfing, where you use a board to steer yourself on the surface of the water. Unlike these other sports, however, you use a kite to power you in the water and do not have to rely on waves or a speedboat.

What equipment do you need to kitesurf?

A kitesurfing power kite, kitesurf board, a harness and bar and lines to control the kite. Boards and kites all come in different sizes to adapt to the size of the kitesurfer and the wind conditions. The stronger the wind, the smaller the kite as a general rule.

Always wear plenty of sunscreen – you may even want to wear a tight-fitting hat and rash guard vest to protect you against the sun's rays. In Egypt's colder months, between December and March kitesurfers generally opt to wear a wetsuit when the water dips down to as low as 21°C at some points.

Are there any restrictions on who can kitesurf?

You need to be quite fit and able to swim. Children as young as 12, who weigh at least 40kg and are considered to be fit and healthy enough are able to learn to kitesurf.

How easy is it to learn to kitesurf?

It is beneficial to have had previous experience in power kite flying and also in surfing, windsurfing or wakeboarding, but this is not essential. If you are comfortable in the water and have good health, fitness, patience and willingness to learn, then kitesurfing should be straightforward to master.

Lessons with professional organisations are really essential to learn, particularly as certain weather and water conditions can be quite dangerous for kitesurfers.

Are kite flying skills important?

The most important skill to master in kitesurfing is the control of the kite. Surfers need to learn to steer the kite and learn its behaviour while not even looking at it.

How long does it take to learn?

Taster courses usually take around two to three hours and generally cover how to learn and fly a small kite on the beach and the elements of combining board and kite skills.

Two-day courses tend to be the most popular option where experienced instructors will run through the basic skills of kite launching, flying, landing, control of the bar and lines, as well as essential safety knowledge.

There are week-long courses available at most of the major kitesurfing areas, such as Hurghada, El Gouna and Dahab. These usually involve

more on kite set up, operation, maintenance, kite size and type, as well operation of all safety systems.

How do I know if the kitesurfing centre is reputable?

The auditing of Egyptian watersports centres, which include those offering kitesurfing courses, has already begun this year by the CDWS. This process is expected to be completed by the end of June this year. All centres complying with the internationally-recognised standards set out will then be listed in full on the CDWS website www.cdws.travel.

The most professional centres are affiliated to internationally recognized kitesurf organizations, such as IKO (International Kiteboarding Organization) or VDWST which issue certifications of different levels (beginner, advanced etc.). Most of them teach in different languages. Students receive proper certifications according to their kitesurf level reached, after successfully completing a course.

CDWS continues to work towards increasing standards across the recreational and technical diving industry by ensuring operators' procedures meet with the high level set out by the World Recreational Scuba Training Council (WRSTC). A full list of rules and regulations are published on the CDWS website (www.cdws.travel). These rules and regulations include:

click here for full pdf



CDWS Depth Limitations

Since CDWS was created on the 17th of April 2007; it has established a solid plan to improve the quality of services and the service providers.

CDWS has emphasized the implementation of the training agencies standards. All diving operations must comply with the international standards for recreational scuba diving service provider registered as ISO 24803:2007/ EN 14467:2004 in order to obtain a license to operate in Egypt.

As for the maximum depths for recreational diving:

Maximum depths

The implementation of WRSTC standards by CDWS means the maximum depth for recreational divers diving with compressed air is 40 meters (if the training qualifications and the experience of the divers allow).

For Enriched Air Diving the maximum depth is up to a partial pressure of oxygen (PPo2) = 1.4 ATA.

For more information about the depth limit rules for other activities including advanced enriched air, extended range and all technical diving see the CDWS Rules and Regulations section.

click here for full pdf



CDWS RATIOS

For the diving activities:

CDWS is implementing the World Recreational Scuba Training Council (WRSTC) standards www.wrsc.com for recreational diving. This means that you simply use your training agency ratios, procedures, rules, recommendations and standards for your diving activities. The students to instructor ratio during training courses are specified by the training agencies standards.

In-water ratios

WRSTC standards require all diving activities be carried out according to each operators' training agency ratios, procedures, rules, recommendations and standards. Student to instructor ratios for training courses are specified by the training agencies standards.

However, CDWS recognises that it is not practical to impose a ratio of certified divers to each dive leader.

Snorkelling activities: It is recognised that the majority of snorkelling participants are not qualified skin divers or previously trained for snorkelling activities. CDWS regulations - approved by the Ministry of Tourism - require that the maximum number of snorkellers participating in an open water activity is 12 snorkellers to one snorkelling guide. CDWS snorkelling regulations.

click here for full pdf



CDWS Rules on GLOVES & KNIVES

The official CDWS statement with regards to wearing gloves & carrying dive knives

- Wearing gloves as a thermal protection is not restricted, however, touching corals and marine life is strictly prohibited.
- Therefore, it is highly recommended not to wear gloves if not needed as a thermal protection.

Carrying dive knives as a tool is not restricted; the use of dive knives as a signalling device, to cut lines and to free entanglements is allowed; however, it is strictly prohibited to use dive knives as a weapon or to cut, damage, kill

Use of knives and gloves

As part of the CDWS move to ensure greater protection of the marine environment, there are strict rules in place with regards to the use of knives and gloves by divers. Read the official CDWS statement on wearing gloves and carrying dive knives.

click here for full pdf



Recreational Technical Diving Centres Requirements and Standards

This certification scheme specifies minimum requirements to certify the conformity of the services of technical diving service providers. Technical diving centres are legitimate MOT licensed diving centres that provide the following in addition to the regular recreational scuba services and has successfully obtained a Recreational Technical Diving Service Provider Certification (RTDSPC) from CDWS:

1. Teach technical diving courses.
2. Organize guided technical dives.
3. Blend and/or sell diving gas mixes such as: Nitrox, Trimix, Heliox and O₂ for diving.

Recreational Technical diving service providers must apply for a (RTDSPC) from CDWS and

Technical diving requirements

Following lengthy and detailed consultation with the leading technical diving experts in Egypt, the CDWS has published a set of minimum requirements for centres offering courses, guided dives and gas blending services for technical divers. Operations must apply for a Recreational Technical Diving Service Provider Certification (RTDSPC) from CDWS and should comply with the technical training agency standards and Egypt-specific requirements.

