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Golden Emperor 2



Golden Emperor 1



South Moon



Photo: Simon Rogerson

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Front cover image: Simon Rogerson



Letter from the Editor

New Year's resolutions anyone? Let's see... healthy eating, lots of exercise and quitting bad habits? Oh, yeah, the old 'lucky if they get to see February' choices.

To balance the chances of actually lasting on resolutions, I tend to use the trick of adding a couple of fun ones. Usually targets for underwater encounters.

As a shark fanatic, I'm fairly predictable in this. For 2010, a silky shark would do nicely thanks. And if the powers that be in the universe are listening in: I quite fancy some more hammerhead schools cruising around me and maybe some more mantas? Well, I'm feeling lucky, and surely it's as much about being positive as it is hanging out in the blue like a possessed pelagic stalker.

Of course, it helps to be a Red Sea diver when you make such high hitting demands of the underwater encounter wish-granters. And with so many out there working hard to preserve our unique marine environment, the odds of seeing amazing creatures remain high (see Green Team, page 14).

Shark fishing, thankfully, is banned in Egyptian waters, unlike in those places witnessing a dramatic demise in elasmobranch populations. Other parts of the world are, however, starting to wake up to the fact sharks are worth more alive than in a bowl of soup. New conservation research has just been published to prove it, with staggering figures.

World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Australia researchers estimate a whopping 25 per cent of visitor's expenditure in Great Barrier Reef destinations, such as Cairns and Port Douglas, go towards the opportunity to see a shark. That's a lot of tourist dollar.

'A guaranteed shark sighting is worth its weight in gold to the tourism industry,' says WWF Australia spokesman Nick Heath, who has rightly called for greater protection of sharks against over-fishing.

So, with this in mind, please don't hold back in adding such amazing creatures to your encounter resolutions. To help, Issue Four of BLUE is full of inspiration to whet your appetite for some top 2010 Red Sea experiences.

To test how lucky some get in Red Sea waters, we talk guides who have some jaw-dropping moments in 2009, page 24. Experienced guide Chris Gooda finds out what treats await divers at night (Red Sea Life, page 34) If you are more an avid macro hunter, then check out Maria Munn's Class Shot top tips on shooting the small stuff, page 32 More of a metal head? Then don't miss John Kean's tour of the Numidia in the latest Insider's Wreck Guide, page 16.

Those of you still distracted by thoughts of a healthy 2010 will find inspiration from competitive freedivers' stories in Freediver Focus, page 30. In Talking Tech Cath Bates finds out why some diving doctors are calling for tougher health screens for technical divers, page 20. For quitting bad habits, don't miss Dr Anke's shocking revelations about the little-known effects of smoking and diving, page 44. And there's a load more inside to get your festive teeth into.

So, Happy New Year diving and best of Red Sea luck... I'm off to find me a silky.

Charlotte

Charlotte Boan
Editor, BLUE



Letter from the Chairman...

Dear readers,

Looking back at the last 12 months, we have seen many changes for the better to the diving and watersports industry throughout Egypt. Over the last year, I and other representatives of the CDWS have had more than 130 meetings with government officials, governing bodies and other organisations to speak for the interests of the diving and watersports industry.

I am delighted to reveal that the number of diving accidents recorded throughout the whole of Egypt has dropped 27 per cent on previous years. This times with the completion of the first CDWS audits to ensure all dive centres and safari boats operating in Egypt meet ISO standards.

The CDWS has seen the EUF certification of 143 diving centres out of 161 in South Sinai; 155 dive centres out of 173 in the Red Sea Governorate; and 127 safari boat operations. The CDWS Technical Committee has so far pursued 144 investigations, which included complaints, technical violations reported by members and from tourists.

The second phase of auditing has already begun for 2010. CDWS auditors are working hard to ensure our diving and watersports industry meets internationally recognised standards. Despite our need for increased staff, we have been highly commended for our efforts internationally.

The CDWS has now earned permanent membership in the European Underwater Federation (EUF). Following the assessment of auditors working in Egypt, the EUF has also proposed that CDWS helps in the training of auditors of other countries, including Malta, Cyprus and the Philippines.

CDWS is also overseeing a continuing of training of those in the industry who provide necessary support for diving and watersports, such as boat skippers, drivers, equipment and cylinder handlers and many more. Safety is paramount and increasing knowledge and skill level across the board promotes this.

Conservation remains a high priority for us and we continue to support efforts to tackle illegal fishing and to work with CDWS volunteers and official bodies, such as the national park authorities to help preserve and protect our precious environment. If you or your centre is willing to support important projects, please contact us and let us know. We need your help (email: blue@cdws.travel).

We can't change everything overnight. It will take time to get exactly where we want to be. However, the objectives already met demonstrate our commitment to not only make the Red Sea the best place to dive in the world, but also the safest.

Happy and safe diving

Hesham Gabr
Chairman of the Chamber of Diving and Watersports

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Chris Gooda

Chris Gooda, 28, is a freelance dive guide and instructor based in Hurghada, where he has lived and worked for nearly three years. A diver for eight years, he has logged more than 2,000 dives in the UK, Maldives, Eastern USA, Italy and the Red Sea. While working in the dugong hotspot of Marsa Alam, Chris became interested in Red Sea ecology and has since developed a series of presentations to provide guides and guests with more information about the marine environment. 'The Red Sea offers some of the most diverse diving in the world, whether it is macro life in Nuweiba or pelagic on the Brother Islands, but still has the ability to surprise,' he says. 'Add the friendly diving community, and the Red Sea becomes a really special place to live and work.' Read Chris' guide to night diving on page 34.



Sara Campbell

World-class freediver Sara Campbell, 37, moved to the Red Sea leaving behind the corporate public relations scene in London, UK in 2005. A few years later Sara learned to freedive and hit the freediving scene like a whirlwind back in 2007. She smashed three national records within 12 months of taking up the sport before going on a few years later to become the first ever woman to reach 90m using only the propulsion of a monofin and one breath of air. Affectionately known as 'Mighty Mouse', being the smallest freediver on the circuit at a height of 4ft 11in, Sara trains freedivers and also teaches yoga in Dahab when not competing. Her amazing achievements are a constant marvel to those in and around the sport. In Freediver Focus this month, she reports from the December World Championships in the Bahamas to give us an insight on the hard fought journey to go deeper than the rest, see page 30.



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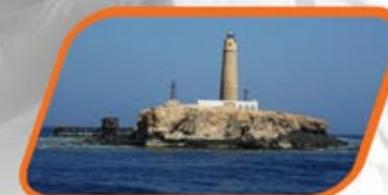
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Annual dinner celebrates CDWS achievements



The number of diving accidents recorded throughout the whole of Egypt has dropped by nearly a third since the completion of the first CDWS audits to ensure 298 diving centres and 127 safari boats comply with ISO standards. CDWS chairman Hesham Gabr told delegates at the organisation's annual dinner in Sharm el Sheikh on 2 December that the number of diving accidents had dropped 27 per cent in 2009 compared to previous figures.

The CDWS annual event, which was also attended by the Egyptian Tourism Minister Mohamed Zoheir Garana, South Sinai Governor General Mohamed Hany Metwally and members of the Egyptian media, also heard from the chairman about the need for a new international marina in Sharm el Sheikh. Mr Gabr said a new marina was essential and had to be on a par with those in Europe to increase the tourism potential within the diving and watersports industry.

Outlining the achievements of the CDWS over the last year and discussing future aims, Mr Gabr said moves continued to stop illegal operations in the diving and watersports sector from operating

without an official Ministry of Tourism (MoT) licence. He also highlighted pressing conservation issues: this included a call for a ban on commercial fishing in the Gulf of Aqaba to protect the environment as well as stronger measures to prevent illegal fishing.

Tourism Minister Garana told delegates that the MOT would do everything in its legal power to stop all illegal operations working in the diving and watersports sector.

South Sinai Governor General Metwally began his speech by underlining the Governorate's commitment to ensure all its departments worked together to improve Egyptian tourism in all areas.

The head of the CDWS Technical Committee Zeyad ElBassel highlighted current CDWS priorities, such as ensuring: all operations working in the diving and watersports sector complied with international standards for service providers; the protection of the marine environment; and the continued training of Egyptian personnel working in the sector and increasing their technical skills to meet with safety and service standards required.

Moorings for Hurghada wreck

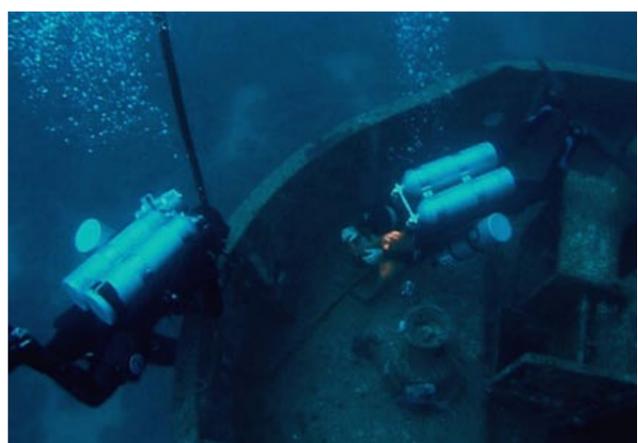
New dive boat moorings have been laid off the Red Sea resort of Hurghada to protect the Hebat Allah, which was purposely sunk as an artificial reef for divers in 2005. The 51m-long wreck lies at a depth of between 15m and 45m near Abu Ramada Island.

The mooring project was carried out by the Hurghada Environment Protection and Conservation Association (HEPCA) together with a diving team from dive centre Colona Divers and the Global Underwater Explorers (GUE) Egypt in October this year. HEPCA said it hoped the moorings would create safer diving conditions on the wreck and prevent damage to its structure by eliminating the need for dive boats to deploy their own lines.

The artificial reef has successfully attracted a variety of marine life in the last five years.

'[Hebat Allah] is a valuable marine research site, offering a unique opportunity to monitor reef growth at depths greater than 35m,' HEPCA said. 'An initial assessment of marine life and coral presence was undertaken in October and recorded some extensive fish life, including groupers, lionfish, many schooling fish and also a turtle.

'There were several coral species, including some hard corals, but their current poor coverage is likely to be due to both the depth of



the wreck and also the fact that it lies some distance away from an established coral reef'

Regular surveys of marine life at the site and the condition of the Hebat Allah's structure will continue to be carried out by HEPCA the GUE Egypt and Colona Divers, as well as the maintenance of the new mooring system.

www.hepca.com

Top of the class

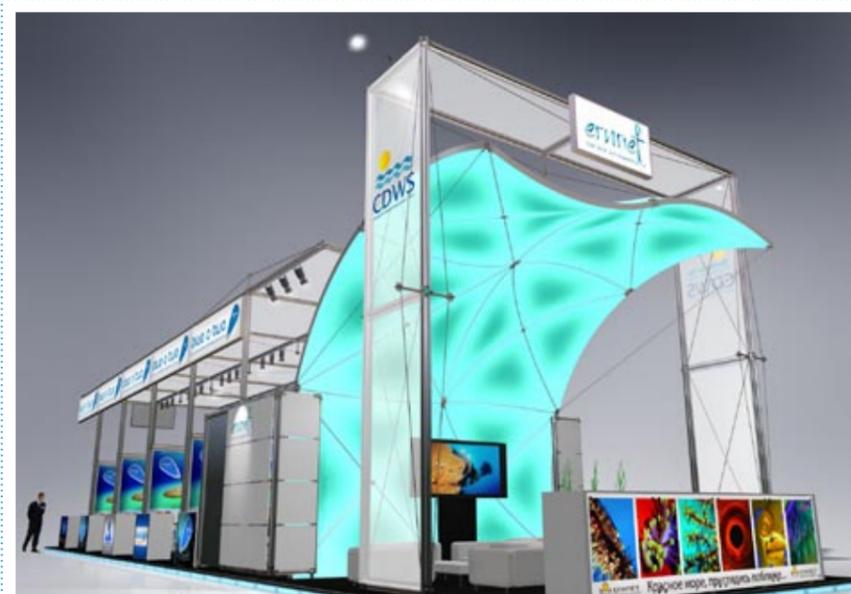
Dive guides and instructors across Egypt are sitting new exams as part of a drive by the CDWS to ensure professionals meet minimum scuba knowledge standards required. All diving professionals who wish to renew or begin CDWS membership and obtain the required card must complete and achieve a minimum 80 per cent pass. Developed by the CDWS technical team and instructor trainers, the exams consist of 75 questions covering general knowledge of: leadership, physics, physiology, first aid and emergency, equipment and environmental awareness. There is nothing in the exam which is not covered in CDWS-recognised

professional dive guide and instructor training courses.

The first series of exams saw 142 dive staff working in the South Sinai resort of Dahab achieving an impressive 100 per cent pass rate.

Exam papers are available in Arabic, English, Italian, German and Russian. Those candidates applying for cards as snorkel guides or snorkel instructors take a separate exam available in English and Arabic.

Results are posted on the www.cdws.travel website within 48 hours of the exam along with the date staff can collect their CDWS cards.



That's show business

CDWS and its members will once again be exhibiting at all the major diving industry shows in 2010, including France, Germany, Russia and the UK. Specially translated versions of **BLUE** will be available in German for show visitors at this year's Boot Show, running between 23 and 31 January in Dusseldorf. CDWS members participating at this event include: Nesima Resort, Shark's Bay Umbi Diving Village, Coraya Divers, Ilios Dive Club, Coraya Divers, Sea Serpent Fleet, Sea Queen Fleet, Aquarius Diving Club and Camel Dive Club.

For more information about Boot 2010, see www.boot.de.

There will also be a specially printed Russian version of **BLUE** free to show goers at the Golden Dolphin Show in Moscow

CDWS members participating at the Moscow event include: Camel Dive Club, Aquarius Diving Club, Sea Serpent Fleet, Coral Diving Club, Flowers of Sinai, Red Sea Safaris and Sinai Dive Club.

For more information about Golden Dolphin, see www.goldendolphin.ru.

The first event of the 2010 dive show calendar will be the Paris International Dive Show in France, from 15 to 18 January. CDWS participants at this event include: Nesima Resort, Camel Dive Club and Coraya Divers and Sea World Diving.

*The CDWS stand in the Red Sea Zone of the UK Dive 09 show held at the Birmingham National Exhibition Centre attracted huge crowds of British divers looking for information and prices for diving holidays in Egypt on 24 and 25 October 2009. Congratulations to Russell Wagstaff from Oxfordshire in the UK who was named winner of the show prize donated by Sea Queen Fleet. He wins a Sea Queen liveboard trip for two in the northern Red Sea worth 700 Euros.

* CDWS also exhibited at the 2009 World Travel Market (WTM) show in the UK to help raise the profile of diving in the Red Sea and the moves being made to improve safety and service standards.

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CDWS

Che cosa è la CDWS e che cosa accade in Egitto?
 La CDWS (Camera per l'industria del settore turismo per subacquea e sport acquatico) è il primo ed unico ente ufficiale in Egitto istituito per regolamentare le immersioni ricreative e gli sport acquatici. Istituita nel 2007, la CDWS ha come obiettivi principali quelli di assicurare che tutti i servizi di subacquea ricreativa e tutte le strutture in Egitto rispondano agli standard internazionali riconosciuti dalla Federazione Europea delle Attività Subacquee (EUF).

