

Pictures from Sharm El Sheik 2002

In January 2002 Keith Walter and I went back to Sharm, this time with Regal Divers staying at a small hotel at Ras Umm Sidd. It was a pretty basic and the food was not very good either. The diving was arranged through Emperor Divers who were excellent. We decided to give the Thistlegorm a miss this time as we could not face getting up at 3am. My log book records little about the dives beyond the sites, depths and times, Only 2 sites get a specific mention, sharks at White Night and Anemone City at Ras Mohammed, something we had not done since 1992. Not sure now if we did the swim in the blue back to Shark Reef as well. Guess I was getting a bit blasé about Red Sea diving. We did 12 dives at the following sites:

Temple – 18M	Ras Um Sidd – 17M	Jacksons Reef – 30M
Woodhouse Reef – 25M	Ras Mohammed – 33M	White Night – 30M
Ras Bob 23M	Ras Nas Rhani – 15M	

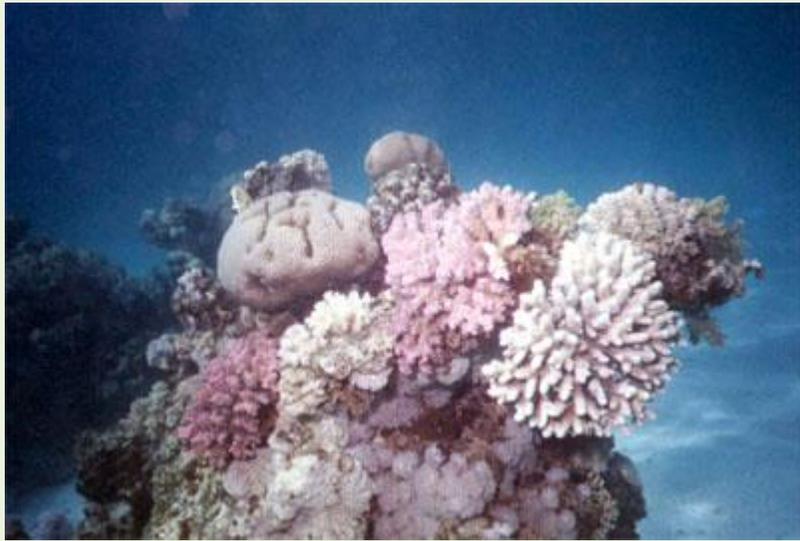
The pictures were all taken with my Sea&Sea MX5 camera and strobe mostly using a wideangle lens. These seem much better than the ones I took at Sharm in July 2001. Not sure why, perhaps the water is clearer in February than in July, or just maybe I was getting better at using the camera. Certainly the colours are brighter and I have got much closer to the subjects in many cases.



Bannerfish



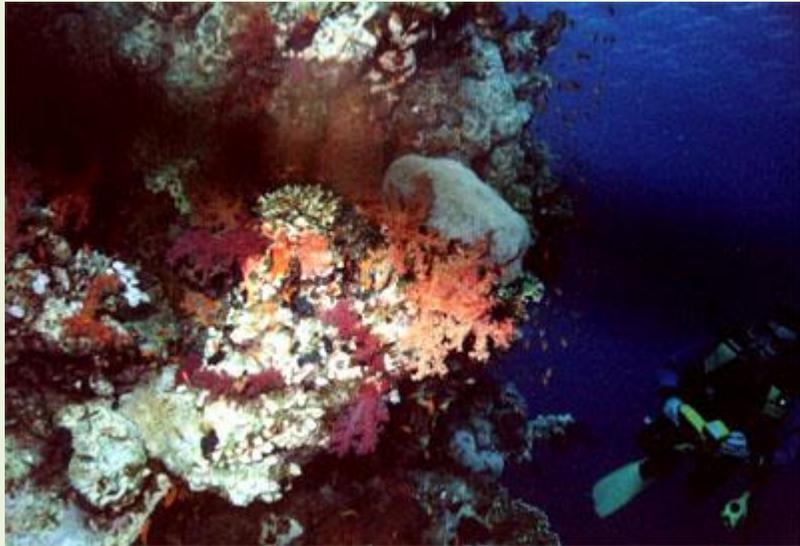
School of Batfish at Ras Mohammed



Nice collection of hard corals



Some unusual coral formations with a squirrel fish lurking at the top



These are mostly soft corals on the wall at Shark reef - Ras Mohammed - Keith in background and note clarity of water



Crocodile Fish



Colony of Clownfish on a very big Anemone - Ras Mohammed



Not sure what this creature is some sort of Sea Cucumber I think.



Keith Walter posing



Our dive group on board the boat. The couple on the extreme right we met again in Marsa Alam in 2004.



Linofish hunting the antheas



Juvenile Napoleon Wrasse amongst the wreckage of the Yolanda at Ras Mohammed.



Same juvenile Napoleon at Ras Mohammed



Pufferfish and Staghorn coral



Antheas, Bannerfish and Staghorn Coral



Very big Stingray at Jackson Reef. We were limited to 30M and he was down at 40M hence the long distance shot.



Amazing camouflage. there is a huge Stonefish lying on these rocks



Big Blue triggerfish



The Beach used by the Amar Sina Hotel - actually overlooks the Temple dive site where we usually do the check dive



Dive boat, not ours but virtually identical - Ras Mohammed in the background



The Bedouin area at the Amar Sina for relaxing in the evening. In February its really too cold to want to sit outside



Front entrance to our hotel -not as grand as the previous years hotel but quite pleasant.



Another view of the Hotel Pool and gardens. We did not try it in February.



The room boy was obviously a frustrated artist. Every evening we found our bedclothes arranged in some design or other. Erotic Swans this day