Name	Address	CDWS No.	Website Address	Email Address	Telephone
Taba					
Aqua Sport	Taba Hilton Hotel	SSDC 0001 T	www.aqua-sport.com	info@aqua-sport.com	(20) 1 016 354440
Aqua Sport	Movenpick Hotel	SSDC 0006 T	www.aqua-sport.com	info@aqua-sport.com	(20) 1 016 354440
Red Sea Waterworld	Taba Heights	SSDC 0003 T	www.redseawaterworld.com	info@redseawaterworld.com	(20) 69 3580099
Werner Lau	Morgana Beach Hotel	SSDC 0005 T	www.wernerlau.com	taba@wernerlau.com	(20) 10 5054076

Name	Address	CDWS No.	Website Address	Email Address	Telephone
Nuweiba					
Emperor Divers	Hilton Hotel	SSDC 0002 N	www.emperordivers.com	info.neweiba@emperordivers.com	(20) 69 3520695
Scuba College	Nuweiba Village Resort	SSDC 003 N	www.scuba-college.com	info@scuba-college.com	(20) 12 2496002
Sinai Dolphin Divers	Nakhil Inn Hotel	SSDC 0004 N	www.nakhil-inn.com	sinaidolphin@yahoo.com	(20) 12 3341064

Name	Address	CDWS No.	Website Address	Email Address	Telephone
Dahab					
Adventure Spot Dahab	El Mashraba	SSDC 0001 D	www.adventurespot-dahab.com	badrnsr@yahoo.com	(20) 69 3642036
Aqua Divers Dahab	Diarna El Mashraba	SSDC 0002 D	www.aqua-divers.com	info@aqua-divers.com	(20) 69 3641547
Bedouin Divers	Bedouin Lodge	SSDC 0004 D	www.bedouin-lodge-dahab.com	mail@bedouin-lodge-dahab.com	(20) 69 3641 125
Big Blue	Paradise Hotel	SSDC 0050 D	www.bigbluedahab.com	Dive@bigbluedahab.com	(20) 069 3640045
Big Blue Mashraba	El Mashraba Star of Sinai	SSDC 0005 D	www.bigbluedahab.com	Dive@bigbluedahab.com	(20) 069 3640045
Black Rock Coralia	Coralia Hotel	SSDC 0049 D	www.blackrockdivecentre.com	Blackrock@cytanet.com.cy	(20) 161 439420
Blue Beach Dive Club	Blue Beach Club	SSDC 0006 D	www.bluebeachdiveclub.com	info@bluerealmdiving.com	(20) 69 3641413
Blue Ocean Dive	MTO Dahab Resort	SSDC 0048 D	www.blueoceandive.com	dahab@blueoceandive.com	(20) 12 476 46 54
Club Red Sea	Mashraba	SSDC 0008 D	www.club-red.com	clubredsea@sinainet.com.eg	(20) 69 3640380
Dahab Dive Paradise	La Reine hotel	SSDC 0051 D	www.dahab-diveparadise.com	info@dahab-diveparadise.com	(20) 11 368368
Dahab Divers	Dahab Divers Hotel	SSDC 0009 D	www.dahabdive.com	info@dahabdive.com	(20) 69 3640381
Daniela Diving Centre	Blue Hole Road	SSDC 0010 D	www.daniela-diving.com	reservation@daniela-diving.com	(20) 12 2253999
Deep Blue Divers	Masbat Beach	SSDC 0011 D	www.divedahab.com	info@divedahab.com	(20) 69 3640416
Desert Divers	Masbat Beach	SSDC 0012 D	www.desert-divers.com	info@desert-divers.com	(20) 69 3640500
Dive In	Laguna	SSDC 0013 D	www.diveincompany.com	contact@diveincompany.com	(20) 69 3640646
Dive Urge	Dive Urge Hotel	SSDC 0014 D	www.dive-urge.com	info@dive-urge.com	(20) 10 715 1459
Divers Down Under	Seven Heaven Hotel	SSDC 0015 D	www.7heavenhotel.com	samir@7heavenhotel.com	(20) 69 3640080
Divers House	Divers House Hotel	SSDC 0016 D	www.divershouse.com	divershouse@gmx.de	(20) 69 3640885
Extra Divers	Swiss Inn Hotel	SSDC 0017 D	www.extradivers.info	dahab@extradivers.info	(20) 69 3640472
Fantasea Red Sea	Coral Coast Hotel	SSDC 0018 D	www.fantasearedsea.com	info@fantasearedsea.com	(20) 69 3641 195
Fish and Friends	Masbat Beach	SSDC 0019 D	www.fishandfriendsdahab.com	info@fishandfriendsdahab.com	(20) 69 3640720
Fun by the Sea Laguna Divers	Tropitel Hotel	SSDC 0020 D	www.lagona-divers.com		
Inmo Divers	Inmo Hotel	SSDC 0022 D	www.inmodivers.de	inmo@inmodivers.de	(20) 69 3640370
Light House	The Lighthouse	SSDC 0023 D	www.dahabdive.com	info@dahabdive.com	(20) 12 2541442
Mirage Divers	El Melil	SSDC 0025 D	www.miragedivers.com	info@miragedivers.com	(20) 69 3641 476
Nesima Divers	Nesima Hotel	SSDC 0026 D	www.nesima-resort.com	reservation@nesima-resort.com	(20) 69 3640320
Octopus World	Lighthouse	SS00125	www.octopusdivers.net	info@octopusdivers.net	(20) 69 3642370
Octopus World	Masbat, Dahab	SSDC 0053 D	www.octopusdivers.net	info@octopusdivers.net	(20) 69 364 2370
OK Club	ELMasbat Beach	SSDC 0029 D	www.okclubdahab.com	info@okclubdahab.com	(20) 69 3642042
Orca Dive Centre	Masbat Beach	SSDC 0031 D	www.orcadivecentre.com	info@orcadivecentre.com	(20) 69 364 0020

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www.orca-diveclubs.com info@orca-diveclubs.com



To see the full list of current regulations and updates, see the Rules and Regulations section on the CDWS website www.cdws.travel