Tutti i centri di immersione e le barche da crociera sub devono adeguarsi agli standard EN 14467/ISO 24803, emanati dalla CDWS, dall'Istituto Austriaco delle Norme e dalla EUF (Federazione Europea delle Attività Subacquee).

Pur essendo una tra le più attive e popolari destinazioni di immersioni nel mondo, nei suoi 25 anni di esistenza, l'industria subacquea in Egitto non è mai stata ufficialmente regolamentata. Tali compiti erano stati precedentemente lasciati in mano ad organizzazioni non governative. Di conseguenza, molti degli obiettivi prefissati dalla CDWS, avranno bisogno di tempo per essere attuati.

La CDWS opera sotto supervisione della Federazione Egiziana del Turismo ed è gestita da un consiglio di 12 membri - dieci eletti dai membri stessi e due nominati.

Nel 2008 il consiglio della CDWS ha commissionato l'ispezione di centri sub e di imbarcazioni da crociera sub ad un team di revisori indipendenti col fine di garantire che le strutture soddisfino gli standard ISO EN 14467 / ISO 24803. Le ispezioni sono durate tra i due e i quattro giorni. Tutti gli operatori devono superare le ispezioni per qualificarsi o rinnovare la propria adesione alla CDWS e per ottenere, dal Ministero del Turismo, la licenza necessaria per operare legalmente in Egitto.

I gestori che non hanno superato l'ispezione iniziale hanno avuto un considerevole periodo di grazia in cui implementare questi standard prima della scadenza del 2009. Il termine è ormai superato e l'Egitto ha visto la chiusura di alcuni centri subacquea illegali - coloro che non hanno mai posseduto una licenza rilasciata dal Ministero del Turismo o non conformi alle normative ISO.

Il sito web della CDWS pubblica un elenco completo dei gestori legali certificati ISO, così come una "lista nera" di quelle imprese che operano illegalmente. Si spera che queste misure garantiscano elevati standard di sicurezza.

Altre iniziative per migliorare gli standard comprendono corsi di formazione, per lo più finanziati dal Ministero del Turismo, per le guide snorkeling e gli skipper delle barche.

Altro elemento centrale sono le tematiche legate all'ambiente marino e la CDWS continua a sostenere le campagne ed i progetti volti a proteggere e salvaguardare il mondo sottomarino. Ciò comprende l'organizzazione di una conferenza a Sharm el Sheikh per affrontare il problema della pesca illegale ed il finanziamento per il materiale promozionale indirizzato ad educare i non-subacquei sui danni causati dal camminare sulla barriera corallina, dallo scarico di rifiuti e dal dare da mangiare ai pesci.

Dive Centre name: Colona Dive Center

★★★★★ from 2 reviews

Colona Divers Sharm el Sheikh offers the full range of PADI diving courses from basic to pro level. Our team of international instructors teaches in Swedish, Finnish, Danish, English, German, Italian, French, Spanish, Polish & Arabic. Other languages available on request. Our highly trained staff caters to each individual's needs so as to make your diving course an unforgettable experience.

The diving in the Sharm El Sheikh area runs from Ras Mohammed at the tip of the Sinai peninsula all the way to the Straits of Tiran Reefs (in the Gulf of Aqaba) on the northern east coast.

This area benefits from the shelter of the land and conditions are usually calm to moderate, unlike the western coast of Sinai which can get rough, as the winds blow down the length of the Gulf of Suez.

The entire area is under the protection of the Ras Mohammed national park therefore do not touch the coral or feed the fish otherwise you may find yourselves with a ticket from the rangers. Wherever you dive around the Sinai you are in for some excitement, fantastic coral and great diving.

CDWS (Chamber of Diving and Watersports)

We are an accredited member of CDWS. All CDWS member dive operators have met ISO standards EN 14467 / ISO 24803 for diving to ensure your diving safety.

Illegal operator clampdown

CDWS has teamed up with more online scuba diving portals in its bid to tackle the number of illegal dive operations promoting on the web. Italian diving portal www.scubaportal.it and UK site www.scubadiver.com are the latest web-based companies working with CDWS to help prevent tourists from booking Red Sea diving packages with illegally run operations.

The sites now feature information on the CDWS and its internationally recognised standards for safety and services to greater publicise the importance of diving with only legal operations in Egypt. The sites also provide links through to the black-list of illegal operations featured on the CDWS website.

Maria Munn workshop
 BLUE contributor Maria Munn is running underwater photography workshops in Nuweiba on 5 April and 21 June 2010 with Emperor Divers. The course costs 250 Euros. For information and to book a place email Emperor Divers at info.reservations@emperordivers.com.

TV scuba bride search
 UKTV channel Living is looking for British brides planning to tie the knot underwater in Egypt, as well as a CDWS member dive centre willing to help with the big day. The reality show Four Weddings plans to feature an international wedding in the Red Sea that will take place in January, February or March 2010 as part of its reality TV 'battle of the brides' contest. Four brides rate each other's weddings in terms of dress, food, venue and overall experience in a bid to win their dream honeymoon. British scuba brides-to-be can contact Living by email at Meg.Barnard@ITV.com.

Starter for Ten
 Colona Divers in Hurghada celebrated its tenth anniversary on 7 December. Dive centre manager and well-known Red Sea photographer Kimmo Hagman kicked off the party celebrations by thanking all staff and guests who have been with the centre over the last decade. www.colona.com.

Diver Awards
 Readers of UK Diver Magazine have started to vote for their favourite dive operations destinations and equipment manufacturers for its 2010 industry awards. Red Sea operations continue to feature highly in these awards, with Egypt picking up Destination of the Year in 2009 and Sharm el Sheikh's Red Sea Diving College being named Dive Centre of the Year for the third year running. Guests of diving centres can vote online for their favourite centre at www.divernet.com.

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Silver for Dahab freediver

Dahab resident freediver Sara Campbell won a silver medal for Britain in the AIDA Individual Freediving World Championships in the Bahamas on 5 December. The 37-year-old reached 92m on one breath in a three minute, eight second dive at Dean's Blue Hole, Long Island.

Campbell, who has held four World Records in her relatively short career, three of which she set in under 48 hours just nine months after taking up the sport, is one of only two women in the world capable of diving beyond 90m. The gold medal in the contest went to Russia's Natalia Molchanova, who reached a depth of 97m in the contest just months after setting the new world record of 101m in Sharm el Sheikh.

'That was an amazing dive, extremely easy for me and I kind of wish I'd announced deeper for a record,' Campbell told reporters. 'The same dive normally takes me over 20 seconds longer than today. It's incredibly motivating looking forward and I'm looking forward to challenging for the world record again in the near future.'

Read Campbell's personal account on what it takes to become a champion freediver in Freediver Focus on page 30



Camel commended

Sharm el Sheikh-based dive centre Camel Dive Club & Hotel was Highly Commended in the Marine Environment category in the 2009 Virgin Holidays Responsible Tourism Awards that recognize achievements in eco-friendly tourism throughout the world. Camel's entry in the Best in a Marine Environment category focused on its activities to inform and educate visitors to Sharm El Sheikh about how to minimize their impact on the Red Sea's sensitive marine environment, and actions the centre took to reduce the environmental impact of its hotel and diving operations. Camel was selected from over 150 entries by a panel of 13 judges chaired by Dr Harold Goodwin, professor of Responsible Tourism Management at Leeds Metropolitan University, UK. New Zealand tour company Whale Watch Kaikoura was named the Best in a Marine Environment and the overall winner of the awards. For more information about the Responsible Tourism Awards see www.responsibletourismawards.com.

Red Sea coral feeds on jellyfish

Scientists in the Red Sea have the first photographic evidence of coral eating jellyfish. The usual diet for coral is tiny plankton and nutrients produced by photosynthetic algae. However, the photographs show clearly a mushroom coral sucking in a large moon jellyfish.

The pictures were taken off the Red Sea resort of Eilat by Israeli marine biologists Dr Omri Bronstein of Tel Aviv University and Mr Gal Dishon from Bar-Ilan University in Ramat Gan. The pair was surveying the area during a seasonal bloom of jellyfish when they witnessed the previously unheard of behaviour of the coral eating such a large creature.

'This is definitely unusual,' said marine biologist Ada Alamaru, who was part of the research team. 'As far as I know no other corals are reported to feed on jellyfish. However, some sea anemones, which are close relatives of corals, are documented feeding on other jelly species. We couldn't believe our eyes when we saw it.'

According to Alamaru, the scientists saw more than one section of coral feeding on jellyfish. She added that it still remains a mystery how exactly the mushroom coral (*F. scurposus*), which is composed of one large polyp measuring up to 30cm, manages to capture the moon jellyfish.



Read every issue of **BLUE** magazine FREE online at www.cdws.travel

Also find destination guides, information on diving and watersports in Egypt. Do not book any diving activity before checking our list of legal diving operators available only on www.cdws.travel

Boot displays best of Red Sea



Photo: Andrew Slater



The Red Sea is the theme for this year's underwater photography contests at Germany's Boot 2010 show in Dusseldorf. The TopShot competition, run in association with the CDWS, www.Taucher.net, Unterwasser and Messe Dusseldorf, covers four categories of pictures taken only in the Red Sea, including 'life on the reef', 'diver', 'wreck' and 'macro'.

Hundreds of entrants in the competition were restricted to a maximum of four photographs each. A panel of judges has selected the best 25 entries of in each of the four categories to be displayed at the Boot show in Dusseldorf for a final vote.

The overall winner in each category will win a place in a photo shoot-out competition in Egypt, courtesy of Topbeteiligung. The winners will also receive a 'wildcard' to enter a major photographic competition to be held in the Red Sea later in 2010.

The 100 photographs exhibited at Boot will also be auctioned off to the highest bidder at the show, with proceeds going to the Shark Project, Yaqupacha and the Turtle Foundations. Entry costs 20 Euros to cover printing and display fees.

For more information email topshot@taucher.net.

Hilton development in Marsa Alam

Hilton Hotels has announced work has started to create a new 370-room luxury hotel development in Marsa Alam. The new Hilton in the growing Red Sea resort, south of Hurghada, will include an international business conference centre, entertainment village and residential suites.



'This management agreement gives us a firm footing in the emerging holiday destination of Marsa Alam and will further bolster our profile as one of the key players in Egypt's hotel industry,' said Hilton worldwide president Christopher Nassetta.

dive the big **5**

D a h a b

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CDWS Members General Assembly



CDWS members gathered together at the General Assembly in Sharm el Sheikh on 6 December to discuss present issues, challenges and future plans together with the board of the CDWS and Ministry of Tourism (MoT) representatives.

Chairman Hesham Gabr opened proceedings, outlining the major focus of the work of the CDWS and how the organisation needs more full time staff to deliver a greater service to its members. Mr Gabr. said he had put forward a proposal to the Egyptian tourism minister to secure funding for more staff and projects for the next five years, calling the existing structure unsustainable.

CDWS has held 130 meetings with government officials of various levels in its efforts for the diving and watersports industry, he added.

Board member Omar Adly talked of the on-going schemes to increase skills and knowledge of individuals working in the diving and watersports industry, such as skippers and compressor operators.

The head of the CDWS Technical Committee, Zeyad ElBassel said he was pleased to announce that the CDWS had earned permanent membership in the European Underwater Federation (EUF). Following the assessment of auditors working in Egypt, the EUF has proposed that CDWS helps in the training of auditors of other countries, including Malta, Cyprus and the Philippines. The CDWS has also been requested to take responsibility for auditing dive centres throughout the Middle East.

The CDWS Technical Committee has so far pursued 144 investigations, which included complaints and technical violations reported by members and tourists. Other on-going projects for the Technical Committee, said Mr Bassel, included the development of safer areas for divers where there is heavy surface traffic. Together with the Ras Mohammed National Park and headed by CDWS volunteer Rolf Schmidt, the popular site of Ras Katy in Sharm el Sheikh will see the start of a number of trials to zone off diving and boat traffic areas.

'If it works well, we will move the project to different sites,' Mr ElBassel told the delegation.

CDWS financial auditor Mohamed Abdel Kerim Fekry presented the financial report for the year, running from beginning of July 2008 to 30 June 2009. Full reports, covering all CDWS financial details for this period, were made available to all members in attendance.

Votes on bylaws of the CDWS saw the majority of CDWS members – 74 out of the 76 in attendance (one member abstaining and another incorrectly marking the ballot) - agreeing to:

* Accept the financial report presented to members.

* Accept the current bylaws of the CDWS

* Agree to changes in the financial procedures. These would help prevent delays in CDWS transactions, such as the distribution of cheques.

New ISOs for 2010

Details of new standards for snorkel service providers and snorkel guide training requirements created by the CDWS are set to be introduced after being accepted by the member countries of the International Standard Organisation (ISO). Following a series of minor changes to drafts, these are expected to become official standards by May 2010.

The November meeting of ISO representatives in Orlando, Florida in November 2009 also covered the first draft for standards and training requirement for gas blenders, which was prepared by members from Finland, Germany, Austria and England and training agency representatives of VDST, NAUI, PADI and TDI.



Turtle barcodes

Marine life experts have been studying turtle 'barcodes' in a bid to try to greater understand the migratory patterns of this endangered marine creature and to prevent illegal trading of products. Identifying DNA barcodes collected from 249 turtles of seven species around the world, scientists hope to document biological diversity patterns to help conservation efforts.

'This is the first study to document DNA barcodes of all species of sea turtles,' said Eugenia Naro-Maciel, Marine Biodiversity Scientist at the Center for Biodiversity and Conservation at the American Museum of Natural History. 'By identifying these animals to species and providing a standardized registry for documenting genetic diversity within this group, DNA bar-coding promises to advance conservation and research.'

Up to now illegal trade of endangered species has been hard to investigate, as the origin of products has always been difficult to ascertain. However, scientists say bar-coding items collected by wildlife management could provide vital information and means of tracking international trade in wildlife products.

Bar coding has already been successfully used to identify the presence of endangered whales in Asian markets and to check the accuracy of caviar and red snapper labeling

To find out more about turtle conservation around the Red Sea and download an information pack about the projects in Egypt, see the Red Sea Turtle Project website: www.redseaturtles.com.



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Do good for dugongs

Educating guests about the environment is a major focus of the centre, as well as briefing divers on best practices for encountering marine life.

Orca Dive Club has been working hard for the last three years with staff and guests to help to protect the important dugong habitat of Abu Dabab.

Small in numbers and extremely shy and elusive, dugongs are a rare edition in divers' logbooks. In a small area of coastline on the Egyptian Red Sea, however, divers have some of the best chances of coming face-to-nose with the gentle sea cow.

These bizarre-looking mammals – the cousin of the more abundant and familiar manatee – grow up to 4m in length and feed on two types of seagrass. Both of these seagrass types are found around the sheltered, sandy bay of Abu Dabab, near Marsa Alam, around 70km south of Hurghada on the mainland Egyptian Red Sea coastline.

