

# Pictures from Sharm November 2008

The annual November trip seems to have become set in concrete in terms of the destination. It has to be the Northern Red Sea Wrecks and Reefs itinerary. The only variable is which boat and whether to fly into Hurgada or Sharm. This year we chose the dive boat Snapdragon, larger brother to Orchid which we enjoyed in 2006. We picked this because it was Sharm based and we particularly wanted to dive some of the sites in the Tiran straights, a good decision as it turned out. Our party this year was 7 strong. As well as the gang of 4 (Richard, Chris, Ken and myself) we had Keith and Tim for a second year and Emrys Kirkman for whom it was a first Red Sea trip. The early signs for the trip were not good. As usual we booked early to make sure everyone could get the time off. In August we heard that our carrier, XL Airways had gone into liquidation. A frantic weekend of phone calls and internet browsing finally sorted out new flights but with a change of departure date, airport and price (upwards of course). However it was all worth it as we enjoyed a superb week under the direction of our dive guides Suzuki and Kareem. The whole crew of the Snapdragon was also excellent, very friendly and efficient. We did the usual sites in the Ras Mohammed area and followed this up with 2 days around Tiran. Finally got to see sharks though in one case no-one with a camera was within range of the one seen off North Lagoon outer reef. The large white tip was seen on our very last dive at Ras Umm Sidd with people from the nearby hotels swimming above. Keith did get some video, more by accident than design as he was photographing a huge grouper when the shark swam underneath. It was a good 8-10 metres below us and we were at 30M so its an act of faith to see the shark in the pictures, but we were there and know what we seen. Only one thing marred the trip, I managed yet again to trash a camera so I am indebted to Keith, Richard and Emrys for pictures for everything from dive 12 onwards. Fortunately I was able to replace the camera quite cheaply via ebay on my return. In fact it was so cheap I bought a second as a spare just in case. If you click on any pictures which have a black background, you can link to a video clip.

The sites we dived are listed below

Ras Katy - 29M	Ras Zaatira - 25M	Ras Mohammed - 23M
Abu Nuhas, Giannis D - 21M	Abu Nuhas, Carnactic - 24M	Ulysses - 26M
Shag Rock, Kingston - 14M	Shab Abu Danaba - 15M	Thistlegorm (twice) - 30M
Shab Mahmoud - 25M	Beacon Rock, Dunraven - 30M	Ras Katy Night Dive - 15M
Tiran, Jackson Reef - 26M	Tiran, North Lagoon - 22M	Tiran, Cormorant - 13M
Tiran, Jackson Reef - 26M	Tiran, North Lagoon - 22M	Tiran, Cormorant - 13M
Ras Umm Sidd - 30M	Thistlegorm (Night Dive)	



Arabian Angel Fish



Surgeon Fish



Dolphins at The Wreck of the Kingston - (Emrys)



