

Safaga 1993

February 1993 marked a change in the pattern of our Red Sea holidays. Only 2 (Rob Peters and myself) travelled this time and we flew via Luxor. This was an experience I would not wish to repeat. Normally there is a travel company rep to smooth the transit from airport to hotel. In this case all we had was a taxi driver who spoke no English and very little in the way of information. Even 13 years on I can still remember how stressed we both felt about this aspect of the holiday, particularly the return transit. We stayed at the Menaville hotel, a huge complex but very sparsely occupied at that time of year. Barrakuda Diving ran the diving operation on site with their own jetty. Though the marine life was what we now regarded as normal for the Red Sea, the type of sites were rather different. Most of the offshore reefs (Panaorma is a good example) were fairly deep and had even deeper drop offs. A lot of the diving was on walls just of the shore dropping to 40-50 metres. Something Rob and I indulged in a few times. Frankly there was not a lot to see at those depths and the light was too poor for decent photographs anyway but it just had to be done. What was surprising was how easy it was compared to similar depths in UK waters. Never a trace of the narks and all done on tables as neither of us possessed a dive computer. Overall we had a great time and decided it was worth a second visit.

We dived the following sites, some more than once:

Tobia Arba – 14M	Tobia Hamra – 25M	Ras abu Soma 21M
Tobia Kebir – 17M	Shaab Salman – 40M	Shaab Quais – 22M
Middle reef – 12M	Shaab Sheer – 18M	Abu Kafan – 24M

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 in 2003 from the original prints so they do not do justice to the originals. Though none are particularly good, many do show that clarity and depth of field which digital cameras still struggle to achieve.



Corals and Antheas



Surgeon Fish of some flavour



No idea what this guy is but he's quite cute



The yellow blob is a Clown Fish



Emperor Angel Fish



Hawksbill Turtle



Lion Fish



Staghorn Coral



Nice corals with a turtle in the background



Rob and me relaxing after a night dive



Arriving at Luxor airport - the taxi driver spoke no English



Our boat the Silver Wave



Menaville Hotel Gardens



The Menaville jetty



Rob and me at the Dive Centre enjoying a post dive beer



Sunset over Safaga