Just seven dugongs are thought to exist between El Qusier and Sudan, with the majority of sightings recorded in Abu Dabab. The low population of the species around Egypt's shores reflects on a global scale. The dugong has been classified as vulnerable to extinction for nearly two decades and is now a permanent fixture on the World Conservation Union (IUCN) Red List of threatened species.

Orca Dive Club in Abu Dabab teamed up with conservation group Hurghada Environmental Protection and Conservation Association (HEPCA) in 2007 to help protect the delicate habitat Abu Dabab and

its resident dugongs and turtles. This has made the Red Sea one of only a few places in the world where the dugong is protected, all thanks to the volunteer work of divers here.

The habitat of Abu Dabab faces many threats, such as pollution from building projects, including dredging in the area and it needs continuous protection. The dugong is also prone to injury from boat traffic, with many displaying evidence of propeller scars on their bodies.

For nearly three years a zoning line has been in place to prevent boat traffic inside the bay. All moorings have also been removed to stop overnight stays by safari boats. Access from the shore is allowed within the bay, but the number of visiting divers is subject to strict control.

As well as helping HEPCA to protect the bay from boat traffic by laying lines and monitoring the area, Orca Dive Club continues to assist with studies on the dugong. The centre is also in regular contact with the International Institute of Oceanography and Fishery which is currently researching dugong in Australia.

The team at Orca Dive Club carefully monitors diving encounters with the dugongs and have even affectionately named each of the creatures encountered on a near-daily basis.

'They [dugongs] have been named Wahed, Etnen, Talata, Arba, Ghamsa and Setta, which translates from Arabic as one, two, three, four, five and...yes, you've guessed it: six,' says Anders Jalmsjo of Orca Dive Club. 'Most of our diving guests show a great interest in marine biology and conservation, so there are plenty of eyes and ears around to collect data, but, of course, the evaluations are made by trained professionals.'

Not only does the data collected include frequency of sightings, but also detailed mapping information of where dugongs are found. This data collection work is shared with researchers around the world.

Educating guests about the environment is a major focus of the centre, as well as briefing divers on best practices for encountering marine life. This has received a very positive response, particularly since the project to protect the area's dugongs began in 2007. Preserving the important habitat will ultimately, according to Orca Dive Club, enable many guests to enjoy unique encounters with this rare species.

Orca Dive Club's work for marine conservation, however, is not just focused on the dugong. The Abu Dabab seagrass beds also support various species of fish and serve as nurseries for the juveniles of many marine species, including filefish, pufferfish, ghost pipefish, seahorses and turtles.

'We are always working to increase the knowledge level of our staff and are planning to profile our dive operation in Abu Dabab, Hamata and Wadi Lahmy, offering marine life education through our instructors who are trained marine biologists' says Jalmsjo.

Educating staff will enable conservationists to make greater use of the data collected by those diving these waters daily. HEPCA's managing director Amr Ali believes such collaboration with dive centres proves that diving and the tourism industry show great promise for the future.

'This is not about money, about competition, or about being forced to act by law,' he said at the launch of the project. 'Protecting the environment is everyone's concern. This shows that the diving and tourism industry has the potential to be self-regulatory here.'

Jalmsjo agrees: 'Diving business depends on the marine environment. Also the world would not survive if the eco-system in the oceans continues to be disturbed. We can't afford not to get involved as recreational divers, operators in the dive industry, or the human race.'

www.orca-diveclub-abudabab.com

Insider's Wreck Guide: The Numidia

Pictures: Simon Rogerson



Resident Red Sea wreck guru **John Kean** explores the fascinating story and diving treats of the Numidia, which lies near the Big Brother island in Egypt's south Red Sea.

Smashing British ships into Egyptian reef systems seems to have been something of a national sport around one hundred years ago when the Dunraven, the Carnatic and the Numidia all came out worse following collisions with these timeless ecosystems.

The 'Brothers', as they are known, are a remote reef system consisting of Big Brother and Small Brother islands, which are about 500 meters apart and around 40 kilometers from the nearest land. As far as Red Sea safari divers are concerned they are as remote as you can get and make for some spectacular diving. Big Brother is home to a lighthouse and its staff, a few small buildings and half a dozen cats with questionable pedigree.

At the turn of the last century, ships like the Numidia would use the Big Brother lighthouse to navigate having travelled through the Suez Canal. They would sail on down the Southern Red Sea out into the ocean. Numidia was heading for Calcutta, but she never made it.

The skipper was Captain John Craig who had been with the Anchor Line for over 35 years and a Master for 28 years. He had travelled

the same route over 100 times and knew these seas well. On 19 July 1901, his new ship, the Numidia, weighed over 4,000 tonnes and had 97 hands on board. Once clear of the Suez Canal and approaching the Brothers he left control of the ship to the second officer, James Tulloch with instructions to steer her 27 degrees South, which should take Numidia over one mile westward of Big Brother Island. It was then that John Craig left the bridge after a gruelling 60-hour shift to get some sleep. It was 11 pm.

The events that followed remain partly unknown but a court of enquiry noted that James Tulloch changed the course when he saw Big Brother bearing down fast. But what was he doing for the two hours previously when the lighthouse was in sight? It was suggested that he might have been sleeping at the wheel. Two lighthouse keepers watching the approaching ship said it made no sign of altering course until it was almost upon them. At the last minute he changed course to 22 degrees South. He could have easily awoken skipper John Craig and absolved himself of responsibility. It was too late.

The enquiry found the ship's compasses to have been in perfect working order. There was a light fresh breeze that night but no mention was made of the currents that are now well known to divers. These currents can reach great speed and carry objects several miles



in a short time. Was the Numidia a victim of them?

The Numidia lay stricken on the shallow reef for several weeks while attempts were made to re-float her. All of the crew and most of the cargo were safely removed. James Tulloch was largely held to blame and had his Officers Certificate suspended for nine months, although he could still work as a rating. John Craig received no punishment after the courts findings were that his instructions were given but not made good by James Tulloch.



and all vessels have RIB support. Recreational divers are unable to reach the prop at 80m but the stern mast base is nearer 40m by aft hold number three. There is much fine soft coral on the wreck, which thankfully, unlike other popular sites, has not suffered from inappropriate 'tying on' of lines.

The engine room is where you'll see the steam cylinders and stairways leading to the lower areas and is definitely worth a visit. Much of the wreck is open and easy to swim around in near the light zones, but be aware of disorientation or veering off into dark and enclosed areas without proper training and equipment.

The ship eventually broke in two and today stretches from the shallows down to over 80m deep. It is incredible to see that the ship hit the reef at its narrowest point of only twenty meters wide. A minor deviation on either side would have seen Numidia glide gracefully by avoiding doom. But then again, what fun would that be for wreck divers!

The Numidia is a vertical wreck now, so it is best to reach the maximum depth and multi-level your way back, taking in all the fine features from stern to bow.

Depths depend on your qualifications and experience. All diving here requires surface support because of strong currents and the potential to be swept off the reef. Only liveboard boats can dive the Brothers

Apart from the bow, now broken and embedded in the shallow reef, the wreck as a whole is intact and in good condition considering the 108 years its been down there. Grey reef and occasionally thresher sharks can be seen at the deeper depths along with plenty of trevally and barracuda.

The Numidia is at the narrow North end of Big Brother where currents can be strong, so do your safety stop a little further around where you can ascend in calmer waters. In any event, it will be the RIB that is likely to pick you up. The golden rule in this area is to listen carefully to the briefing and be seen and heard on the surface.



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Fit to tech dive?

images: Andrew Slater

Red Sea technical diving instructor **Cath Bates** takes a close look at diving medical assessments and finds out why diving medical pioneer Dr Adel Taher is calling for new standards to ensure divers are fit to extend their range in the water.

'Deep diving utilizing multiple gases, including helium, is about as risky as it gets.' This is the friendly greeting that slaps you round the face from decompression expert Erik C Baker as you open dive software programme V Planner. In technical diving there may be long exposures to the cold depending on the amount of decompression, equipment and associated technology. Multiple gas mixes need to be managed and the environmental conditions can be far more challenging than your everyday dive site and plan. But when and who decides if you are physically and mentally up to this challenge?

In order to become a DSAT (Diving Science and Technology) trimix-qualified diver the student must have a physician's 'approval and signature' on the medical statement. Hotel doctors and GPs (general medical practitioners) are not diving medical or hyperbaric specialists, nevertheless, this seems to be considered suitable enough.

However, Dr Adel Taher of Sharm el Sheikh's Chamber of Hyperbaric Medicine has been campaigning for three years to try to ensure technical divers do not fall under the recreational diving umbrella when it comes to medicals.

He has given a lecture called Reflections on Recent Technical Diving Accidents in the Sinai... what are we doing wrong? in Poland, Turkey and Austria for DAN (Diver's Alert Network) and the EUBS (European Underwater and Baromedical Society) to try and strengthen his case. He doesn't hold back on his views about there being no standards and goes as far as to describe the situation as a 'farce'. So if he – a man highly respected in the field of diving medicine around the world – believes a candidate to be unsuitable – will this lead those to simply go elsewhere to get the okay and return to the diving centre to begin their training?

As an industry standard, Dr Taher believes we should see the following tests carried out on technical diving candidates:

- Lung function tests
- Spiro meter testing (measuring the volume of air inspired and expired by the lungs)
- PFO test (Patent Foramen Ovale – a congenital heart defect)
- Cat Scan on the lungs (these can show up cysts that are otherwise invisible on a normal X-ray)
- A stress ECG (an electrocardiogram to see how the heart responds to an increase in demand for oxygen)

He also would also wish to see full and complete neurological testing done on any diver wishing to enter the technical realm if they have suffered a previous episode of decompression illness. They should steer well clear of deeper diving if they are on medication because, he says, not enough research has been done into the effect of drugs under extreme pressure. In addition to this he believes a 'proper' psychological assessment should be carried out.

Technical diving pioneer Tom Mount from IANTD (International Association of Nitrox and Technical Divers) agrees: 'In an ideal world a stress, VO2 max test (the maximum capacity of an individual's body to transport and utilize oxygen during incremental exercise, which reflects their physical fitness) and a psychological evaluation would be carried

out in addition to a complete physical exam by a qualified hyperbaric physician.'

Some professionals want a standard 'watermanship' test introduced, on the understanding that a technical diver should be much fitter than a recreational diver.

The agency medical statements I recently investigated in this matter mention panic and hyperventilation as a danger that should be anticipated. This signed document is of course to be coupled with a Liability Release form, requiring a witness. IANTD have additionally printed a message to the medical examiner informing stating: 'Technical and recreational scuba diving activities with compressed air, oxygen-enriched air (nitrox), oxygen, helium and/or trimix are physically strenuous.'

DSAT provides a specific Liability Release for technical diving and a Tec Deep Diver Statement of Understanding, which even mentions task loading and physical burden. TDI (Technical Diving International) has its students sign to state that they 'understand that I will be exerting myself during this course' and 'understand that these activities may place me deeper than I am able to safely execute a free ascent from'. But the fact remains that all these medical questionnaires were originally designed for recreational diving activities. The information provided is to the best of the divers' knowledge, not that of a medical professional.

Dehydration and panic are common causes of accidents. But neither of these can be anticipated when completing the medical. Breathing an inappropriate gas at depth can cause hypoxia (not enough oxygen is received) or hyperoxia (too much, as with oxygen toxicity). Running out of gas, getting lost, equipment failure and drowning have nothing to do with the health of a technical diver when they complete the questionnaire, yet these are all incidents that could cause one to panic and head blindly for the surface.

The most common accidents that Dr Adel has identified that most technical diving accidents involve those divers who over estimate their abilities. 'It is evident they are overloaded psychologically, physically and physiologically,' he says. 'Gas management is not easy.'

He has a particular problem with dealing with technical diving accidents involving heavy smokers or those who have been drinking alcohol the night before.

Adel was Sharm's first trimix diver. He returned with his licence from the US in the late 1980s. 'But when I gained weight and lost my physical fitness, I stopped,' he says.

At the 2008 DAN Technical Diving Conference Jeff Bozanic from the Island Caves Research Centre in California said: 'We cannot expect to identify every poor-risk technical diving candidate with medical/physical screening alone. We are all guinea pigs.'

There is still much medical research needed where increased pressure (physical and mental) is concerned. But with the generic recreational diving medical questionnaire still being used, what are we learning? Perhaps we are expected to assume that divers use common sense to self-certify themselves when pushing the limits of their training and experience. Sadly, however, common sense isn't stated in print as a prerequisite for these courses.

DSAT: Diving Science and Technology
 DAN: Divers Alert Network
 EUBS: European Underwater and Baromedical Society
 DAN: Divers Alert Network
 IANTD: International Association of Nitrox and Technical Divers
 TDI: Technical Diving International

Cath Bates is part of the technical team at Camel Dive Club in Sharm el Sheikh (www.cameldive.com).

Centres of excellence

Continuing his search for the best in diving services, photo-journalist **Brendan O'Brien** turns his experienced dive punter eye to dive centres

Photo: Eloise Mundy



With over three decades of diving experience and fourteen years as a photojournalist for the diving press fellow divers think I'm in the position to answer the question, "where is the best place in the world to dive?" However, despite having visited hundreds of dive centres and resorts across the world this question still stumps me. 'Best' in my book isn't just about the diving, it's the whole experience, which for the most part has more to do with the dive centre and resort than the diving itself.

So what makes a dive resort the 'best'? Well, some good diving close by is an obvious starting point. However, I believe 'best' has more to do with how a resort manages the customer's total experience, from the moment they start thinking about a trip to the time they leave the resort.

Before deciding on a destination I look for resorts that provide me with a sense of excited anticipation, often as a result of attractive and well designed marketing material. A website that provides innovative sneak previews are a must – some of the best ones I've seen allow you access to virtual tours as well as video footage of the resort and its diving. The emergence of blogs as a means of communicating with past and potential customers is proving to be a very effective marketing tool for many of the outstanding resorts across the world as they allow virtual visitors to get a sense of what is to come.

They say initial impressions count and this certainly applies to the diving industry, especially if I've just suffered a marathon flight half way across the world. While a couple of decades ago I was quite happy to sit in the back of a resort's truck for the airport transfer, these days I'm a tad fussier. To impress me now the resort will need to ensure there is a knowledgeable representative at the arrivals hall together with comfortable transportation.

How a resort welcomes its customers tends to set the tone for the rest of the trip but I'm amazed at the number of resorts that forget the basics starting with an introduction to the resort's routine and how to find the dive centre. The resorts that have gone on to provide an amazing service are the ones where I will be shown to my room, helped with my luggage, allowed time to freshen up, and then be provided with the opportunity for a tour of the facilities.

Despite my years of experience I still get a bit tense before the first days diving. What gets me relaxed though is a well planned orientation of the centre's routine. During the orientation I'll look for what I believe to be the key indicators of an efficient and effective centre: clean and tidy public areas as well as workshops and equipment storage areas that are well maintained. How the centre's employees conduct themselves always tells me a lot about how good my diving will be. If I'm paying for a service then that's what I expect to receive, there's no room in today's diving industry for surliness and tales of how late a divemaster stayed up partying the night before.

I'm always reassured by dive centres who go out of their way to demonstrate their safety routines with bonus points going to the ones that show me the equipment that is there to save my life. This invariably only takes a few minutes but goes a long way to help convince me I'm diving with professionals.

