

## Red Sea Trip November 2007

We enjoyed the Wrecks & Reefs trips in November 2006 so much we decided to do it again, However this time we went from Hurghada as this would give us more time on Abu Nuhas and a chance to see some of the reefs North of Hurghada. We knew before we set out that the Thistlegorm would not be dived. It was closed the week previous for major work on mooring and other safety aspects because of the rate at which it is deteriorating due to intense diving. It was bit annoying at the airport on the way home to find that at least one boat did put divers on the Thistlegorm. However, on balance I am glad we did not. A mild disappointment was that we did not do the Rosalie Moller, especially as we had all taken out a higher grade of Insurance especially to allow this. In all other respects it was an excellent trip. The captain, Mohammed and crew were superb and the dive guide Ashraf was also excellent if a little laboured over his briefings at times. One new site this time called The Alternatives a reef system about 1mile South of Ras Mohammed, We did an afternoon and an evening dive on the Alternatives, both very good though lack of viz and confidence meant we did not make the second reef and missed the turtle. Strong currents at Ras Mohammed on both dives made it hard work at first and we could not make Clown Fish Alley but very good nevertheless. Perhaps the best dives for me were at Small Passage and the last dive at Dolphin Reef. We introduced Captain Nemo ( see the main menu option) to a further set of diving experiences with the result that my buddy Ken got his finger stuck in a giant clam and was bleeding profusely for some time. Unusually for these days, we spent the last night on the boat though it was moored up at the Marriott Marina for the night. Good trip enjoyed by the usual foursome of Ken Blay, Chris Sealey, Richard Vivian and joined at the last minute by old (as in previous) buddies Tim Dews and Keith Walter.

Second time out with my recently acquired Canon Powershot 540. Still getting used to its features and making the odd mistake. The quality of the video is much better than the old Olympus though I am still wrestling with its macro features for close up work. The pre-set white balance mode for U/W is helpful. It was noticeable how much less blue there was in my natural light pictures compared to Richards pictures taken with an upmarket but older model Olympus..

If you click on any pictures which have a black background, you can link to a video clip. These are being added slowly as they take a long time to prepare The sites we did (many more than once) were:

Abu Nuhas Giannis D – 24M	The Alternatives - 14M	Shaab Abu Nuhas – 16M
Abu Nuhas Carnatic – 26M	Ulysses – 27M	Bluff Point – 21M
Abu Nuhas Marcos – 24M	Dunraven – 29M	Beacon Rock 14M
Dolphin Reef 22M		Ras Mohammed – 27M



Ashraf our long suffering dive guide aboard Blue Planet 1



Angel fish at Ras Mohammed



Clown Fish



Clown Fish





Conch Shell



Nudi branch, not sure what flavour



Side of the Carnatctic with lovely hard Corals



Small crab ay The Alternatives





Crocodile Fish on the deck of the Markos



Featherstar on night dive



Rocker Arm and valve spring on the Giannis D engine, The rocker arm is about 1 meter long overall



Grouper minding his flock of glass fish inside the Carnactic





Lion Fish on the prow during a night dive



Lion Fish on the prow during a night dive



Moray with cleaner wrasse in its mouth - Yolanda Reef



Helmet Crab on Beacon Rock night dive





Nice big Moray on our first dive of the trip too



Free swimming Moray on Yolanda



Nudibranch on Giannis D



Nudibranch on the Markos





Jumping in for a night dive



Hanging on the line after our first dive



Nice orange soft corals - The Alternatives



Parrot Fish trying to get some sleep





Small Pipe Fish



Another small pipe fish

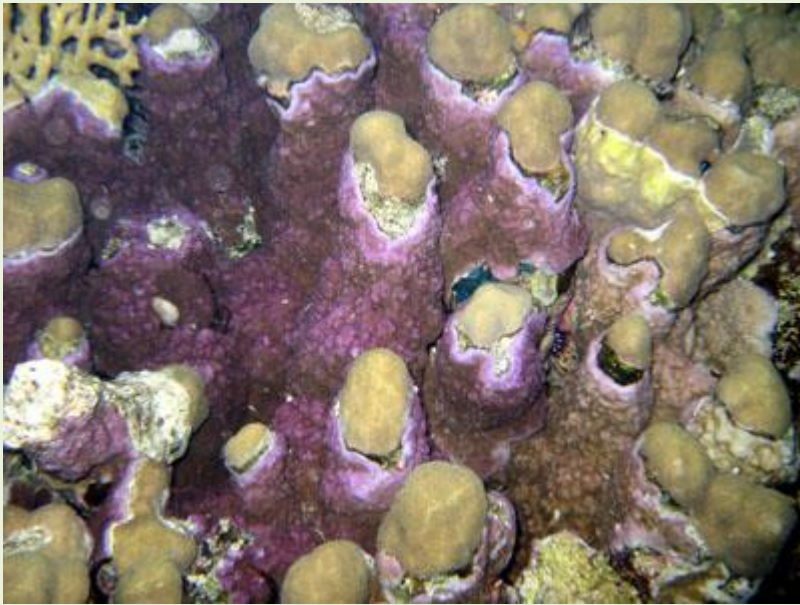


Me taken by Richard. You can see what I meant about the blue overtones



Small puffer fish sleeping on top of a coral





It was the unusual purple colour that attracted me to this coral head



Lion Fish trying to get some sleep during the daytime./



Scorpion Fish on Bluff Point



Banded Shrimp - The Alternatives





Doing our check dive tests



Snake Anemone

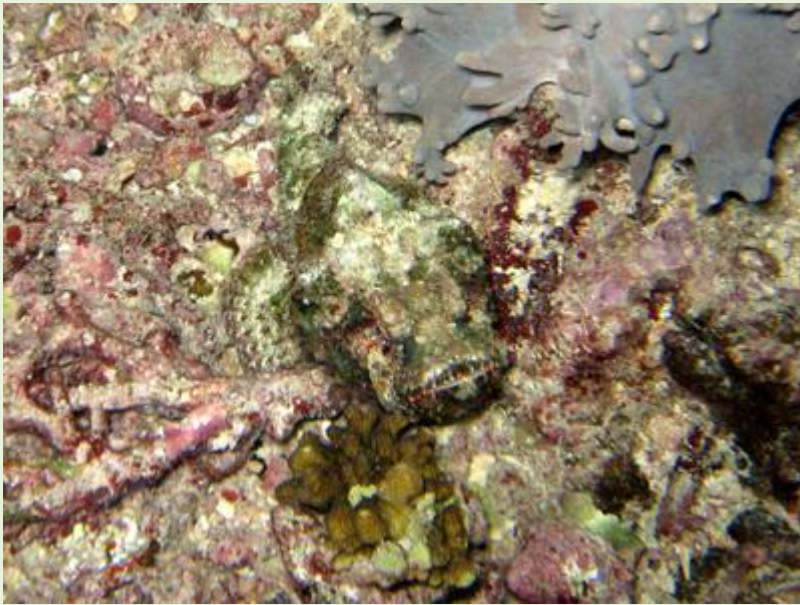


Not a piece of muslin but an egg case from a Spanish dancer



Surgeon Fish on top of the reef at Small Passage





Ugly devil - A small Stone Fish



Another small Stone Fish



Sweet Lips



Tim Dews posing on the Carnatic





Christmas Tree Worm



Christmas Tree Worm



Christmas Tree Worms



Nudibranch