

# Sharm El Sheik 1992

A group of 12 club members decided to try the Sinai side of the Red Sea in February 1992. Sharm airport had recently opened so it was a much easier journey. Cannot remember the name of the hotel in Naama Bay, it was cheap & cheerful and we all came down with Egyptian tummy, something that had not happened in Hurghada. Funnily enough, I have never had a stomach upset in Egypt since either. This took the edge of the diving for a bit as did the surprisingly cool evenings. Even the days could be cool due to a prevailing wind from the mountains. Between dives there was great competition for spots in the sun but also sheltered from the breeze. . Nevertheless we enjoyed a fantastic 5 days of day boat diving; the actual sites are listed below. We did 2 dives at Ras Mohammed where we did 50m just for the hell of it and also swam in the blue between the wall and Shark Reef. I remember that the boat moored in the shallow area between Shark and Yolanda reefs which was very sheltered and shallow enough to allow a long dive time even having done a a 50M dip. Pity that they no longer seem to allow mooring in this area so the dive boats have to sit out in the swell. We did not do the Thistlegorm, I cannot remember it being offered or perhaps we simply could not afford it. What does strike me strongly on subsequent visits is just how much Nama Bay has grown in the last 14 years. In 1992 it was a small village with perhaps 15 hotels. Now its huge, stretching for miles up and down the coast and inland, Each time we visit what was the ring road last time has become an urban area and a new Ring road has been built farther out. In general the sites were as good if not better than Hurghada and far better managed to sustain their condition. Even today the Sharm reefs look pretty good. The wall dives at Tiran and Ras Mohammed were a new experience and we saw our first sharks. The actual travelling was uneventful compared to 1990.

We dived the following sites, some more than once:

Temple – 20M	Far Garden – 22M	Gordons Reef – 30M
Ras Nasrani – 30M	Ras Mohammed 50M	Ras Umm Sidd 27M
Wichita Falls – 27M	Shark Bay Canyon – 28M	Middle Garden – 18M

On the trip were: Keith Stone, Martin Tarrant, Mike Patterson, Ginni Cooper, Chris Shepherd Rob Peter plus a couple of others whose names escape me.

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.



Ras Umm Sidd. This area is now wall-wall hotels. Note how small the boat is and we had 12 divers aboard



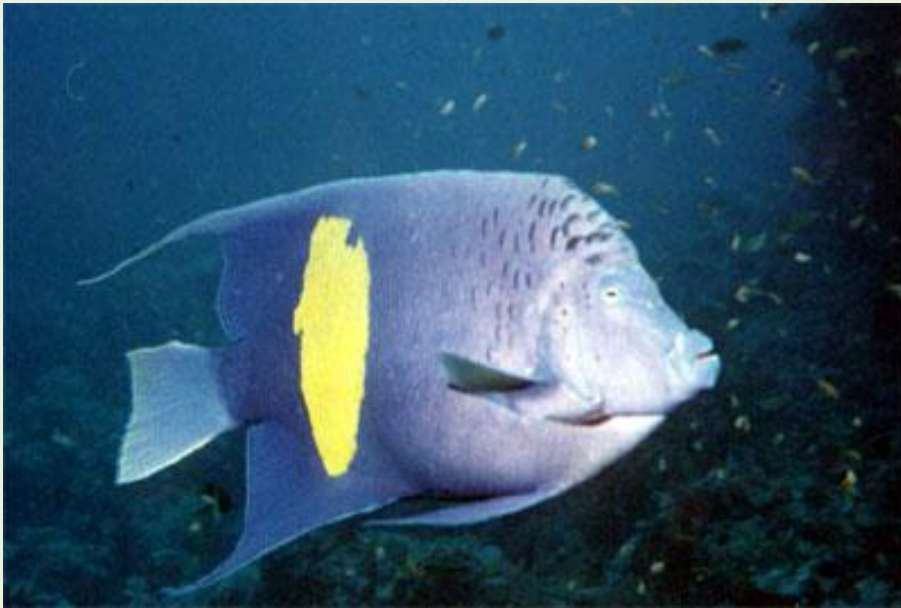
Naama Bay jetty. Note how few building there are in the background. .



