

Pictures from Sharm El Sheik 2001

This was a club holiday organised for July. Originally it was supposed to be to Scapa Flow but the initial costings proved way out and belatedly we concluded that for less money (even forfeiting our deposit) we could get a better holiday in warm water. In fact it was an excellent decision as we actually got an all inclusive deal at a spanking new top class hotel. For once nobody quibbled over whose round it was. The only slight drawback was that the hotel was at Ras Umm Sidd about 5 miles from the Jetty at Naama Bay so we had a bus trip morning and had to find a taxi in the evening but it was no big deal. The diving was booked through the Red Sea Diving College and as I cannot recall any problems with their facilities or arrangements. This was also the first time that we had dived in the Summer months and I was a bit apprehensive about the heat but it did not prove a problem provided you kept to the shade during the middle part of the day. It was also the first time I used my shorty which was quite warm enough for that time of year. In fact with the prevailing strong winds at Sharm the weather was pretty much ideal. Our first check dive (at Temple as always) was enlivened by a small school of dolphins, the first time I had actually swum with them. The rest of the week continued in this vein. We did all the standard Sharm sites including an extra cost last day at the Thistlegorm which included a basic Nitrox course on the way down. The boat left Sharm Marina at 0400 To be on site by 0900. The idea was to do 2 dives almost back-back hence the need for Nitrox. We also did Ras Mohammed twice. The first dive was a bit of a disaster partly due to poor briefing and partly due to dilly dallying by some of our number. We were dropped on the northern edge of Shark Reef from the dive boat. Current was running strongly with a down draft at that point. With hindsight we should have made a negative buoyancy entry in two groups of 6. Instead we were dropped in one stick but with everyone bobbing about on the surface waiting for a descent signal. The result was our group being spread all over the reef and not seeing much until we got to Yolanda. Still no one came to any real grief and we did it right a few days later. All in all a very good weeks diving and a good holiday as well. We did 12 dives at the following sites: The members of the party included: Richard & Caroline Honnor, Bob Gabbott, Richard & Paul Vivian, Ken Blay, Ian Fellowes and myself

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|----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Temple – 19M | Far Garden – 19M | Jacksons Reef – 30M |
| Woodhouse Reef – 25M | Ras Mohammed – 33M | Ras Gharalam – 22M |
| Ras ZA'Athal – 25M | Thistlegorm - 26M | |

The pictures were all taken with my recently acquired Sea&Sea MX5 camera and strobe mostly using a wideangle lens. To my mind these pictures are not as good as those taken with the old Nikonos 5 sadly written off after flooding in Granada in 2000. Obviously, quality has not been helped by the relatively low resolution scanning.



Bannerfish - note how clear the water is



School of Batfish at Ras Mohammed



Old British bikes on the Thistlegorm



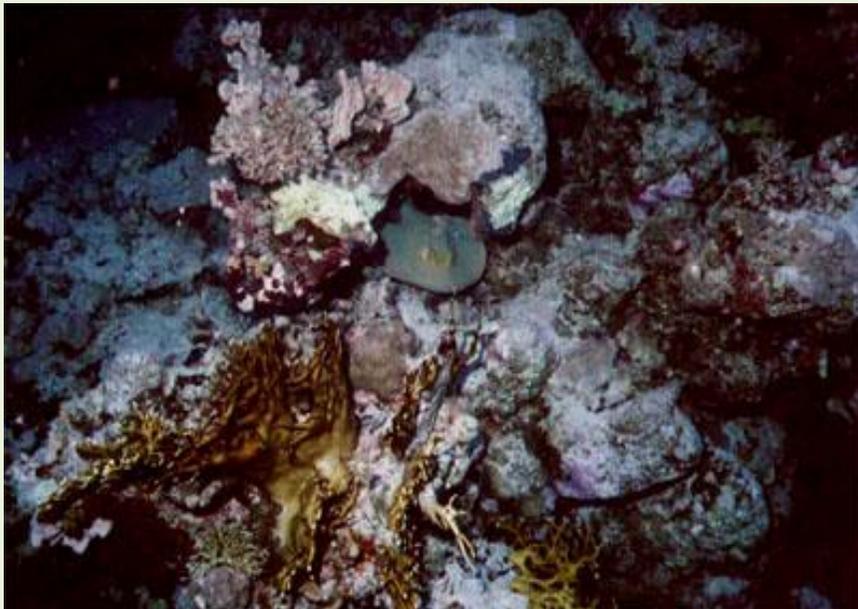
More old British bikes on the Thistlegorm