While the Red Sea tends to set the standard with its dive boats, other centres across the world have left me doubting their ability to get me in and out of the water safely. Once again, the standards of cleanliness and whether everything in is its place are the things I look for first. Heads that aren't cleaned on a regular basis and dirt or grime on the diving deck are all warning signs I've learnt to heed.

Safety is also paramount, the boat might have all the right equipment to bring it up to the required standard, but is it accessible, in working order and importantly, do the crew know how to use it? On several occasions I've found first aid equipment that is either faulty or out of date. I've also witnessed and been part of emergency situations where the crew have been next to hopeless.

On reflection the 'best places to dive' haven't always been notable for their dive sites. What I believe makes a location 'the best' hasn't just been accommodation that is up to a high standard, food that is exceptional, a dive centre that is run effectively, boats that are either purpose built or have been adapted with diver's needs in mind, together with qualified employees who understand what it is to provide an amazing service, it's the synergy of all these factors that makes the difference.



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image: Gunn Bumoen

I SHOULD BE SO LUCKY...

What a year to have been in the Red Sea. The whole of the last 12 months have been full of reports of incredible marine encounters, particularly between the months of May to October. Manta and whale shark this, hammerhead and tiger shark that; 2009 was a classic Red Sea dive year, even on local training reefs. **Charlotte Boan** talks to dive guides about their lucky underwater moments of the year.



TOP GUNN

If there was an award for the largest number of big creature encounters from dayboats in Egypt in one year, then a sure runner in the race would be **Gunn Bumoen** of Camel Dive Club in Sharm el Sheikh. Of all the three years she's worked here, none have come close to beating the incredible underwater moments she shared with her guests in 2009. It all kicked off with mantas in April.

'Almost every day I was seeing mantas locally,' she recalls. 'One day we even had seven in one dive swimming around us about 25m away. I also saw a lot of hammerheads. I guess I must have seen hammerheads about 15 different times on the back of Jackson Reef this year. Two of the best dives were four hammerheads close to us for ten minutes, then eight of them for 21 minutes on another day. There were only three times on the back of Jackson when I didn't see them.'

However, on one of three dives Gunn didn't see the hammerheads, she shared an encounter with a turtle and a pod of dolphins. And one of the other hammerhead no-shows involved a grey reef shark. 'I decided to head north from the back of the Lara wreck, no hammerheads, but we saw a turtle we stayed with for a while, before a pod of about 20 Risso's dolphins (*Grampus griseus*) swam close to us for about eight minutes. Fantastic.'

Gunn's other logbook entries in 2009 include thresher, whale, black tip and white tip sharks, as well as mating turtles, a sailfish, frogfish and huge schools of barracuda. 'These were huge barracudas, about 1.5m-long' she says. 'When I first saw a school of about ten, I thought they were sharks at first from a distance because they were so big. I think I've had a really lucky year – 2009 has been amazing.'



FIVE STAR

El Gouna dive guides, such as **Christian Anderson**, manager of Colona Divers, encountered dolphins almost every day throughout the high season 2009 in waters just north of Hurghada. Diving and snorkelling with playful dolphins has become a regular part of Christian's working days on the boat. Some would say that's more than enough luck, but one day he was treated to a few more big visitors in the water around him.

'We were heading back from Sha'b El Erg reef with five clients on the boat who had just enjoyed a morning of diving with dolphins and turtles,' says Christian. 'Just before we reached the next reef of Gota El Deir, the captain spotted a manta on the surface. I had never seen a manta before and I was like a small child. I jumped in the water and took lots of photographs. But it wasn't just the one I saw. There were five swimming around. The biggest one was about 2.5m. Two of them stayed with me and played around me for a while – that was pretty cool day!'



SHARKS TALE



For some, the luck came pouring out over a week. **Susi Rumpel** of Emperor Divers has been working in the Red Sea for four years. She enjoyed lots of shark encounters off waters near her home in Cape Town before she moved here. But it was Egypt's waters in August 2009 that she had a super five-day underwater adventure, which included her best dive ever.

'I had the same guests all week and we saw everything,' she recalls. 'It started with a dive off Jackson Reef in Tiran where we saw a baby white tip shark, then an oceanic white tip. Both came very close to us and stayed for quite a while.'



But it was at Ras Mohammed where Susi's lucky dive streak hit gold. 'We were at Shark and Yolanda Reef. A large shark, about

3m long, was swimming away from the reef about 5m below us. It was definitely a bull shark - its body-shape and markings were clear. Its fin was black and slightly rounded. We verified this in the books afterwards. But that was just the start of the dive.

'We were already breathing fast with all the excitement of seeing the bull shark when a school of about 300 trevally swam past us. Then as the current took us towards Yolanda, an 8m whale shark appeared. We swam with it for quite a while.'

That was not the end of the story for the dive. 'Swimming close to the whale shark, I saw what I thought was a small reef shark. It was about 1.5m, but on closer look was not a shark. We identified it later as a cobia fish, so that was an amazing encounter in itself with a feather-tail stingray. I definitely used up a lot more air than usual on that dive. Emperor Maria's captain wasn't so impressed though. I've got quite a loud voice and was over-excited. He kept telling me to be quiet.'

EASY TIGER



You would think there was little that guides who have spent many thousands of hours in the Red Sea have yet to see. But a tiger shark was something that had eluded Hassan **Abd El Malek**, the manager of Aquarius Dive Club at the Marriot in Hurghada, for 12 years.

'Sometimes we take our guests to Marsa Alam to dive Elphinstone Reef,' he says. 'We had already been lucky enough to see three oceanic white tips there on one morning dive in July. When we went in for a second dive, we ventured to the north plateau. At about 15m to 20m a 2.5m-long shark started heading slowly towards us. It was a tiger shark. I was very excited. It was so cool. It was the first time in about eight years since a tiger had been spotted there. I heard stories from other colleagues that there were four hanging around the north plateau over the summer. An incredible experience – one I will never forget.'

SEE HORSES



The last 12 months were not all about the big stuff, however. Dive guide **Ahmed Nubi** of Nesima Dive Club in Dahab made a name for himself in 2009 as an expert seahorse spotter. He has been guiding in the area for more than 11 years and has learned a few tricks about spotting these elusive macro creatures.

'Almost every time a guest asked to go and see the seahorses, we found them in the Light-house area or at Ras Abu Galum,' he says. 'You really have to concentrate to find them. It's really about buoyancy. You have to tilt your head at sea grass level and wait patiently for any strange movement. They are never in the same spot, and move around quite a lot in the seagrass – sometimes up to 100m from one day to the next. When you move close, they spot you before you spot them. They try to hide, but they don't usually escape from me.'



image: Simon Rogerson

MAGIC MOMENTS



Covering the whole of the Egyptian Red Sea this year on three liveboards, guides **Reda Ramadan** and **Sameh Zeineldin** of Tornado Marine Fleet reported back on some incredible underwater moments of 2009. Their trips on MY Cyclone, MV Hurricane and MY Tempest involved dancing with dolphins on more than one occasion.

'As we finished the dive and about to return to MY Cyclone, we could make out a shout of 'dolphins' though someone's regulator,' explains the pair. 'Within minutes we were following a pair of dolphins that were rolling and twisting with the grace of Fonteyn and Nureyev and completely oblivious to us. Lovely.'

Their second of four incredible 2009 dolphin encounters was off the wreck of the Ulysses. 'After a drift along the reef, stopping off to see some very large lionfish, many divers were met by a few dolphins,' they recall. 'While hanging on the line a pair came down and circled us a few times. It was magical, unforgettable. Then we had a great dive on the Kingston wreck, topped off with a pod of 15 to 20 dolphins swimming past.'

But dolphins were not the only big animals they encountered this year. Their logbooks were also full of tales of sharks, including hammerheads, oceanic white tips, as well as leopard sharks.

'The first/check dive of one trip at Stingray Station and we saw a guitar shark. This shark casually swam past us accompanied by cleaner fish and then turned around and came back and swam under us at extremely close range, completely unaffected by us.'



image courtesy of Camel Dive Club



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BLUE has teamed up with Sharm el Sheikh based liveaboard operator **Sea Queen Fleet** to offer a lucky reader a three or four day safari to the Northern Red Sea sites of Ras Mohammed and Tiran or the wrecks of the Suez.

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For more details about the Sea Queen liveaboard fleet see its website www.seaqueens.com/our-fleet.html.

To enter: simply visit www.seaqueens.com and tell us from which port their Deep South itinerary departs from. Send your answer by email to blue@cdws.travel.

Closing date: 28 February 2010

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photo: 2gobalaw.com

photo: Udo Keifig

My Scene

Exploring Cairo

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

The Red Sea is not all that Egypt has to offer visitors. Hop on a flight or take a bus and only a few hours away you can find yourself in the biggest city in Africa; Cairo.

Hectic, crowded, noisy, Cairo can be overwhelming, but it is also one of the most incredible places in the world. In a single street you can find yourself walking through over 1,000 years of history, passing by medieval buildings as you head over to the ultra modern shopping complex.

There is so much to do and see that it can be difficult to decide where to go and what to do. Cramming too much in sometimes results in tourist amnesia-'did we go there/see that?'

If the Pharaohs are your thing, then a morning at the pyramids followed by the Egyptian museum could be a good plan. Shopaholics can indulge themselves in Khan el Khalili Bazaar, the oldest bazaar in the world, and then jump in a taxi to City Stars, Egypt's largest and most modern shopping mall.

The secret to enjoying Egypt's capital is to take it easy - choose a couple of things you would like to see and really explore them. You can't rush in Cairo, the city has its own pace, especially regarding the traffic! Try to enjoy the frenzy- knowing that you will be returning to the peace and calm of the Red Sea very soon.

Sarah Adjani



The lows and lowers of competitive freediving



Record breaking freediver **Sara Campbell** took time out of her busy schedule at the recent World Championships in the Bahamas to look at the personal highs and lows of training and what it really takes to be the best in freediving.

Whatever our training regimes, we are all to be found at Dean's Blue Hole on Long Island in the Bahamas where the World Championships are being hosted - the first time in three years that they have been held outside of the Red Sea. Many of the athletes have already arrived and are increasing their depths and improving their techniques.

The question I'm asked most often is quite simply, 'Why?'. Which is then rapidly followed by 'How?'; and it is this second question that holds most fascination for me. Particularly given the rather ridiculously rapid 'descent' I made to the top of this beautiful and quite literally breathtaking sport. The reason this question fascinates me so much is that despite the number of dives I have now clocked up to depths that make most scuba divers blanch, such a huge percentage of this question remains unanswered - and currently unanswerable. So, if we don't know 'how', how on earth then can we train to improve?

Looking at the top men and women, it is almost impossible to say that there is one school of thought and training that is consistent across every athlete's routine. Of course we're all desperately secretive about what we do behind closed doors, but I do know that training ranges from tough workouts in the gym, hours and hours of lung stretches, daily breathhold sessions in front of the TV to take the mind off the discomfort and boredom, and lots of diving. However, the majority of the top divers don't live within close access to deep training waters; Herbert Nitsch, the world's deepest man, flies planes for a living and is more likely to be found at altitude than at depth; Natalia Molchanova, my main rival and super-tough female diver, lives in Moscow most of the year where she keeps in condition in the pool; and me, well I just get in the water at the Blue Hole and dive as deep as it allows me (I'm currently scraping the bottom at 92m on my training dives - anyone got a spade?).

To a large extent peoples' individual training depends largely on the issues and challenges they face. In my case I know that in order to improve further I will need to work on strength and stamina as well as technique. Other divers have problem with equalisation beyond a certain depth and so are addressing this with mouthfill practice and FRCs (functional residual capacity - diving on only half a lung-full of air to simulate pressure at depth). Others face lung squeezes where blood is being forced through the lung membranes into the airspace, which sounds nasty, but clears up 100 per cent within 24 hours of the dive in all researched cases and simply means that the diver is diving below the depth that their lungs can handle, or are suffering stress and tension at depth.

We all watch our diet, but again people take very varied approaches to this. Most of the men drink protein shakes directly after their dive, and some top divers actually skip proper meals the day before a big dive and replace them with carbohydrate shakes instead - supposedly easily absorbed, less stress on the digestive system and delivering the highest percentage of carbs possible. Personally I prefer to keep my diet as natural as possible; lots of fruit. My carbs come in the old-fashioned form of rice, pasta and potatoes, plenty of green veggies, and protein through fish and chicken. To prove that there's an exception to every rule, one very good diver friend springs to mind; I remember him watching me with fascination as he guzzled glasses of coke and polished off a meal of deep fried chicken and chips with a coffee and a large slice of cake. As I said, there's no fixed rule!

In order to dive deep and dive well there are so many factors that must come into play at exactly the right time. The mammalian dive reflex must kick in to allow the blood shift to occur to protect the lungs and brain; too late and the diver will suffer a lung squeeze



Sara Campbell

and quite possibly a black-out too. The spleen release must occur at the right moment to ensure additional blood and oxygen supply to the muscles and vital organs; the muscles must be able to work with massively high lactic acid levels and constantly decreasing supply of oxygen; equalisation must happen seemingly effortlessly throughout the descent, the diver ensuring a full mouthfill and maintaining it against the ever-increasing vacuum in the lungs and even contractions (the physical response in the diaphragm to breathe). For most of the rest of what the body goes through, we have no idea.

I have a strong suspicion that there's a massive hormonal response to diving, hence the happy feeling almost all divers experience (and no, I'm not talking about narcosis here). What effect does the depth and

pressure really have on us while we're down there? I for one, experience a massive difference in my dives of, say 80m and 90m-plus. Relatively there's not a huge difference between the two, in terms of distance or pressure, but my dive profiles alter drastically once I dive deeper than 85m - why? And I'm back into the fascinating and bewildering realms of 'how?' once more.

In 2010 I want to delve deeper into these mysteries, and work with some of the top medical and scientific researchers on deep diving, to try and unravel a tiny bit more of this unbelievable sport. In the meantime, I'll be watching closely what other divers are doing to prepare for the Worlds, and hoping that my own preparations have been sufficient to ensure a successful competition in the Bahamas.



image: Kimmo Hagman

Shooting macro

There is a whole range of features on compact cameras designed to capture some top shots of some of the Red Sea's smallest reef creatures. Maria Munn reports.

Using a compact camera's built-in flash can often be overlooked by any beginner or more advanced underwater photographer, and few realise how effective this little tool can be to give your underwater close-up subjects real depth and texture.

So how close is a close-up subject? A close-up shot is defined as a subject within 30cm of you underwater. Ideal subjects to take photographs of using the Tulip Mode on the back of your camera and the built-in flash are anemones, corals, lionfish, scorpionfish and anemonefish (when you can get them to stay still for long enough). Night dives provide the perfect backdrop as most macro subjects stay perfectly still – all ready to pose for the camera.

Choosing the right film speed is critical in making sure your underwater photograph is nice and sharp, although a blurred effect can also give a more artistic feel to your image. By increasing your film speed, more available light is let into the camera to keep your subject clear. I always suggest choosing a film speed of 100 when taking a picture of a static subject. Using 200 is good when it is a picture of a moving subject such as an anemonefish. Then 400 is ideal when taking photographs of faster moving subjects such as dolphins and sharks in the Red Sea – this keeps them sharp in the shot.