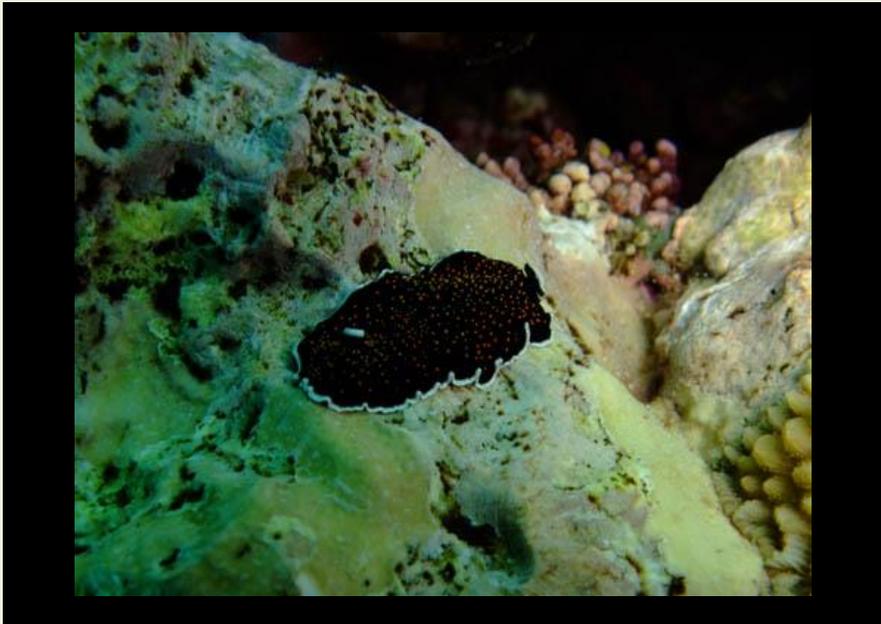
Corals on the Kingstons Boilers



Clownfish and friends



Chris and Richard



Flatworm - click picture to see it swimming (Emrys)



Emrys



Crocodile Fish



Fish eye view Snapdragon - Tim on top deck watching



Scenic view of Gorgonias Ras Um Sidd



Huge Stonefish embeded in corals - (Emrys)



Free Swimming Moray (Keith)



Lionfish



Dive Guide Kareem



Keith posing



Spanish dancer (Emrys)



Christmas Tree Worms



Me on the Thistlegorm



Big Moray on the Giannis D



Motorcycle on the Thistlegorm



Napoleon Wrasse



Nudibranch (Keith)



Tiny Pipefish



Ras Umm Sidd mooring - glass bottom boat in background



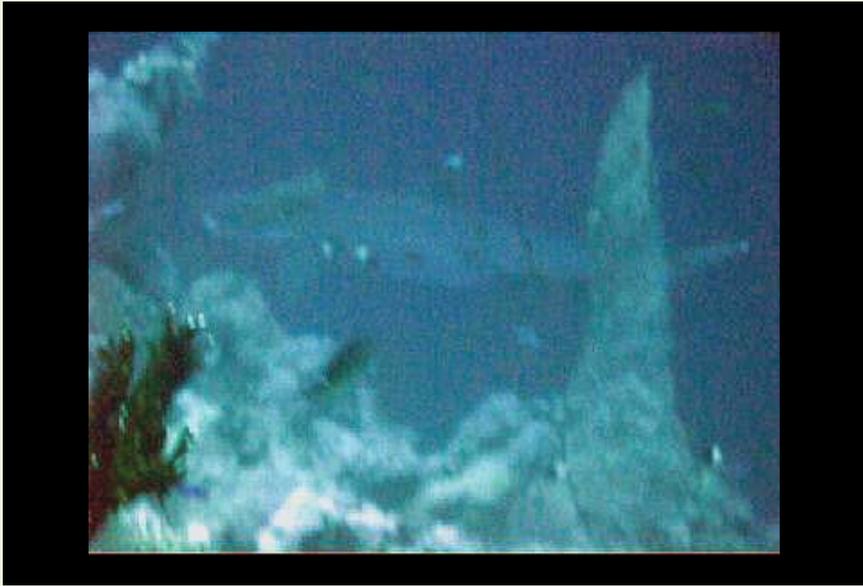
Unusual red anemome - no flash used , that's its real colour



Scorpion Fish caught without camouflage



Same fish a few seconds later - amazing colour change



A big (near 4M) White Tip shark pictured at circa 40M just of the tip of Ras Umm Sidd on our last dive. What a way to finish the holiday



Ken's fake treasure on the Carnactic



Shoal of Squid at night



Rear gun on the Thistlegorm



Colourful Surgeonfish



Sweetlips in hiding



Tiran Hotel at Sharm



Christmas Tree Worms



Small White Moray (Richard)



Turtle feeding (Keith)



Wreck on Woodhouse Reef -Tiran (Emrys)



Yet another Christmas Tree Worm - one of my favorite subjects