Name	Address	CDWS No.	Website Address	Email Address	Telephone
Orca Dive Club Dahab	Happy Life Hotel	SSDC 0030 D	www.orca-diveclub-dahab.com	info@orca-diveclub-dahab.com	(20) 10 646692
Oricana	Oricana Hotel	SSDC 0032 D	www.orcadivecentre.com	info@orcadivecentre.com	(20) 69 3640020
Penguin Divers	Penguin Village	SSDC 0033 D	www.penguindivers.com	info@penguindivers.com	(20) 69 3641047
Planet Divers	Planet Oasis Hotel	SSDC 0034D	dahab@planetdivers.com	www.planetdivers.com	(20) 69 364 1090
Poseidon (Mashraba)	Mashraba	SSDC 0035 D	www.poseidondivers.com	info@poseidondivers.com	(20) 69 3640091
Poseidon (Meridien)	Meridien Hotel	SSDC 0036 D	www.poseidondivers.com	info@poseidondivers.com	(20) 69 3640091
Red Sea Relax	Masbat Beach	SSDC 0037 D	www.red-sea-relax.com	info@red-sea-relax.com	(20) 69 3641309
Reef 2000	Bedouin Moon Hotel	SSDC 0038 S	www.reef2000.com	info@reef2000.com	(20) 69 3640 087
Sea Dancer	Masbat Beach	SSDC 0040 D	www.seadancerdivecenter.com	mail@seadancerdivecenter.com	(20) 69 3640887
Sinai Divers Backpackers	Masbat Beach	SSDC 0041 D	www.sinaidivers.com	dahab@sinaidivers.com	
Sinai Divers Dahab	Hilton Dahab Hotel	SSDC 0042 D	www.sinaidivers.com	dahab@sinaidivers.com	
Sub Aqua Dahabia	Dahabia Hotel	SSDC 0046 D	www.subaqua-divecenter.com	dahabeya@subaqua-divecenter.com	(49) 89 384 7690
Sun Splash	Mashraba	SSDC 0044 D	www.sunsplash-divers.com	sunsplash.divers@gmail.com	(20) 69 640932

Sharm					
African Diver Sharm	Luna Sharm Hotel	SSDC 0093 S	www.africandiverssharm.com	info@africandiverssharm.com	(20) 016 55 24601
Albatros Top Diving	Coral Beach Montazah	SSDC 0002 S		albatrosredsea@yahoo.it	
Anar Dive Center	Royal Paradise	SSDC 0003 S		anardive@yahoo.com	
Anthias Divers	Sonesta Beach	SSDC 0004 S	www.anthiasdivers.com	info@anthiasdivers.com	(20) 69 3601420
Aquamarine	Rehana Hotel	SSDC 0005 S	www.aquamarineclub.com	info@aquamarineclub.com	(20) 18 2070605
Aqua Sharm Diving College	Charming Inn Solymar Hotel	SSDC 0007 S	www.aquasharm.com	info@aquasharm.com	(20) 12 2403998
Aquarius Coral Sea	Coral Sea Hotel	SSDC 0008 S	www.aquariusredsea.com	coralsea@aquariusredsea.com	(20) 10 168 6223
Aquarius Diving Club	Sheraton Hotel	SSDC 0009 S	www.aquariusredsea.com	sheraton@aquariusredsea.com	(20) 69 3602099
Below 100	Ibrotel Lido Hotel	SSDC 0010 S		hsanyeldin@yahoo.com	(20) 69 3602608
Blue Lagoon	La Perla Hotel	SSDC 0011 S	www.bluelagoonsharm.com	info@bluelagoonsharm.com	(20) 69 3663180
C Fun Divers	Ibrotel Palace Hotel	SSDC 0012 S	www.cfundivers.com	info@cfundivers.de	(20) 69 3663393
Cali International	Cali Building	SSDC 0013 S		calidivingcenter@yahoo.com	(20) 69 3660805
Camel Dive Club Royal Grand Sharm	Royal Grand Sharm	SSDC 0015 S	www.cameldive.com	info@cameldive.com	(20) 69 3600700
Camel Dive Club	Camel Hotel	SSDC 0014 S	www.cameldive.com	info@cameldive.com	(20) 69 3600700
Camel Dive Club Laguna Vista	Laguna Vista Resort	SSDC 0016 S	www.cameldive.com	info@cameldive.com	(20) 69 3600700
Colona Dive Club	Amar Sina Hotel	SSDC 0018 S	www.colona.com	sharm@colona.com	(20) 69 366 3670
Coral Dive Club	Mexicana Hotel	SSDC 0019 S	www.coraldivingclub.com	info@coraldivingclub.com	(20) 69 3660740
Deep Vibration	Nesco	SSDC 0020 S	www.deepvibration.com	info@deepvibration.com	
Desert Rose	Dolphin Country Club	SSDC 0095 S		desertrose@mail.ru	
Diamond Dive Club	Kerosiz Beach Hotel	SSDC 0021 S	www.diamonddiveclub.com	info@diamonddiveclub.com	(20) 69 3666758
Dive Africa Water Sports	Sharm Holiday Hotel	SSDC 0022 S	www.diveafrica.com	redsea@diveafrica.com	(20) 3601 388
Dive For Fun	Sharm Amarein	SSDC 0023 S	www.diveforfunsharm.com	info@diveforfunsharm.com	(20) 107 175 117
Dive In	Renaissance Golden View	SSDC 0024 S	www.divein.net	sharm@divein.net	
Diver Professional	Regency Plaza Hotel	SSDC 0025 S		ahmeddiver@yahoo.com	
Divers Dreams	Lodge Hotel,	SSDC 0026 S		diversdreams@mail.ru	
Divers International	Sofitel Hotel	SSDC 0027 S	www.diversintl.com	info@diversintl.com	(20) 69 3600865
Divers United	Coral Hills	SSDC 0103 S	www.diversunited.com	diver.united@gmail.com	(20) 127 445 833
Diving & Discovery	Ibrotel Fanara Hotel	SSDC 0028 S	www.divingdiscovery.it	ddiscovery@sinainet.com.eg	
Divers' Land	Naama Inn Hotel	SSDC 0105 S	www.diversland.co.uk	info@diversland.co.uk	(20) 12 359 5212
Diving Ocean New Project	Sea Club Hotel	SSDC 0029 S	www.divingocean.com	info@divingocean.com	(20) 10 1754356
Diving World	The Rock Hotel	SSDC 0030 S	www.divingworldredsea.com	sharm@divingworldredsea.com	(20) 69 3660065