When using flash, whether it is your built-in flash or an external flash, always keep to the lowest film speed possible – ideally at 100 or be-

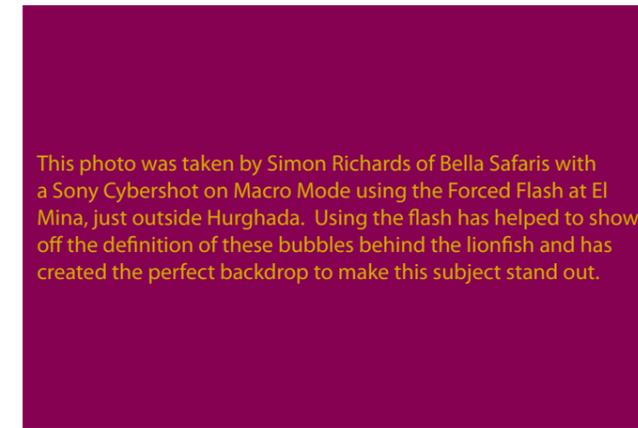
low whilst keeping your subject in sharp focus. This will help to keep your image colours rich and punchy.

When composing your close-up photograph, always try and get level with the subject. Eye-to-eye contact with a subject can be very powerful and adds immediate impact, drawing the viewer in. Sometimes getting underneath your subject and looking up can be even more dramatic. However, this does of course depend on how close the subject will allow you to be. Always remember to breathe slowly, approach slowly and let the subject get used to you. And always remember the corals and marine life around you.

Looking at contrasting colours underwater can bring a subject to life. A good example of this is a red anemone contrasting against the beautiful clear blue waters of the Red Sea. If you can't find your subject sitting in the right place and there is too much of a distracting background behind it, simply move and find a more amenable one.

Lastly, never forget those fantastic pink soft corals that the Red Sea is so famous for. Giving them a touch of light with any flash will make them so much more vivid and alive than through using manual white balance. Perfect for remembering your favourite Red Sea dives.

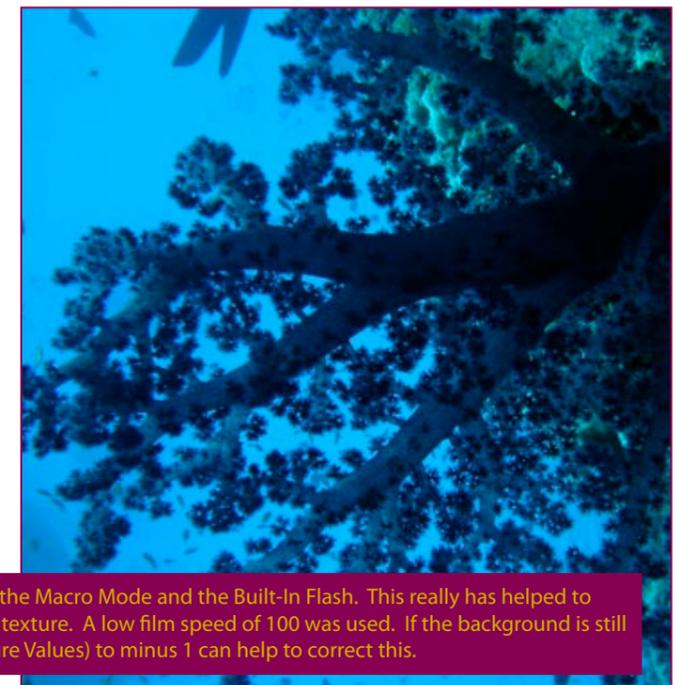
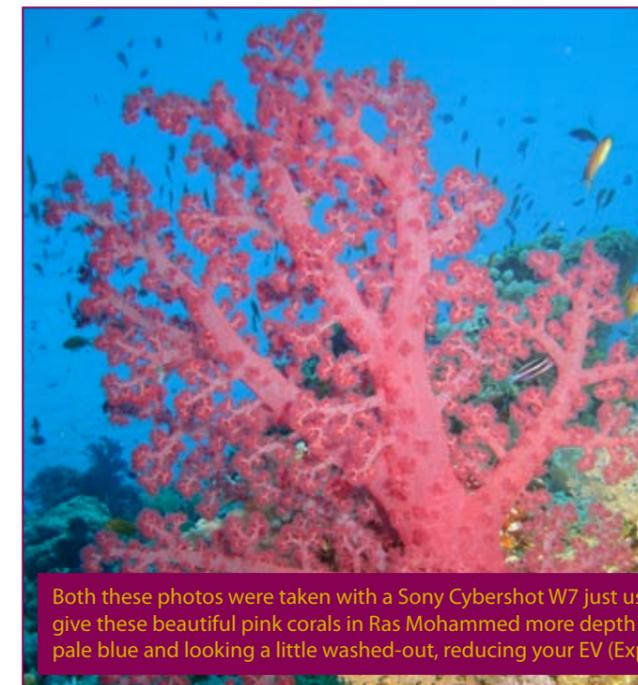
Maria's forthcoming book *Underwater Photography for Beginners* is due to be released on 11 February. From the beginner through to the more advanced snapper, this book will inspire and show you how to take beautiful underwater photographs in an easy-to-understand way. For more information on ordering the book, email Maria at maria@oceanvisions.co.uk.



This photo was taken by Simon Richards of Bella Safaris with a Sony Cybershot on Macro Mode using the Forced Flash at El Mina, just outside Hurgada. Using the flash has helped to show off the definition of these bubbles behind the lionfish and has created the perfect backdrop to make this subject stand out.



These two photos were both taken with a Canon Ixus using the Macro Mode and the Built-In Flash. The first picture was taken with a film speed of 80 and you can see how much more rich and punchy both the frogfish and the background are. However, in the second photograph, the film speed has been increased to 400 and with the extra available light now in the camera, the subject does not look quite as colourful.



Both these photos were taken with a Sony Cybershot W7 just using the Macro Mode and the Built-In Flash. This really has helped to give these beautiful pink corals in Ras Mohammed more depth and texture. A low film speed of 100 was used. If the background is still pale blue and looking a little washed-out, reducing your EV (Exposure Values) to minus 1 can help to correct this.



Achaeus spinosus - Soft Coral Spider Crab



Dardanus tinctor - Red Sea anemone hermit crab



Parupeneus forsskali - Red Sea Goatfish (Night)



Parupeneus forsskali-Red Sea Goatfish (Day)



Etisus splendidus-Splendid Spooner Crab



Hexabranhus sanguineus-Spanish Dancer



Photoblepharon steinitzi - Flashlight Fish



Scyllarides tridacnophaga - Slipper Lobster

From Dusk 'til Dawn

Experienced dive guide Chris Gooda dons his suit and explores the fascinating, nightlife of the Red Sea that is a world away from all the bars and clubs on land.

The night dive is probably one of the activities that most divides the diving community. For some, standing on the diving platform contemplating jumping into the uninviting black water is a terrifying prospect. For others it is merely a distraction keeping them from a well earned beer. What cannot be denied is that night dives offer a brief glimpse into an entirely different marine environment from that which can be experienced during the day.

As soon as the sun creeps below the horizon the entire landscape of the underwater world begins to change. Once the light begins to fade the speed hunters become the rulers of the reef; with their excellent vision the jacks and trevallies are perfectly adapted to dart through the water and catch unsuspecting smaller fish that, with the reduced vision that dusk brings, no longer have the awareness to escape.

There are several different techniques used by the diurnal creatures to survive the perilous hours of darkness. Schooling is undoubtedly one of the most spectacular; tens, even hundreds of thousands of tiny fish use a simple behavioural algorithm to remain together in an intricate organic pattern which can often be clearly seen in the boat floodlights.

Other methods are better seen from under the water. Some species merely hide in a convenient crevice or hole, whilst others have developed unique tactics to make it through the night. Members of the parrotfish family are well known for producing

a clear mucus cocoon inside which they shelter for the night, before consuming it the next morning. The cocoon is thought to have healing properties for the parrotfish and stops its scent attracting predators as well as providing an early warning system if attacked.

Other fish rely on camouflage for protection. During the day, yellow fin goatfish (*Mulloidichthys vanicolensis*) are a distinctive white and yellow and can often be seen schooling in mid-water. By night the fish hide on the bottom, turning themselves a mottled red and grey to better blend in. Many creatures that are active at night are also red, this is because it requires less pigment (and therefore less energy) to be coloured red than black. The combination of the limited moonlight and colour absorption of the water ensures that no red light can penetrate even the shallows, rendering red fish apparently black.

This gives rise to one of the most popular night dive sights. Nicknamed for its swirling locomotion, the Spanish dancer (*Hexabranhus sanguineus*) is a giant blood-red nudibranch regularly seen at lengths of 40cm. It hides inside the reef by day but can be seen in its full glory at night.

Brittlestars (ophiuroids) and featherstars (crinoids), while occasionally seen moving by day are at their most spectacular when feeding by night. Basket stars (*Euryalida*) are a personal favourite. Bearing a striking resemblance to a large leafless shrub, they have a central mouth and arms that can extend up to 70cm. They position themselves on exposed parts of the reef by night to maximise the amount of passing zooplankton that they can catch.

No night dive would be complete without the vast array of crustaceans which venture out into the open during the hours of darkness. Certain shrimps can easily be spotted as their eyes appear as bright spots of red, gold or green in torchlight. Crabs are also out and about searching for food, from the bright red Splendid Spooner crabs (*Etisus splendidus*) to the ingenious Red Sea anemone hermit crab (*Dardanus tinctor*) which lives in a symbiosis with the anemones it carries on the outside of its shell. The crab benefits from being excellently camouflaged and the anemone gets moved from the safety of the reef during the day, to prime feeding grounds by night. Slipper lobsters (*Scyllaridae*), with their impressive armour plating, can also be found at night. They are excellent tunnellers and spend their days sheltering under the sand, only venturing out at night to feed and mate.

It is not just the mobile reef life that changes when the sun sets. The coral polyps (covering every inch of living reef) while mainly dormant by day, take advantage of the lack of butterflyfish and bannerfish (which feed on the unprotected open polyps) to extend their

tentacles and feed on the passing zooplankton in the water during the night.

The zooplankton itself can display another biological wonder; bioluminescence. Certain species of Dinoflagellates emit light (normally green or gold) when disturbed in the water. Depending on the concentrations present this can cause a twinkling effect in the turbulence caused by a diver's fin kicks, arm movements or, in extreme cases, even in the column of exhaled bubbles rising to the surface.

The flashlight fish (*Photoblepharon steinitzi*) displays bioluminescence at a different level. About 10-15cm long and normally a deepwater fish, it rises to shallower water by night. The bioluminescent organs beneath its eyes contain luminous red bacteria, the light from which is used to communicate and attract prey. I know a dive guide who was able to turn off their torch on a moonless night to see an entire dive site illuminated by thousands of tiny glowing flashlight fish.

Whilst you might not want to make a night dive on every evening of your diving trip, they can be some of the most rewarding and interesting dives you can ever make. Ask your guide at the beginning of your trip about the best night dives on your particular route and delay your evening beer on at least one night. That way you might encounter some of nature's marvels which can only be experienced once darkness has fallen.

Night shots: Photos by Elke Bojanowski - <http://www.underwaterimages.de>. Elke is a biologist working as a safari guide for blue o two in the Egyptian Red Sea. She conducts an oceanic whitetip shark research programme and runs specialist safari weeks giving talks on shark and coral reef ecology.

SNORKEL SITE: EL GOUNA

Situated 25km north of Hurgada on the mainland Egyptian Red Sea coast, El Gouna is a self-contained tourist town built on 10km of coastline. It offers access to excellent diving, but also some top snorkelling spots with its sandy shallow beaches and fringing reefs. For some extra special snorkeling, it's best to jump on a boat because the chance to see dolphins is well worth the ride.

Photo: www.elgouna.com



Abu Nugar Reef

Abu Nugar Reef is about an hour and 20 minute boat ride east of El Gouna. It is a sheltered area in all conditions as it is protected by a larger reef to the outside. Perfect snorkeling depths of 6m to 8m, where you are likely to see a range of marine life such as turtles, moray eels, blue spotted stingrays and dolphins.



Sha'b El Erg

Sha'b El Erg is another site accessed by boat, east of El Gouna. It takes just over an hour to reach the large, horseshoe-shaped reef. As the reef is so large, it is usually fairly calm. On the calmest days, the north side of the reef is best, as the coral cover is extremely vibrant and you are likely to see turtles, moray eels and a wealth of fish life. But the star attraction of this area are the dolphins. Guides here say you have at least 80 per cent chance of see dolphins and have a good chance of encountering them up close in the water.

Gota El Deir

Gota El Deir is the perfect choice for easy, but excellent snorkeling as it is extremely shallow and protected. Ideal for children also. It is just a 15 minute boat ride east from the north marina of El Gouna. The depth is around 1m, with lots of hard coral and the usual Red Sea reef life inhabitants you'd expect to see. There's also always the chance you might see a dolphin here too.

Special thanks to Colona Divers (www.colona.com) in El Gouna for its help with this feature.

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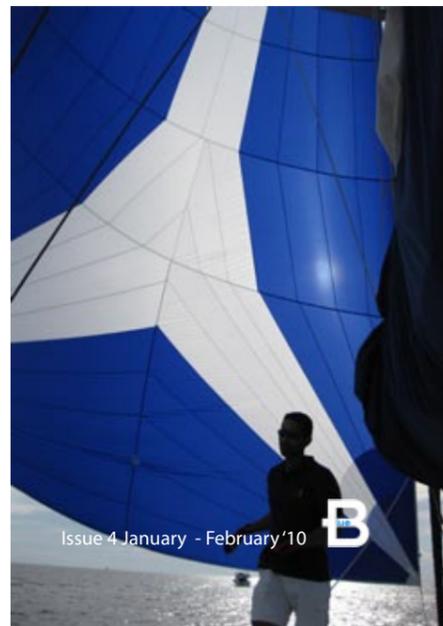


A little taste of French chic sailed into the Red Sea in November in the form of a 15.5m-long luxury catamaran. With a faultless attention to design, both in terms of its function as a high tech sailing vessel and its aesthetic allure, the Lagoon Universe has introduced a new class of watersports to Egypt's waters. Charlotte Boan climbs aboard for an afternoon sail and a gourmet lunch.

all photos: Nicholas Claris



www.cdws.travel



Issue 4 January - February '10

B

Feeling a fine spray of ocean touching our faces as we lay on the netting looking at the water rushing below, the only sound we could hear were the sleek edges of the vessel cutting through the ocean and the huge sails filling with the strong Sinai wind above our heads. All that was needed was a pod of dolphins swimming in the wake beneath and a romantic sailing song playing in the background and the scene would have been perfectly set for one of those impressive upmarket destination adverts on television.

Ten minutes of sailing on this pristine, spacious and polished vessel, and I was already impressed by the way it handled and was being sailed by a smart matching-jacket crew. I am not a trained sailor myself, but coming from a family with its fair share of sailing fanatics, I'd been on enough boats to make a decent judgement. These guys clearly know what they are doing sailing wise – and they certainly suit the Cote d'Azur crew look too. Welcome aboard the Lagoon Universe catamaran.