Our dive group sitting on the top of the boat



Same group in underwater pose, minus myself. Note the Fenzy ABLJ. Many years since I last saw a horse collar.



Arabian Angelfish



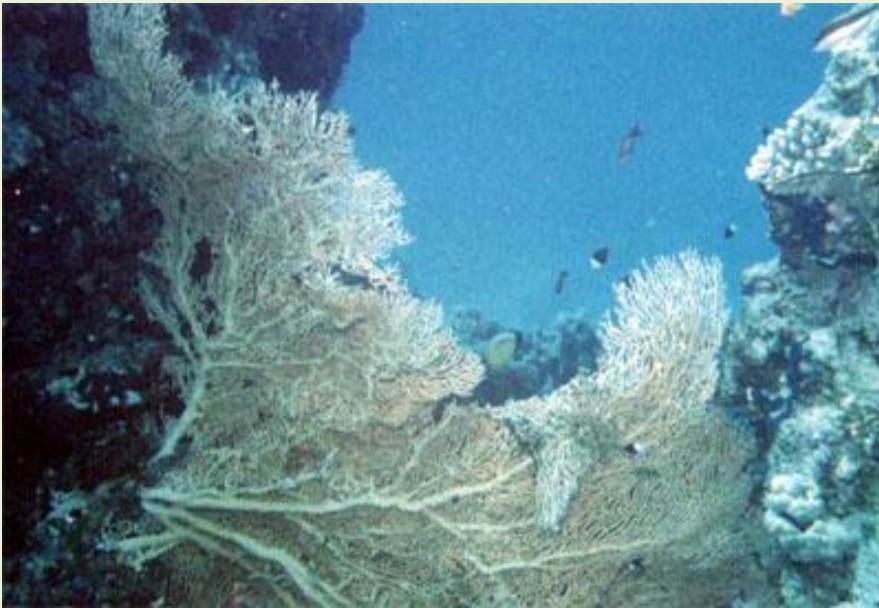
Nice Coral block with antheas, very clear water.



Blue Spot ray under a coral block



Clownfish



Gorgonian Sea Fan



Lunar Tail Grouper. They appear bright blue underwater



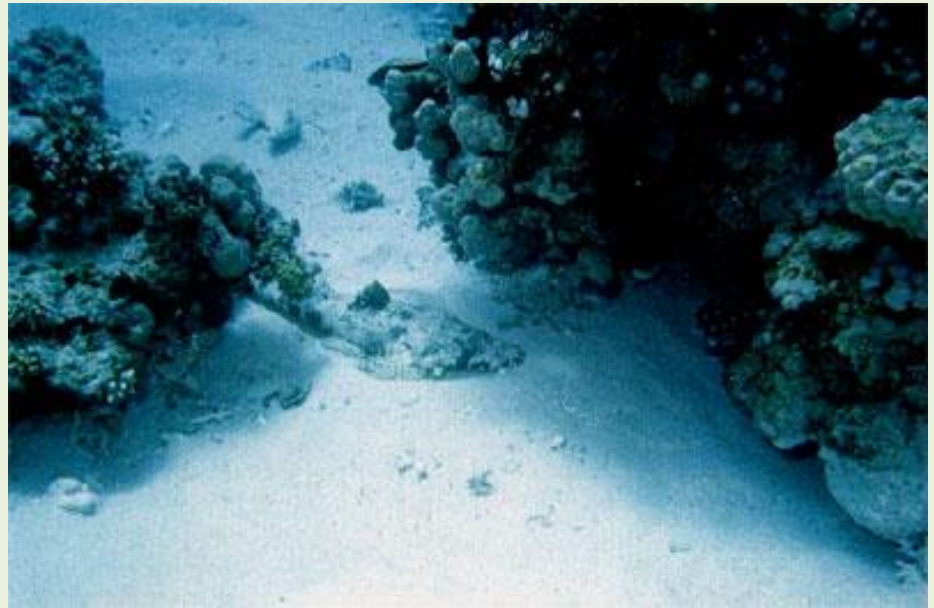
Napoleon Wrasse



Antheas and Damsel Fish



Pufferfish



Scorpion Fish



Squirrel Fish



Tube Worms