Name	Address	CDWS No.	Website Address	Email Address	Telephone
Dolphin	Kahramana Hotel	SSDC 0031 S		dive@dolphin_diving.ru	
Egyptian Divers	Blue Reef Hotel	SSDC 0032 S	www.egyptiandivers.com	info@egyptiandivers.com	(20) 69 3600289
Emperor Divers	Bay View Hotel	SSDC 0033 S	www.emperordivers.com	info.sharm@emperordivers.com	(20) 69 360 1734
Extra Divers	Melia Sina	SSDC 0034 S	www.extradivers.info	rasnasrani@extradivers.info	(20) 69 36700002
Grand Blue	Amphoras Hotel	SSDC 0037 S	www.grandblue.it	info@grandblue.it	
Grand Blue (Tamra)	Tamra hotel	SSDC 0097 S	www.grandblue.net	info@grandblue.it	
Grand Blue	Aloha Hotel	SSDC 0096 S	www.grandblue.it	info@grandblue.it	
Holiday Services	Hilton Dreams	SSDC 0038 S	www.holidaydiving.org	info@holidaydiving.org	
Lucky Divers	El Khan Mall, Hadaba,	SSDC 0098 S	www.luckydiverssharm.com	info@luckydiverssharm.com	
Magic Divers	Magic Life Hotel	SSDC 0040 S	www.magicdivers.at	sharm@magicdivers.at	(20) 12 7334509
Marina Divers	Concord El Salam Hotel	SSDC 0041 S	www.marinadiverssharm.com	info@marinadiverssharm.com	(20) 69 3603370
Millennium Divers	Crowne Plaza Hotel	SSDC 0042 S	www.millennium-divers.com	info@millennium-divers.com	(20) 69 3604266
Moon Divers	Falcon Inn Hotel	SSDC 0043 S	www.moondivers.com	info@moondivers.com	(20) 69 3663298
Mr Diver (Belvedere)	Belvedere Hotel	SSDC 0049 S	www.misterdiver.com	info@misterdiver.com	
Mr Diver	Mariott Hotel	SSDC 0044 S	www.misterdiver.com	mariott@misterdiver.com	
Mr Diver	Nubian Village Hotel	SSDC 0046 S	www.misterdiver.com	info@misterdiver.com	
Mr Diver	Pyramisa Hotel	SSDC 0045 S	www.misterdiver.com	pyramisa@misterdiver.com	
New Tower	New Tower Hotel	SSDC 0050 S	www.sprindiving.it	info@sprindiving.it	(20) 69 3664490
Ocean College Club	Ocean Club Hotel	SSDC 0052 S	www.ocean-college.com	info@ocean-college.com	(20) 693664305
Ocean College	Hilton Waterfalls Hotel	SSDC 0054 S	www.ocean-college.com	info@ocean-college.com	(20) 693664305
Ocean College	Whitehouse	SSDC 0053 S	www.ocean-college.com	info@ocean-college.com	(20) 693664305
Octopus Divers	Noria Beach Hotel	SSDC 0055 S		info@sharmoctopus.com	
Only Six	Turquoise Hotel	SSDC 0039 S	www.only-six.com	info@only-six.com	(20) 12 796 3155
Oonas Dive Club	Oonas Hotel	SSDC 0056 S	www.oonasdiveclub.com	info@oonasdiveclub.com	(20) 69 360 0581
Orbit Divers	Dive Inn Hotel	SSDC 0104 S	www.orbit-divers.net	orbit-divers@hotmail.com	(43) 664 3354878
Pirates Dive Club	Sol Verginia Hotel	SSDC 0059 S	www.piratesdiveclub.com	moody@piratesdiveclub.com	(20) 12 2442148
Pharaoh Divers	Palermo Hotel	SSDC 0058 S	www.pharaohdivers.com	Info@pharaohdivers.com	
Pyramid	Gardenia Plaza Hotel	SSDC 0102 S		m_bange@yahoo.com	
Rasta Divers	Rasta House	SSDC 0060 S	www.rastadivers.com	info@rastadivers.com	
Red Sea Diving College	Naama Bay	SSDC 0061 S	www.redseacollege.com	info@redseacollege.com	(20) 69 3600 145
Red Sea Waterworld	Hyatt Hotel	SSDC 0062 S	www.redseawaterworld.com	reservations@redseawaterworld.com	(20) 69 3620315
Red Sea Waterworld	Ritz Carlton	SSDC 0062 S	www.redseawaterworld.com	rzinfo@redseawaterworld.com	(20) 69 3620533
Scuba Divers Red Sea	Plaza Hotel	SSDC 0063 S	www.scubadivers-redsea.com	sharm@scubadivers-redsea.com	(20) 69 366 44 43
Scuba Dreamer	Dreams Beach Hotel	SSDC 0064 S	www.scubadreamer.com	info@scubadreamer.com	(20) 69 3663992
Sea Soul	Badawia Hotel	SSDC 0065 S	www.seasoul.net	info@seasoul.net	(20) 69 3660316
Sharks Bay	Sharks Bay	SSDC 0067 S	www.sharksbay.com	reservations@sharksbay.com	(20) 69 3600942
Sharm Divers	Halomy Hotel	SSDC 0068 S	www.sharm-divers.com	contact@sharmdivers.com	(20) 10 5533853
Sharm Scuba Service	Sonesta Club Hotel	SSDC 0069 S	www.sharmscubaservice.com	info@sharmscubaservice.com	
Sheikh Coast	Domina Hotel	SSDC 0070S	www.sheikhcoast.com	info@sheikhcoast.com	(20) 69 3601713
Shiekh Coast Savoy	Savoy Hotel	SSDC 0071 S	www.sheikhcoast.com	info@sheikhcoast.com	(20) 69 3601713
Sinai Blues	Four Seasons Resort	SSDC0072 S	www.sinaiblues.com	info@sinaiblues.com	(20) 69 3603555
Sinai College	Falcon Hills	SSDC 0073 S	www.sinaicollege.com	info@sinaicollege.com	



Name	Address	CDWS No.	Website Address	Email Address	Telephone
Sinai Dive Club	Hilton Fayrouz Hotel	SSDC 0074 S	www.dive-club.com	reservations@dive-club.com	(20) 12 2815210
Sinai Dive Club	Hilton Shark Bay Hotel	SSDC 0075 S	www.dive-club.com	reservations@dive-club.com	(20) 12 2815210
Sinai Divers	Ghazala Hotel	SSDC 0076 S	www.sinaidivers.com	info@sinaidivers.com	
Sinai Divers El Baron	El Baron Hotel	SSDC 0077 S	www.sinaidivers.com	info@sinaidivers.com	
Sinai Rose	Sun Rise Hotel	SSDC 0078 S		moh_zarzour@hotmail.com	
Sinai Scuba	Sun Set Hotel	SSDC 0079 S	www.sinaiscuba.com	info@sinaiscuba.com	(20) 12 2887398
Spirit Divers	Regency Hotel	SSDC 0080 S	www.nautica.pl/egipt/index.php	david@nautica.pl	
Subex Golf Maritim	Maritim Golf Hotel	SSDC 0082 S	www.subex.org	sharm@subex.org	(20) 693 600122
Subex	Maritim Jolie Ville Resort	SSDC 0081 S	www.subex.org	sharm@subex.org	(20) 69 3600122
Sun Shine Divers	Sun Shine Club	SSDC 0083 S	www.sunshine-divers.de	Klaus@sunshine-divers.com	(20) 12 7831388
TGI Diving	Sol Sharm hotel	SSDC 0000 D	www.tgidiving.com	sharm@tgidiving.com	
Tower	Tower Hotel	SSDC 0085 S	www.sprindiving.it	infosub@sprindiving.it	(20) 69 3664490
Vera Sub Queen Sharm	Queen Sharm Hotel	SSDC 0088 S		verasubsharm@tiscali.it	(20) 12 2334240
Viaggio nel Blu	Club Reef	SSDC 0089 S	www.viaggionelblu.com	sharm@viaggionelblu.com	(20) 16 5384700
Werner Lau	Helnan Marina Hotel	SSDC 0091 S	www.wernerlau.com	redsea@wernerlau.com	(20) 69 3600456