Cab of a Bedford truck on the Thistlegorm



Richard Vivian with a hired video camera



Blue Spot ray hiding on a rock wall. normally seen on sand



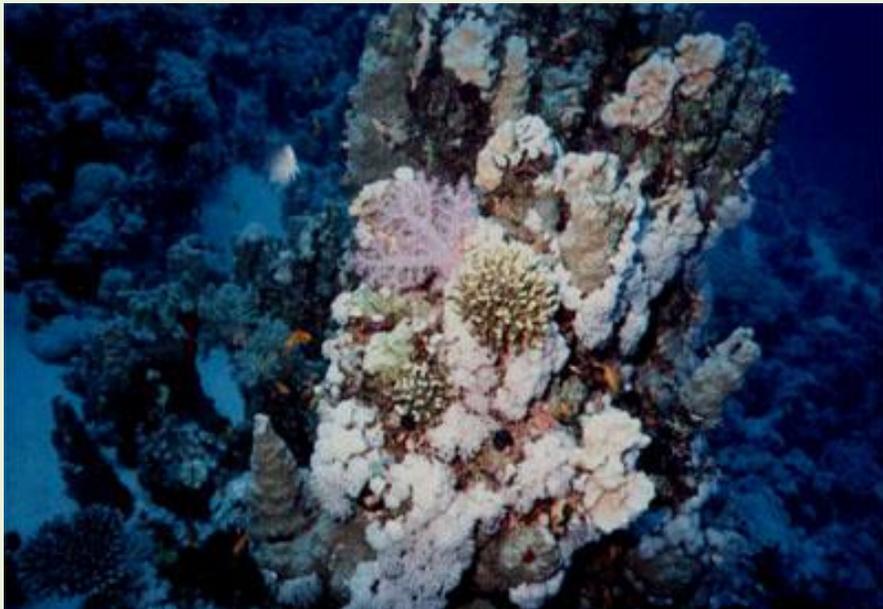
Boxfish - note clear water again - also on Ras Mohammed



Nice Corals



Antheas and nice corals



More nice corals and crystal clear water



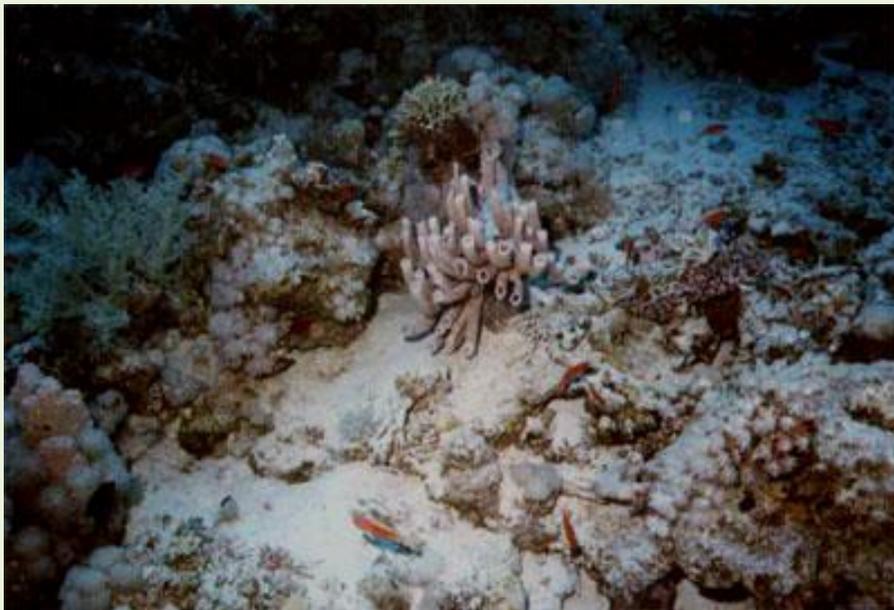
Dolphins at Temple



More Dolphins at Temple



Ken poking an Anemone fish



Tubeworms



Moray on Ras Mohammed



Scorpionfish on the Thistlegorm



Surgeon Fish



Titan Trigger fish - taken whilst he was chasing us away from his nursery.



Titan Trigger Fish looking after a batch of eggs. They are very aggressive at this time and have impressive teeth.



Richard and Paul Vivian



Bob Gabbott and Ian Fellowes



Ken Blay



Me posing underwater



Richard and Caroline Honnor



Deck of our dive boat



Hotel Beach - they had a jetty over the coral so that you could snorkel along the reef wall. Excellent for photography



Impressive front entrance to our hotel - pity I cannot read the name.



Hotel Pool



Hotel Gardens