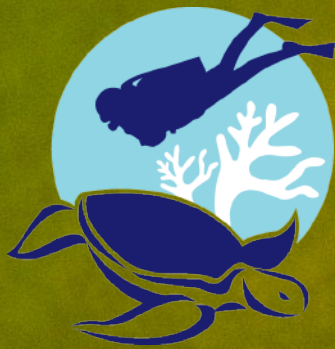




EDA

جمعية الإمارات للغوص
Emirates Diving Association

ISSUE 3 VOL. 2
AUGUST 2006

DIVERS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Preserving The Art of
Pearl Diving



EDA Safety Committee

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 Emirates Diving Association



DIVERS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Please note that EDA's newsletter, "Divers for the Environment" includes articles written by individuals whose opinions, whilst valid, may or may not represent that of EDA. It is hoped that the newsletter can become a platform for individuals to voice their opinion on marine and diving related issues. You are welcome to submit an article for the next issue of "Divers for the Environment" released in November 2006. Send all articles/comments to Head Office edadiver@emirates.net.ae.

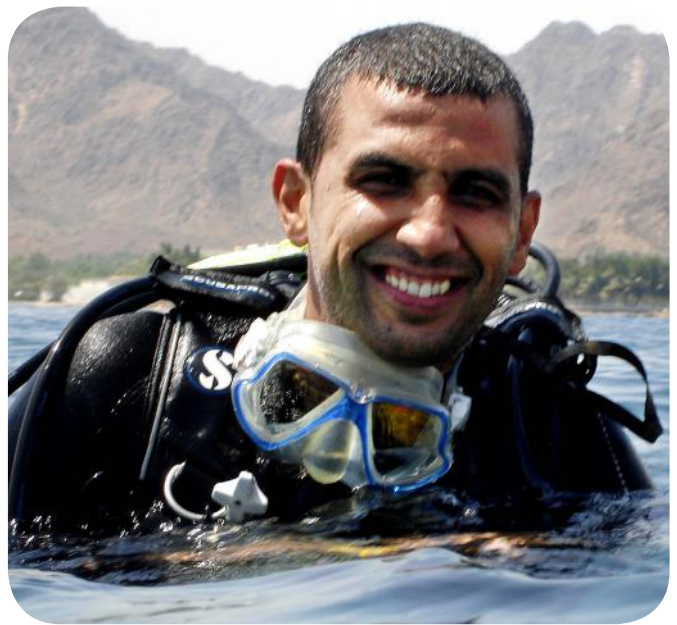
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EDA DIVE UAE GUIDE



Dear Members,

I am very pleased to present to you this very special issue.

We are featuring the current 33 dive businesses and clubs that EDA has under its umbrella: 21 Dive Centres, 7 Dive Retailers, 4 Dive Clubs and 1 Dive Tour Operator. These are the companies/organization that you should go to, if you want to be assured of an enjoyable and safe diving in the U.A.E or if you want to purchase dive equipment or materials. Check out the services and products that they offer in this issue. This is our way of saying "thank you" to them for registering with EDA and for updating us with their information.

We also have categorized some major dive sites per emirate for those who are new to the U.A.E. Thanks to some dive centres and individuals who contributed to these pages. We would also like to thank Underwater Explorer for giving us permission to quote them on some dive sites featured in this issue.

EDA is also happy to announce that in the 2nd general meeting that was held in 03 May, a Safety Committee was created to help EDA to "set universal safety standards" to help promote safe recreational diving in the UAE. This committee will be run and managed by the Dive Centres in the UAE. We have included the Safety Committee Mission Statement here so you will know the mission, goal and vision that the committee promises to adhere to.

What did you do to celebrate the UNEP World Environment Day 2006! EDA, together with EDA sponsor HSBC Bank Middle East, as well as Tadweer, visited the Dibba Marine Protected area, which is run jointly by EDA and the Ministry of Environment. Another EDA sponsor, Majid Al-Futtaim Group, also visited the reserve a few weeks later.

EDA Board of Directors recently joined EDA members in sharing a well-deserved break by diving (what else?) in Sipadan-Borneo, Malaysia. This diving group was the 3rd from EDA to visit Sipadan. Have a look at the photos for the amazing time we had there. In this issue, Tourism Malaysia will be providing a lucky reader with a trip for two to Malaysia so go through the newsletter now and answer their quiz.

Speaking of dive trips, our friends from Seychelles Tourism Board and Thailand are also offering exciting dive packages for you to take advantage of. I'm sure you feel very lucky that you are a RENEWED EDA member, so make sure that you renew your membership.

Finally, we are gearing up for EDA's next big event which is Clean Up Arabia. This is usually held every September but this year, we are moving it to November since we would like to schedule it after Ramadan. Please remember the date - 11 NOVEMBER. With our network, we will cover Musandam, Fujairah, Khorfakkan (East Coast), Abu Dhabi and Dubai.

I would like to thank again the dive centres, dive retailers and dive clubs who spent time to contribute to this issue. The EDA family is getting bigger and bigger and we hope that we all work harmoniously and support each other as we all work towards one goal - promoting safe, recreational and environmental diving in the U.A.E.

Eco Regards,

Ibrahim N. Al-Zu'bi

Director of Environment Dept.
Emirates Diving Association
www.emiratesdiving.com

West Asia Coordinator,
UNEP YouthXchange Project
www.youthxchange.net

PRESERVING THE ART OF PEARL DIVING

By Zarina Khan

Emirates Today newspaper shared the Emirates Diving Association's work to preserve the art of pearl diving inside the UAE and throughout the region...



EDA Chairman Faraj Bin Butthi Al Muhairbi and Heritage Department Coordinator Juma'a Bin Thalith (second and third from right) presenting a replica of the pearl diving boat to Kuwaiti Marine Sports Group Chairman Fahad Ahmed Al Fahad and Vice Chairman Ahmad Al-Ganam (fourth and first from right).



EDA with the Kuwait Marine Sports Group

The UAE's preservation of the industry and art of pearl diving is allowing neighbouring Kuwait to give the most authentic training possible to its youth in a bid to preserve the country's shared cultural heritage.

The Emirates Diving Association recently presented a 40 foot-long wooden pearl diving boat to the Kuwaiti Marine Sports Group in this regard. The boat, which already has many decades of traditional sailing to its credit, is to be installed onshore by the group for use as a stationary school where young Kuwaiti boys will be taught the skill that once powered the Gulf economy.

"The UAE's preservation of this heritage is better than ours. This boat is as authentic as can be found, and we will use it to teach boys in the same way that our grandfathers were taught by their fathers," said Fahad Ahmed Al Fahad, chairman of the Kuwaiti Group.

Through the programme, some 100 Kuwaiti youth out of an expected 600 volunteers would be selected for the two-month programme, which in effect throws them centuries back into the past.

"These boats will operate with no electricity, no engines, the boys will not be allowed to smoke, or cut their hair, and must show the respect to all that is a part of our culture," Al Fahad said.

The gift was presented by EDA chairman Faraj Bin Butthi Al Muhairbi, who was a pearl diving boat captain in his youth some 50 years ago.

"It is only due to the vision of our great Sheikh Zayed that we saved this skill from being lost so we can share it with other Gulf countries today. Sheikh Zayed, many decades ago, saw that we would lose pearl diving, and set up a system where it would be preserved," the Emirati who comes from a long line of divers said.

The EDA runs its own pearl diving tours and training programmes for those wishing to be shown how the UAE's ancestors brought wealth to the region. "I myself joined my father on his boat from the age of eight years. In my prime, I could dive to 19 arm-lengths below without the aid of any apparatus. But it was a tough life. Back then we would be at sea for four months at a time, making over 300 dives a day from sunup till sundown, and our mothers would cry because they knew men died at sea and they may never see us again," Al Muhairbi recalled.

Pearl diving brought trade to the region long before petrol was discovered, as far back as six to seven thousand years ago. Each ship carried between 10-60 people including captain (Nokhaza), divers and sailors to man the ship. In the industry young men would dive to great depths without the aid of any breathing apparatus to retrieve oysters from the sea bed, which would be harvested for pearls.

THE UAE'S PRESERVATION OF THE INDUSTRY AND ART OF PEARL DIVING IS ALLOWING NEIGHBOURING KUWAIT TO GIVE THE MOST AUTHENTIC TRAINING POSSIBLE TO ITS YOUTH IN A BID TO PRESERVE THE COUNTRY'S SHARED CULTURAL HERITAGE

EDA CREATES A SAFETY COMMITTEE

Due to the rising concerns regarding the lack of diving safety standards, as well as the growth of the diving industry within the U.A.E., a Safety Committee was created during EDA's 2nd General Meeting in May. Among the EDA members who volunteered to become members of the new committee, Paul Sant of Divers Down was elected Chairman and Phil O' Shea of Pavilion Dive Centre became Vice Chairman. Other members of the EDA Safety Committee were: Kathleen Russel of Al Masood, Maher Al Wazir of GASCO Diving Club, Ernst Vander Poll of Pavilion Dive Centre, Firas Kabra of Gulf Marine Sports, Mohammad Bitar of T.D.I.C., Andrew Jubber of Freestyle Divers and Ray Taboada of Al Sammak Diving Center. A recent addition to the Safety Committee was Stephanie Davies of Scuba Dubai.

The first undertaking of the Safety Committee was to create a Mission Statement (*shown on the right*) to define their role within the EDA and the diving community. The Mission Statement was disseminated among member EDA dive centers, retailers and clubs and all were encouraged to display the Statement in a prominent place and include it in their websites.

The Safety Committee held their first meeting in early June and proposed some safety guidelines and rules which were presented during the 3rd EDA general meeting. The proposals covered independent instructor guidelines, rules on dive centers/dive boats/ dhows/pleasure boats, proposed rules for dive retail, incident/violation/environmental report forms and non-compliance procedure.

The Safety Committee is now preparing for their second meeting in preparation for the safety procedures which they will present on EDA's 4th General Meeting scheduled in September.

SAFETY COUNCIL MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to set universal safety standards, (**in line with international standards**) and ensure their implementation. Offer divers and the supporting diving industry a recognised body to voice their concerns and forward complaints.

Our Goal is to have all diving centres and supporting industries following EDA guidelines. Creating a safe choice for all divers currently within the UAE, and for those divers planning to visit the UAE.

Our Vision is to see the UAE as a worldwide diving destination, holding international events and having the reputation of a safe, well-structured dive industry.

All members must have a universal desire to continuously develop the diving industry within the UAE, making a safer and more unified organization of represented companies.

All members of the safety council will be expected to lead by example and adhere to all rules laid out by the committee.

The purpose of the council will be to ensure safety rules and guidelines, which are both clear and concise. It is not our purpose to use the said council meetings to vent personnel disagreements or non-safety issues.

All members are expected to show commitment, and attend all meetings where possible.

All minutes of the meetings will be published and sent out to EDA members within 14 days.

Concern over a direct breach of safety may result in an earlier meeting being called, if the elected chairperson or vice chairperson is unable to deal with the safety issue.

Prior to any meeting, proposed questions for discussion from members must be forwarded 12 hours in advance to the chairperson.

All complaints are to be dealt with in writing. If the case requires investigation, this will be done by the chairperson, or vice chairperson. The results of the investigation will be brought up at the following scheduled meeting. Members will be kept informed throughout.

Paul A. Sant
Master Instructor 620277

Owner Divers Down
PADI 5 Star Gold Palm IDC Centre S-32339 and Official Project AWARE Partner

Chairman EDA Safety Committee



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EDA IN MALAYSIA

8 EMIRATES DIVING ASSOCIATION, AUGUST 2006



Malaysia
Truly Asia



MALAYSIA: A DIVER'S PARADISE

Nobody who went diving in Malaysia ever came back disappointed. From Peninsular Malaysia to the state of Sabah, there is something for divers of all levels here.

Arguably the most popular diving destination would be Sipadan in Sabah, well known in diving circles as one of the best in the world. Its incredibly rich marine environment will affirm the generally held notion that it is easier to identify what you didn't see in the fish guidebook rather than mention what you saw in Sipadan.

Another famous site is Mabul which is only 20 minutes from Sipadan but worlds away in terms of the macro-life that it offers. Here, you can get your fill of muck diving which allows you to get acquainted with unusual marine species like mantis shrimps, nudibranchs, ribbon eels, angler fish, ghost pipefish, seahorse and other rarely-seen creatures.

EDA and Tourism Malaysia have organized several trips to Sipadan-Borneo and can attest to the magnificence and abundance of the marine life there!

Other must-dive places in Sabah are Layang Layang, Kapalai and Lankayan.

Peninsular Malaysia also offers great dive spots. Pulau Redang is considered one of the most beautiful islands in Malaysia. It has more than 25 dive spots where you find macro-life to night creatures to black-tip sharks. Another famed destination is Pulau Tenggol, known for its cliffs and submerged rocks with spectacular coral growth. Other dive spots to check out are Perhentian Island, Tioman group of islands, Pangkor and Payar Islands.

No amount of words can best describe diving in Malaysia. What better way to check it out than get the next flight out and experience a diver's paradise.

PRIZE DIVING PACKAGE

Here is your chance to win two free tickets return economy class to the breathtaking and enchanting country of Malaysia and enjoy 3 nights / 4 days stay with breakfast. To participate kindly tick the right answer and fax it to Tourism Malaysia (Dubai Office) at 009714 - 3353318 NOT LATER THAN 20 SEPTEMBER 2006.

1. What is the official website of Tourism Malaysia?

- a) <http://tourism.gov.my>
- b) <http://www.malaysia.com.my>
- c) <http://www.mymalaysia.gov.my>

2. What is the event which will be held in Malaysia from 22nd July - 3rd September 2006?

- a) Malaysia Mega Sale Carnival
- b) Malaysia Food & Fiesta
- c) Colours of Malaysia

3. When is the year of Visit Malaysia Year?

- a) 2007
- b) 2008
- c) 2009

4. Which island is Malaysia's only oceanic island in the State of Sabah?

- a) Tioman Island
- b) Langkawi Island
- c) Sipadan Island

5. How many islands those are near to Redang Island which are excellent locations for snorkeling?

- a) 6
- b) 7
- c) 8

6. What is the name of a marine park situated near to Langkawi Island on the West Coast of Malaysia?

- a) Tunku Abdul Rahman Park
- b) Pulau Redang Marine Park
- c) Pulau Payar Marine Park



* Note - All answers can be found in Tourism Malaysia's official website at <http://www.tourism.gov.my>

CELEBRATING WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY AT DIBBA ROCK

EDA, together with some 25 staff of HSBC, as well as Tadweer Recycling and in collaboration with the UAE Ministry of Environment, celebrated the UNEP World Environment Day in Dibba Marine Reserve.

HSBC, who has been supporting EDA's marine conservation efforts for the fourth year now, also came out with a special poster to mark the day.

The group was welcomed by Mr. Ali Danhiani, Head of the Dibba Marine Environment Research Centre as well as key officials of the Ministry upon arrival at the Dibba Office of the Ministry of Environment.

Mr. Danhain gave a speech and the participants watched a video presentation of the Ministry and EDA's projects in the East coast. Certificates of appreciation were distributed afterwards. The guests then toured the exhibit in the Dibba Office and were treated to snacks by the Ministry.

During lunch at the Le Meridien Al Aqah Beach Resort, radio host Siobhan Leyden of Dubai Eye 103.8 FM, interviewed her guests in her special World Environment Day live coverage from the East Coast for her regular program "Siobhan LIVE" (12:00-2:00pm). Her interviewees include EDA's Director for Environment Department Ibrahim Al-Zu'bi, Dibba Marine Environment Research Centre Main Researcher Qasim Barwani, Divers Down owner and EDA Safety Committee Chairman Paul Sant, Tadweer's EnviroCare Manager Lina Chaaban, Marine Filmmaker and Ocean Worlds Productions founder Jonathan Ali Khan, Le Meridien Al Aqah General Manager Patrick Antaki and HSBC's Hani Macki.

After Siobhan's radio show, the group went to Dibba Rock and with the help of divers Paul Sant (Divers Down) and Andrew Jubber, Andrew Moore and Caesar (Freestyle Divers), snorkeled and dived the marine reserve that was jointly-run by EDA and the Ministry of Environment-Dibba.



