

El Quseir 2000

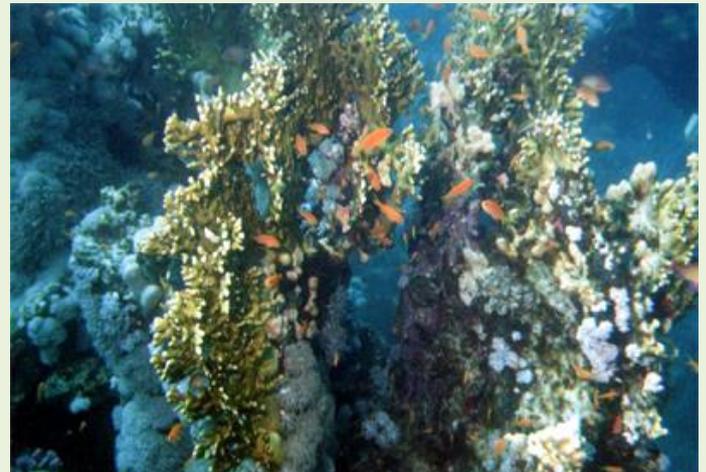
Keith Walter and I went back to El Quseir in March 2000. My first trip to the Red Sea for 4 years. Interest in Red Sea club holidays had waned and in the intervening years I been to Maldives twice on family holidays and to Ireland with the club. By 2000 I was beginning to get withdrawal symptoms so Keith and I decided to see how El Quseir had matured. The hotel complex was finished and the Pensee was long gone. All that was left was the jetty that was now used by the day boats. My log book does not record the name of the actual hotel, but I well remember that we were virtually the only non Italian residents, most of whom seemed to live for the night life in the Disco. The strongest theme which ran through the dive log was poor viz. on only 1 dive did we get better 15M and most seem to have been 12M or less. Curiously the best viz was on the House Reef but we only did this a couple of times as second boat dives, shore diving was no longer freely available unlike the days of the Nile Cruiser. The depths of the dives also seem very shallow and few good new sites seemed to have been found in the intervening 4 years. We both concluded that El Quseir offered nothing special to justify the longish drive from Hurghada and I certainly have never been back. We dived the following sites:

House Reef North – 19M	House Reef South – 19M	Sharn Tachioni -
Aquarium – 14M	Mahagela – 21M	Sharm Furgani –14M
Serib Soraya – 20M	Serib Kebir North – 18M	Balans – 29M
Erg Monika – 16M	Serib Kebir South – 18M	

The pictures were all taken with my Nikonos 5 camera (and an Ikelite Strobe for the u/w scenes). They were scanned at fairly low resolution from the original prints in 2003 so they are pretty dire. This is just a small selection:



Clownfish and nice coral



Anthias in nice staghorn coral



Bannerfish; often seen in pairs, I presume that they mate for life

Bluespot Ray taken on night dive



Box Fish

Butterfly Fish being coy



Nice corals with anemone and clown fish

Hawksbill turtle



Lunar Tail Grouper. They appear bright blue underwater

Small pufferfish in typical pose



Scorpion Fish



Large Clams. The inside colours are vivid,



Clown Triggerfish



Keith posing. Picture shows how murky the water was. This was typical viz for the whole week.



View of the dive shop. In the top left is the jetty where the cruiser Pensee was moored for our trip in 1995



Another view of the hotel and dive shop.