Unlike traditional one-hull sailing boats, catamarans offer a steady position in the water with two hulls for balance. But this takes nothing from its power and speed; quite the contrary.

Clocking up 20knots on the way from Sharm el Sheikh's Shark's Bay to Tiran Island in moderate winds, I couldn't help wondering why no one here had thought of this before. There are sailing cruises available in these waters, but on large Turkish gulleets with large volumes of guests from various hotel resorts.

The first of its kind to be used for commercial cruises in these waters, Lagoon Universe can be chartered for private daily cruises, two-hour introduction to sailing, or alternatively for corporate team building days which are more common in the European and US business world. Universe is part of a two-boat fleet of Sharm el Sheikh-based Sinai Yacht Charters. The other is a RIB, hired out to dive centres.

Whichever type of day you choose, whether the more sporty hands-on introduction to sailing or a laidback cruise, you are certainly in for a taste of luxury.

There are spacious and comfortable outside areas, which look more St Tropez than Sinai desert. Inside, you feel you have stepped into

someone's luxury lounge, with a huge flat screen television, wall-to-wall seating, well-equipped boat kitchen, and stairwells down to three large overnight cabins, all with en suite bathrooms.

Universe was personally sailed to these waters by its owner Hamdy Samy. An enthusiastic and friendly personality, 'Samy' is better known to the diving and watersports community as the director of the Search and Rescue facility operating out of Sharm's Travco Marina. Samy grew up on boats and knows the waters around the Sinai better than his own back garden. However, his sailing experience is still young.

Deciding to change his way of life and sea vessel, he trained in Europe with his business partner Sameh Halawa on a fast-track RYA (Royal Yachting Association) course for skippers in summer 2009. Following successful qualification, the pair set sail for a 3,700 nautical mile trip from Bordeaux to Sharm el Sheikh in challenging weather. No easy task for any yachtsman, nevermind those recently qualified.

During the three weeks to the island of Crete, their trainers stayed with them, ensuring they could handle the Lagoon Universe on their own. Then from Crete to Sharm el Sheikh, the pair and their partners had to contend with some tough winds and swells over eight days without their trainers eyes. Samy recalled the moment he had to climb the mast in a strong wind, and was stuck there for an hour or two, before the rope system was fixed. 'The whole trip was certainly a quick learning curve,' he says.

But the testing start to their sailing career has clearly paid off for these two long time Sharmers. There is a quiet and relaxed confidence about their handling of the boat. They obviously love what they do and are keen to put luxury sailing on the Sinai map.

Mooring up for lunch, close to the shelter of the reefs fringing Tiran island, we watched the colours of the surrounding area change with the power of the sun. Reaching for another fine Italian biscuit in this incredible ocean setting, it crossed my mind again: 'Really, why has no one thought of doing this before?'

See Sinai Yacht Charter's website for more information and price details: www.sinaiyachtcharter.com.

RIB dives

The second service operated by Sinai Yacht Charters is to CDWS dive centres wanting to offer guests the option of high speed RIB diving and snorkeling trips to Shark Reef in the Ras Mohamed National Park and sites such as Jackson Reef in the Straits of Tiran. With the ability to reach Shark Reef in 15 minutes, this is a perfect option for those wishing to dive the best of Sharm's sites without taking up their whole day.

RIB Diving Valiant is 8.5m-long and comfortably accommodates ten divers, including guides. Its twin 150-HP outboards give it a top speed of 40 knots and a cruising speed of 25 knots. The vessel is fitted out completely with divers in mind and even has a sturdy and large ladder from which to climb out of the water and back into the boat – removing the usual flop over the side like a walrus embarrassment divers usually have to endure on a RIB.

To stay within CDWS rules, the vessel can only be hired by ISO certified dive centres, either by space or the entire boat. Much like the way in which day diving boats operate, the dive centre must provide all the adequate safety gear and a qualified guide, as well as ensure guest are capable of diving these advanced sites.



RIB Diving Valiant website: www.sinaiyachtcharter.com/rib.html

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 Egypt's hot spot diving destinations.. To help us filter out some of the best and funniest community rumours stories, our resident gossip guru reports in their own unique style straight from the divers' mouth

Let's take Camels, or in our case in Egypt, dromedaries. Rumours are often spread that camels/dromedaries are dumb, no personality, and have no idea about life as we know it. So I've lived with camels (well not exactly lived) but I mean they have been around me for the last 15 years. I like them, even if people call them a lolloping lump of dumb, smelly, spitting, (sadly, I can pair that description with a few people I have met in life) ugly desert animal. I ride them at any chance I can and recently when I went on a star gazing excursion with a friend's family at Wadi Mandar. I melted in with the holiday makers on a short amble on a camel led by a Bedouin who happened to be deaf and dumb. I stopped my usual chattering and enjoyed the perfect, quiet, back to nature spirit, with an unobtrusive view of our amazing untouched surroundings.

A few years ago I joined a camel diving safari. The camels carried all including the scuba tanks and we slept overnight at Ras Abu Galoum, with Bedouins building the tents and providing food cooked over an open fire. Lovely. Before retiring to bed, I was disappointed and voiced my concerns in a typical naïve English way (exaggerated by a few glasses of wine) as to why my camel (I named him Clive) had to be tethered on a chain while we slept. I must know best as an animal lover – surely? The Bedouin guides assured me in a kindly way and without a hint of sarcasm that it really was for the best, nevertheless to appease me, chained Clive not too far away from my tent. I was happy and they also were happy, laughing in fact.

Very early the next morning before the sun had risen I realised why the laughs. I was awakened by a snuffling and slightly spitting slobbering nose pushing into my tent, directing it's attention towards my innocently sleeping head, with the intent of getting to know me better. Well, only in these kind of circumstances and only these, I find I have no voice, the mouth opens and no sound comes out. Our guide Ramadan was there before I knew it and Clive was duly taken off with no harm caused. I was a bit sheepish and apologised to Ramadan for casting doubt on his vast knowledge. I had the hump and was not talking to Clive anymore.



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Quick quiz

test your knowledge of the sea

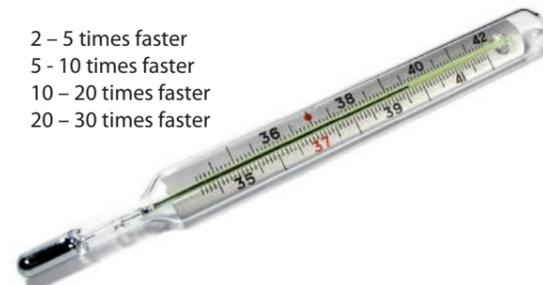


1. Why do whales produce tears?

- a) to improve their eyesight
- b) to release their emotions
- c) to protect their eyes from parasites
- d) to protect their eyes from salt water

2. How many times faster does the body lose heat in water than in air?

- a) 2 - 5 times faster
- b) 5 - 10 times faster
- c) 10 - 20 times faster
- d) 20 - 30 times faster



3. What year did the famous explorer Jacques Cousteau first visit the Thistlegorm?

- a) 1942
- b) 1951
- c) 1955
- d) 1963



photo: Andrew Slater

4. What is the maximum depth of the Red Sea?

- a) 1,512m
- b) 1,815m
- c) 2,211m
- d) 2,982m



photo: Andrew Slater



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5. The Red Sea is thought to have got its name from:

- a) Desert sunsets
- b) Algae
- c) Anthias fish



Have your say

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

Quick quiz answers: 1d, 2d, 3c, 4c, 5b

Destination Sharm el Sheikh



Photos: Andrew Slater



The Red Sea resort of Sharm el Sheikh situated at the southern point of the Sinai has some of the world's most celebrated diving attractions around its shores. The world famous Ras Mohammed National Park is located at the very tip of the Sinai peninsula where deep water upwellings generate incredible coral growth, particularly on the signature sites of Shark and Yolanda reefs. During the summer months this area is also a hotspot for schooling snapper, barracuda, batfish and unicornfish. Marine encounters recorded by divers on these life-filled sites also include whale sharks, manta rays and dolphins.

Head north from Ras Mohammed to the Strait of Tiran and you will find a coral garden described by scuba diving pioneer Jacques Cousteau as one of the most spectacular reefs he had ever seen. The steep-sided walls of Jackson Reef are where you will find some of the most beautiful coral cover in the Sinai region, including the famous rare red anemone. Strong currents, most profuse at the edge of Jackson reef, attract an abundance of pelagic fish particularly during the summer months. On the less windy and calm days of summer, boats are able to dive the north side of the reef. Although far from guaranteed, the chance to see the resident school of scalloped hammerhead sharks is well worth a dive in the blue water.

Wrecks are also a major pull for visitors, with one of the most famous sunken diving attractions located just a few hours boat ride from Sharm. Voted time over as one of the best wreck dives, the Thistlegorm alone attracts scuba visitors from all over the world to the northern Egyptian Red Sea resort.

If you don't want to travel far to a dive site, or like the idea of half-day trips, you can opt to 'go local'. Sharm's local reefs are excellent for training and photography, and at the right time of year throw up their own spectacular surprises. From the months of May to September it is not unusual to spot the odd manta ray or whale shark passing by as they follow the plankton.

Over the past 25 years the face of Sharm has changed considerably, transforming from a small fishing port to an international beach resort. As a result of this growth, there are numerous accommodation options on offer to suit every kind of budget. Divers can usually opt for a diving and accommodation package for discount; however, all dive centres will pick you up from any hotel in the Sharm area – five star or budget.

The town delivers on every level for the solo to family holiday traveller. There are some top class restaurants, chill out and party bars, as well as more secluded places where you can just relax by the sea.

For activities topside, the desert resort offers a huge mix of activities, from wakeboarding and water parks to desert stargazing and traditional Bedouin dinners.

For a full list of legal dive centres and safari boats operating in Sharm el Sheikh see the CDWS website:
www.cdws.travel



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No smoke without damage

Scuba diving has a high share of smokers among its community – many of whom even claim it helps reduce their air consumption. Diving doctor **Dr Anke** reveals the added and often hidden dangers when divers light up.



A smoker's life is more at risk and more-often-than-not shorter than the life of a non-smoker. That's nothing new. Each smoker sacrifices approximately seven to ten years of their life to the cigarette industry, paying for this choice not only with a lot of money but also with health.

If the smoker is practising a form of sport – in which the lung and the airways hold a key role, such as in diving – each person has to question their smoking habit. Latest worldwide evaluations among divers suggest that 40 per cent have been or still are smokers. Thus the rate of smoking divers is exceeding the worldwide average rate of smokers, which is currently between 25 and 30 per cent.

Every smoking diver is fond of his 'deco-cigarette'. It is even more tasty coming with the 'deco-beer', particularly while recalling the adventures of the dive with his buddies. Some don't even wait to climb out of their wetsuit before lighting up.

Smokers are generally well aware of the risks, however – all the catchwords, slogans in the health industry and most of all the raised index finger of the notorious non or ex-smokers out there. The nagging and lessons – it doesn't stop.

So, bearing all this in mind, I shall neither raise an accusing index finger, nor shall I draw your attention to the shocking pictures of cancerous lungs blackened by tar or amputated smoker's legs.

I rather prefer to point out and explain the slow changes of the lungs, which first creep along subtly as the years are passing by, nevertheless, are definitely leading to extreme dangers. Some of which very likely to cause a serious problem underwater.

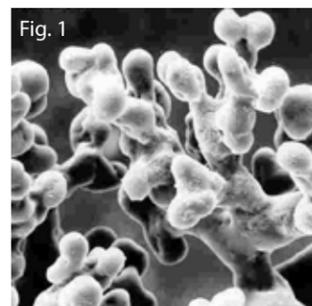


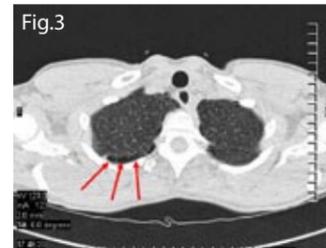
Fig. 1

Inhalation of tobacco

smoke: beside nicotine, cigarette smoke contains carbon monoxide and more than 4,000 additional chemical substances. Many of these are known to cause cancer. Anything between 20 per cent up to 80 per cent of those substances are penetrating the lung tissue and are dissolved, accumulated and metabolised in different ways. Tar substances in the lungs develop

the typical black spots. Inhalation of tobacco smoke leads to an increase in the production of mucus in the airways. The production of mucus is basically a natural defence mechanism to protect the bronchial system from poisons and toxic micro particles, but the mucus holds high risks for the diver. This mucus has a stringy chewy consistency. It blocks the small airways and alveoli (air sacs). The result is the typical smoker's

cough. This is annoying in principle, especially underwater, but unfortunately it is not the only consequence. (figure 1)

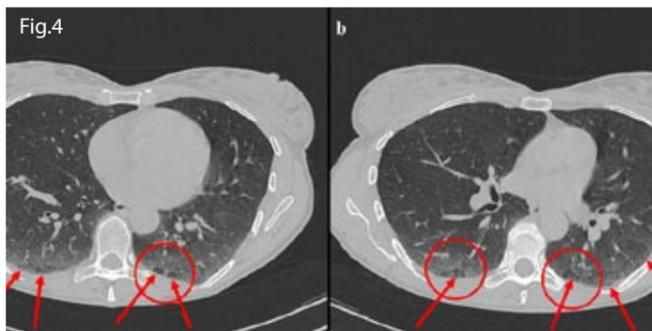


Air trapping: after a longer abuse of cigarettes, the mucus production leads to structural alterations in the lung tissue. This is the case even if the lung function test remains in the normal range for quite a long time. This is a particularly dangerous area because the mucus causes undetected strictures and local blockages in which the expanding air can get trapped while ascending.

This means the walls of the small air sacs are distended, and enlarged. We call those widened alveoli 'bullae'. The final stage is a 'lung emphysema', with chronic hyperinflation of the lungs (excessive inflation or expansion of the lungs) and reduced oxygen diffusion.

In medical terms this is called COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease). It is a chronic disease of the lungs caused by a permanent irritation from cigarette smoke. In the contrary to asthmatic disorders, it can only partly be compensated and treated by medication.

Smaller and even multiple 'bullae' can not be detected by a normal X-ray. (figure 2). They only show in a computer tomogram (CT) (figure 3). To determine one's ability to dive, it is essential to investigate if those areas are still connected to the ventilation and aeration. This requires a high resolution computer tomogram in spiral thin layers, which is done first in inspiration while holding the breath and then in expiration while holding the breath. This is the only method of giving a reliable statement about the functional increase and decrease of the air volume within those areas and herewith the given risk of an air-trapping or even a barotrauma of the lungs (figure 4). At the time where the lung of a smoking diver develops bullae, the lung function is mostly still in the normal range and the diving smoker is able to perform his normal type of sports such as swimming, jogging or cycling without any problems or shortness of breath. The changes are very slow and creep along inconspicuously.