MOE handing out certificate of appreciation to one of the participants, Tadweer's Lina Chaaban



Special HSBC posters in Arabic and English celebrating World Environment Day



HSBC staff watching the video presentation of the Ministry of Environment



The Burj Al Arab was illuminated a luscious hue in support of World Environment Day



مجموعة ماجد الفطيم
MAJID AL FUTTAIM GROUP

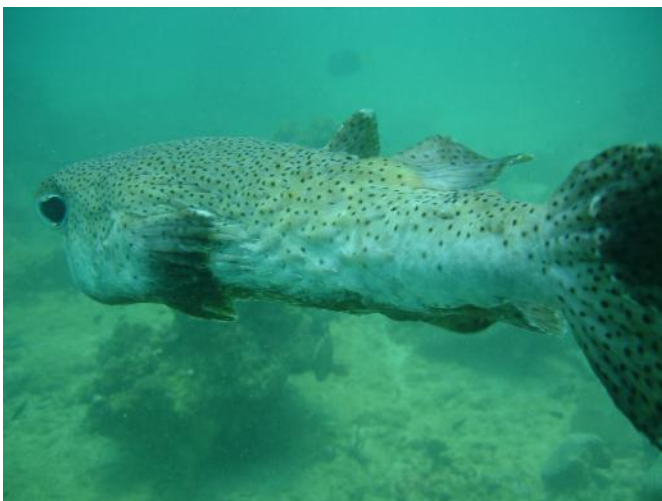
MAJID AL FUTTAIM GROUP VISITS DIBBA ROCK



Majid Al Futtain staff with EDA's Heritage Department Coordinator, Juma-a Bin Thalich (far left) and Dibba Marine Environment Research Centre Main Researcher, Qasim Barwani (far right)

Fifteen staff of Majid Al Futtain Group, one of EDA's long-time supporters, recently went on an awareness trip of Dibba Marine Reserve, a protected area that is being run by both EDA and the UAE Ministry of Environment.

As one of the leading private companies in the country, Majid Al Futtain Group is dedicated to preserving the local environments in which it operates. The trip, in which some staff dived and snorkeled Dibba Rock, enhanced environmental awareness among them and showed them how Majid Al Futtain Group's continuous support, has resulted to the successful preservation of the marine reserve.

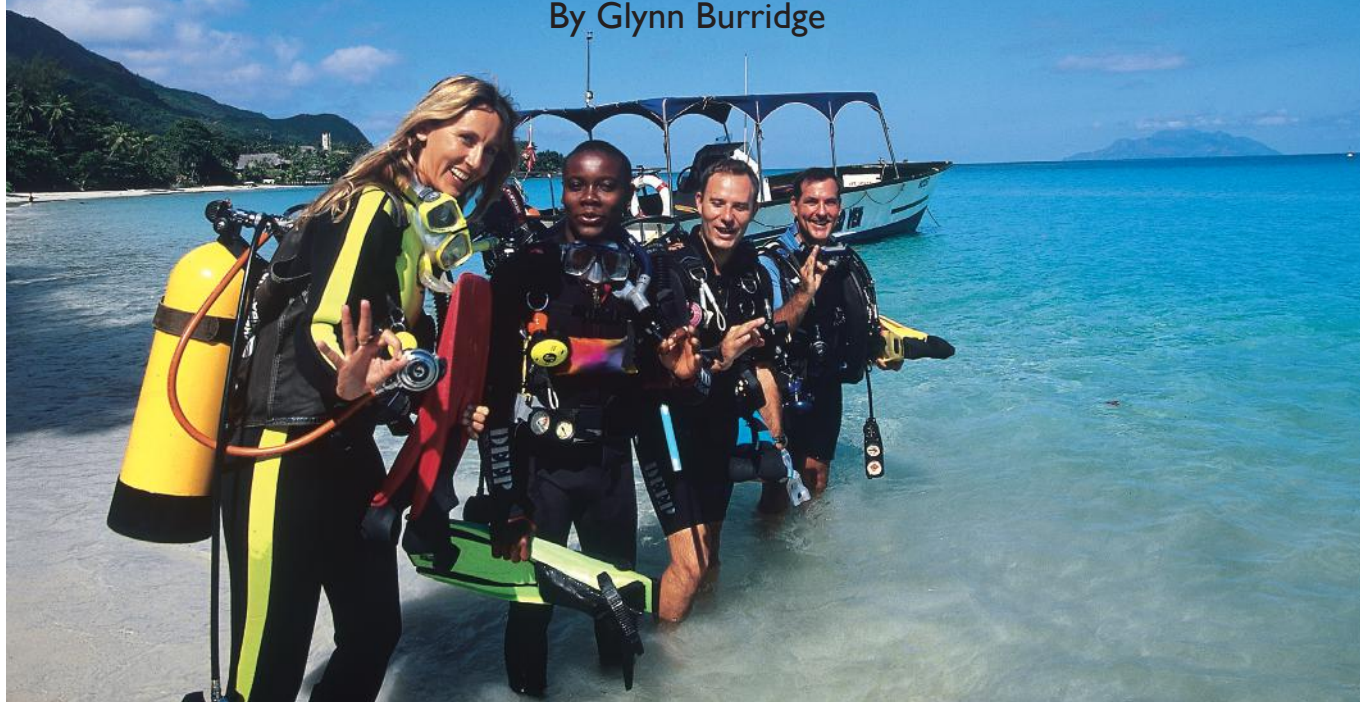


Some of the colorful marine life at Dibba Rock



DREAM DIVING: THE SEYCHELLES ARCHIPELAGO

By Glynn Burridge



(Divers Beau Vallon) Photo Courtesy of Angelo Cavalli -STB

Amid today's many over-advertised dive destinations where crowded dive boats ply tired waters that are no longer as clean, or as interesting, as they could once claim to be, there is still one place that is wonderfully off the beaten track and where the underwater world is about as virgin as it gets - the Seychelles archipelago.

"That's a millionaire's hangout!", I hear you protest but, if you read on, you may be pleasantly surprised to learn that Seychelles is becoming refreshingly affordable and that its stunning diversity and breathtaking natural beauty is no longer reserved for the privileged few... it's also a fabulous dive destination for you and your family.

Seychelles comprises 115 islands which lie between 4 and 10 degrees south of the equator and which fall into two categories: the tall, granitic Inner Islands which cluster around the main islands of Mahé, Praslin and La Digue and the remoter low-lying coral isles, atolls and sand cays that make up the Outer Islands. Mahé, the principal island, is home to the international airport and the tiny capital Victoria and lies roughly 1000 miles from the East African coast in splendid isolation amid the crystalline azure waters of the western Indian Ocean.

Experts argue that it is precisely Seychelles' isolation from the rest of the world since its formation 75 million years ago that has allowed it to remain so wonderfully untouched and to remain a sanctuary for some of the rarest species of flora and fauna on the planet. Some specimens, such as the legendary Coco-de-mer, the world's heaviest seed that wondrously takes the exact form of the female pelvis, gave rise to the belief that Seychelles was the site of the original Garden of Eden. After the shortest stroll into the dappled shade of the islands' towering

primordial forests, serenaded by the gurgle of ancient brooks and everywhere tantalised by glimpses or sounds from the nearby ocean, you may well find yourself agreeing.

It's really quite impossible not to. The sheer beauty of these forgotten islands is overwhelming; the kind that sends you scurrying for the thesaurus in search of an epithet far worthier than 'paradise' which, (already flogged to death on lesser places), does no justice to the fairy tale splendour of these enchanting isles.

One thing's for sure. Seychelles has more - far more - than its fair share of natural beauty. That is everywhere apparent, from the splendour of its tall, verdant peaks to the loveliness of its beaches and the aching beauty of its atolls which dot almost 1,400,000 sq. km of pristine ocean. Certainly there's plenty to keep non-diving partners happily occupied, with excellent sunbathing, snorkelling & swimming, fishing, sailing, a wealth of local excursions and an excellent network of walks & trails.



Photo courtesy of Garry JeanBaptiste - STB

From May through to September the winds blow south-easterly. This is the strongest wind season and causes the upwelling of plankton rich waters onto the plateau and the appearance of associated pelagics, such as the occasional Manta and Whale Sharks. Both visibility and temperature may drop during August with water temperatures around 24°C, so a 5mm wet suit is the minimum requirement during this season, with a full dive suit an even better option.

On dives around the Inner-Islands with their imposing granite swim-throughs, channels, caverns, hideouts and spectacular wrecks, a diver may be surrounded by anything up to 800 different species of marine life. Here is where to find myriad schools of fish, and a kaleidoscopic diversity of other marine life in pristine waters still wonderfully untouched by man.

Among Seychelles' great Inner island dive sites is world-renowned Shark Bank with its legendary massive flat rocks and almost permanent schools of fish. There is also Marianne Island, a world-ranking shark dive famous for its population of grey reef shark and for the imposing granite pillars which adorn its striking underwater world. Another diver's must is the wreck of the Ennerdale, a sunken oil tanker now completely claimed by the denizens of the deep.

The abundance of marine life of the Inner Islands is evident even on shallow inshore reefs where divers will find numerous different types of Butterfly and Angel fish. Granite reefs also support Soldier fish, Squirrel fish and Sweepers which like to hide under rock and coral ledges. These reefs are also havens for invertebrates including Octopus, Spiny Lobster and a plethora of Nudibranchs, such as the Spanish Dancer.

Sites with regular current flows support the fan corals and colourful tree coral formations sought after by underwater photographers. The more remote sites shelter some of the larger fish species, such as the Napoleon Wrasse and the Giant Grouper as well as Reef Sharks and Ribbon-tailed Stingrays.

Certain dive sites of the Inner Islands bear hugely evocative names such as Pirates Cove, Jail House Rock and Alice in Wonderland. Each dive centre will have its own favourites of course, hosts to Napoleons, Snappers, spectacular Moray Eels, Eagle Rays, Sharks, Turtles and Barracudas to name but a few.

Another huge plus is that Seychelles has long been a haven for several species of sea turtle with turtle nesting programmes forming part of a raft of conservation measures designed to protect the integrity of the fragile ecosystems which form part of Seychelles' heritage. The greatest fish of all - the whale shark - gentle giant of the oceans is a regular visitor to Seychelles' waters where a highly successful whale shark tagging and research project is operational and where it is still possible to dive with these magnificent creatures. This enormous variety of marine life adds an element of mystery to every dive because you are never quite sure what you are going to encounter.

Diving the waters of the Outer Islands during the period of the north-west trades (October to May) holds the promise of spectacular cave and canyon dives at Desroches Island, colourful wall dives off Alphonse and - as the jewel in the crown - the current dive through the main artery feeding the Aldabra lagoon, UNESCO World Heritage Site and largest raised coral atoll on earth. Other atolls such as Poivre, St. Joseph, Astove and

Cosmoledo also offer great diving sites. Here, among these little visited gems of the archipelago is where to find armies of turtle, together with any of the 31 species of whale and dolphin found in Seychelles' waters.

The more southerly islands are close to the cyclone belt and during the months of December and January months, can experience extremely rough conditions on occasion. A 5mm shorty wetsuit is the minimum protection recommended for the Outer Islands where big drop-offs and walls often have marked thermoclines with temperatures ranging from 19 to 27°C. Again, a full-length dive suit might be best for these conditions.

Outer Island divers can also expect to see many of the larger grouper species, particularly the spotted Potato Bass, the most common apex predator in this region. Despite their isolation, there are surprisingly few sharks around these islands although most divers can expect to see Grey Reef, Silver Tip and Nurse Sharks at some point during a visit with the odd sighting of a Hammerhead, cruising mostly at a distance.

Another major bonus is the number of rare exotics which have been identified in this area. Fish such as the African Pygmy Angelfish, which was thought to exist only in small numbers at depth off Mauritius, are found regularly in easy diving depths off Astove. The cartoon-like Yellow Rubber-Lipped Sweetlips is another firm favourite while elusive Long-nosed Hawkfish can easily be found in most gorgonian fan areas.

Apart from its amazing underwater world, what sets Seychelles apart as a diving destination is the way diving is conducted. Here,



Photo courtesy of Tally & L Pozzoli - STB

you won't find crowded dive boats conveyor-belt diving into the ocean. Many of the islands' dive operators are small enough to be able to actually remember divers' names and to offer them a fairly personalized diving experience with a leisurely schedule of dives and value-added attractions.

Expedition dive depths can vary with inshore sites tending to range from 8 to 20 metres in depth, while those further offshore may extend beyond 30 metres. All are run as no-decompression dives allowing for long bottom times within a safe, professionally guided diving environment.

There are a number of live-aboard dive operators in Seychelles and also land-based ones whose dive centres are conveniently situated right on the beach. Any one who is fit, over the age of 10 and able to swim can learn to dive. All diver training is conducted by internationally qualified Instructors. Most are members of PADI, the Professional Association of Diving Instructors, the world's largest sport diver training organization.

For first timers a one-day, non-certification 'Discover Scuba Diving' introductory course is available. Keen participants can carry on to gain the basic 'Scuba Diver' qualification or gain a full certification as an 'Open Water Diver Course' which takes roughly four days.

For the more experienced diver, courses are available right through to Instructor level with a number of specialty certifications available through specific dive centres.

A twin-lock, two-man recompression chamber (currently being serviced in Germany) will soon again be in operation at Victoria Hospital, manned by qualified medical personnel, with a further recompression chamber also scheduled to become available at a resort on nearby Silhouette Island. To minimise the possibility of a decompression incident at the end of a diving vacation, dive centres follow the general rule of no flying after diving. A single dive in a day of less than one hour's duration means that 12 hours must elapse before the diver boards an aircraft. In the case of multiple dives in a day, that safety margin extends to 24 hours.

For would-be divers to Seychelles in search of an affordable accommodation package for their diving holiday, the new Seychelles Secrets brand represents a wealth of small holiday properties, suitably vetted for cleanliness, comfort, décor, value for money and a range of other criteria, to provide high-standard yet affordable accommodation for visitors to the islands. For further information please consult: **www.seychellessecrets.com**.

You should also visit **www.seychelles.com/diving**. Here you will find a list of local dive operators, several of whom offer bundled diving/accommodation packages.

Now, more than ever, is the time for you to visit Seychelles and discover just how extraordinary - and affordable! - diving can be in one of the very last natural aquariums on our planet where pristine waters, leisurely diving schedules and an astonishing variety of marine life all conspire to offer one of the finest dive vacations around.

EDA members and media representatives will be travelling to the Seychelles in October for whale shark tagging.



(Black Stingray) Photo courtesy of Underwater Centre - STB



(School of Snappers) Photo courtesy of Underwater Centre - STB



Whale Shark Photo from EDA



Photo from EDA

UNDERWATER CENTRE SEYCHELLES

30th ANNIVERSARY
DIVING & ACCOMMODATION PACKAGES
RATES VALID TO NOVEMBER 2006

In 2006 the Underwater Centre will have been operating in Seychelles for 30 years and to celebrate this we have organised some very special diving and accommodation packages especially tailored for visiting divers.

The activities and facilities for guests are some of the best in Seychelles with free non-motorised watersports such as wind-surfers, canoes and hoby-cats and a range of motorized sports including water-skiing, para-sailing and jet-skis. And of course there are the diving facilities of the Underwater Centre and Dive Seychelles conveniently right at the beach-front.

The packages below are available at either the Coral Strand Hotel or Berjaya Beau Vallon Bay resort and are a sample of the type we can offer; if these do not suite your needs or you would prefer either a guest-house or four star accommodation please e-mail us with your requirements and we will be pleased to quote for you.

No	Package Details Prices are per person	Diver	Non-Diver
1	7 nights on bed & breakfast sharing twin basis 10 dives with cylinder & weights 4 Whale Shark encounters Airport Hotel Airport transfers	Eu 1075	Eu 870
2	7 nights on bed & breakfast sharing twin basis 10 dives with cylinder & weights Airport Hotel Airport transfers	Eu 755	Eu 550
3	10 nights on bed & breakfast sharing twin basis 16 dives with cylinder & weights Airport Hotel Airport transfers	Eu 1080	Eu 735
4	7 nights on bed & breakfast sharing twin basis PADI Open Water Diver Course (4 days) Airport Hotel Airport transfers	Eu 840	Eu 550
5	7 nights on bed & breakfast sharing twin basis at Berjaya Beau Vallon Bay; 10 dives with cylinder & weights PLUS Fast ferry Mahe to Praslin; 3 nights on bed & breakfast sharing twin basis at Berjaya Praslin Beach Resort; 2 dives with cylinder & weights; Fast ferry Praslin to Mahe Airport Hotel Airport transfers	Eu 1125	Eu 835

Note:

Whale shark package available only from August to end October.
Whale shark Non Diver includes whale shark encounter package (Snorkelling).
Non-diving rates are only available when booked with at least one diving package.
Single occupancy packages are available, just e-mail us your needs.

Head Office:

P.O. Box 384

Mahe

Seychelles

Tel: ++248 345445 Fax: ++248 344223

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EMIRATES DIVING ASSOCIATION Rates valid until 31.3.2007

	BBD Rack Rates in Euro	
	Cyl. & Weights	Full Equipment
5 Boat dives 10% discounted	135 + 1 Free T-shirt of your choice	171 + 1 Free T-shirt of your choice
10 Boat dives 15% discounted 255 + 1 Free dive with normal distance boat trip 323 + 1 Free dive with normal distance boat trip		
Package dives only including normal distance boat trip, add-on prices see below. Dives can be added to the packages to meet your requirements.		

Package Add-on price Night dive	8	10
Package Add-on price Long Distance Boat Dive	12	12
Package Add-on price Extra Long Distance Boat Dive	18	18

Full equipment includes: Cylinder, Weights, Regulator, BCD, Wetsuit, Pressure & Depth Gauge, Mask, Fins and Snorkel.