Ain Soukhna					
Stella Di Mare	Stella Di Mari Resort	RSDC 0179	www.stelladimare.com	diving@stelladimare.com	(20) 62 3250100

El Gouna					
Colona Divers	Three Corners Rihana	RSDC 56	www.colona.com	elgouna@colona.com	(20) 65 3580113
Dive Trek	Sultan Bay Hotel	RSDC 0020	www.dive-trek.com	info@dive-trek.com	
Easy Divers	3 Corners Rehana	RSDC 61	www.easydivers-academy.com	elgouna@easydivers-academy.com	
Euro Divers Gouna	Club Med Resort	RSDC 19	www.euro-divers.com	cmelgouna@euro-divers.com	
New Blue Brothers	Ocean View	RSDC 33	www.bluebrothersdiving.de	info@bluebrothersdiving.de	(20) 12 3459362
Orca	Turtles Inn, Abu Tig Mar.	RSDC 83	www.orca-diveclub-elgouna.com	info@orca-diveclub-elgouna.com	(20) 12 2480460
TGI	Sheraton Miramar	RSDC 72	www.tgidiving.com	khaled@TGIdiving.com	(20) 12 2242025
The Dive Connection	Panorama Hotel	RSDC 48	www.diveconnection.com	info@diveconnection.com	(20) 65 3580052
The Dive Tribe	Movenpick Resort	RSDC 27	www.divetribe.com	info@divetribe.com	(20) 65 3580120

Hurghada					
Adventurer	Hurghada Marine Club	RSDC 0168	www.adventurer.pl	biuro@adventurer.pl	(20) 12 7407847
Al Mashrabiya	Mashrabiya Resort	RSDC 0121	http://www.swdf.de	redsea@swdf.de	(20) 065 344 2375
Annette & Jurgen Red Sea Divers	Zahabia Resort	RSDC 85	www.redsea-divers.com	info@redsea-divers.com	(20) 12 2300483
Aquanaut Blue Heaven	Regina Resort	RSDC 0009	www.aquanaut.net	info@aquanaut.net	(20) 65 3440892
Aquarius Diving Club	Royal Azur Makadi Bay	RSDC 0031	www.aquariusredsea.com	makadi@aquariusredsea.com	(20) 65 3590308 ext 5810
Aquarius Diving Club	Palm Beach Resort	RSDC 0049	www.aquariusredsea.com	palmbeach@aquariusredsea.com	(20) 65 3500035
Aquarius Diving	Marriott Resort	RSDC 0045	www.aquariusredsea.com	marriott@aquariusredsea.com	(20) 65 3446950
Barakuda (JAMES & MAC)	Giftun Resort	RSDC 22	www.james-mac.com	info@james-mac.com	(20) 12 3118923
Blue Paradise	14 El Kornesh St	RSDC 0039	www.blueparadise.be	bluepar@hurghada.ie-eg.com	(20) 65 354 4354
Blue Water-Arabia Dive Resort	Azur Arabia Beach Hotel	RSDC 26	www.blue-water-dive.com	info@blue-water-dive.com	(20) 65 3555420
Colona Divers	Magawish Resort	RSDC 32	www.colona.com	hurghada@colona.com	(20) 65 3464631
Deep Divers	Sunny Days El Palacio	RSDC 0071	www.deep-divers.com	info@deep-divers.com	(20) 18 912 5125
Dive In	Sonesta Pharoah	RSDC 0061	www.diveintravel.it	hurghada@divein.net	
Dive Point	Rotana Coral Beach Resort	RSDC 155	www.dive-point.com	hurghada@dive-point.com	(20) 12 3255483
Dive Too	Seagull Resort	RSDC 0153	www.divetoo.net	magdy@divetoo.net	
Dive Training Egypt	Coral Beach Resort	RSDC 155	www.dive-point.com	hurghada@dive-point.com	(20) 12 3255483