Medical examination: Within the dive medical examination the doctor has to examine the lungs exactly and thoroughly. An auscultation (sound test) over all segments of the lungs is obligatory, however, the breathing sounds around the 'bullae' will appear normal. Therefore, the doc won't be able to identify such problems this way. A lung function test will show bigger structural damages, larger smoke-induced losses or acute functional constrictions such as asthma. If there are pathological findings even in a simple spirometrical lung-function test (flow-volume measurement, figure 5 and 6), a thorough pulmonological investigation must follow up the questionable results. This more extensive lung function test is a



Fig.5

bodyplethysmography.

According to the guidelines of the German society for diving and hyperbaric medicine, an X-ray of the lungs is not compulsory. Considering the mentioned criteria an X-ray does not make sense, since bullae are only recognised if they exceed a certain size. Then, however, clinical symptoms are already present.

A routine accomplished HR-spiral CT even after 20 pack-years of cigarettes without apparent clinical symptoms is out of question. The costly expenses and the incriminatory load of X-rays for the diver are not justifiable. Therefore, the alterations remain untold and after 20 (or even less) years of cigarettes the risk of a more or less sizable barotrauma of the lungs increases to an undefinable risk.

Carbon monoxide: when smoking, carbon monoxide is enriched within the blood. It commits itself more firmly and permanently to the haemoglobin of the red blood cells. The haemoglobin is meant to bind the oxygen and transport it to the organs and tissues. Due to the fixed connection between haemoglobin and carbon monoxide, the gas remains in our blood system for a considerable time before we breathe it off. During the time where the haemoglobin is blocked by carbon monoxide, the

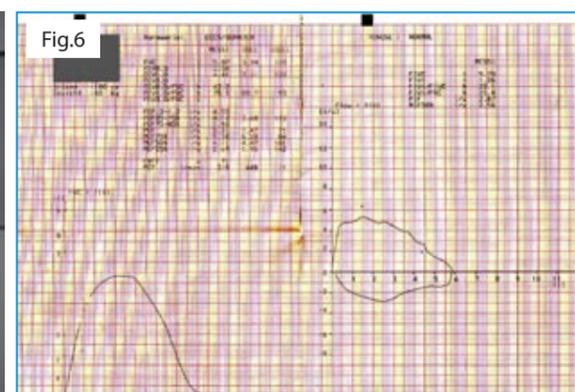


Fig.6



Fig.7

uptake and exchange of oxygen is reduced. The poor oxygen supply of the tissue affects the kinetics of nitrogen saturation with a negative impact on nitrogen desaturation. It leads to a significantly increase the risk of developing decompression sickness.

Circulatory disorder: in the beginning, nicotine is stimulating. Adrenaline is produced, the blood pressure will rise and the heart rate accelerates. The blood vessels (arteries) contract, which impairs circulation. This is the main reason for the negative consequences of smoking. Nicotine narrows the blood vessels – first only temporarily. However, the longer a person has been a smoker, the more he/she develops chronic malperfusion (blood circulation problems), most of all in the heart, brain and extremities. This in turn not only increases the risk of a heart attack, stroke or amputation, it also makes the onset of decompression sickness more likely.

Despite the fact many divers are active smokers, smoking is incompatible with scuba because of the increased risks. The relation between decompression accidents, lung barotraumias with or without arterial gas embolism (AGE) and smoking is there for all to see. (figure 7).

LISTINGS: CDWS members - WATERSPORTS CENTRES

Name	Address	CDWS No.	Website Address	Email Address	Telephone
Taba					
Egypt Sun Marine	Salah Eldine Hotel	SSSC 0001 T		Mah_ismail@yahoo.com	(20) 10 3767704
Red Sea Water World	Taba Heights	SSWS 0001 T	www.redseawaterworld.com	info@redseawaterworld.com	(20) 69 3580009
Dahab					
Five Circles	Panda Resort	SSWS 0001 D		medhat200073@yahoo.com	(20) 69 3641024
Sharm el Sheikh					
Aaron Waves	Oriental Resort Nabq	SSWS 0001 S		aaronwaves@yahoo.com	(20) 69 3710061
Egypt Sun Marine	Palermo Hotel	SSSC 0001 S		abdoodiver@hotmail.com	(20) 69 3661838
El Gammal Water Sports	Crown Plaza Hotel	SSWS 0002 S		gammalwatersports@gmail.com	(20) 69 3604252
Poseidon Water Sports	Hilton Waterfalls Hotel, Hadaba	SSWS 0008 S		info@poseidon-sharm.com	(20) 12 3219996
San Marino	New Tiran Beach Hotel	SSSC 0002 S		tamersharm2@yahoo.com	(20) 69 3600765
Sharmania Water Sports	City Sharm Hotel	SSSC 0003 S		nadermarario@yahoo.com	(20) 10 1314152
Sharmania Water Sports	Sun Rise Island View Hotel	SSWS 0003 S		nadermarario@yahoo.com	(20) 10 1314152
Sun 'N Fun	Marriott Hotel	SSWS 0004 S		sunnfun@sinainet.com.eg	(20) 69 3601623
Sun 'N Fun	Novotel Hotel	SSWS 0005 S		sunnfun@sinainet.com.eg	(20) 69 3601623
Sun 'N Fun	Hilton Fayrouz Hotel	SSSC 0004 S		sunnfun@sinainet.com.eg	(20) 69 3601623
Sun 'N Fun	Savoy Hotel	SSWS 0006 S		sunnfun@sinainet.com.eg	(20) 69 3601623
Sun 'N Fun	Iberotel Hotel , Sharm El Maya	SSWS 0007 S		sunnfun@sinainet.com.eg	(20) 69 3601623

DIVING CENTRES:

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) 10 16354440
Aqua Sport	Movenpick Hotel	SSDC 0006 T	www.aqua-sport.com	info@aqua-sport.com	(20) 10 16354440
Aqua Sport	Solimar Sea Star	SSDC 0007 T	www.aqua-sport.com	info@aqua-sport.com	(20) 10 16354440
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

Nuweiba					
African Divers	Swisscare Resort Hotel	SSDC 0001 N	www.africandiversnuweiba.com	club@africandiversnuweiba.com	(20) 12 3110505
Emperor Divers	Hilton Hotel	SSDC 0002 N	www.emperordivers.com	info.neweiba@emperordivers.com	(20) 69 3520695
Scuba College	Nuweiba Village Resort	SSDC 0003 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

Dahab					
Adventure Spot Dahab	El Mashraba	SSDC 0001 D	www.adventurespot-dahab.com	badmsr@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 3641125
Big Blue	Paradise Hotel	SSDC 0050 D	www.bigbluedahab.com	Dive@bigbluedahab.com	(20) 69 3640045
Big Blue Mashraba	El Mashraba Star of Sinai	SSDC 0005 D	www.bigbluedahab.com	Dive@bigbluedahab.com	(20) 69 3640045
Black Rock Coral	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@bluebeachdiveclub.com	(20) 69 3641413
Blue Ocean Dive	MTO Dahab Resort	SSDC 0048 D	www.blueoceanandive.com	dahab@blueoceanandive.com	(20) 12 4764654
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 3683689
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 7151459
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 3641195
Fish and Friends	Masbat Beach	SSDC 0019 D	www.fishandfriendsdahab.com	info@fishandfriendsdahab.com	(20) 69 3640720
Fun by the Sea Lagona 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 3641476
Nesima Divers	Nesima Hotel	SSDC 0026 D	www.nesima-resort.com	reservation@nesima-resort.com	(20) 69 3640320
Octopus World	Masbat, Dahab	SSDC 0053 D	www.octopusdivers.net	info@octopusdivers.net	(20) 69 3642370
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 3640020
Orca Dive Club Dahab	Happy Life Hotel	SSDC 0030 D	www.orca-diveclub-dahab.com	info@orca-diveclub-dahab.com	(20) 10 6466692
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 0034 D	dahab@planetdivers.com	www.planetdivers.com	(20) 69 3641090
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 3640087

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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	dahabaya@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 5524601
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 SM01	www.aquariusredsea.com	coralsea@aquariusredsea.com	(20) 10 6926126
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	Iberotel 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 at Grand Rotana Resort	Grand Rotana Resort	SSDC 0015 SM01	www.cameldive.com	info@cameldive.com	(20) 69 3600700
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 3663670
Coral Dive Club	Mexicana Hotel	SSDC 0019 S	www.coraldivingclub.com	info@coraldivingclub.com	(20) 69 3660740



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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	Kiroseiz 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) 69 3601388
Dive For Fun	Sharm Amarein	SSDC 0023 S	www.diveforfunsharm.com	info@diveforfunsharm.com	(20) 10 7175117
Dive In	Renaissance Golden View	SSDC 0024 S	www.divein.net	sharm@divein.net	
Dive In	Grand Plaza Hotel	SSDC 0024 SM01	www.divein.net	sharm@divein.net	(20) 69 3710510
Diver Professional	Regency Plaza Hotel	SSDC 0025 S		ahmeddiver@yahoo.com	
Divers Dreams	Lodge Hotel	SSDC 0026 S		diversdreams@mail.ru	
Divers International	Softel Hotel	SSDC 0027 S	www.diversintl.com	info@diversintl.com	(20) 69 3600865
Divers United	Coral Hills	SSDC 0103 S	www.diversunited.com	divers.united@gmail.com	(20) 12 7445 833
Diving & Discovery	Iberotel 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 3595212
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
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 3601734
Extra Divers	Melia Sina	SSDC 0034 S	www.extradivers.info	rasnasrani@extradivers.info	(20) 69 3670002
Go Dive	Lighthouse. Ras Um Sid	SSDC 0036 S		ayman@blueheavenholidays.com	
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	
International Diving Travel	Novotel Hotel	SSDC 0039 SM01	www.only-six.com	info@only-six.com	(20) 69 3663688
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) 69 3664305
Ocean College	Hilton Waterfalls Hotel	SSDC 0054 S	www.ocean-college.com	info@ocean-college.com	(20) 69 3664305
Ocean College	Whitehouse	SSDC 0053 S	www.ocean-college.com	info@ocean-college.com	(20) 69 3664305
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 7963155
Oonas Dive Club	Oonas Hotel	SSDC 0056 S	www.oonasdiveclub.com	info@oonasdiveclub.com	(20) 69 3600581
Orbit Divers	Dive Inn Hotel	SSDC 0104 S	www.orbit-divers.net	orbit-divers@hotmail.com	(43) 66 43354878
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 3600145
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 4443
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

Name	Address	CDWS No.	Website Address	Email Address	Telephone
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	(20) 12 4057239
Sharm Scuba Service	Coral Beach Tiran Hotel	SSDC 0069 SM01	www.sharmscubaservice.com	info@sharmscubaservice.com	(20) 12 4057239
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	
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) 69 3600122
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 Mare Resort	RSDC 0179	www.stelladimare.com	diving@stelladimare.com	(20) 62 3250100
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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	(20) 10 2592123
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	www.swdf.de	redsea@swdf.de	(20) 65 3442375
Al Prince	Sayed Kareem St Dahar	RSDC 0142	www.prince-diving.com	info@prince-diving.com	(20) 12 2484015
Annette & Jurgen Red Sea Divers	Zahabia Resort	RSDC 85	www.redsea-divers.com	info@redsea-divers.com	(20) 12 2300483



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info@iliosdiveclub.de
Tel: +20 65 346 5442
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RED SEA

Name	Address	CDWS No.	Website Address	Email Address	Telephone
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
Black Shark	Ali Baba Palace Resort	RSDC 76	info@blackshark-dc.com	www.blackshark-dc.com	(20) 12 2182 352
Blue Paradise	14 El Kornesh St	RSDC 0039	www.blueparadise.be	bluepar@hurghada.ie-eg.com	(20) 65 3544354
Blue Water-Arabia Dive Resort	Azur Arabia Beach Hotel	RSDC 26	www.blue-water-dive.com	info@blue-water-dive.com	(20) 65 3555420
Bubbles Diving College	Villa 17 Hadaba	RSDC 0173	www.bubblesworldwide.com	yehia@bubblesworldwide.com	
Colona Divers	Magawish Resort	RSDC 32	www.colona.com	hurghada@colona.com	(20) 65 3464631
Deep Blue Divers	Sunrise Garden Resort	RSDC 0183	www.deepblue-divers.com	info@deepblue-divers.com	(20) 16 5520763
Deep Blue Divers	Calimera Golden Beach	RSDC 0163	www.deepblue-divers.com	info@deepblue-divers.com	(20) 16 5520763
Deep Divers	Sunny Days El Palacio	RSDC 0071	www.deep-divers.com	info@deep-divers.com	(20) 18 912 5125
Deep Dream Diving Club	Public Beach Hurghada	RSDC 0011	www.deepdreams.hu	info@deepdreams.hu	
Dinos	Hospital Street	RSDC 0028	www.dinosdiving.com	info@dinosdiving.com	(20) 65 3545050
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
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	Sofitel 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 2305202
El Gaysoom	El Gaysoom Resort	RSDC 0147		ucpaegypt@menanet.net	
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	(20) 10 1888552
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 444150
Golden Dolphin	Shell Ghada Beach	RSDC 0062	www.gdolph.com	info@gdolph.com	(20) 12 3134902
Great Orca	El Princess Resort	RSDC 0166		greatorca@hotmail.com	
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) 65 3443710
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 7334509
Manta Divers	Church St, El Dahar	RSDC 0124	www.mantataucher.com	info@mantadivers.net	(20) 65 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
New Dino	El Keyadat El Dahar	RSDC 0131		new_dino@hotmail.com	
Oxygene Red Sea	Hilton Plaza	RSDC 0021	www.oxygenediving.com	redsea@oxygenediving.com	(20) 12 7372125
Ozone O3	Shedwan Resort	RSDC 0096	www.ozone-o3.com	ozonediving@yahoo.com	(20) 123 919423
Panorama Divers	Tabia Hotel	RSDC 0132	www.panoramadivers.com	info@panoramadivers.com	
Picasso Water Sport	Desert Rose Resort	RSDC 0106	www.picassodiving.com	info@picassodiving.com	(20) 65 3460615

Name	Address	CDWS No.	Website Address	Email Address	Telephone
Pirates Diving Network	Beach Albatros Resort	RSDC 0013	www.piratesdiving.com	albatrosresort@piratesdiving.com	(20) 65 3461500
PSI	Domina Makadi Bay	RSDC 0064	www.psidiveclub.com	info@psidiveclub.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.dahabdiver.com	hurghada@dahabdiver.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		Aladdinsafety@hurghada.ie-eg.com	
Son Bijou	Beside Panorama Hotel	RSDC 0140	www.bijou-diving.com	info@bijou-diving.com	
Stingray	Sinbad Resort	RSDC 0113		stingray_redsea@yahoo.com	
Subex Red Sea	Dahar	RSDC 82	www.subex.org	hurghada@subex.org	(20) 65 3547593
Swiss Stingray	Riviera Village	RSDC 0126	www.swisswellness.net	info@swisswellness.net	
Titanic Diving	Titanic Beach Resort	RSDC 0122	www.titanicdivingcenter.com	info@titanicdivingcenter.com	
Twin Dolphin	Sea Star Beurivage	RSDC 0138	www.diving-redsea.com	info@diving-redsea.com	(20) 12 0240508
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-divingcenter.com	(20) 65 3590600
Undersea Adventure	LTI Dana Beach Resort	RSDC 0017	www.undersea-adventures.co.uk	team@undersea.co.uk	(44) 1736 75 1066

