

## El Quseir 1995

El Qusier was a new destination opened up in early 1994 and is about 100kms further south than Safaga. The hotel complex was still under construction when our party of 4 went in February 95. The accommodation in the interim was provide aboard a Nile Cruiser called the Pensee which was moored in a sheltered bay close to the hotel site. It was very comfortable and very easy to board the day boats which were moored alongside. In one of those strange quirks of fate, the Nile Cruiser had nearly been wrecked by a freak storm a couple of months before we got there. It was unusual in that it was not a sea based storm but a one in the surrounding mountains which causes flash flood that swept directly into the bay where the cruiser was moored. It completely wrecked the jetty area and they were lucky to avoid any serious damage to the boat. The sad part was the trashing of some of what was obviously a super house reef by the sand swept down by the flood. Though we had an enjoyable week, there was nothing very exciting about the diving – I think we expected more from that getting down to a new area early. Perhaps we were getting spoilt. According to my log book it was the corals rather than the fish life which aroused comment. It was mostly based on shore drop-offs with only a couple of off shore reefs. The main benefit of the site was the virtually unlimited diving from the cruiser in addition to the boats dives. However, it was a longish swim to get to the good stuff. The party consisted of Tim Dews, Keith Walter and Martin Tarrant plus myself.

We dived the following sites, some more than once:

Sharm Fugani – 25M	Erg Aly – 17M	House reef – 20M
Erg Monika – 17M	Wreck Nr Pensee – 33M	Serib Soraya – 29M
Serib Karif – 32M	Mahaleg – 29M	Erg Sasha - 24M
Marsa Maoad – 43M	Sharm Tachtani – 23M	Sook – 40M

Pictures all taken with a Nikonos 5 and Iketlite Strobe. I took very few pictures on this holiday. After all this time I cannot remember if it was because of camera trouble, or because there was little of real interest to film. I suspect the latter based on the lukewarm comments in my dive log book.

It is interesting to look at the pictures of our trip in 2000 when we stayed at the hotel which was being buiklt at this site. Virtually nothing remains to show where the Pensee was moored



Anthias around a coral block



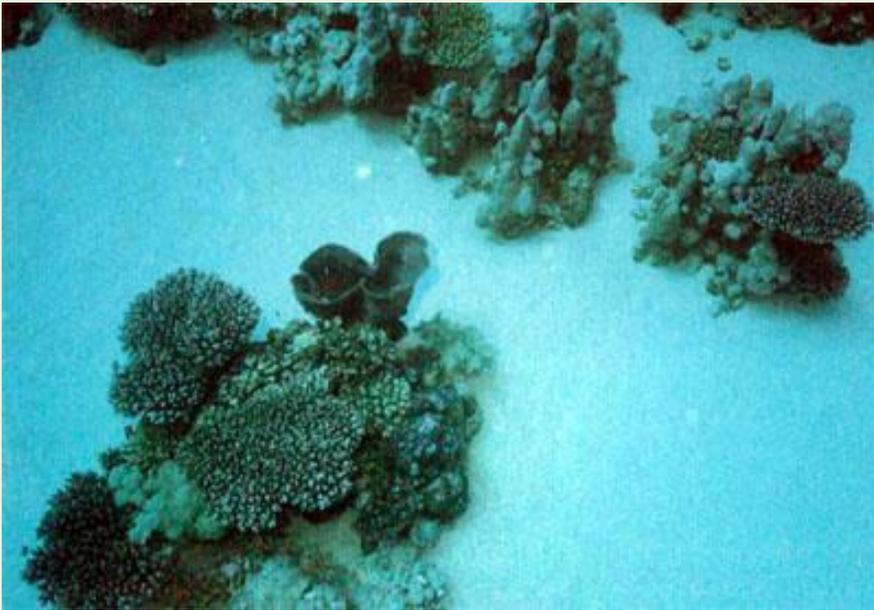
Small Tuna - still quite a big fish



butterfly fish



Clown Fish in a small Anemone



Coral formations



Bluespot trying to hide under a coral head



Lion Fish



Me climbing back aboard the dive boat. Note the ladder over the side rather than the more normal stern platform.



The Nile cruiser Pensee



The beach at Quseir. you can see the site of the hotel in the background



The bar of the Pensee, We spent a lot of time here as there was not a lot else to do. once the days diving was finished.



Jetty at Quseir