

Red Sea Special

Canary Divers recently returned from a trip to the Red Sea. The holiday party flew out to Sharm El Sheikh from Manchester airport on 26 March returning 1 week later.

The week started with diving around a couple of the local dive sites; Ras Um Sid and Middle Garden. The diving was spectacular and really set us all up for the week ahead.



On the second day we travelled initially to the eel garden. This is a fantastic dive site with a combination of rocky outcrops and small reefs standing proud of the sea bed as well as large

sloping sandy spaces. As we approached the sandy slopes we could clearly see thousands of eels stood erect from the sand, swaying in the wind. As we approached them they retracted into the sand almost like a Mexican wave.

We then made our way to the Dunraven which is a wreck sunk slightly west of the southern tip of the Sinai peninsula. The wreck is that of a British steamer which was carrying various supplies. Whilst almost all of the cargo has rotted away, the hull of the vessel lays upside down providing the opportunity of a dark swim through between the hull bottom and the huge metal boiler which still lies in situ.

After making our way back up the coast towards Sharm we called off at Ras Ghozlani and enjoyed another dive.

On day three we set off towards the Straits of Tiran. In the middle of the sea are 4 reefs which form the familiar dive sites Woodhouse, Jackson, Thomas and Gordon. On this day we opted to dive on Woodhouse and Jackson. There was quite a bit of current flowing past Woodhouse on this occasion which made for quite a hard dive but then all that was forgotten on Jackson.

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As we entered the water on Jackson there was a shout of Turtle' Sure enough, 15m below us was a turtle. As we approached it the turtle put on a show for us as it grabbed a jelly fish from the water and ate it in front of us.

After this amazing encounter, we made our way along the reef to the red anemone and then back to the boat to make our way for the 3rd dive of the day at Ras Bob.



Thursday was Thistlegorm day. We arrived early at the site at around 7:30am and were in the water before 8:15. The current on the first dive was very strong which saw us descend down the stern mooring line like flags flying in a string wind. The Thistlegorm never fails to disappoint. On the second dive there was hardly any current at all which made for a much more enjoyable and relaxing dive. After diving at Shark and Yolanda reef on the way back we returned to our hotel.

On Friday we dived off Jackfish alley in the Ras Mohammed park and Ras Za'Atar which again provided beautiful scenery and fish life. The highlight of this day was a night dive at Ras Katy. We arrived at Ras Katy at around 18:00 and it was still light. By 18:20 it was pitch black. This dive site is only a couple of minutes off Naama bay but the sea life comes to life at night. Parrot fish sleeping in their bubbles, lion fish following our lights and sea snakes making their way across the sea bed.

Overall a fantastic weeks diving was had by all with a good mixture of sites.