DIVE/HOTEL package with **DIVE RESORT SEYCHELLES & the PLANTATION RESORT & CASINO** is as followed subject to availability and valid until the 21st of December 2006.

7 days 6 nights at the **PLANTATION RESORT & CASINO** based on 1 person Bed & Breakfast including airport transfers plus 6 x boat dive package cylinder & weight, 872/-Euro. Flights are not included.

7 days 6 nights at the **PLANTATION RESORT & CASINO** based on two persons Bed & Breakfast including airport transfers plus 2 x 6 boat dive package cylinder & weight, 1196/-Euro. Flights are not included.

Pre-book contact:

divereso@seychelles.net

www.seychelles.net/divereso

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SYMPOSIUM ON THE STATUS AND CONSERVATION OF DUGONGS

OF THE ARABIAN GULF, RED SEA AND WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN

By Kathleen Russell, Masood Marine and Engineering, EDA Abu Dhabi Coordinator

Dugong experts from the international community came together on 29th May –31st May 2006 to discuss and share their most recent research and conservation efforts carried out for this endangered marine mammal. The symposium was organized and hosted by Environment Agency-Abu Dhabi (EAD) at the Beach Rotana Hotel and Towers in Abu Dhabi. Emirates Diving Association (EDA) delegates were present to support this major global initiative on dugong conservation. The aim of the 3-day symposium was to come up with regional strategies to ensure the stability and health of the dugong population in the region. Dr. Jaber Al Jaber, Director of Environment Protection Division on behalf of the EAD, delivered the welcome address and EAD thanked TOTAL for the funding of the dugong project in the UAE.

On the first day, three international Dugong experts addressed the symposium. Dr. Anthony Preen, who is a leading authority, discussed the status of dugongs from India and the African Coast to the Arabian Gulf. He revealed in his presentation that the dugong population in the Arabian Gulf has been stable for the last 13 years; however, dugong habitats are under severe threat with declining numbers in India and Sri Lanka, possibly due to hunting and accidental by-catch in fishing nets. Professor Helen Marsh, Professor of Environmental Science from Australia's James Cook University, delivered an in-depth presentation on the biology of dugongs, conservation of and major threats to dugong habitat. Dr. John Reynolds, Co-chairman of the Sirenia Specialist Group with the IUCN for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) discussed regional international cooperation for dugong conservation. He emphasized that healthy conservation of dugongs and their habitat will ultimately depend on when decision makers and people anticipate and address future threats and care enough to understand, respect and protect their (dugong) biological and ecological requirements.

In addition, Dr. Himanus Das, EAD's Associate Scientist – Endangered Species discussed about the ongoing dugong studies undertaken in the UAE. This country maintains at least 40 percent of the number of dugongs occurring in the Arabian Gulf and with growing people population and pressures on coastal development, there is also an increased concern for the protection of dugong habitats. Dr. Das discussed the



Aerial shot of Dugong Herd. Photo by Dr. Anthony Preen

threats, which included loss and degradation of sea grass habitats due to dredging, land reclamation and pollution. He mentioned that scientific surveys have indicated that the primary mortality of dugongs is related to abandoned ropes and ghost fishing nets even though they are protected and dugongs are no longer hunted in this area. Luckily, the dugong population has been stable despite these threats in the region. Dr. Mark Beech, from

Abu Dhabi Authority for Culture and Heritage also delivered an informative presentation on archaeological perspective on the exploitation of dugongs in the Arabian Gulf. Dr. Beech highlighted that dugongs have been exploited as long as 7500 years ago in the Arabian Gulf. Evidence from archaeological excavations found dugong remains during the Islamic period from a midden at Ghubbah village on Marawah Island (located in the western part of Abu Dhabi within the Marawah Marine Protected Area).

On the second day, other countries within the dugong range states in the Arabian Gulf, the Western Indian Ocean and the Red Sea delivered their status reports on dugongs and conservation efforts. These countries included Kingdom of Bahrain, Mozambique Channel in the lagoon of Mayotte, Mozambique, Tanzania, Kenya, and Seychelles.

On the final day, a trip to Marawah Marine Protected Area was organized by EAD. This area has the largest dugong population. Unfortunately, no dugongs were sighted in the warm sea but to everyone's delight, Dr. Mark Beech took delegates for a tour of the archeological sites where the dugong remains were found on Marawah Island.

From this symposium, a draft of the declaration of intent on cooperation on the conservation of dugongs and their habitats in the Arabian Gulf, Red Sea and Western Indian Ocean Region was created. EAD will serve as the liaison body to finalize this international cooperation amongst the dugong range states present. It is hoped that by next year, there will be increased global cooperation and awareness towards the protection of dugongs and their threatened habitats. Special thanks goes to Thabit Zahran Al Abdessalaam and his great team from EAD for organizing this symposium.



Photo by Suehiro Nitta, courtesy of the Association to Protect Northernmost Dugongs

SOME FACTS ABOUT DUGONGS (FROM EAD):

- The dugong (*Dugong dugon*) is an endangered marine mammal under the order of Sirenia measuring 2-4m long and weighing up to 400 kg.
- They exclusively feed on sea grass in shallow waters and can live up to 70 years (age is determined by measuring the growth of their tusks). They can eat up to 30kg of sea grass (source: Prof. Helene Marsh).
- Female dugongs can give birth to 1 calf every 2.5 – 7 years and gestation period is estimated to be 12-14 months. They also suckle their young for up to 18 months. Adult survival, therefore, is critical (source: Prof. Helene Marsh).
- They have a strong sense of hearing but weak eyesight. They can hold their breath for 10 minutes but they have to come up for air to breathe.
- They are widely distributed in almost 37 countries and territories in the tropical and sub-tropical coastal and inland waters.
- They can dive deep to 30-40 meters, travel up to 500km and move across ocean trenches (source: Prof. Helene Marsh).
- The Arabian Gulf has the largest dugong population outside of Australia (estimate. 7000) and 40% is located within UAE waters. Therefore, conservation of this species is of global significance.
- Dugong habitats are under threat due to marine pollution and coastal development activities and accidental catch by abandoned ropes and ghost fishing nets.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

1. Don't discard your fishing nets or ropes in the sea.
2. Drive your boat slowly and carefully in areas where dugongs are known to occur.
3. Comply with the rules and regulations set within marine protected areas.

ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCY – Abu Dhabi calls on support from the public and marine enthusiasts to **HELP SAVE THE DUGONG POPULATION IN THE UAE.**



Dugong Symposium

MISADVENTURES IN THAILAND

Written by Samantha Joffe, EDA Member & PADI Instructor



Samantha Joffe

A mixed bag of dive nuts – or to be more accurate, shall I say, a multinational group of divers of all levels – got together with just two things in common: all are members of Dubai Divers Dive Club and all were ready for a five-day live-aboard trip exploring Thailand's best dive sites. The journey took our adventurers to the Similan Islands and Richelieu Rock off Phuket in Thailand.

Day 1: The first dives at Anita's Reef and Boulder City with 40m visibility yielded more sightings of stingrays than clown fish. On the first dive, waiting to welcome us all was a leopard shark resting on the sand – that was a good start to the fish-spotting! In the evening, we moored off Honeymoon Bay where the guys banded together to do a night dive. The most memorable part was the use of Dr Alex's torch that really made all the others useless and unnecessary!

Day 2: They say that a bad day's diving is still better than a good day at work, but starting a day on a beautiful site like East of Eden makes you want to send your resignation with love from Thailand! Although early, we were ready for the dive to 36m to visit the giant moray eel - Emma (that is resident at the site) and the giant Napoleon Wrasse (ask Kent for his dive sign for Napoleon Wrasse!). After the normal hearty breakfast, it was on to Elephant Rock to find the famous pair of firefly gobies. That evening, the girls – who on this dive trip hopelessly outnumbered the guys - braved a night dive at Turtle Rock and its amazing swim through mazes.

Day 3: Life on the live-aboard is hard with a constant routine of sleep-eat-dive-suntan, but Jo and the sun-tanning 'red team' did a great job in keeping us motivated to achieve the perfect tan between dives and Kent kept everyone cool by practising water-fights. At Beacon Bay, we explored the live-aboard wreck 'Atlantis' and full marks went to Val for her Titanic 'flying' impression on the bow of the wreck in full dive kit! Back on the surface, Penny had befriended a turtle that followed the boat for a whole day demanding bananas.

Day 4 saw an early arrival at Richelieu Rock, the highlight of the trip. The 6:30 call of 'DIVE BRIEFING' was actually all worthwhile. Richelieu Rock bears a striking resemblance to Martini Rock in many ways, but it is not everyday that you see two tiger-tail seahorses, a ghost pipefish and a nurse shark on one pre-

breakfast dive! On the surface, it was time for Murad and Lot's Thai lessons that kept the whole boat and crew amused.

Day 5 and the last dive at Koh Bon. Picture near perfect visibility – so good you can see the whole dive site as far as the eye can see at a glance. On this particular morning, there was some rush hour traffic with nearly 80 divers quietly swimming around the site. It was a wonderful moment to see all of the divers peacefully observing the underwater sights. Just at that moment, a giant manta ray swam out of the deep and glided around the crowd for at least 10 minutes – what a perfect ending to the dives!

The trip was not without good experience gained and reminders for all travelling divers such as: remember to watch your dive computer – even when you are watching a manta-ray; take your own SMB and first aid kit; trust your training and dive within your limits – no matter what the crowd is doing!

Although it was sad to leave our live-aboard in the harbour, we were ready for part two of the adventure – Thai New Year, Songran! In Thailand, the New Year is celebrated by splashing some water on everyone you meet. Of course, this soon includes water-guns, iced water and large water buckets, all in the name of good fun. The mission for Songran is to choose your pub and defend it at all costs! This leaves you with fantastic memories of being part of one of the biggest outdoor parties, having the time of your life and feeling more soaked and dripping wet than on any of your dives!

**REMEMBER TO WATCH YOUR
DIVE COMPUTER – EVEN
WHEN YOU ARE WATCHING A
MANTA-RAY; TAKE YOUR OWN
SMB AND FIRST AID KIT; TRUST
YOUR TRAINING AND DIVE
WITHIN YOUR LIMITS**



Photos courtesy of H. Burgstaller/Siam Dive n' Sail



Donald Duck Bay, Similan Islands



Smile for the camera



Valentina, Addie, Murad and Brigitte



Valentina trying to scare the fish



Soft Coral



Leopard Shark



Manta Ray flying by



Reef Shark



CLEAN UP ARABIA

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

11th NOVEMBER 2006

An exciting local project called 'Clean Up Arabia' will be held in the Emirates this November. It aims to make our beaches and dive sites in the UAE on the east and west coasts clean again by removing the rubbish that is spoiling them.

It will involve people from all walks of life to get in action to make a real difference. We plan to invite EDA members and sponsors together with their families to come and participate in the Beach Clean Up, to help shape their consciousness concerning the littering.

We shall record the quantities and types of rubbish collected by individual groups and fight for regulations that stop pollution. Where possible, the collected rubbish is then recycled. Information dissemination will be delivered to participants on such aspects of the environmental behavior.

Emirates Diving Association in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme - Regional Office of West Asia / UNEP - ROWA are the organisers of this year's Clean Up Campaign that will be held on Saturday 11th November.

We are backed by both the Australian 'Clean Up the World' campaign and the USA based 'International Coastal Cleanup' and PADI PROJECT A.W.A.R.E. All these campaigns have years of experience around the world, coordinating groups of people to join each other for the good of the earth.

This is the 11th year that the UAE will participate in this event and will carry with it a lot of press coverage.

The campaign aims to clean the marine environment from pollution, as well as directing people towards positive attitudes in maintaining a clean and sound environment by practice and participation.

The Emirates Diving Association carries this work out with volunteers, who will be provided with T-shirts and caps, as well as the tools needed to achieve a high level of clean up.

THE MAIN AREAS TO BE COVERED:

1. East Coast (Fujairah & Khorfakkan)
2. Abu Dhabi
3. Dubai
4. Musandam

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Environment & Research Department
Emirates Diving Association
Tel: 04 3939390, Fax: 04 3939391

E-MAIL:

edadiver@eim.ae / diving@emiratesdiving.com
www.emiratesdiving.com

A Legacy of Cleaner Oceans

Every year, thousands of ocean stewards from nearly 100 countries gather for the International Coastal Cleanup, the world's largest volunteer effort for the marine environment. After the volunteers have returned home, The Ocean Conservancy analyzes the marine debris data they gathered. This information sets the foundation for year-round efforts to prevent marine debris at its source - people's behavior. After all, every piece of debris has human fingerprints on it.

Most common items

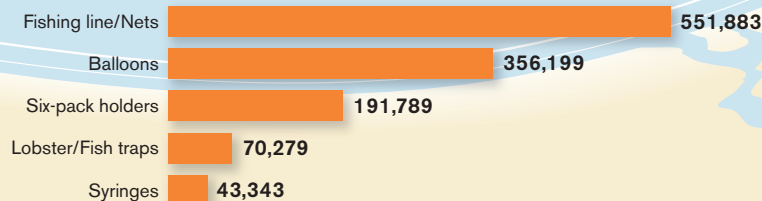
Total numbers found 1999-2004



Dangerous Debris

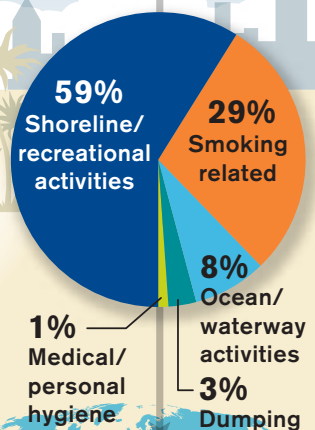
Some types of marine litter can hurt or kill marine wildlife, through entanglement or ingestion. Listed below are some of the harmful items found during The Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup.

Total number of items found since 2000



How the Cleanup Works

Sources of debris



Local Cleanups Each September

Ocean Conservancy
Compiles and
disseminates data

People Stewardship
Media Awareness
Government Legislation
Scientists Understanding

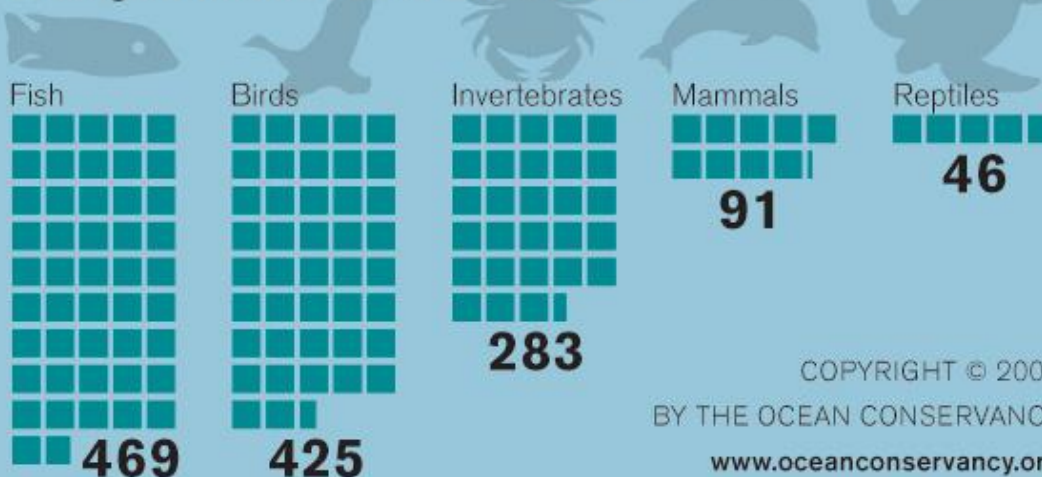
Cleaner oceans
For future generations

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Entangled Wildlife

Marine debris can hurt or kill marine wildlife from entanglement or ingestion. Keeping litter off the beach will help keep wildlife safe. Below are the animals found entangled in debris during The Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup.

Entangled Wildlife Found Since 2000



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www.oceanconservancy.org

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Clean up the world
Our Earth.

Presented to
Emirates Diving Association
In recognition of an invaluable contribution to Clean Up the World 2002.
The combined efforts of dedicated individuals, community groups and organizations around the globe have helped to make a difference in our shared environment.
Thank you for your support.

