

## Diving cruise Marine Park, Simply The Best



SEAFARI EXCLUSIF circuit is a replacement of our traditional Marine Park that seduced all its participants. No doubt that it will become the most reputed cruise in Egypt because of its diversity and it's highly anticipated dive sites in DAHAB area.

Diving lovers will be fully satisfied : from the BLUE HOLE (north of Dahab) to the extreme south (Sudan borders) on the reefs of Abu Fendira.

Several stops by the most beautiful wrecks of the north of the Red Sea, Sinai cape and the wonderful Ras Mohamed National Park, coral reefs of Tiran situated at the gates of El Aqaba Gulf, the mystic Brothers Islands, Rocky, Zabargad, Elphinstone not to mention Daedalus.

In brief, the cruise regroups in 12 days/14 nights, all of the most beautiful dive sites of the Red Sea. Reason why we call it "Simply The Best".

This circuit will alternate the deep falls and their schools of pelagic fishes, wreck diving and highly colored low depth reefs that will suit photography lovers. You will also discover the caves and their "cathedrals" with their magnificent under water lighting set ups, snorkeling among dolphins and of course the surprise of the unsuspected rendezvous.

That's what makes, no doubt, the charm of this unique cruise.

We will be pleased to make you discover different rarely wonderful dives by the Rocky Island and by the magnificent Zabargad where we spare especially for you some unforgettable surprises...

On this "summer time" cruise, how about if we brought our Banana-boat along? What an entertainment would it be either for participants or those who will be peacefully watching from their Jacuzzi or on-board relaxation lounge? Who will be able to beat the banana and its exceptional professional zodiac pilot "Sasa"?

Navigation is mostly done by night, in order to benefit of your full day-time. With its stability and efficient sound

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insulated engines room, the ODYSSEY will allow you to deep dive in your dreams.

As usual, navigation will start forenoon as soon as official formalities are done.

Like all cruises, the choice and order of dive sites are non-contractual and may vary according to weather conditions.

During the cruise, you'll pass by magnificent site like:

### **Sha'ab El Erg**

An immense reef where you can see frequently groups of dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*). We can observe dolphins either while diving or even snorkeling. Very often they appear by the exterior side of the reef or in the lagoon.



### **Sha'ab Abu Nuhas**

Commonly called "Ships cemetery".

In fact, some ship after passing the Suez Canal came to hurt the reefs surface while navigating through the strait of Gubal.

On the northern side, lies four well conserved ship wrecks:

Gianis D (a 100 m. long, 290 tons cargo sank in 1983).

The Carnatic, (British steamship of 90 m. long and 1800 tons, sank in 1869) refuge of countless "glass fish".

The Chrisoula K (Grec cargo that weights 3715 tons) that lies some 20 to 30 m. depths.

Thistlegorm : this British cargo sank on the 6<sup>th</sup> of October 1941. Bombed by the German aviation while transporting ammunition and combat equipment for the British troops in North Africa (armored vehicles, weapons, motorcycles and guns,...).

You can see all of these items till now while visiting the worlds well known wreck.



### **Blue Hole**

Located at 10 km. north to Dahab, Blue Hole is considered one of the best diving sites in the region.

Blue Hole is in fact a natural well in the heart of the reef that descends for more than 100 m. deep. Clearness of water as well as the descending walls is a breath cutting scene. The falling outside the well is amazing. There, we can see among other things beautiful black coral branches inhabited by anthias.

While ascending we can meet Caranx and Napoleons who lives in the area.

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### Ras Mohamed

This famous national park is located at the end south point of Sinai, is the meeting points of Suez and el Aqaba gulfs. The water gathering of both gulfs can sometimes form strong current areas, reason why many caranx gather often near its abyssal blue fallings.

This drift diving will begin by the extreme southern point called "Shark Reef" and "Yolanda Reef". Both considered the most extraordinary of the park. We will immerse by the "Shark Reef" and its falling side that descends to 800 m. deep.

We will go along this side and ascend toward the "Yolanda Reef". We can observe numerous coral formations all covered by alcyonarians and gorgonians. We will pass by this magnificent area inhabited by huge Morays, Napoleons, turtles, groupers, enormous schools of batfish to end our dive by the Cyprus ship wreck sank in 1980 The Yolanda.

You can see there the rest of the cargo transported by the Yolanda, while the ship itself lies further deep. The Yolanda has a sanitary cargo!! Bath tubs and toilets inhabited by fishes is what you are going to see.

### Thomas Reef (one among Tiran's four reefs)

This site is the smallest yet but the richest of all. Frequently we can see Gray and Hammer sharks on the northern side as well as alcyonarians and gorgonians. The site is exceptionally gorgeous at the north/east side of it... at approximately 30 m. deep begins a beautiful narrow canyon decorated with natural arcs. The dive ends at the grand plateau that overhangs the vertical falling.

Turtles are frequently seen in the 10 m. zone, as well as emperors, butterfly fish and caranax.

### The Northern Plateau of Small Brother

We will dive at around 35/40 m. deep on top of the northern plateau. This is the spot where you will probably get the chance to see Gray Sharks and Hammer Sharks. Mantas could also be on the rendezvous or Moony fish schools (Mola Mola).

We will then leave the plateau and the deep zone to go (depending on the current direction) toward the western side filled up with different forms of lives multicolored alcyonarians, magnificent gorgonians, extremely varied fauna : Morays, Barracudas...

On this islet, you can get the chance to see an unbelievable number of sharks' species: Grey reef, silver tip, silky, hammer shark and of course near the surface, the one waited for the Oceanic whitetip shark.



### Daedalus North side

A dive that we will make at sunrise. By the northern falling of Daedalus (the one which is the most exposed to the dominant current) we will get the biggest chance to make the most beautiful encounters with pelagic. In fact it is frequent to advance among schools of 20/25 hammer sharks.

Carnax and Tunas often appear on the site. We will leave the deep area in order to explore the falling, an act that demands lots of caution and a great deal of attention because of the wild nature of the area.

We can observe numerous black coral branches that invaded the reef.

While ascending, don't forget to look up, you will see barracudas patrolling.

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### Sha'ab Claudio

These immense and magnificent cathedral shaped caves offer a fairy light show. Frequently you can see in the early mornings small white tip sharks while Napoleons are visiting the site and taking a tour underneath the boat.

### Sataya Reef

Sataya is a large coral reef of more than 1.5 km long. During summer, water temperature can easily reach 33° lagoon. The site shelters a colony of more than 100 spinner dolphins (*Stenella longirostris*), often separated in several smaller groups. Depending on seasons we can observe baby dolphins hovering around their parents. This site permits us to approach these magnificent mammals while snorkeling.

### Erg Om Aruk

A site where it would be difficult for you to follow your monitors time directives! So beautiful that it would be hard to immerge on time!

This site is formed of a main reef of around 80 m. of diameter and to the south/east and north of it a big number of coral columns. Divers often call the site "the Halong bay". Our boat will moor at the south/east point.

From the moment we have our heads underwater, we will discover these beautiful multicolor tours. All are richly colored. We will come to cross countless number of schools of Caesionidae (fusiliers), Snappers, surgeon fishes,... while advancing north to reach "the Big Halong Bay".

Tours are nearly reaching water surface and descending to some 20 to 27 m. deep. They are all abundantly filled with infinite colors and offering with day light a splendid fairy light show. It is possible to encounter grey or oceanic sharks heading north. On the way back to the boat, you might cross a real big Napoleon that usually hangs in the site.

A different site compared to other sites with their deep fallings and caves but yet it remains a must of St John's.