Name	Address	CDWS No.	Website Address	Email Address	Telephone
Divers Lodge	Intercontinental Resort	RSDC 16	www.divers-lodge.com	office@divers-lodge.com	(20) 65 3465100
Diving World	Le Meridien Hotel	RSDC 0050	www.divingworldredsea.com	hurghada@divingworldredsea.com	(20) 65 3443582
Divers International	Softel Coralia	RSDC 0052	www.diversintl.com	info@diversintl.com	(20) 69 3600865
Divers International	Oberoi Sahl Hasheesh	RSDC 0051	www.diversintl.com	info@diversintl.com	(20) 69 3600865
Eagle Ray Divers	Sun & Sea Hotel	RSDC 0014	www.eagleraydivers-redsea.de	info@eagleraydivers-redsea.de	(20) 12 7374129
Easy Divers	Hilton Plaza	RSDC 0021	www.easydivers-redsea.com	info@easydivers-redsea.com	(20) 12 230 5202
El Ghoniemy	Abu Ramada St	RSDC 0052		Ashrafdivervip@hotmail.com	
El Samaka	El Samaka Resort	RSDC 0015	www.el-samaka.de	info@el-samaka.com	(20) 65 465153
Emperor Divers	Hurghada Touristic Marina	RSDC 98	www.emperordivers.com	info.hurghada@emperordivers.com	(20) 12 7372125
Etape Nouvelle	Hawai Resort	RSDC 0095		bluelagoonhrg@yahoo.com	
Euro Divers	Grand Hotel	RSDC 18	www.euro-divers.com	Egypt@euro-divers.com	
Frogman	Lagouna Beach	RSDC 0105		frogmandiving@yahoo.com	
Funny Divers	In front of Empire	RSDC 0143	www.funnydivers.com	info@funnydivers.com	(20) 12 4193164
Geli & Ute	Le Pacha Resort	RSDC 0129	www.tauchenunterfreunden.de	kontakt@tauchenunterfreunden.de	(20) 65 3 444 150
Golden Dolphin	Shell Ghada Beach	RSDC 0062	www.gdolph.com	info@gdolph.com	(20) 12 3134902
Gulf Divers	Beirut Hotel	RSDC 0069	www.gulfdivers.com	info@gulfdivers.com	(20) 65 3550130
Happy Diving	Seyed Korayem St	RSDC 0128	www.happydivingcenter.com	happydivingcenter@yahoo.com	(20) 65 3541807
Hor Palace	Hor Palace Resort	RSDC 0092		pd290761@aol.com	(20) 653 443710
Ilios Dive Club	Steigenberger Al Dau Resort	RSDC 109	www.iliosdiveclub.com	info@iliosdiveclub.com	(20) 65 3465442
Jasmin Diving Sports Center	Grand Seas Resort	RSDC 108	www.jasmin-diving.com	info@jasmin-diving.com	(20) 65 3460334
King Tut	In front of Hilton Plaza	RSDC 0115	www.ktdc.org	kingtutdivers@yahoo.com	(20) 12 2665187
Magic Divers Kalawy	Magic Life Resort	RSDC 70	www.magicdivers.at	kalawy@magicdivers.at	(20) 12 733 4509
Manta Divers	Church St, El Dahar	RSDC 0124	www.mantataucher.com	info@mantadivers.net	(20) 065 3548628
Marine Scuba Diving	Mirette Hotel, Villa n°1	RSDC 0127	www.marinescubadiving.com	info@marinescubadiving.com	(20) 65 3551340
Masters Club	Royal Palace Hotel	RSDC 0068	www.masters-redsea.com	info@masters-redsea.com	(20) 12 7326721
Oxygene Red Sea	Hilton Plaza	RSDC 0021	www.oxygenediving.com	redsea@oxygenediving.com	(20) 12 7372125
Picasso Water Sport	Desert Rose Resort	RSDC 0106	www.picassodiving.com	info@picassodiving.com	(20) 65 3460615
PSI	Domina Makadi Bay	RSDC 0064	www.psideclub.com	info@psideclub.com	(20) 65 359 0356
Red Sea For Tourism Activity & Diving	Sonesta Pharoah	RSDC 0061	www.diveintravel.it	hurghada@divein.net	
Sadko	Infront of Aqua Fun Hotel	RSDC 0112	www.sadko.de	sadko@mtu-net.ru	(20) 12 1384632
Sahara Diving	Sahara Hotel	RSDC 0075	www.dahabdive.com	hurghada@dahabdive.com	(20) 10 3436998
Sara Divers	El Amal St, Dahar	RSDC 0111	www.saradivers.com	sara_d@hurghada.ie-eg.com	(20) 65 3549672
Scuba Blue	King Tut Hotel	RSDC 0130	www.sevadivers.com	info@sevadivers.com	(20) 12 9280869
Seafari	Safir Hotel	RSDC 0097	www.seafari-int.com	info@seafari-int.com	(20) 10 1013816
Sea Horse	Corniche , Hilton Plaza	RSDC 35		redseahorse@gmail.com	
Sea Wolf Diving Safari	Anemon Beach Resort	RSDC 0038	www.seawolf-safari.com	info@seawolf-diving.de	(20) 12 7461076
Sharks	Reemyvera Beach Resort	RSDC 0150		info@sharksdivingcenter.com	
Shehab Dive Center	Birgitte Hotel	RSDC 0080		Aladdinsafy@hurghada.ie-eg.com	
Subex Red Sea	Dahar	RSDC 82	www.subex.org	hurghada@subex.org	(20) 65 3547593

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Titanic Diving	Titanic Beach Resort	RSDC 0122	www.titanicdivingcenter.com	info@titanicdivingcenter.com	
Twin Dolphin	Sea Star Beaurivage	RSDC 0138	www.diving-redsea.com	info@diving-redsea.com	(20) 120240508
Voodoo Divers International	Bella Vista Resort	RSDC 0099	www.voodoodivers.com	info@voodoodivers.com	(20) 12 3345766
White Dolphin	South Hadaba beside La Perla	RSDC 0118	www.whitedolphindc.com	info@whitedolphindc.com	

Makadi Bay					
Extra Divers	Madinet Makadi	RSDC 141	www.extradivers.info	makadibay@extradivers.info	(20) 10 1276108
I Dive	Fourt Arabisc Vil.	RSDC 46	www.idive.it	forta@idive.it	(20) 65 3590213
SADC	Sun Rise Royal Makadi	RSDC 0094	www.subaqua-divecenter.com	sunrise-makadi@subaqua-diving-center.com	(20) 65 3590600

Soma Bay					
Barakuda DC	Intercontinental Hotel	RSDC 102	www.barakuda-diving.com	interconti@barakuda-diving.com	(20) 12 1159527
Club Ras Soma Robinson	Club Ras Soma Hotel	RSDC 0088	www.somabay.com	tauchen.somabay@robinson.de	
Orca Dive Club	Abu Soma	RSDC 147	www.orca-diveclub-somabay.com	info@orca-diveclub-somabay.com	(20) 65 3545004

Safaga					
ABC Dream Divers	El Okby Resort	RSDC 0141	www.abcdreamdivers.com	info@abcdreamdivers.com	
Barakuda Lotus Bay	Lotus Bay Resort	RSDC 0040	www.barakuda-diving.com	safaga@barakuda-diving.com	(20) 65 3253911
Ducks Dive Center	Holiday Inn	RSDC 34		ddcenter@web.de	(20) 653 260100
Dune	Aluminum Marina	RSDC 77	www.duneredsea.com	info@duneredsea.com	
El Yasmin	El Yasmin	RSDC 37	www.3turtles-red-sea.com	info@3turtles-red-sea.com	
Freedom Divers	Tobia Hotel	RSDC 0152	www.freedom-divers.de	office@freedom-divers.de	(20) 12 4369878
Mena Dive	Mena Ville Resort	RSDC 6	www.menadive.com	Center@menadive.com	(20) 65 3 26 00 60
Orca Red Sea	Sun Beach Resort	RSDC 90	www.orca-diveclub-safaga.com	info@orca-diveclub-safaga.com	(20) 65 3260111
Shams Safaga DC	Shams Safaga Resort	RSDC 5	www.shams-dive.com	shamsdive@hotmail.com	(20) 65 3260044
Toms Diver House	Behind Youth Center	RSDC 0044	www.toms-diver-house.ch	info@toms-diver-house.ch	(20) 12 4222181
United Divers	City Council St	RSDC 0086	www.united-divers-safaga.net	info@united-divers.net	
Volkert	Paradise Safaga Hotel	RSDC 0054		info@enjoy-diving.de	