William J. ...
Chair, ...
United Nations Environment Programme

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Chairman of the ...
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Clean up the world

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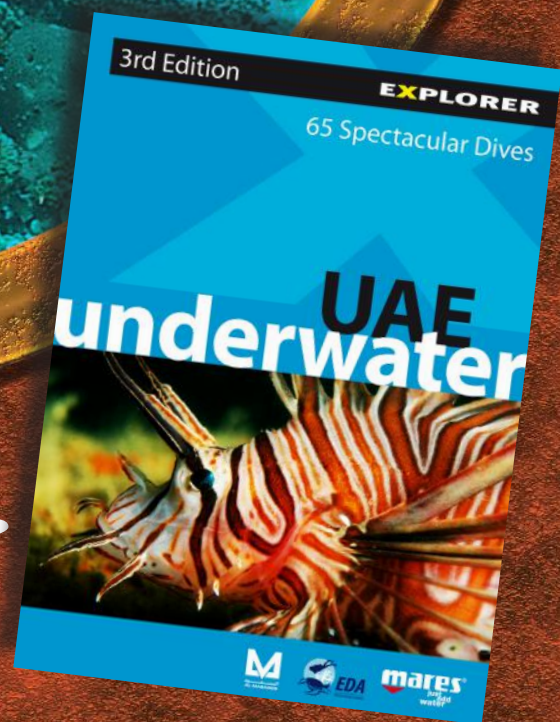
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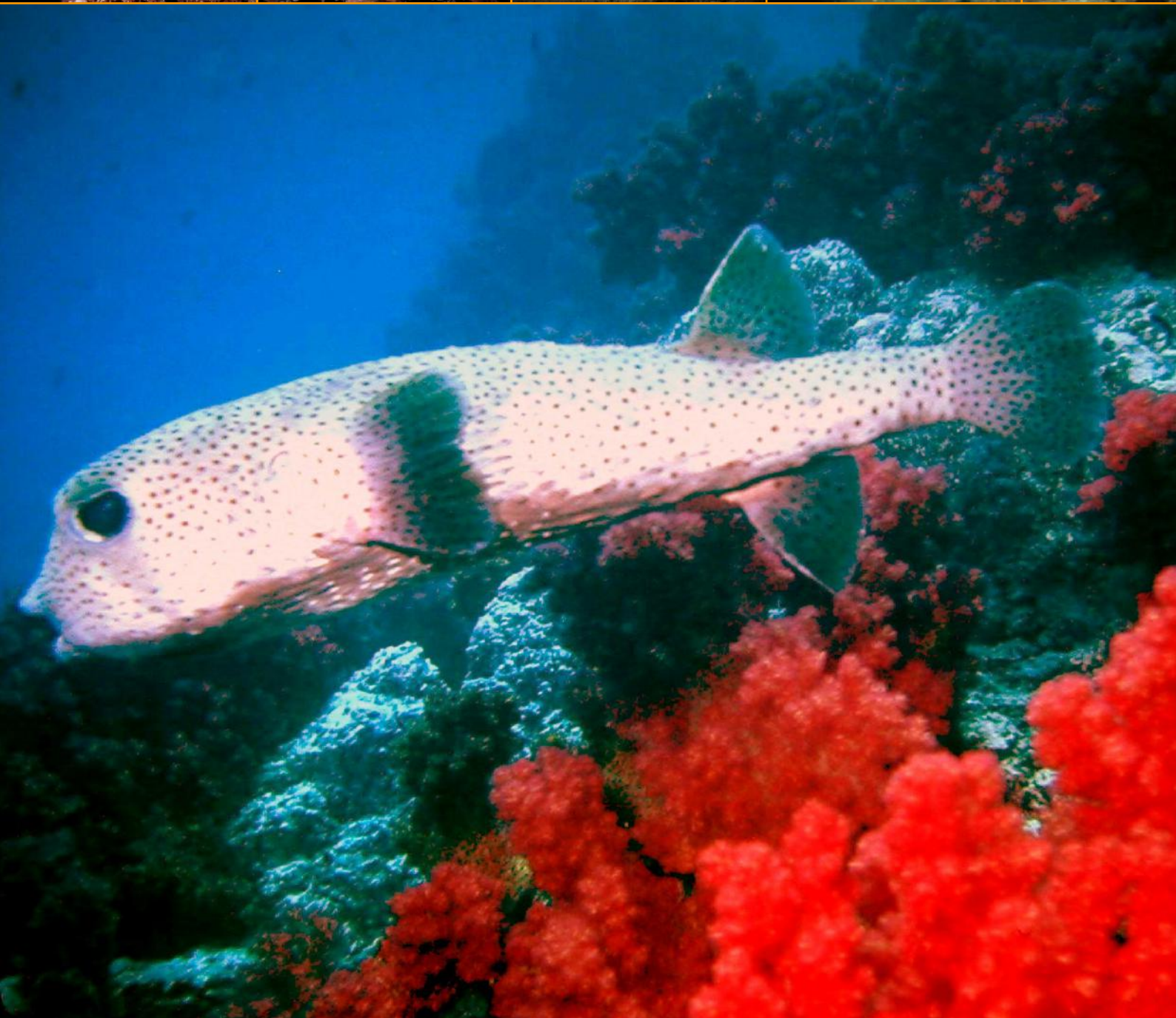
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EDA UAE DIVE GUIDE

Dive Our Waters

Photos by Peter Mainka

AUGUST 2006, EMIRATES DIVING ASSOCIATION 23

DIVE DUBAI

THE ZAINAB

If you're a wreck enthusiast, then the Zainab is well worth a bubble. It's a relatively new wreck and is fairly intact since its demise on 18th April 2001.

Situated approximately 20 miles off the coast of Dubai, the Zainab lies in 30 metres of water and is the deepest dive in the area. The 70 metre long converted oil tanker lies on her port side and can be located at 16 metres on your depth sounder.

The wreck now is inhabited by an abundance of marine life, notably Yellow Snappers which carpet the wreck that at times, it's hard to make the wreck out. Diving varies on the wreck during the year. In the cooler winter months, huge schools of Barracudas, Jacks and various species of ray congregate where the currents are present. At the height of summer, they tend to head towards deeper water. If you are into the smaller things, then Nudibranchs, Blennies and other wreck-dwelling small creatures are generally easy to find and are there all year round. The wreck is also home to a resident turtle who likes chilling out by the anchor line, watching on as divers ascend and descend.



Text and photo courtesy of Pavilion Dive Centre



THE MARIAM EXPRESS

A very new wreck, lying 22m from Dubai Creek in 20m of water. The Mariam is a Ro-Ro ferry that sank in April 2006. No one was injured when she went down, due to shifting cargo, as widely believed.

Sharjah Club has dived this wreck soon after sinking, but agreed with the local Coast guard not to dive here again until her salvage situation is known.

Text courtesy of Sharjah Wanderers Dive Club



DBI/SMB

Dimensions: L: 55m, B: 21m, D: 6m, H: 10m

Date Sunk: 20 July 1984

Charted Depth: 23m

The Derrick Barge (DBI) is also known as Sheikh Mohammed's Barge (SMB)...

The wreck lies upside down in 23 metres of water on a flat, sandy bottom. Having been submerged for more than 16 years, the marine growth on DBI is well-established... Heavy clamshells, scallops and a variety of sponges grow on their shells, giving the DBI its distinctive colour...

The DBI is one of the most interesting of the wreck dives and the site is so large that groups of divers exploring at the same time often do not see one another...

Hydrocorals fill the gaps, making the edges of the wreck indistinct... It's not unusual to see a sea snake... Arabian angelfish and wrasse pick over encrustations, and large groups of snappers and fusiliers also make this site home... Just off the wreck, jacks and barracuda patrol in search of dinner... You may see stingrays feeding on shellfish and, if you're lucky, a sand shark...

'The above information is taken from one of Explorer Publishing's best-selling guides. Look out for the UAE Underwater Explorer, 3rd Edition due out in late 2006.'

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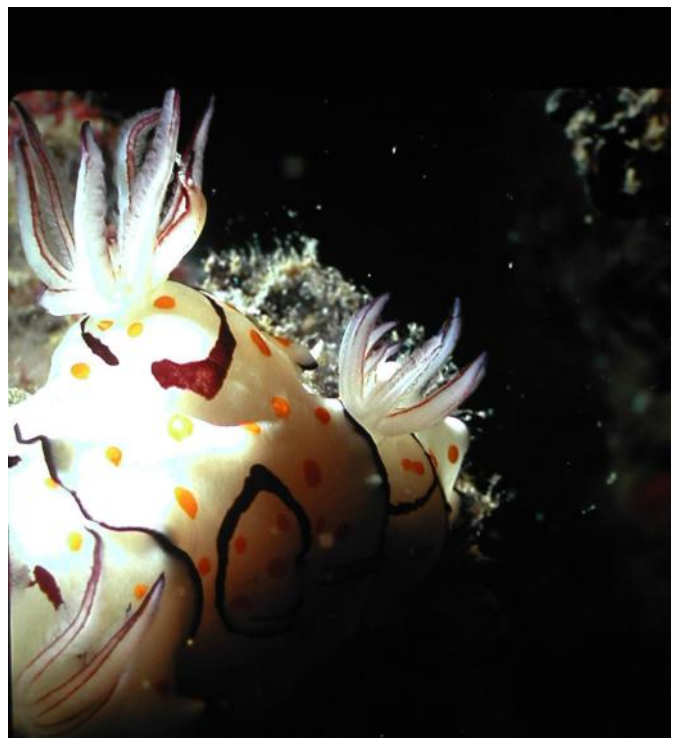
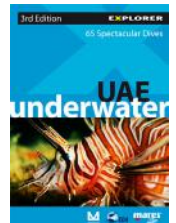


Photo courtesy of Peter Mainka

DIVE SHARJAH

MV DARA

(N25.34.899 : E55.27.977 and approximately 6.5nm from Hamria Creek)

The Dara is a tremendous wreck. It sank while being towed to Dubai after surviving an explosion & fire during a storm. The disaster caused the death of 251 souls.

Sharjah Wanderers dive the Dara regularly – it's only 20 minutes out of Hamria slipway and is great for training and experience dives.

At times, the Dara can be an easy and friendly wreck, with general visibility around 5-8 metres. Once a year though, we get 25m visibility and it's beautiful. She lies in 17m with 6m to shallowest point, marked with a Cardinal Buoy so it is easy to find.

On a night dive, you'll find her covered in Cowries. On other occasions, she can have ripping currents or 1m visibility and can be a real challenge – so you NEVER know what to expect.

Text courtesy of Sharjah Wanderers Dive Club



NASTERAN

(N25.28.000 : E 55.21.367 - approx 6.5Nm from Sharjah Creek)

The Nasteran is a self propelled barge lying upside down just outside the busy shipping lanes of Sharjah Creek. It's a shallow dive at around 15m; quite a sizeable barge with penetration points at front & starboard side, although very silty inside – so a safety line & lights are required items.

The occasional Shovel nosed Ray has been spotted here, as there are lots of safe sandy havens for them to hide in under the barge. The usual Sweet-lips shoals & young Barracuda can also be found around here. It's another easy training dive for the club.

Text courtesy of Sharjah Wanderers Dive Club



NEPTUNE

(Cardinal Buoy N25.38.141 : E55.02.899 approx 22Nm from Sharjah Creek).

The Neptune is another upside down barge that sunk under tow, lying in 22m and 15m to the top. She's starting to break up now so any penetration has to be carefully planned and executed. Safety lines and torches are a must. The Neptune is only for experienced wreck divers.

Text courtesy of Sharjah Wanderers Dive Club

"Fish life tends to congregate on the port side, although you can often find stingrays by swimming out beyond the wreckage. The crane structure is home to a colony of white soft coral, which is very beautiful when illuminated... After looking around the wreck, take time to look closer at the wreck's surface and you will find shrimps, blennies and octocorals..." *'text from Underwater Explorer, 3rd Edition, by Carole Harris & Tony Schroder'*

ANCHOR BARGE

Dimensions: L: 82m, B: 27m, D: 5m

Date Sunk: April 1998

Charted Depth: 23m

This large wreck lies upside down, resting on the forward machinery cabin in 23-25 metres of water... There is a large open area between the deck and the sand.

As the vessel is rectangular and slab-sided and the current is quite strong on this site, it can be difficult to anchor. The wreck lies on a ridge of rock almost a metre high, making this one of the few dives sites in the Gulf where the seabed has some features that are worth exploring. You should take a powerful torch/flashlight to search under the hull of the barge, looking up at the overhead deck.

The marine growth is starting to establish itself, with scallops, oysters and small clumps of black sea squirts taking hold, and hydrocorals covering all surfaces and blurring the edges. On the surrounding sand and rocky bottom, flatworms... abound in February and March. Cuttlefish can also be seen on this wreck...

'The above information is taken from one of Explorer Publishing's best-selling guides. Look out for the UAE Underwater Explorer, 3rd Edition due out in late 2006.'

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Photo courtesy of Sharjah Wanderers Dive Club

DIVE ABU DHABI

JAZIRAT SIR BU NA'AIR

Location: 70km offshore between Dubai and Abu Dhabi
Charted Depth: up to 36m

Jazirat Sir Bu Na'air is an island off the Gulf coast of the Emirates. It is just over 1km long by 0.5km and is used by the UAE as a military outpost and coastguard station. There are no restrictions on sailing or diving near the island but as it is a sensitive military base, it is advisable not to land...

Towards the northern end of the island, there is a large area of table and staghorn coral in magnificent condition. The coral runs north to the 20 metre mark, then the seabed shelves down to 30 metres plus. The north-eastern side has large flat rocks and coral, and there are more extensive areas of coral to the north-west... Although a long journey, diving at Jazirat Sir Bu Na'air is definitely well worth it.

The island is rarely visited by divers or fishermen and the resulting lack of disturbance encourages prolific shoals of fish. There are numerous large pelagic fish, spotted eagle rays, barracuda and large rays...

HH Dr. Sheikh Sultan Bin Mohammed Al Qassimi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Sharjah, issued Administrative Order No. 3 for the year 2000, banning all activities considered harmful to the environment of Jazirat Sir Bu Na'air island... The order bans the fishing of all species of sea turtle, collection of their eggs or damage of their nesting beaches along the island's coastline...

'The above information is taken from one of Explorer Publishing's best-selling guides. Look out for the UAE Underwater Explorer, 3rd Edition due out in late 2006.'

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Photo courtesy of Sharjah Wanderers Dive Club

OLD CEMENT BARGE (OCB)

Dimensions: L: 25m, B: 4m
Date Sunk: Unknown
Depth: 12m

OCB, as it's fondly called by Abu Dhabi divers, is located 20 minutes from the heart of Abu Dhabi. It's a cement barge that lies upright on the sandy bottom with cement bags intact on the stern side of the boat.

There is a plethora of marine life that can be found here. There are Hammours hiding throughout the wreck, some Arabian Angelfish, large schools of Yellow Snappers and schools of Batfish who are not diver-shy. Occasionally, you will also see Stingrays looking out from the sandy bottom. Avid photographers, on closer look, can also find several species of nudibranchs along the wreck, a few of which, cannot be found in other dive sites.

Visibility is generally around 5 to 15 metres. Diver precaution: the wreck is slowly collapsing so it is not advisable to penetrate any overhead environment. Watch out too for those pesky sea urchins and stinging hydroids on the wreck.



المساود
AL MASAOOD

Text courtesy of Al Masaood



Photo courtesy of Peter Mainka

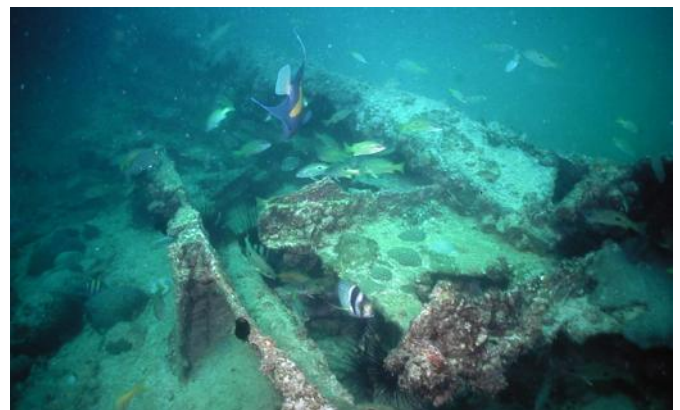


Photo courtesy of Peter Mainka

MV HANNAN

Dimensions: L: 42m, B: 6.5m, D:2.6m

Date Sunk: August 3, 1986

Charted Depth: 20m

This is a small coastal vessel, her stern roughly pointing towards the north, marked by two buoys.

The site attracts very large shoals of fish. The currents cause the fish to congregate on this wreck in shoals and you will see various species of jacks, yellow striped jacks and "finger jacks"... The shoals share the currents with large, mean-looking barracuda, some of which have unusual barred markings.

The site is also home to some very big hammour; more than 1m long, large puffers, batfish and huge rays, regular bell rays as well as the usual leopard ray. It is not uncommon to see guitarsharks, eagle rays and electric rays... Look for nudibranchs which often cling to the hull and you maybe lucky to find one of the largest nudibranchs in the Gulf,... "warty doris", approximately 125mm...

This site has some unusual life, not seen regularly in the Gulf waters: small colonial ascidians, translucent delicate sea squirts and an unusual type of purple soft coral in clumps all over the wreck...

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JASIM

Dimensions: L: 60m, B: 10m, D:5m

Date Sunk: 25 March 1986

Chartered Depth: 23m

Resting on her port side, the Jasim lies in 26-27 metres of water and is broken into three large sections...

