

Hurghada 1996

Hurghada in March 1996 was another 2 man trip; just Martin Tarrant and myself. We stayed at the Princess Apartments which were pretty basic compared to the Princess Club where we stayed in 1990. It was adequate and our plan was to take a liveaboard for 2-3 nights anyway to finally get up to Abu Nuhas and the Thistlegorm. Our first dive was on Gota Abu Ramada where we did our first dive in 1990. My log book records that the coral was showing much signs of damage and fish life was less prolific. Some other sites were also showing signs of wear. Carless Reef was still good. From the liveaboard, we did 2 wrecks on Abu Nuhas and 2 dives on the Thistlegorm. We did a night dive from the boat moored on a reef a couple of miles from the Thistlegorm and were supposed to do a 3rd early morning dive on the wreck. Unfortunately, the crew could not find it even after resorting to towing the dive guide along on rope behind the boat. Actually it was a bonus as we got 2 dives on Abu Nuhas (Giannis D and the Kristina K) the latter being the best dive of the week. The only sad thing is that I cannot find any pictures of this holiday so I have either lost them or did not take the camera. Pity because I would like to compare anything I took on the Thistlegorm with the most recent pictures to see how badly it has deteriorated.

We dived the following sites, some more than once:

Gota Abu Ramada – 11M	Umm Dom – 29M	Sabrina Reef – 15M
Shaab Umm Gamor – 38M	Carless Reef – 21M	Thistlegorm – 30M
Shaab El Erg – 6M	Giannis D – 21M	Kristina K – 23M
Erg Soraya – 50M	El Aruk Giftun – 13M	