Quseir					
Ducks DC Mangrove	Mangrove Resort	RSDC 91	www.ducks-dive-center.de	quesier@ducks-diving.com	(20) 65 3395029
Extra Divers	Radisson SAS Resort	RSDC 74	www.extra-divers.de	elqusier@extra-divers.info	(20) 10 6026099
Nemos Water World	Carnelia Resort	RSDC 175	www.divingcarnelia.de	info@divingcarnelia.de	(20) 12 1617120
Pharaoh Dive Club	Fanadir Hotel	RSDC 119	www.pharaohdiveclub.com	elquseir@pharaohdiveclub.com	(20) 65 3331414
Rocky Valley	KM 14	RSDC 0089	www.rockyvalleydiverscamp.com	info@rockyvalleydiverscamp.com	
Sadc Utopia	Utopia Resort	RSDC 1	www.subaqua-divecenter.com	UTOPIA@subaqua-divecenter.com	(20) 65 3390 014
Subex Red Sea	Movenpick Hotel	RSDC 0007	www.subex.org	elquseir@subex.org	(20) 653 332 100
TGI	Helio Land Resort	RSDC 0181	www.tgidiving.com	info@tgidiving.com	
TGI	Gorgonia Hotel	RSDC Temp	www.tgidiving.com	khaled@TGIdiving.com	
Water World	Akassia Resort	RSDC 25	www.divingakassia.de	info@divingakassia.de	(20) 122416739
Water World	Flamenco Hotel	RSDC 0196	www.divingflamenco.de	info@divingflamenco.de	(20) 12 1165152
Marsa Alam					
3 Will	Badaweya Resort	RSDC 185	www.3will.eu	Milosz@3will.eu	(20) 12 2348330
Awlad Baraka	Awlad Baraka Lodge	RSDC 0078	www.aquariusredsea.com	baraka@aquariusredsea.com	(20) 12 2488062
Barakuda Diving	Lahami Bay Resort	RSDC 134	www.barakuda-diving.com	lahamibay@barakuda-diving.com	(20) 12 2242527

Name	Address	CDWS No.	Website Address	Email Address	Telephone
Beach Safari	Beach Safari Resort Marsa Alam	RSDC 0012	www.beachsafari.de	hassanadroub@yahoo.com	(49) 5921 3082711
Blue Heaven Holidays	Marsa Alam Tonduba Bay	RSDC 0049	www.blueheavenholidays.com	info@blueheavenholidays.com	(20) 12 3131157
Coraya Divers	Coraya Resort	RSDC 23	www.coraya-divers.com	info@coraya-divers.com	(20) 65 3750000
Coraya Reef Divers	Resta Reef Resort	RSDC 137	www.corayareefdivers.com	corayareefdivers@gmx.net	(20)16 1854294
Deep South Diving	Awlad Baraka	RSDC 0133	www.deep-south-diving.com	info@Deep-South-Diving.com	(20) 12 3258869
Diving Ocean New Project	Marsa Alam Tulip Hotel	RSDC 0123	www.divingocean.com	marsa@divingocean.com	(20) 10 1754354
Emperor Divers	Coral Beach Hotel	RSDC 81	www.emperordivers.com	marsa.alam@emperordivers.com	(20) 12 7372126
Equinox Divers	Equinox Resort	RSDC 42	www.equinoxdivers.com	info@ELNABAA.com	(20) 12 2353475
Extra Divers	Brayka Bay Resort	RSDC 24	www.extradivers.info	marsa@extra_divers.il	(20) 10 3071247
Flora Diving Center	Flora Resort	RSDC 0162	www.floramarsaalam.com	info@floramarsaalam.com	(20) 65 3380083
Global Divers	Solymar Solitaire Resort	RSDC 0057	www.global-divers-egypt.info	info@global-divers-egypt.info	
Grand Blue	Blue Lagoon Resort	RSDC 0029	www.grandblue.it	info@grandblue.it	
Grand Blue Cataract	Cataract Resort	RSDC 0178	www.grandblue.it	info@grandblue.it	
Marsa Alam Divers	Awlad Baraka	RSDC 0157		southrd@starnet.com.eg	(20) 12 2181427
Nakari Divers	Marsa Nakari	RSDC 65	www.redsea-divingsafari.com	info@redsea-divingsafari.com	(20) 122 461656
Oasis Dive Club	Wadi Sabbara Hotel	RSDC 0047	www.wernerlau.com	theoasis@wernerlau.com	(20) 10 1573889
Orca Dive Club	Zabaraged Vil	RSDC 0079	www.orca-diveclub-hamata.com	info@orca-diveclub-hamata.com	(20) 12 7468823
Orca Dive Club	Abu Dabbab Hotel- Diving Lodge	RSDC 0043	www.orca-diveclub-abudabab.com	info@orca-diveclub-abudabab.com	(20) 10 1415059
Pioneer Divers	Kahramana	RSDC 66	www.redsea-divingsafari.com	info@redsea_divingsafari.com	(20) 122 461656
RSDS Shagara	Ecolodge Shagra Village	RSDC 3	www.redsea-divingsafari.com	info@redsea-divingsafari.com	(20) 12 2461656
Samak Marsa Alam	Villa Abd. Aty Abu Zeid	RSDC 0008	www.riff-villa.ch	info@riff-villa.ch	(20) 12 4624 933
Sea World	Holiday Inn	RSDC 0100	www.seaworld-diving.it	info@seaworld-diving.it	(20) 12 7747018
Sprin Diving	Dream Beach	RSDC 180	www.sprindiving.it	dreams@sprindiving.it	(20) 69 3664490
Vera Sub	Alfa Stone Resort	RSDC 0010		verasub@sinainet.com.eg	
Wadi Gimal	Marsa Alam - Shams Alam	RSDC 0004	www.shams-dive.com	wadigimal@shamshotels.com	(20) 12 2444931
Wadi Lahami Divers	Wadi Lahemi	RSDC 67	www.redsea-divingsafari.com	info@redsea-divingsafari.com	(20) 122 461656

Hamata					
Orca Dive Club Wadi Lahmy	Wadi Lahmy Azur Resort	RSDC 198	www.orca-diveclub-wadilahmy.com	info@orca-diveclub-wadilahmy.com	012 241 7020