The site is always an interesting dive, although care must be taken as the average depth is 27 metres...

This wreck offers the opportunity to see some unusual marine life, and there are several species of brittle stars and cowrie shells. The shells are normally nocturnal, but on this site, you can usually find one or two during the day... Hydrocorals, orange sponges and sea squirts are predominant.

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LION CITY

Dimensions: L: 60m, B: 10m, D:5m

Date Sunk: May 1, 1986

Charted Depth: 23m

The vessel lies on its port side in 30 metres of water with its bow facing 300°...

The marine growth is not as advanced as on other wrecks, although recently, some white coral patches on the deck and on the upper side of the hull have begun to form. Covering large areas of the hull, these corals are in circular patches of about 100 mm across. The sea fans have given the hull a dull light brown colour. On one of the walkways across the pipes, a colony of white soft corals is forming on the treads and handrails. Shoals of yellow coloured blackspot snapper swim over and under the labyrinth of pipes on the deck... These little hunters are distinctively coloured with a black spot under the dorsal fins and longitudinal yellow pinstripes...

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EDA and the diving community would like to offer our sincere condolences to the family of:

**Ahmed Amin Mohamed
Amin Abdalla**
PADI Master Scuba Diver, EDA
Member #15

Ahmed, 35, was described as an avid scuba diver who used to dive almost every weekend. His favorite dive sites were in the East Coast and in Oman.

DIVE KHORFAKKAN



CAR CEMETERY

Divers Down is the only company to dive this site on a regular basis. This is due to the fact that every mooring we put on gets cut by someone.

The history of the site is that a load of cars was donated and sank over 11 years ago. The number is around 30 vehicles, ranging from dump trucks, buses to cars.

The dive itself is great. An average depth of 15m ensures lots of bottom time even for those who are air guzzlers.

Lots of Rays, Barracuda and large Morays are found here. There's also a prolific macro-life.

Visibility can be poor at times and if so, navigation can be a challenge. If you want to dive the site and get the most from it, book a guide.

LEVEL: Open Water and above.

SHARK ISLAND

A breakwater has been built over half of the reef so we now tend to dive only the South side of the Island. Discover dives are still done in the bay as Turtles and Barry the Barracuda are still to be seen.

The South side offers large rocks that hide large Honey Comb Morays and Torpedo Rays. Shoals of Fusiliers and Batfish are in abundance, as are some of the largest Cornet fish you will ever see.

This dive always offers something, from large Turtles to even larger Cow Tail Rays, and ends with Black Tip sharks circling you in the shallows (Jan-May).

With an average depth of 12m, it is another great dive for bottom time and air consumption.

LEVEL: Open Water

CORAL GARDENS

Part of the Shark Island dive chain, this is another site dived regularly only by us. Large rocks covered with Black whip coral and full of life make this a great site. Spend 15 minutes at 25-27m then head towards Shark Island and Multi-level or computer dive for an hour.

Marine life is the same as Anemone Gardens where you will see Sea Horses, Nudibranchs and as you swim over the sand towards Shark, you'll see Rays, Cuttle fish and large Turbot with big teeth.

Not a dive for the quick on air.

LEVEL: Advanced



ANEMONE GARDENS

This site is an extension of Coral Gardens, ranging from 23m – 15m. This site has the most Common Seahorses that are around 6-7" in length.

We recommend staying on the site and using the computer for maximum time. However, some like to spend 30 minutes here and head over to Shark Island at the end of the dive.

This, like Martini Rock, is our signature diving site.

LEVEL: Open Water

HOLE IN THE WALL

This is another site that no other company dives. Why, who knows, because as the last dive of the day goes, this is a great choice.

Swim between the 3 rocks, move your hand over the Christmas tree worms and the rocks change colour (without being touched). Around the corner is a swim through (hole in the wall) that is 7m long and 2 m high, going from 6m up to 4m depths.

Turtles, Rays and Batfish are always here as well as many other fish and marine life. Around the headland are lovely hard corals in very good condition.

This site is great. You can have an hour's dive here and if you dive slowly, you will not even get the whole way around the site.

Average depth is 7m, max 15m. Recommended to dive at high tide slack water.

LEVEL: Open Water

INCHCAPE 2

Sank to act as an artificial reef, Inchcape 2 has become a great dive and is now home to corals and a lot of marine life.

She is great for the Wreck Diver speciality as there is a swim through from the engine room to the bow, allowing the maximum amount of penetration possible on this course.

It's now home to many different Nudibranch and juvenile Moray eels, as well as having a permanent shoal of fish around the whole wreck. In the past, Sea Horses and Frogfish have made Inchcape 2 their home.

Depth is 19m to the sand and 15 to the wheelhouse, which lays upright on a sandy bottom.

LEVEL: Open Water



MARTINI ROCK

The old favourite and on our doorstep. We are really blessed to have this site close by. The rock is submerged and is around 100m long and around 30m across. A complete circle around the rock takes around 30 minutes. You then swim through the channels and circle around the rock to the surface. Martini is a fantastic dive and offers one of the best safety stops in diving.

If you can see through the shoals of Sergeant Majors, Fusiliers and Damselfish, you will discover that there are Green turtles in abundance. Three Sea Horses lived in the deep section for over 6 months and may return in the winter. Nudibranch, Pipefish, Cornet fish, Banner fish, Barracuda, Broom Tail Wrasse, Red Tooth Trigger fish and Sting Rays all live here. This is a dive that needs to be done more than 100 times before you see all it has to offer.

LEVEL: Open Water **DEPTH: 12-19m**

RAS QIDFA

This makes a change from Shark Drift. The two sites are similar but due to the lack of nets here, there is more chance of seeing larger predators.

We drop in at the South Point and follow the wall along, rounding the corner and going all the way towards Martini Beach.

In every dive, large Cow Tail Rays are seen. Green Turtles escape to Ras Qidfa when Martini is full of divers. Marine life changes as you round the corner as the Hard Coral starts. Here, you may see the Black Tips and Barracuda in the shallows.

LEVEL: Open water **DEPTH: 4-15m**

MARTINI TO HOLE IN THE WALL

This is a dive we do sometimes for a change. Like the Ras Qidfa dive, this is a pleasant drift that offers the unexpected! Only 2 months ago, Underwater Explorer's Carole Harris saw a Whale Shark here.

We drop you either at Martini or Inchcape 2 and you then follow the wall along for around 1 hour going with the current (if present).

LEVEL: Open water **DEPTH: 15m**

Text and photos courtesy of Divers Down



INCHCAPE I

Inchcape I was sunk in 2001 as part of the UAE's artificial reef program. She is 21m long and sits upright in 31m of water, at high tide. Her engine room was stripped before she sank leaving two large cavities near the rear of the deck, car tires surround her rim and the wheelhouse takes up most of the fore deck.

Inchcape I has been made famous for one particular resident (Fred, giant honey comb moray) but there is a lot more to see. A school of snappers, so thick it blocks out sunlight, circles the wreck. Large lionfish strut their stuff up and down the rear of the deck. Trumpet fish as thick as your arm hold off in the light current. Yellow fin barracuda monitor the perimeter of the wreck, always keeping just out of sight. Green, white and purple soft coral lie in the car tires making a perfect habitat for nudibranches and arrowhead crabs. In winter large stingrays can be spotted on the sandy bottom. Scorpion fish, large blubber lips snapper, jacks, small morays and feather stars are common. All in all the marine life makes this wreck and it's a must see for all divers.

There is usually a rapid surface current so make sure you find out what the current is doing and that there is a current line out just in case. The descent is long and angular and once you start circling the wreck on the sea floor, you will usually get engulfed by a large school of snappers. After one revolution, start to work your way around the deck. Take your time looking at the rails, tires and the outside of the wheelhouse where you can spot scorpion fish, nudibranches, small morays and feather stars. Head off to the AC unit at the entrance to the wheelhouse to see if Fred is around. These days, he has a smaller friend who usually hangs around. Nearing the end of your dive, head off to the mast that protrudes from roof of the wheelhouse and spend time looking hard for arrowhead crabs, which are extremely hard to spot. End your dive on 23 minutes and slowly ascend to a safety stop.

LEVEL: Advanced

Text and photos courtesy of Free Style Divers



DIVE DIBBA

DIBBA ROCK

“This small rocky island has long sloping sides that are covered by a reef of a variety of soft and boulder corals. The side nearest the shore should be dived at high tide, since the depth is a maximum of 3-4 metres. The seaward side has a long sloping rocky reef with many green and purple whip corals, making it a very pretty dive site...”

If you are in a hurry, it's possible to complete a circuit around the island in one dive, but only at high tide. Regardless of the tide, it's a good idea if you are planning several dives in this area, to explore the wall, which runs parallel with the island. This area is prone to both thermoclines and unusual strong currents...”

‘Text from Underwater Explorer, 3rd Edition, by Carole Harris & Tony Schroder’

Dibba Rock is home to around 30 green turtles and you have a good chance to see blacktip reef sharks as well. It is a rocky dive site, overgrown in the deeper area with single purple and yellow whip corals. Often seen are shoals of snappers, fusiliers, Indian mackerels, barracudas, and much more. Between the rocks you will find many moray eels (about seven different kinds), lionfish, giant pipefish and nudibranchs. In the sand, you can observe different kinds of stingrays, flounders and a very unique fish, the Muscat well builder. In the shallow water you will find hard corals, like table and staghorn corals.

Text courtesy of MAKU-Divecenter

(Dibba Rock has been declared a marine reserve in 1995. To further develop the reserve and educate the community, the Ministry of Environment and Fisheries established the Dibba Marine Environment Research Centre in 2003. EDA has already signed two Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) with the Ministry of Environment to protect marine life and aid the federal government with research. In 2001, 220 concrete balls were dropped in the area to encourage coral growth. Soon, 11 dhows will be sunk to further regenerate the zone.)



Photo courtesy of Sharjah Wanderers Dive Club



Photo courtesy of Sharjah Wanderers Dive Club



Photo courtesy of Sharjah Wanderers Dive Club



Photo courtesy of Sharjah Wanderers Dive Club

DIVE FUJAIRAH



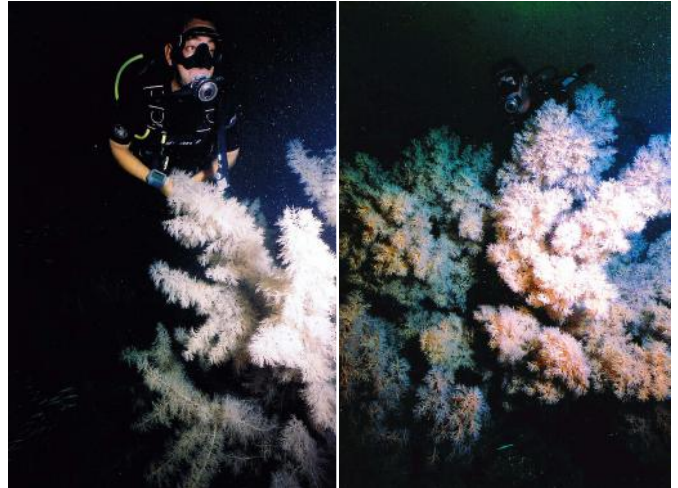
INCHCAPE 10

Just 4 minutes from Scuba International is Inchcape 10. This boat has been submerged in 23 metres now for three years, and was laid close to an existing artificial reef. The site is now teeming with fish, and coral is growing strong. As yet, we do not dive the nearby artificial reef due to ecological issues.

Twelve minutes from Scuba International is Deep Reef, imaginatively named because it ranges between 28 and 32 metres in depth. This is a coral garden, with huge Christmas Tree corals, turtles, the occasional leopard shark, and plenty of sea snakes.

South of Qidfa point is Mirbah Reef. This is a 2km wide reef, between 6 and 14 metres. Instead of coral on rock, this is a 'true' reef or coral on seabed. It is the major nursery reef for the East Coast where smaller reef fish abound, shadowed by occasional stingrays flying over the vast array of corals. More than fifty species of hard coral are present, providing perfect hiding places for a wide range of coral reef fish.

Text and photos courtesy of Scuba International



DIVE MUSANDAM

THE CAVE

Distance from Dibba: 20 minutes
Maximum depth: 17/15 meters
Level: Open Water

The cave is a unique dive site. It's about 20 to 25 meters deep. Upon descent you will see colorful coral boulders and often, schools of jack fishes.

Going from the right of the cave to the left side, you will be amazed to see the light coming from the exterior creating beautiful shadows lines. There is extraordinary water visibility.

Once you've reached the left side of the cave, you will be in circular chamber where you can often find schools of fish circling within. At the bottom of this chamber is an arch. You go through this arch to reach the open sea. If you still have some air in your cylinders, you can explore the coral boulders where you may see spiny lobster, anemones, clown fishes, parrot fishes, surgeon fishes as well gorgons along the walls.

Text courtesy of Nomad Ocean Adventures



Photo from EDA

NEMO'S HIDEOUT

Distance from Dibba: 55 minutes
Maximum depth: 14 meters
Level: Open Water

Located within one of the wonders of Musandam - Habalayn. Habalayn is the biggest fjord in Musandam and has many little creeks and beaches with amazing dive sites, among them Nemo's hideout. Nomad Ocean Adventures has set up a mooring point at this dive site. No anchor is dropped as it's a small beach. It has an amazing coral reef and water clarity that can rival tropical islands like Seychelles or Mauritius.

Upon entry into the water, follow the mooring line and when you reach the bottom, you will see the coral reef, mainly Staghorn corals and Elkhorns coral boulders. After swimming through the reef, you will reach an anemone garden with hundreds of clown fishes.

Text courtesy of Nomad Ocean Adventures



RAS KHAYSAH

Distance from Dibba: 4 hours
Maximum depth: 50 meters
Level: Advanced

Ras Khaysah is located in the fjord of Shiisah. This is a dive site that is only for advanced diver level or above. With a depth of 50 meters, proper buoyancy skills are required as the depth of 35 meters is not exceeded throughout the dive.

Ras Khaysah is a wall drop where you can spot schools of Manta rays, depending on the season. At every dive, you will never fail to see sharks, among them, black tip reef sharks, nurse sharks and schools of hammerheads. If you're lucky, you may also spot whale sharks or great dolphins (6 meters). It's an amazing dive site as its geographical position makes a perfect stopover for all the migratory species. It is a must-see if you are frequent diver of the Gulf. By all standards, Ras Khaysah is a first-class dive spot.

Text courtesy of Nomad Ocean Adventures



LIMA ROCK

... Lying due north of Dibba, Lima Rock marks the southern entrance to Lima Bay amid a plethora of coral and marine life. This small island is a pinnacle of limestone rock approximately 800 metres long by 200 metres wide with steep, jagged sides. The waves have undercut the rock in many places, leaving shallow caves and deep fissures. Sheer cliff drops almost vertically into the water to a depth of around 12 metres, then boulders and scree run steeply down to a sandy bottom at more than 60 metres.

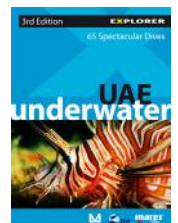
The beauty of Lima Rock is that it can be dived in most weather and tidal conditions... At the south-eastern end of the island, a massive boulder guards the easternmost tip of the island. If the currents are mild, wait on this monolith and look out into the deep water for tuna, jacks, sharks and manta rays.

Between 12-20 metres, the boulder field is covered with hard corals (table, staghorn, brain and boulder coral), and patches of soft corals (orange and pink teddy bear coral). The marine life is abundant, with large shoals of reef fish.

At 20 metres and deeper, abundant yellow and green coloured black coral, and numerous clumps of purple coral appear between the patches of sand, creating a beautiful site. Look out for yellow-mouthed morays... Moving deeper towards the shelving sand, white tip sharks and leopard sharks are often spotted resting on the bottom...

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OCTOPUS ROCK

With its distinctive undercut top, this isolated stack lies 3 km offshore to the north of Lima... The almost round rock is approximately 50 metres in diameter and its sides drop more or less vertically to a mixed rock and sand seabed...

Octopus Rock is a marine zoo that can be enjoyed in most weather and tidal conditions due to its sheltered location in Lima Bay... The stack is a gathering point for an enormous variety of shoaling fish life. Close to the rock you will find numerous reef fish, while further out are jacks, trevally, tuna, barracuda, rays and sharks... Soft and hard corals abound; green coloured black coral and purple soft coral whips predominate, mixed with the pink and orange of teddybear corals...

The rocks are home to fanworms, featherstars, juvenile crayfish and anemones. Look under overhangs and in hollows for black or red lionfish... On most dives, stingrays can be seen feeding in the sand or resting under boulder coral overhangs. You also have a good chance of seeing nurse and leopard sharks.