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

3 Turtles Diving Centre	2 El Shebbab Street	RSDC 37	www.3turtles-redsea.com	info@3turtles-redsea.cin	(20) 10 5769512
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) 65 3260100
Dune	Aluminiuim 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 3260060
Orca Red Sea	Sun Beach Resort	RSDC 90	www.orca-diveclub-safaga.com	info@orca-diveclub-safaga.com	(20) 65 3260111



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info@kingsnefro.de

Name	Address	CDWS No.	Website Address	Email Address	Telephone
Orca Dive Club	Coral Garden Village	RSDC 0090 SM01	www.orca-diveclub-safaga.com	info@orca-diveclub-safaga.com	(20) 65 3260111
Sharm El Naga	Sharm El Naga Resort	RSDC 0084	www.sharmelnaga.com	ifo@sharmelnaga.com	
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 3390014
Subex Red Sea	Movenpick Hotel	RSDC 0007	www.subex.org	elquseir@subex.org	(20) 65 3332100
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) 12 2416739
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.aquariusedsea.com	baraka@aquariusedsea.com	(20) 12 2488062
Barakuda Diving	Lahami Bay Resort	RSDC 134	www.barakuda-diving.com	lahamibay@barakuda-diving.com	(20) 12 2242527
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
Dive In Sports	Sentido Oriental Resort	RSDC 0190	www.diveinsports.com	info@diveinsports.com	
Diving Ocean New Project	Marsa Alam Tulip Hotel	RSDC 0123	www.divingocean.com	marsa@divingocean.com	(20) 10 1754354
Diving Ocean New Project	solimar Abu Dabbab	RSDC 0194	www.divingocean.com	marsa@divingocean.com	(20) 10 175 4354
Emperor Divers	Marina Lodge	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

Name	Address	CDWS No.	Website Address	Email Address	Telephone
Extra Divers	El Fayrouz Resort	RSDC 0191	www.extradivers.info	marsa2@extradivers.info	
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 Reef Resort	RSDC 0055	www.grandblue.it	info@grandblue.it	
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
Sprind 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 Lahami	RSDC 67	www.redsea-divingsafari.com	info@redsea-divingsafari.com	(20) 12 2461656

Hamata					
Orca Dive Club Wadi Lahmy	Wadi Lahmy Azur Resort	RSDC 198	www.orca-diveclub-wadilahmy.com	info@orca-diveclub-wadilahmy.com	(20) 12 241 7020

Alexandria					
Almontazah for Diving and Water Sport Center	Almontazah Palace Gardens	AlexDC001	www.montazah.com	info@montazah.com	

LIVEBOARD BOATS:

Name	Address	CDWS No.	Website Address	Email Address	Telephone
Taba					
M/Y Coral Coast	Hilton Hotel	SSSB 0001 T	www.aqua-sport.com	info@aqua-sport.com	(20) 10 16354440
Sharm el Sheikh					
M/Y Angelina 2	Travco Jetty	SSSB 0019 S	www.dive-club.com	info@dive-club.com	(20) 12 2815210
M/Y Carlton	Travco Jetty	SSSB 0001 S		elmeesh@yahoo.com	
M/Y Carlton Queen	Travco Jetty	SSSB 0040 S		elmeesh@yahoo.com	
M/Y Cyclone	Sharm El Sheikh	SSSB 0012 S			
M/Y Dive Runner	Travco Jetty	SSSB 0035 S	www.diverunner.com	office@diverunner.co.uk	(20) 10 1147141
M/Y Dunja	Travco Jetty	SSSB 0044 S		lovydovy24@hotmail.com	
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 Ghazala 1	Travco Jetty	SSSB 0018 S	www.sinaidivers.com	info@sinaidivers.com	
M/Y Ghazala 2	Travco Jetty	SSSB 0041 S	www.sinaidivers.com	info@sinaidivers.com	
M/Y Ghazala Voyager	Travco Jetty	SSSB 0017 S	www.sinaidivers.com	info@sinaidivers.com	
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 Karim 2000	Travco Jetty	SSSB 0028 S	www.karim2000.info	office@karim2000.info	(20) 16 0783974



Name	Address	CDWS No.	Website Address	Email Address	Telephone
M/Y King Snefro 3	Travco Jetty	SSSB 0013 S	www.kingsnefro.de	boats@kingsnefro.de	(20) 12 3150612
M/Y King Snefro 5	Travco Jetty	SSSB 0014 S	www.kingsnefro.de	boats@kingsnefro.de	(20) 12 3150612
M/Y King Snefro 6	Travco Jetty	SSSB 0015 S	www.kingsnefro.de	boats@kingsnefro.de	(20) 12 3150612
M/Y King Snefro Crown	Travco Jetty	SSSB 0039 S	www.kingsnefro.de	boats@kingsnefro.de	(20) 12 3150612
M/Y King Snefro Spirit	Travco Jetty	SSSB 0038 S	www.kingsnefro.de	boats@kingsnefro.de	(20) 12 3150612
M/Y King Snefro Target	Travco Jetty	SSSB 0043 S	www.kingsnefro.de	boats@kingsnefro.de	(20) 12 3150612
M/Y Morgaan	Travco Jetty	SSSB 0011 S	www.cfundivers.com	info@cdfundivers.com	(20) 69 366 3393
M/Y Ocean Dream	Travco Jetty	SSSB 0016 S	www.oceandream.com.eg	salah@oceandream.com.eg	(20) 10 5289538
M/Y Orchid	Travco Jetty	SSSB 0036 S	www.flowersofsinai.com	info@flowersofsinai.com	
M/Y Royal Diving 3	Travco Jetty	SSSB 0029 S	www.wildandblu.com	info@wildandblu.com	(20) 12 1053742
M/Y Sea Force	Travco Jetty	SSSB 0034 S	www.nexusdiving.com	info@nexusdiving.com	(20) 12 815 0055
M/Y Sea Queen	Travco Jetty	SSSB 0021 S	www.seaqueens.com	info@seaqueens.com	(20) 12 2186669
M/Y Snap Dragon	Travco Jetty	SSSB 0037 S	www.flowersofsinai.com	info@flowersofsinai.com	
M/Y South Moon	Travco Jetty	SSSB 0020 S	www.seaqueens.com	info@seaqueens.com	(20) 12 2186669
M/Y Tiger Lily	Travco Jetty	RSSB 002	www.flowersofsinai.com	info@flowersofsinai.com	
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 Amelie	Sheraton Hotel Marina	RSSB 0102	www.redsea-direct.com	jose@redsea-direct.com	(20) 12 3783467
M/Y Aml Hayaty	Hurghada	RSSB 0092	www.diversdreamtours.com	info@diversdreamtours.com	
M/Y Bella 1	Marriott Marina	RSSB 0099	www.bellasafaris.com	info@bellasafaris.com	
M/Y Beurivage	Marriott Hotel Marina	RSSB 0096		contact@beurivagefleet.com	
M/Y Beurivage 2	Marina Mariot, Hurghada	RSSB 0097		contact@beurivagefleet.com	
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 Colona V	Magawish Resort Marina	RSSB 0066	www.colona.com	liveaboard-hurghada@colona.com	(20) 65 3464631
M/Y Dolce Vita	Hurghada New Marina	RSSB 0033	www.diversfleet.com	info@diversfleet.com	(20) 65 3447965
M/Y Dreams	Hurghada New Marina	RSSB 0014	www.seaserpentfleet.com	info@seaserpentfleet.com	(20) 65 3447307
M/Y Emperor Superior	Hurghada New Marina	RSSB 0050	www.emperordivers.com	guestcare.fleet@emperordivers.com	(20) 12 2340995
M/Y Ertan	Marina Hawaii Resort	RSSB 0078		maged-hur@hotmail.com	
M/Y Eternity	Anemon Beach Marina	RSSB 0042		discovery_liveaboards@yahoo.com	
M/Y Fire Bird	New Marina	RSSB 0059	www.deepblue-divers.com	info@deepblue-cruises.com	(20) 16 5520763
M/Y Golden Dolphin 1	Hurghada New Marina	RSSB 0024	www.golden-dolphin.net	info@golden-dolphin.net	(20) 65 3447237
M/Y Golden Dolphin 2	Sheraton Road	RSSB 0057	www.golden-dolphin.net	info@golden-dolphin.net	(20) 65 3447237
M/Y Golden Dolphin 3	Hurghada New Marina	RSSB 0075	www.golden-dolphin.net	info@golden-dolphin.net	(20) 65 3447237
M/Y Golden Emperor 2	Hurghada Marriott Marina	RSSB 0015	www.seaqueens.com	info@seaqueens.com	(20) 12 218 6669
M/Y Green Force	Hurghada Marine Sports Club	RSSB 0084	www.greenforce.be	info@greenforce.be	(20) 12 4313833
M/Y Heaven Freedom	Hurghada	RSSB 007	www.diversheaven.com	info@diversheaven.com	(20) 65 3440220
M/Y Heaven Harmony	Hurghada	RSSB 006	www.diversheaven.com	info@diversheaven.com	(20) 65 3440220
M/Y Heaven Saphir	Hurghada	RSSB 008	www.diversheaven.com	info@diversheaven.com	(20) 65 3440220
M/Y Heaven Liberty	Hurghada	RSSB 004	www.diversheaven.com	info@diversheaven.com	(20) 65 3440220
M/Y Hurricane	Marriott Hotel	SSSB 2	www.tornadomarinefleet.com	info@tornadomarinefleet.com	
M/Y Kamal Oglo	Marina Hawaii Resort	RSSB 0077		maged-hur@hotmail.com	
M/Y Liliom	Marine Sports Club	RSSB 0010	www.liliomdivers.com	diving@liliomdivers.com	(20) 122 478993
M/Y Nouran	Hurghada New Marina	RSSB 0087	www.redsea-sound.com	redsea@redsea-sound.com	
M/Y Obsession Marine	Hurghada New Marina	RSSB 0023	www.seaserpentfleet.com	info@seaserpentfleet.com	(20) 65 3447307
M/Y Ocean Wave	Beirut Hotel Marina	RSSB 0081	www.greenforce.be	info@greenforce.be	(20) 12 4313833
M/Y Patriot	Hurghada Marine Sports Club	RSSB 0065	www.miragemarinefleet.com	info@miragemarinefleet.com	(02) 12 2113183

Name	Address	CDWS No.	Website Address	Email Address	Telephone
M/Y Sea Sound	Hurghada New Marina	RSSB 0079	www.divingattitude.com	info@divingattitude.com	(20) 12 217 6756
M/Y Spring Land	Hilton Plaza	RSSB 0065		samirgaber@rocketmail.com	
M/Y Tala	Hurghada New Marina	RSSB 0022	www.redseaexplorers.com	info@redseaexplorers.com	(20) 12 312 2249
M/Y Thunder Bird	Ali Baba Center, Arabia Beach Resort	RSSB 0043	www.deepblue-cruises.com	info@deepblue-cruises.com	
M/Y Valerie	Hurghada New Marina, Hurghada	RSSB 0098		adamdiving@yahoo.com	

Safaga					
M/Y El Samman Explorer	Minaville Resort Marina	RSSB 0088		elsaman67@yahoo.com	
M/Y Jessica	Marina Elfouli	RSSB 0109		magedgama2007@yahoo.com	
M/Y Legends	Aluminium Port	RSSB 0038		mdivers@intouch.com	
M/Y Nemo	Marina El Fouly	RSSB 0114	www.duneredsea.com	info@duneredsea.com	

Marsa Alam					
M/Y Al Dabaran	Port Marsa Alam	RSSB 0094		info@aldebaran-redsea.com	
M/Y Amelia	Port Ghalib	RSSB 0029	www.discovery-divers.com	info@discovery-divers.com	(20) 65 3448251
M/Y Dive One	Marsa Alam Port	RSSB 0080	www.redsea-direct.com	jose@redsea-direct.com	(20) 12 3783467
M/Y Emperor Elite	Marsa Ghalib	RSSB 0051	www.emperordivers.com	guestcare.fleet@emperordivers.com	(20) 12 2340995
M/Y Emperor Fraser	Marsa Ghalib	RSSB 0044	www.emperordivers.com	guestcare.fleet@emperordivers.com	(20) 12 2340995
M/Y Galaxy	Port Marsa Alam	RSSB 0093		discovery_liveaboards@yahoo.com	
M/Y Grand Sea Serpent	Port Ghalib	RSSB 0009	www.seaserpentfleet.com	info@seaserpentfleet.com	(20) 65 3447307
M/Y Light House Miracle 1	Marsa Alam Port	RSSB 0021	www.lighthouse-1.com	info@dahabdive.com	(20) 12 2682173
M/Y Muaddib	Port Ghalib	RSSB 0037	www.duneredsea.com	gerard@duneredsea.com	
M/Y Miss Nouran	Port Marsa Alam	RSSB 0011	www.seaserpentfleet.com	info@seaserpentfleet.com	(20) 65 3447307
M/Y Polly	Port Marsa Alam	RSSB 0028	www.my-polly.de	abc.traveldivers@email.de	(20) 12 9161483
M/Y Quick Shadow	Port Marsa Alam	RSSB 0047		nabilessbagh@yahoo.co.uk	
M/Y Rosetta	Port Marsa Alam	RSSB 0067	www.myrosetta.co.uk	info@myrosetta.co.uk	(20) 10 1021191
M/Y Royal Evolution	Marsa Alam Port Ghaleb	RSSB 0001	www.royalevolution.com	info@ROYALEVOLUTION.com	(20) 65 3447366
M/Y Safy Mar	Port Marsa Alam, Marsa Alam	RSSB 0111		strange20008@yahoo.com	
M/Y Sea Serpent	Marsa Alam Port	RSSB 0013	www.seaserpentfleet.com	info@seaserpentfleet.com	(20) 65 3447307
M/Y Sea Whisper	Marsa Alam Port	RSSB 0041		discovery_liveaboards@yahoo.com	
M/Y Sea Wolf Soul	Port Marsa Alam	RSSB 0106	www.seawolf-diving.de	info@seawolf-diving.de	(20) 12 7461076
M/Y Seven Seas	Port Ghalb Marsa Alam	RSSB 0026		bob_sevenseas@yahoo.com	
M/Y Sharky Red Sea	Port Marsa Alam	RSSB 0086		sarky.s@hotmail.com	

Hamata					
M/Y Amsterdam	Port Hamata	RSSB 0131	www.qulaan.com	elsafy@qulaan.com	(20)12 1741454
M/Y Emperor Asmaa	Port Hamata	RSSB 0090	www.emperordivers.com	guestcare.fleet@emperordivers.com	(20) 12 2340995
M/Y Highlights	Port Hamata	RSSB 0119		highlightsredsea@yahoo.com	
M/Y Princess Zeinab	Port Hamata	RSSB 0105	www.redsea-direct.com	jose@redsea-direct.com	(20) 12 3783467
M/Y Sea Scorpion	Port Hamata	RSSB 0035	www.divetoo.net	info@divetoo.net	



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a little mermaid for the day...”™*



Egypt

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