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M/Y Angelina 2	Travco Jetty	SSSB 0019 S	www.dive-club.com	info@dive-club.com	(20) 12 2815210
M/Y Cyclone	Sharm El Sheikh	SSSB 0012 S	www.tornadomarinefleet.com	info@tornadomarinefleet.com	
M/Y Dive Runner	Travco Jetty	SSSB 0035 S	www.diverunner.com	office@diverunner.co.uk	(20) 10 1147141
M/Y Freedom 4	Sharks Bay	SSSB 0022 S	www.sharksbay.com	reservations@sharksbay.com	(20) 69 3600942
M/Y Freedom 5	Sharks Bay	SSSB 0023 S	www.sharksbay.com	reservations@sharksbay.com	(20) 69 3600942
M/Y Freedom 8	Sharks Bay	SSSB 0024 S	www.sharksbay.com	reservations@sharksbay.com	(20) 69 3600942
M/Y Golden Emperor 1	Travco Jetty	SSSB 0032 S	www.seaqueens.com	info@seaqueens.com	(20) 12 2186669
M/Y Hyatt	Travco Jetty	SSSB 0003 S		dive@redsea.cc	
M/Y Juliet	Sharm El Sheikh	SSSB 0004 S	www.julietdivers.com	juliet@julietdivers.com	(20) 10 1217030
M/Y Sea Queen	Travco Jetty	SSSB 0021 S	www.seaqueens.com	info@seaqueens.com	(20) 12 2186669
M/Y Snefro 3	Travco Jetty	SSSB 0013 S	www.kingsnefro.de	boats@kingsnefro.de	(20) 069 3661202
M/Y Snefro 5	Travco Jetty	SSSB 0014 S	www.kingsnefro.de	boats@kingsnefro.de	(20) 069 3661202
M/Y Snefro 6	Travco Jetty	SSSB 0015 S	www.kingsnefro.de	boats@kingsnefro.de	(20) 069 3661202
M/Y Snefro Crown	Travco Jetty	SSSB 0039 S	www.kingsnefro.de	boats@kingsnefro.de	(20) 069 3661202
M/Y Snefro spirit	Travco Jetty	SSSB 0038 S	www.kingsnefro.de	boats@kingsnefro.de	(20) 069 3661202
M/Y South Moon	Travco Jetty	SSSB 0020 S	www.seaqueens.com	info@seaqueens.com	(20) 12 2186669
M/Y VIP One	Red Sea Diving College	SSSB 0007 S	www.redseacollege.com	info@redseacollege.com	(20) 69 3600145

Hurghada					
M/Y Aida Momo	Grand Seas Hotel	RSSB 0003	www.aida-momo.com	info@aida-momo.com	(20) 12 2447897
M/Y Blue Fin	Hurghada Marriott Marina	RSSB 0017	www.deepblue-divers.com	deepbluedivers@redseagate.com	(20) 16 5520763
M/Y Blue Horizon	Marriott Marina	RSSB 0018	www.blueotwo.com	deepbluedivers@redseagate.com	(44) 1752 482008
M/Y Blue Melody	Marriott Marina	RSSB 0016	www.deepblue-divers.com	info@deepblue-divers.com	(20) 16 5520763
M/Y Dreams	Hurghada New Marina	RSSB 0014	www.seaserpentfleet.com	info@seaserpentfleet.com	(20) 65 3447307
M/Y Fire Bird	New Marina	RSSB 0059	www.deepblue-divers.com	info@deepblue-cruises.com	(20) 16 5520763
M/Y Golden Dolphin 2	Sheraton Road	RSSB 0057	www.golden-dolphin.net	info@golden-dolphin.net	(20) 65 3447237
M/Y Liliom	Marine Sports Club	RSSB 0010	www.liliomdivers.com	diving@liliomdivers.com	(20) 122 478 993
M/Y Obsession Marine	Hurghada New Marina	RSSB 0023	www.seaserpentfleet.com	info@seaserpentfleet.com	(20) 65 3447307
M/Y Thunder Bird	Ali Baba Center, Arabia Beach Resort	RSSB 0043	www.deepblue-cruises.com	info@deepblue-cruises.com	

Safaga					
M/Y Legends	Aluminum Port	RSSB 0038		mdivers@intouch.com	

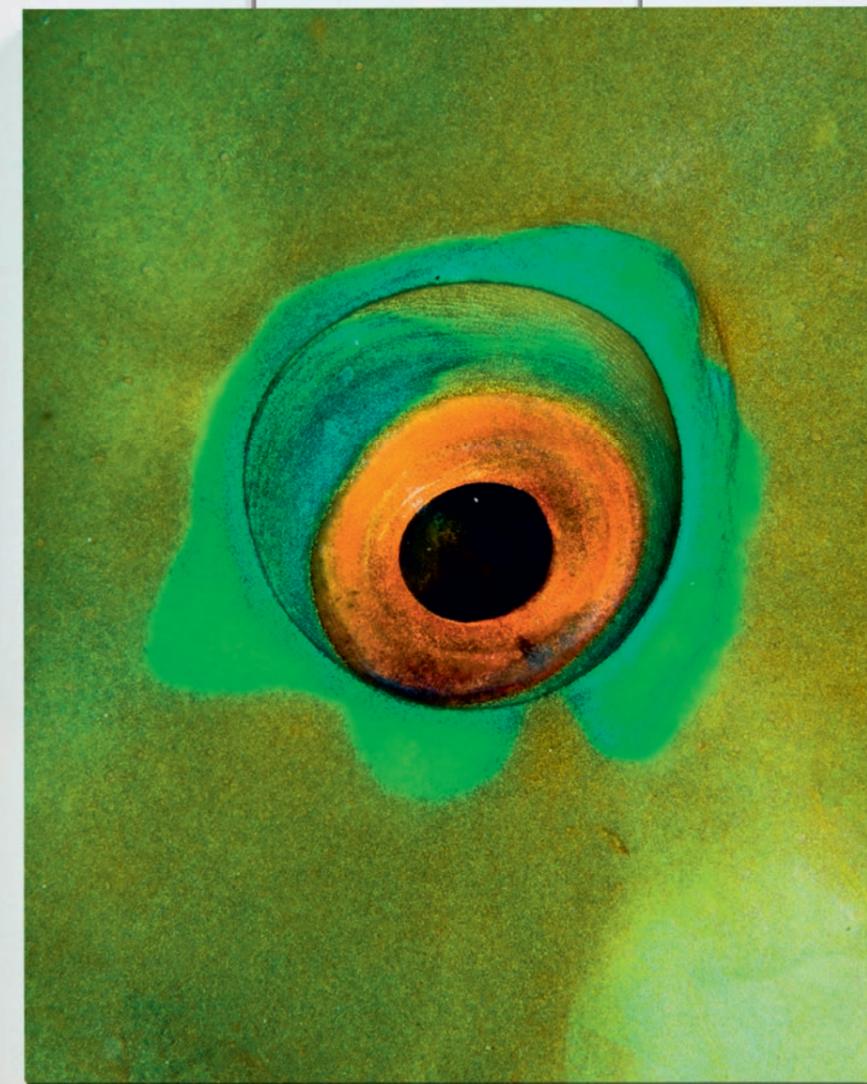
Marsa Alam					
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