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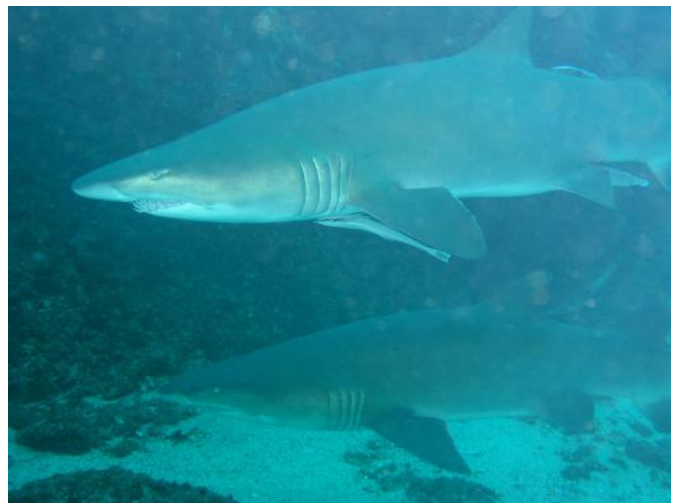


Photo courtesy of Nomad Ocean Adventures



Photo courtesy of Sharjah Wanderers Dive Club

DIVE RAS AL KHAIMAH

THE ENERGY DETERMINATION

(Cardinal Buoy N26.04.163 : E 55.34.096 approximately 40nm from Hamria Creek and 30nm from Jazira al Hamria - RAK).

"The Energy" was a very large oil tanker and the biggest commercial loss of the time. Half of her went down after a fire and explosion ripped the hull apart. The front half of the ship stayed afloat and was scrapped in Pakistan. The shallowest point is in 25m, but she is considered a deep and advanced dive and should be planned to 35m minimum. Maximum depth available is 82m so it's a great technical dive for those qualified. Currents in the area are strong and unpredictable - not for the faint hearted or inexperienced.

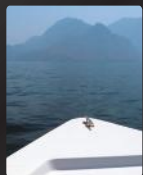
Text courtesy of Sharjah Wanderers Dive Club

"The forward 25 metre section of the hull is covered in yellow, white and red soft corals, and some lime green whip corals. Strong currents keep these corals clean and colourful and when you swim down, these bright corals glowing in the gloom are the first things you see. The fish are bigger and tamer; you may see large, frightening, but surprisingly tame marble rays, or a whale shark..."

'Text from Underwater Explorer, 3rd Edition, by Carole Harris & Tony Schroder'



Photo courtesy of Sharjah Wanderers Dive Club



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AL JAZEERA DIVING & SWIMMING CENTER

Al Jazeera Diving and Swimming Center was established in April, 2006. The center is located near Fish Market in Meena, Abu Dhabi. It boasts of a pleasant and satisfactory environment classroom for students and a showroom for different diving equipment and other water marine sports devices. It also offers refilling of tanks for diving.

Different courses for diving are being offered, such as Open Water, Advance Open Water, Rescue Diving, First - Aid (CPR), Dive Master, Assistant Instructor and Scuba Diving Instructor. Specialties includes: Deep Dive, Search and Recovery, Navigation Specialty, Night Diving, Reef Diving, Cave Diving, Tourist Diving, Underwater Photography, Swimming, Junior Diving and Bubble Course (for kids). It also offers some recreational activities like fishing trip, diving trip, and sea trip for those who want to see the view of Abu Dhabi from the sea. And for commercial diving function, a special course is being offered.

And in two months of its existence, students for diving course are growing. Recently, a sport activity was held spearheaded by ADNOC for its employees. They have tapped Al Jazeera Diving Center, led by Instructor Omar N. Hassan as instructor/trainer, to teach their people Open Water Diving. It was held in Ruwais City and lasted for more than a week.

In many more years to come, Al Jazeera Diving Center will commit itself for people who are eager to see what the waters below have to offer.

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- * SPECIALITY COURSES



**Exiting offers on Oceanic & Promate diving equipments
with 1year guarantee from the American company
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Email: padi_bluedolphin@hotmail.com, bluedolphin_diving@hotmail.com
Web : www.blue-dolphin.ws



Desert Sports Diving Club

BSAC 1339 Dubai, UAE



Who Can Join?

We are a BSAC club, operating to BSAC standards, which welcomes divers from all recognized training agencies. Our membership fees do not include BSAC membership and there is no requirement to join BSAC. However, if you want to begin or continue your diver training in the BSAC system, then you should become a BSAC member as well as a DSDC member.

What do we offer?

Regular diving at minimal cost. We have three boats, one of which is normally kept on the East coast, and we offer diving to all levels. Regular club diving takes place on weekends on both the East and West coasts. You sign up for dives at the clubhouse on a Monday evening. Boats are filled on a first come, first served basis.

We operate our own compressors and, for DSDC members, air fills are free, whilst nitrox is available at 15 Dhs per fill. If you don't have your own equipment, we have a limited amount of club equipment and tanks available for rental at minimal cost.

The club is run on a voluntary basis, by divers, for divers. All the money raised through memberships fees etc is used to maintain and improve the club facilities. As a member, you will be diving with a group that crosses all training agencies, and all levels, with the opportunity to continue your dive training and improve your experience levels in a friendly and relaxed environment.

We offer BSAC training courses at all levels, including the introductory BSAC Ocean Diver course.

How much does it cost?

We operate a tiered membership system:

Gold Membership – 1200 Dhs / year

Gold membership gives you unlimited club diving for a year with no dive fees to pay.

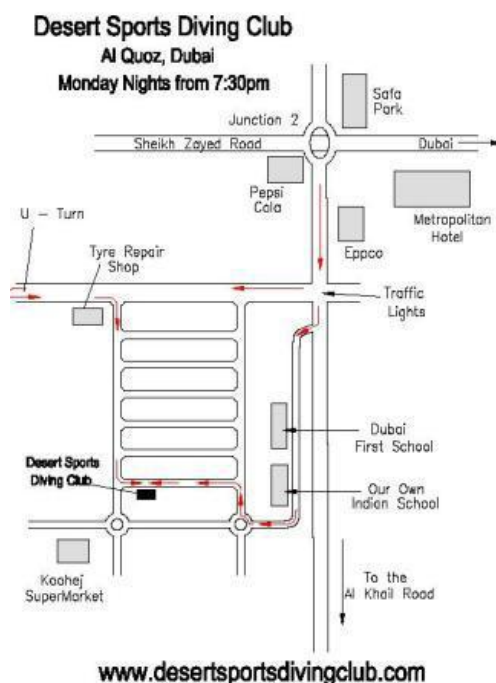
Silver Membership – 500 Dhs / year plus 30 Dhs per dive

Designed for divers who may choose to dive on a less regular basis through the year.

The majority of club dive trips involve two dives, so a day of diving will cost 60 dirhams.

Country / Child Memberships

We also offer discount membership rates to divers who are not resident in the UAE, and to the children (in full time education) of club members.



For further details, please see our website: www.desertsportsdivingclub.com



DIVECO INTERNATIONAL

Discover The Ocean

As A Registered Naui Worldwide Member **DIVECO** Can Offer You A Wide Range Of Naui Scuba Training From *Discover Scuba* To *Instructor Trainer* And A Full Range Of Diving Skills From Basic And Advanced Diving Specialties To Technical Diving Including **REBREATHERS**.
DIVECO Also Has A Naui Worldwide Course Director On Staff.

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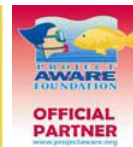




U.A.E.

DIVERS DOWN

A TRUE DIVING RESORT



WHAT IS A TRUE DIVING RESORT?

A resort that operates on a beach, with palm trees and has the use of a hotel's facility. It must have a selection of dive boats and offer the full range of diving courses. It should have dive retail and equipment rental. Lastly, it should be affiliated with a diver training agency such as PADI, NAUI, SSI or CMAS.

That is a normal resort and as a diver, you should expect it to have all of the above.

Here at Divers Down, we go further and try to turn the resort into a club, a place in which all are welcome. A place where people can relax and talk to one another about diving, life and politics.

You don't pay as you walk into the door; you don't have to ask permission to go into the kit room or classroom, and you can go and make tea or coffee when you want.

What really makes Divers Down a true resort is the customer. They talk, we listen. That is why we are so successful because the customers' comments and suggestions mean something to us.

A true resort is when the customer feels that they have a say in the running of the centre and that is because they feel part of it.

There is nothing better when a customer sells diving to another customer.

What do we have to offer you, the diver and you, the non-diver? Why do most of the independent instructors use our facility?

The diving is, of course, great here on the East Coast, as is the West coast on a good day. Heck, they have some of the best wrecks in the world on their doorsteps.

ASSETS

3 dive boats, custom built for divers, all with twin engines, ladder, and shade with O2 and first aid kits (46 divers)

Classroom, using multi media and the latest training material

Coffee room, with water, coffee, tea, use of fridge and microwave

Kit room, 24 full Mares sets and 60 tanks

Compressor

Retail shop

Picnic area

Showers and wash tank

Onsite swimming pool

Drying racks

Equipment repair shop, and tank visual inspection

COURSES

All boat dives (no 5m beach dives looking at sand!)

Bubble maker and Seal Team (8-10 year olds)

Discover Scuba Diving all the way to Instructor

All specialities, from Diver propulsion, video, digital photographer to fish ID

ACHIEVEMENTS

PADI IDC 5 star Gold Palm Resort.

ECO Dive centre Project Aware Foundation member

PADI Speciality diving centre

EDA Recognised diving centre

Project Aware for Kids diving

Summer surprises 2004 & 2005

WHEN WE DIVE

Dive sites are a short boat ride away, so out and back dives.

Three dives a day, 09.30, 12.00 and 15.00.

Night dives Thursdays, BBQ after.

Musandam 2 night trips weekly (Wednesday night to Friday); may change in September.

CONTACT US

<http://www.diversdown.ae>

diversdown@emirates.net.ae

Tel: +971 (0)9 2 37 02 99

This is why people choose Divers Down.





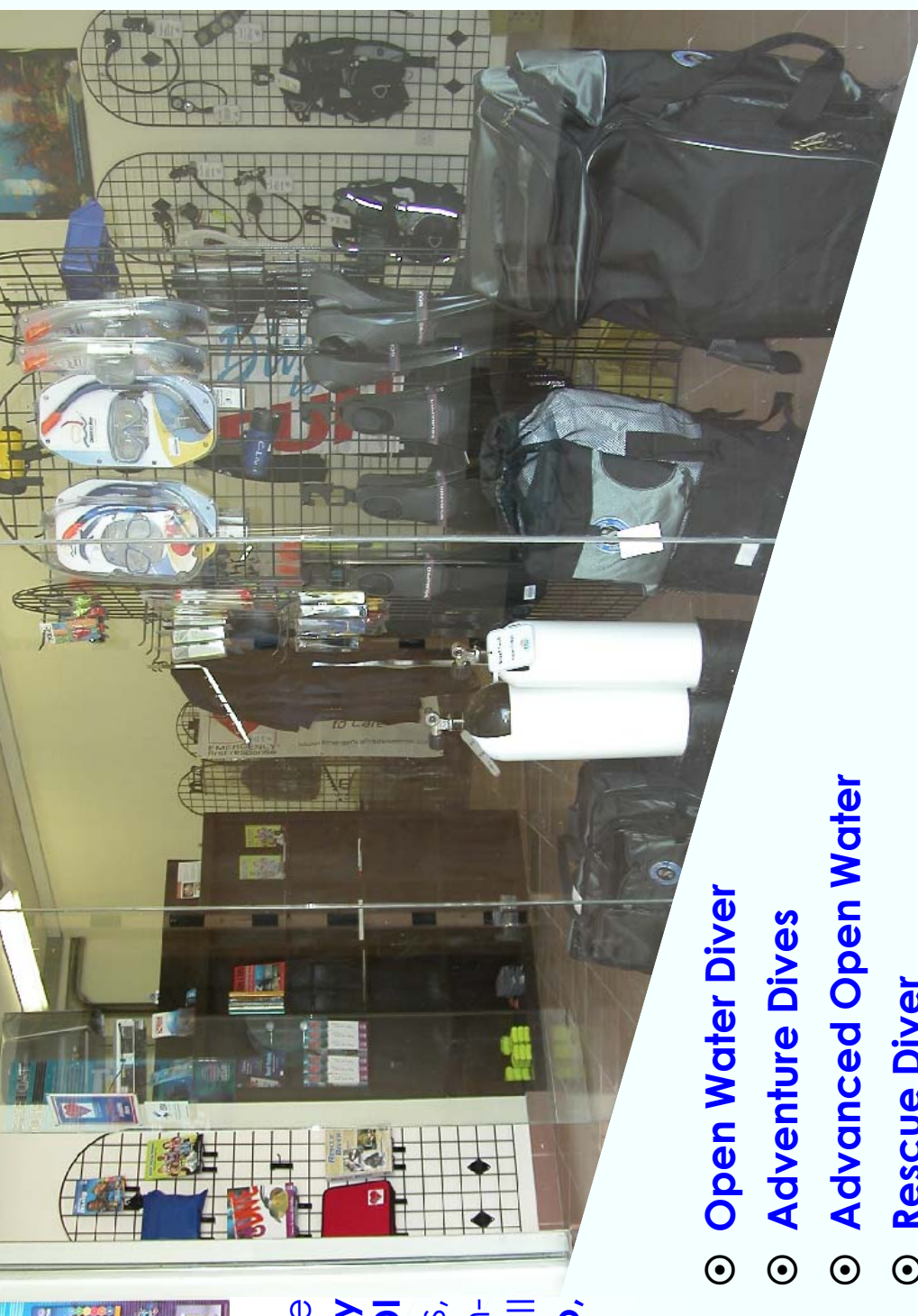
Situated in the Rotana Hotel, in the desert oasis town of Al Ain, **Diversity Scuba** offers a wide range of **PADI Courses** with experienced instructors, a fully equipped classroom and on-site pool. Our dive shop is well stocked with a variety of **Scuba Pro**, **Ikelite** & **Trident** products.



Contact Eschelle on 050 335 7567

email: knoesen@emirates.net.ae or visit us opposite the cinema at the Rotana.

From Oasis to Ocean...



- ⊙ Open Water Diver
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web: www.freestyledivers.com

Royal Beach Hotel
Dibba, Fujairah, UAE



image by jeff collett
email: jeffcol30@hotmail.com

GASCO Diving Club

GASCO DIVING CLUB



Gasco Scuba Diving Team was established in 2002 to promote scuba diving sport amongst Gasco employees and to play a role in the efforts to protect, preserve and maintain the environment and marine life in the UAE.

Since then many PADI courses were conducted to train and qualify more divers in the company. In 2006, the number of divers reached 25, most of them holding advanced licenses and active EDA members.

To enhance the diving experience of its team, Gasco Diving Club organizes many local trips in Dubai, the East Coast and Ras Musandam in addition to many international trips such as the ones in Sharm El Sheikh and Thailand.

The bridges of coordination and collaboration between Gasco Diving Club and EDA extend to many years back and will continue for many years to come. We are proud to be amongst the members of EDA group trips to Seychelles, Malaysia and recently to Sri Lanka where the flags of UAE, EDA and Gasco were raised side by side. In addition, our participation in EDA Abu Dhabi Committee, Gala Dinners and club meetings are another example of our commitment to support EDA at all levels. Still, many joint projects and tasks are to be accomplished in the future and the reef-monitoring project in Abu Dhabi is one of the examples.

Gasco Diving Club believes that all support and efforts should be given to local non-profit organizations, associations and agencies working in the UAE for the cause of preserving the environment. With this spirit we will continue to support these entities with our resources, efforts and time.

GASCO DIVING CLUB

P.O. Box 665
Sheikh Khalifa Energy complex
Abu Dhabi Corniche
Tel: 02-603 0000
Fax: 02-603 7414
Email: malwazir@gasco.ae
Website: www.gasco.ae

**GASCO DIVING CLUB
BELIEVES THAT ALL
SUPPORT AND EFFORTS
SHOULD BE GIVEN TO
LOCAL NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATIONS,
ASSOCIATIONS AND
AGENCIES WORKING IN
THE UAE FOR THE CAUSE
OF PRESERVING THE
ENVIRONMENT**

What's New in Diving Equipment

A stylish new dive shop — Now open in Dubai

A brand new, purpose built, dive shop has opened in Dubai, **Gulf Marine Sports (GMS)**, based at the **Knotika Marine Mall**. The stylish new shop provides a wide range of products that will satisfy all your snorkeling and scuba diving needs.

Whether you are a beginner snorkeler or the most experienced dive instructor, GMS will be pleased to offer you **helpful, friendly & professional advice**.

The next few pages will provide you with some basic information on the latest dive equipment stocked at Gulf Marine Sports.

For more information visit
www.gulfmarinesports.com or e-mail
Firas@gulfmarinesports.com

Tel: 04 303 9773
Mobile: 050 4467956



Gulf Marine Sports, Al Quoz Industrial Estate ... only 5 minutes from the Mall of the Emirates



Beuchat X-Jet Fins

The Beuchat X-Jet is the new generation of adjustable fins.

It is made from three different types of materials and has two side vents in the negative area, insuring that the flow is guided on both sides of the blade. They guarantee excellent propulsion.

The side gutter effect also reduces turbulences in the flow, giving more power, and the slanted blade gives a powerful whip



effect, making it easier to fin.

It also has rubber straps with rotating buckles for a quick and easy adjustment.

Available now in sizes

S/M M/L L/XL

Price 395.00 Dhs



Dive Computers



The Beuchat Voyager incorporates 2 push-buttons so you can switch between different information displays on the surface and during your dive.

It has a user replaceable battery, and 3 different dive modes; Air dive; Nitrox dive; Depth gauge & timer.

Price 2120.00 Dhs

The TUSA IQ 800 is a nitrox compatible dive computer, equipped with the world's first vibration warning function. Its large square screen provides high visibility, with the latest ultra-thin design.



Price 2495.00 Dhs

Masks and Snorkels

Beuchat X-Contact is the latest mask in the Beuchat masks-range. It has a modern design, an excellent visual field and its low volume makes the clearing of the mask easy.

Price 175.00 Dhs



The TUSA Platina II Hyperdry snorkel is a revolutionary snorkel with a new mouthpiece that eliminates the sensation of residual water (gurgling) while snorkeling.

Price 125.00 Dhs

Beuchat BCDs

The **Masterlift Comfort** has high-end finishing, last generation's features and excellent comfort. It integrates the new ergonomic high flow Beuchat inflator as well as the new releasable dump weight-pocket system.



Price 2259.00 Dhs

The new **Masterlift TEK BC** has been designed and created according to extremely high standards to best respond to the requirements of technical dives.



Price 2900.00 Dhs

Bare Wetsuits



Sprint

250.00+Dhs



Haze (f)

450.00 Dhs



Ignite (m)

600.00 Dhs



Velocity (f)

500.00 Dhs



Gothic (m)

550.00 Dhs



Velocity (m)

690.00 Dhs

Torches



Light Cannon 100 emits three times more light per watt of battery power than standard xenon or halogen lamps.

Price 1300.00 Dhs

Sunlight C4 eLED has a 6-watt white LED lamp and is the most indestructible source of illumination for diving available today.

Price 497.00 Dhs



Beuchat VX200 Regulator

The new high-end market Beuchat regulator integrates the latest innovations of the first stage and second stage.

The VX 200 has been optimized to provide you with incomparable breathing comfort. While it's streamlined and compact design gives a very modern and state of the art look.

Due to many field tests (conducted for 300 bars application), redesigning and specifically selected materials, optimal sealing under all conditions and superb functioning under high pressure and low pressure conditions is guaranteed.

Price 2790.00 Dhs



Beuchat VX10 Iceberg

The 1st stage has a "Velvet Chrome" surface treatment combining strength with style and the 2nd stage has a manually adjustable VENTURI control.

The first stage has an integrated anti-freeze system. (BEUCHAT patent) and a large bore "Super Flow" hose to improve instantaneous flow rate.

The second stage has a larger exhaust valve and an exhaust deflector with interior channel to control the air flow and deflect bubbles away from the face.

Price 2250.00 Dhs



GMS want you to get the most out of your dive equipment and therefore your diving. Please call in, pick up the phone, or drop us an-email anytime with your dive equipment questions and we will be more than happy to help.
E-mail: firmas@gulfmarinesports.com Tel: 04 303 9773 - 02 671 0017



MAKU DIVE CENTER

IN HOLIDAY BEACH MOTEL DIBBA, EASTCOAST



Green Turtle in Dibba

The small Swiss Dive center is managed by Margrit Forster and Kurt Luedi. We speak German, English and French. Our highest aim is professionalism, a warm friendly atmosphere, security and an individual service to our guests and the care for Dibba Rock, the precious marine reserve, which is just a few minutes drive away from our dive center.

WE OFFER

- 10 liter, 12 liter, 15 liter steeltanks with Din/Int-valves
- "House reef-dives" at Dibba Rock, introductory dives and snorkeling trips
- Dive day trips to Musandam with speedboat with 2 dives (min. 6 persons required)
- International licenses with PADI and CMAS – education
- Rental equipment Scubapro incl. dive computers, full suits 3mm to 7mm ladies and men, shorties
- Airfills

Our way of diving or snorkeling is a little bit different than the way of other dive centers.

We are ONLY diving at the marine reserve Dibba Rock, a few minutes drive away from our place.

We don't have a fixed schedule. The diving or snorkeling can be done between 9am and 5pm.

According to the tide, there are around five different possibilities to dive around Dibba Rock.

With our two small boats (one polyester boat, one inflatable zodiac), we shuttle the guests in groups of max. 4 divers out to the rock. We give our divers a briefing, and according to that they do their drift dive. After they have finished their dive, the guests are returning to the dive center.

Most of our divers are diving independently. If an inexperienced diver wants to have a guided dive, this can be done at small costs and after making a reservation for that. The maximum group of a guided dive is four divers.

Because we are a small dive center, we appreciate every booking, which is made in advance.

The diving around Dibba Rock is easy, the sandy ground reaches a maximum of 16m, and most is seen in the shallow water between 2m and 8m.

Because of this reason the snorkeling at Dibba Rock is world class...



MAKU-Dive Center
Holiday Beach Motel, Dibba
P.O.Box 1433 Fujairah, U.A.E.
Phone/Fax: 00971-9-2445747
Mobile: 00971-50-4908225
E-Mail: maku@emirates.net.ae
www.makudive.com

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INSTRUCTORS!**

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Open Water Diver
Adventure Diver
Advanced Open Water Diver
Emergency First Response and Care for Children w/ AED
Rescue Diver
Master Scuba Diver
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Specialty Courses
Dive Safaris (any country)
Swimming Courses (Adults and Children)



NAUTILUS DIVING CENTRE

Contact:

Rostyk +971 50 8433062

cap-nemo@bk.ru

Neptune Diving Dubai

Live the Adventure Dive Today !!!



- **Qualified PADI Instructors** • **Qualified EFR Instructors (1st Aid)** • **Safety approved equipment**
- **Learn in a safe, fun, relaxed atmosphere** • **Beginner to Professional Level**
- **Dive Trips and Excursions**

• **Seal Team**

PADI Seal Team is for young divers 8 years and older who are looking for action-packed fun in a pool by doing exciting scuba "Aqua Missions."

• **Bubblemaker**

For children 8 years and older who want to have fun in the pool, whilst experiencing the wonders of scuba diving!

• **Junior/Open Water Course**

You will learn the necessary skills to become a qualified scuba diver.

• **Emergency First Response (EFR)**

First Aid Qualification in Primary Care, Secondary Care & Care for Children

• **Advanced to Divemaster Courses** **Available on Request**



Neptune Diving

P.O. Box: 76343, Dubai, U.A.E.

Tel : +971 4 2881163

• Steve : + 971 50 3906527 • Simon :+ 971 50 2899386



Email: neptunediving@supersportsdubai.com www.supersportsdubai.com

NOMAD OCEAN ADVENTURES

Established in November 2005, Nomad Ocean Adventures is a unique establishment. Not only do we provide a wide range of services, but we strive to make each activity we offer a memorable experience for our clients. Our service and responsible approach toward tourism is what has kept Nomad Ocean Adventures an integral part of Oman's tourism industry. In addition to our services, Nomad Ocean Adventures is an environmentally active establishment and we use a share of our net profits to organize beach and underwater cleanups.

Unlike other diving operators based in Dibba, Musandam, we offer courses for a variety of skill levels – from open water to divemaster, as well as daily dives. In addition, we have registered and explored over 30 dive sites and propose different dive packages every week. Security is a primary concern at Nomad Ocean Adventures. Unlike many tour operators based in Musandam, we own a diving compressor and MARES equipment, both of which are meticulously inspected after each use. The mouthpieces of the regulators are thoroughly sanitized and diving insurance coverage is included in the prices of all of our activities. There is also separate boat insurance in order to ensure your safety at every point of your journey with Nomad. We realize that diving is a hazardous activity and therefore, we put prime focus on the organization and preparation of our dives.

Musandam is an incredible place when it comes to exploring the underwater realm. This location can be reached by car or bus in under two hours, giving you the opportunity to drive through the mountainous landscape of the United Arab Emirates and Oman. To compensate for this seemingly long drive, we have established a fully equipped guesthouse with 5 double bed rooms. Our weekend packages include a night at the guest house. Our goal is to ensure that your diving memories in the Musandam are not only unique but would also be a comfortable, affordable and safe experience.

We also offer various other activities that are carefully crafted to ensure your enjoyment and safety. Such activities include kayaking, camping, deep sea fishing as well as trekking. Of course, we also propose various circuit packages on Musandam that combine all of these activities. (e.g. 3 day camping in the Musandam fjords with trekking, kayaking and diving). These circuits are not listed on our prices as they are a la carte. Please contact us for further information. Check our website to discover more: **www.discovernomad.com**

Summer Special Promotions: (offer valid till first of September 2006)

1. Diving week end: 1 night at the guesthouse + 2 dives + equipment + guide
With equipment: **400 AED** per person/ **700 AED** for couples.*
Without: (dive tanks and weight) **300 AED** per person/ **600 AED** for couples.*

2. Open water packages: accommodation + open water course (9 dives)+ open water books: **1500 AED** per person/ **2500 AED** for couples

* Meals not included **50 AED** extra charge per meals per person or B.Y.O.

* Price set for two divers couple, price can be arranged for only one diver.

To contact us call:

0508853238 or via Email: chris@discovernomad.com





The Way the World Learns to Dive™



PADI NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC DIVER

Continue the adventure with the PADI National Geographic Diver Specialty. Join an elite group of divers. You too can become an underwater scientist, explorer, adventurer and conservationist.



Jumeirah
BEACH HOTEL

Email: divecentre@jumeirah.com

Tel: 406 8827/8828



A DIVER'S HAVEN



Located on the Indian Ocean, in Fujairah, Sandy Beach offers the very best in diving facilities and equipment. Managed by a team of professional instructors (both NAUI & PADI), the Center conducts 3 daily boat dives at 9:30 am, 12:00 noon and 2:30 pm. Shore dives are also available.

We welcome divers from any recognized certifying organization (NAUI, PADI, BSAC, CMAS, SSI, etc.).

Main Features of Our Center:

- Year-round diving
- Snoopy Island, our house reef, is both a snorkeler's and diver's paradise
- A well-stocked dive shop featuring Scubapro, Uwatec, and Ikelite products
- Air filling up to 300 bars
- Mixed gas facility (nitrox)
- NAUI & PADI dive courses, open water to divemaster. No minimum students
- Pool & Open water facilities on site
- Musandam safaris
- Motel rooms, chalets & bungalows, including a restaurant and bar
- Courteous customer service



SANDY BEACH DIVING CENTER

P.O. Box 659, Fujairah, U.A.E.

Tel: (+971 9) 244 5050 Fax: (+971 9) 244 5900 Email: sbdiving@emirates.net.ae



GEAR GURU SPEAKS

Your equipment questions answered by Stevie & Stephanie, Dubai's Diving Equipment Experts



TRAVELLING WITH DIVING LIGHTS BY AEROPLANE

Q: *I recently travelled by plane for a diving holiday in the Maldives. When I got to the hotel my dive light was sealed shut and refused to open. Surely this is not normal. What happened and how can I stop this from happening again? Eric, Dubai*

A: To prevent a dive light becoming impossible to open once you land, remove the o-ring or loosen off the cap before you pack it in your luggage. This applies to dive lights travelling in both your main luggage and your hand luggage.

During the flight a vacuum is created inside the dive light as the ambient pressure at the departure altitude leaks out of the dive light body during the flight (nominally at 8,000 feet in the cabin). This makes it impossible to open the light once you land.

If you forget to do this then your only option may be to wait until the flight home and open the light in the plane's cabin during the trip.

Dive lights are designed to keep a higher pressure out, but not the other way around.

It is also an excellent idea to completely remove all batteries from your dive light when you travel. This prevents a dive light accidentally turning on and possibly creating a fire hazard. Modern bright dive lights are often restricted to below water use as they require the coolness of the water to prevent the front glass from buckling under the heat produced by the intense bulb power. If this type of dive light is switched on above water for more than a few minutes then the bezel will warp, causing the dive light to leak on your next dive. More importantly it can cause a fire if accidentally switched on during a flight.



DOES DIVING EQUIPMENT HAVE TO BE WASHED AT THE END OF A DAY'S DIVING?

Q: *It is not always possible to soak my diving equipment after a dive. Often there is not time to do this before I leave the dive centre to return home. Does this really matter? Julia, Abu Dhabi*

A: Almost all dive equipment manufacturers will state that their equipment must be thoroughly rinsed in fresh water at the end of a day's diving to remove all salt water before salt crystals can form. Dried salt crystals are very corrosive on diving equipment. Once they have dried they grow over time and cause damage by cutting into o-rings, reducing the flexibility of materials and generally being bad for your equipment's health. The build up can be slow, maybe unnoticeable after a week's worth of intense diving. The damage starts once they dry out and become difficult to remove without expert help. However it takes a few days for the salt water to dry into crystals, especially if the weather is humid (think of the UAE's summers here).

So whilst it is important to soak your diving equipment in fresh water after your diving day (and use a water hose to squirt out salt water trapped inside, making sure that the dust cap is in place and that you do not press the regulator purge button) you can happily delay this for a day or two if circumstances dictate. It is safe to wait until you have returned home to give your equipment a jolly good soak, rinse and squirt (again – dust cap in place, regulator purge button not pressed), as long as this is within a 48 hour time period.



DAMP DIVING KIT MAKES MY CAR SMELL

Q: Why does my car smell terrible if damp dive kit is stored in it over night? After a days diving at Khasab, I washed my kit, let it dry for a few hours and then packed it in my car overnight for security purposes. The next day my car smelt dreadful. The journey home was not pleasant! Why did this happen? Mark, Dubai.

A: Damp neoprene and soft materials are the main culprits here. Think dive boots, suit, gloves, dive bag, bcd, cucumberband and bcd padded spine pad. Whilst damp soft material can smell after a while, damp neoprene smells awful after a relatively small time period. It needs to be aired in a well ventilated area to dry thoroughly before it is stored away. A small damp area such as an inadvertently turned up wetsuit cuff is capable of causing a really bad smell, similar to blocked drains. Any microbic (i.e. very, very small) sea life not washed off the dive kit will be silently cooking away in the heat of a sealed vehicle, adding to the aroma brewing. If you are unable to dry your dive kit in an airy area over night then using a dive deodoriser really works in preventing bad smells. These are biodegradable and non toxic, safe for all dive equipment. They eliminate all diving odours from neoprene boots/socks and suits including urine. Just add a small capful to the rinse water and your equipment should smell good instead of bad. A professional inside wash of your car will remove all smells. However prevention is better than cure – so either ensure that all your dive kit is completely dry before you stored it, or add a dive deodoriser to the rinse water. Sink The Stink is the best on the market and is widely available.

“GEAR GURU” IS SPONSORED BY SCUBA DUBAI AS A SERVICE TO THE DIVING INDUSTRY.

If you have equipment queries email your questions to info@scubadubai.com. We will be delighted to feature the most interesting questions in the next issue of the EDA magazine.

SCUBA DUBAI

THE DIVING EQUIPMENT EXPERTS

WE KNOW MORE ABOUT DIVING EQUIPMENT

IN NEW LARGER PREMISES AS FROM SEPTEMBER 2006

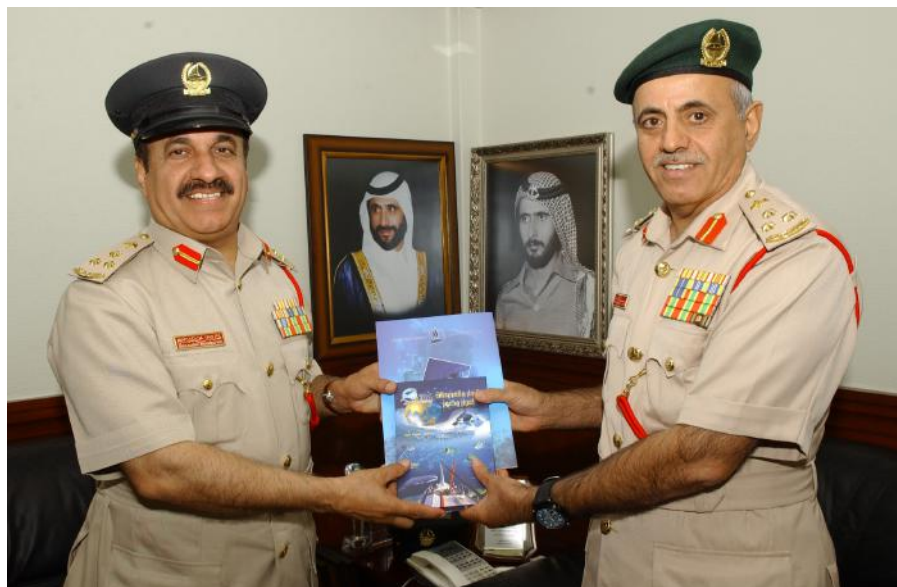
DIRECTIONS TO NEW PREMISES:

At junction 4 on the Sheikh Zayed Road, turn off towards The Mall of The Emirates. Go straight to the end of the road to the Al Khail Road roundabout. Do a U-turn back to the road you have just travelled on and take the first right turn. Scuba Dubai is the second building on the right. You are welcome to visit us!

Telephone: **800-SCUBA** or **800-72822**

Email: info@scubadubai.com

EDA PRESENTS LATEST PUBLICATION TO DUBAI POLICE



Brigadier Abdul Rahman Mohamad Rafi'i, Director of General Department of Community Service (left) receives the EDA book from Brigadier Khalfan Khalfan El-Muhairi, Director of General Department of Administration Affairs and EDA's Financial Director.

تجهيز رحلات بحرية إلى خورفكان ومسندم ودبي
Diving Trips to Khur Fakkan, Musandam, Dubai

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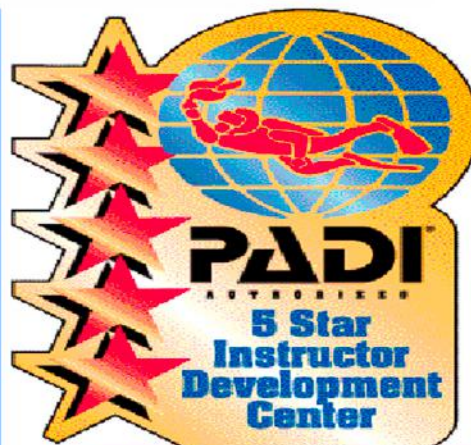
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For More Information
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Diving courses please call
the diving instructor at
050-4513337



SHARJAH WANDERERS DIVE CLUB

HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO EXPERIENCE THE UNDERWATER WORLD
LEARN TO DIVE WITH THE OLDEST AND MOST RESPECTED BSAC CLUB IN THE EMIRATES

TAKE THE PLUNGE AND TRY A DIVE



A SCUBA LESSON

Now there is no excuse. You can try a new sport, experience weightlessness, take an entirely new look at the world and feel great. Sharjah Wanderers Dive Club offer try dive sessions to all first timers at our club.

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The Coastal waters around the UAE are rich in a variety of marine life as well as shipwrecks, which makes diving here a fascinating sport. Learn to dive with Sharjah Wanderers Dive Club and explore over 50 spectacular dive sites in the region.



SHARJAH WANDERERS DIVE CLUB BSAC 406

Formed in 1972 we were formally known as The Trucial States Dive Club. Located originally on the Ajman beach we moved on to the Old RAF Airfield in the middle of Sharjah before moving to the Sharjah Wanderers Sports Club.

In addition to an energetic and friendly diving club, members get the benefit of organized weekend and day trips to the best diving imaginable. On Tuesday nights our club enjoys the atmosphere of 12 different nationalities in our purpose built club house with facilities which include a training room, social area, equipment room, diving gear for hire, two dive boats and on-site pool.



CONTACT DETAILS:

Web: www.bsac406.com / www.Sharjahwanderers.com
E-mail: info@bsac406.com

TECHNICAL DIVING INTERNATIONAL CENTER (TDIC)



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DIVE MODE

- Actual depth (meters or feet)
- Maximum reached depth
- Water temperature (°C or °F)
- Dive status
- Dive Time
- SEA/LAKE dive manual setting
- TBL System: Auto activating backlight with a wrist tilt
- Logbook of last 10 dives
- Repetitive dive flag

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Union Global Technical Equipment L.L.C., established in May 2001, is engaged in the trading of HDPE Butt Fusion Machines, Plastic Welding Extruders, Diving and Fishing Equipment, Marine Solar Lanterns, Solar Power Systems, Kayaks and Inflatable Boats; manufactures Marker Buoys and Boat Carrying Trailers; and also provides Diving, Marine Construction and Installation Services.



TRADING OPERATIONS:

Large Branded Range of Diving Equipment (wet suits, fins, masks, snorkels, gloves, booties, BCD, regulators, dive buoys, diving bags, spear guns and hand spears, etc.)

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 Alkin Compressors (Turkey) - Dive Cylinders Air compressors
 Shakespeare (U.S.A) - Fishing rods, Reels, sunglasses, tackle boxes, etc.
 Titan Fishing (Australia) - Fishing rods, Reels, Fishing Accessories, etc.
 Mustad Hooks (Norway) - Fishing hooks
 Rapala (Finland) - Fishing Lures
 McElroy Manufacturing Inc. (U.S.A) - HDPE Butt Fusion Machine
 Munsch Plastic Welding Technology (Germany) - Plastic Welding Extruder
 Adventure Kayaks (Australia) - Single and Tandem Kayaks
 Woosung Leports Ltd (Korea) - Phoenix Inflatable Boats
 Honda (Japan) - Outboard Engines
 SEALITE (Australia) - Solar powered navigation and marine lights
 Ritmo (Italy) - Butt fusion and electrofusion machines
 Union Global - UB-Union Buoys
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OTHER EDA-REGISTERED DIVE CENTRES AND CLUBS

DUBAI

AL SAMMAK DIVE CENTRE
Al Tower Centre
Tel: (971 4) 263 6973
Fax: (971 4) 263 6972
Email: alsamakd@emirates.net.ae

ABU DHABI

TOTAL ABK DIVING CLUB ADP
Email: gilles.CASSOU@total.com

KHORFAKKAN

DIVING HOUSE
Khor Fakkan (near Oceanic Hotel)
Tel: (971 9) 238 3638
Fax: (971 9) 238 7383
Email: dive4fun@emirates.net.ae

SEVEN SEAS DIVERS
Near Khor Fakkan Souk
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Fax: (971 9) 238 7440
Email: diving@emirates.net.ae

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Al Bidiya Beach, Dibba
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Fax: (971 9) 238 8478
Email: scubauae@emirates.net.ae;
scubauae@yahoo.com
Website: www.scuba-2000.com

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Fujairah International Marine Club
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Fax: (971 9) 222 0548
Email: info@scubainternational.net
Website: www.scubainternational.net

“WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU SPOT A WHALE SHARK!”

EDA received unconfirmed reports that a whale shark was again spotted in the Dubai Marina this July. If this were true, this would be the fourth sighting in the area (the first sighting was in July 2004, second in July 2005 and the third in June 2006).

What should you do when you see a whale shark? Report the encounter at www.whaleshark.org and help in the global conservation of this threatened species.

This was suggested by one of the founders of ECOCEAN, Brad Norman, who was the guest of EDA in its Monthly Talk in November last year (ECOCEAN is an organization dedicated to the international conservation of the threatened whale shark).

What should you take note of:

1. Date and time of the encounter
2. Location (GPS coordinates would be ideal)
3. Length of whale shark
4. Sex
5. Water Depth
6. Noticeable Scarring

It is also highly encouraged to take photos of the whale shark, and at least one of the photos should be a right-side or left-side picture of the shark to show its natural patterning.

For more information, please visit:
www.whaleshark.org



Whale Shark Photo from EDA

ALL ABOUT **WRECK DIVING**

By Moe Bitar, Technical Diving International Center



Moe Bitar



Diver on wreck



Wreck Dive

WRECK DIVING: is a type of recreational diving where shipwrecks are explored.

REASONS FOR DIVING WRECKS:

- It's an artificial reef which creates a habitat for many types of marine life.
- It's often a large structure with many interesting parts and machinery, which is not normally closely observable on working, floating vessels.
- It often has an exciting or tragic history.
- It presents new skill challenges for scuba divers.

WRECK DIVER TRAINING

Many attractive or well preserved wrecks are in deeper water requiring deep diving precautions. Wrecks may possess a variety of unique hazards to divers. Penetration diving, where the diver enters a shipwreck is an advanced skill requiring special training and equipment.

Diver training organizations provide wreck diver training courses, such as PADI Wreck Diver, which some divers take before wreck diving. The call of wrecks is nearly irresistible to divers. Through the PADI Wreck Diver Specialty course, you get the skills, knowledge and procedures you need to answer the call of wreck diving.

PROTECTION OF WRECKS

In many countries, wrecks are legally protected from unauthorized salvage or desecration. Some of these acts are:

PROTECTION OF WRECKS ACT 1973: certain designated, charted, historic or dangerous sites may not be dived without a licence

MILITARY REMAINS ACT 1986: all military aircraft and 16 designated ships are considered war graves that can only be dived with a licence. Other non-designated ships may be dived providing the divers do not enter, disturb or remove artifacts

MERCHANT SHIPPING ACT 1995: all wrecks and cargoes are owned: each artifact removed must be reported to the Receiver of Wreck

To know more about **Responsible Wreck Diving Considerations** please visit:

<http://www.projectaware.org/uk/english/rwdc.asp>

Moe Bitar, PADI # 636458

Technical Diving International Center: T.D.I.C

PADI 5* Dive Center

UNDERWATER CURRENTS



This page is dedicated specifically to controversial diving or environmental issues which members feel strongly about that may not have another place to be shared. Share your opinions with the UAE diving community and you may galvanize your fellow divers into action.

(Editor's note: Author already sent a letter to H.H. Sheik Hamad bin Mohamed Al Sharqi. EDA will refer the issue to the Ministry of Environment so they can investigate.)

DIBBA MARINE RESERVE NEEDS YOUR HELP!

I have some very bad news for all the divers, snorkelers and nature lovers.

The marine reserve of Dibba Rock is under threat and there is not much time left to save it due to building activities! The new JAL Hotel in Dibba is again trying to make a landfill in the marine reserve.

The Hotel is so close to the beach that there is no beach...

A giant landfill (legal or illegal?) with sand and soil is in progress... to make a beach...

This would be the end of the marine life... There are already large parts of the former mussel banks that were destroyed. The breeding areas of the fish is covered up and the corals are dead in the beach area.

Nobody seems to think about the important rule of shallow water!!!

The still beautiful life at the marine is strongly endangered and needs everybody's help.

Please, in the name of the last turtle, the last piece of nature, please help.

For further information, please contact me:

Kurt Luedi
MAKU-Dive Center
Holiday Beach Motel
Dibba, Fujairah
Email: maku@emirates.net.ae
www.makudive.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

MONTHLY MEMBER TALKS

Monthly Member Talks is a discussion series on topics that EDA believes will be of interest to its members. Led by individuals who are experts in their respective fields, the talks aim to provide members the opportunity to gain knowledge on topics relevant to the diving community.

REEF MONITORING PROJECT (RMP)

The RMP, the flagship project of EDA, is part of the local participation in ongoing global reef conservation efforts through Reef Check (www.reefcheck.org), the international volunteer conservation organization.

The RMP group's main focus is to monitor the health of corals in the UAE. Interested EDA members who would like to volunteer for RMP can email Aspen Aman (aspenyemen@yahoo.com) or Leena Abbas (leenaabbas@hsbc.com).

EDA 4th GENERAL MEETING

September 2006 - Fujairah International Marine Club

This is a bimonthly meeting of EDA-registered dive centers, dive retailers and dive clubs where issues concerning the dive industry are discussed and acted upon. This meeting will be hosted by Scuba International (thank you!)

CLEAN UP ARABIA - 11 NOVEMBER 2006

Locations: Musandam, Fujairah, Khorfakkan (East Coast), Abu Dhabi and Dubai.

WHALE SHARK TAGGING IN SEYCHELLES

October 2006

THAILAND DIVE TRIP

Christmas - New Year 2007



Chairperson Mr Faraj Butti Al Muhairbi

Vice Chairperson Mr Essa Al Ghurair

The Secretary General Mr Jamal Bu Hannad

Financial Director Mr. Khalfan Khalfan Al Mohiari

Head of the Technical Committee Mr. Omar Al Huraiz

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Director of Environment & Research Department

Ibrahim Al Zu'bi

Email: edadiver@emirates.net.ae

EDA Administrative Assistant

Melrose Valencia

Email: diving@emiratesdiving.com

EDA Secretary

Erna Magbanua

Graphic Designer

Ally Landes

MISSION STATEMENT

To conserve, protect and restore the U.A.E. marine resources by understanding and promoting the marine environment and promote environmental diving.

LEGISLATION

Emirates Diving Association (EDA) was established by a Federal Decree, No. (23) for the year 1995 article No. (21) on 23/02/1995 and chose Dubai as its base. The Decree stipulates the following responsibilities for EDA.

- To Legislate and regulate all diving activities in the UAE.
- Ensure environmentally respectful diving practices in all EDA members.
- Promote and support the diving industry within the UAE by coordinating the efforts of the diving community.
- Promote diving safety in the commercial and recreational diving fields through standardization of practices.
- Promote and preserve historical aspects of diving within the gulf region and enhance environmental education to diving and non diving communities through EDA activities.

CONTACT DETAILS

Emirates Diving Association

Heritage & Diving Village

Shindaga Area

P.O. Box: 33220

Dubai, UAE

Tel: +971-4-3939390

Fax: +971-4-3939391

Email: edadiver@emirates.net.ae, projects@emiratesdiving.com

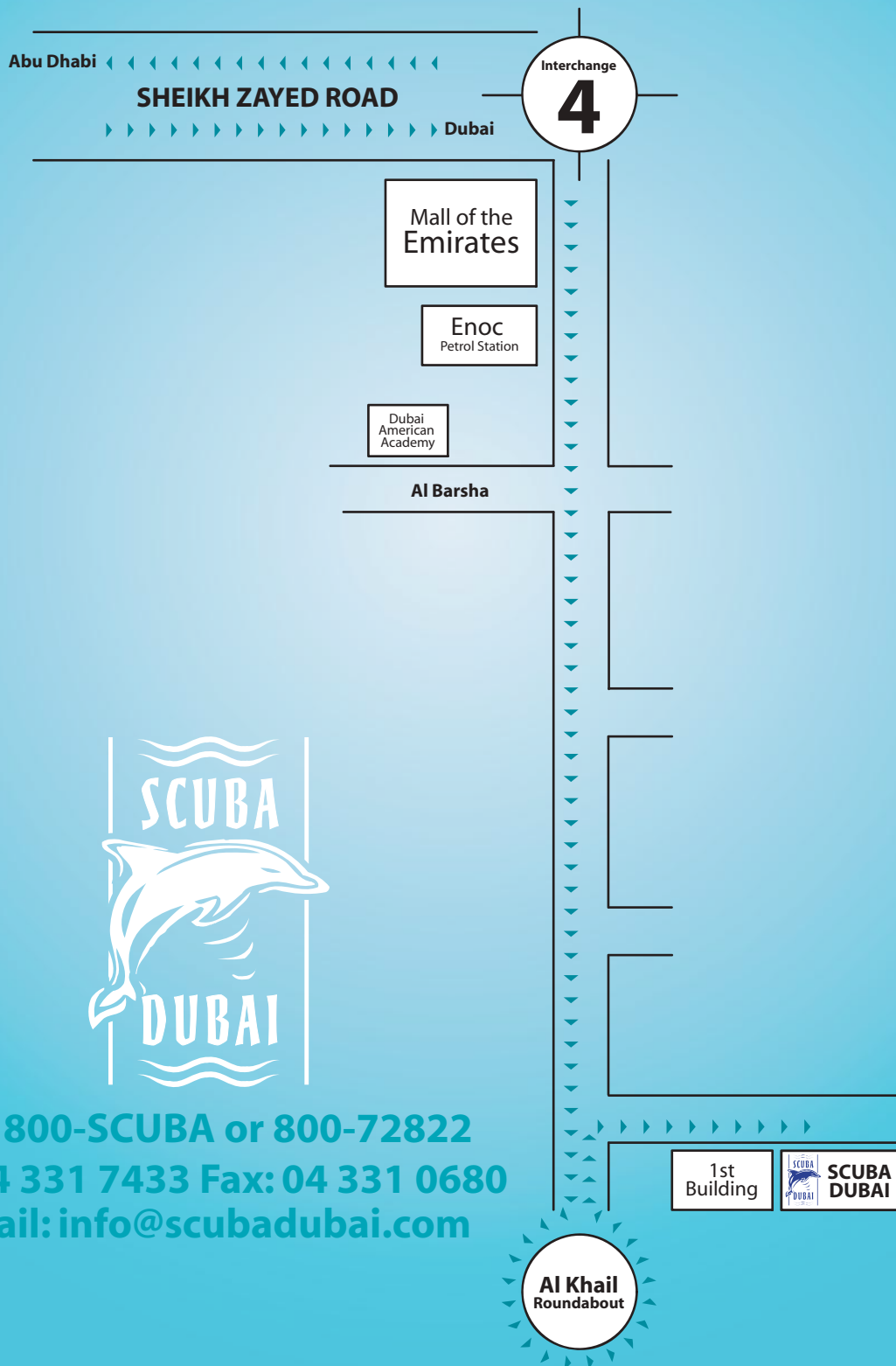
Website: <http://emiratesdiving.com/>

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