

Pictures from Sharm 2006

The group wanted wrecks again for our regular November holiday so we booked the Orchid out of Sharm on their Northern Red Sea itinerary. It was a foursome this time which made it easier for accommodation: Richard Vivian, Ken Blay, Chris Sealey and myself. We also took advantage of the newly available flights from Bristol and booked a taxi for the transfer. Luxury; no arguments over whose turn to drive, no parking hassle and a 45 minute transfer time. Not so impressed with the flight itself. It was with Excel but the aircraft was an Air Malta Airbus and offered no in flight film or other entertainment. This year we booked with Regal and got what we booked with no last minute surprises. The Orchid is a smallish boat with only 12 berths in 6 cabins. A bit tired and in need of a refit but the crew was very good and we had no complaints.

One thing which has changed over the years is the nationality of the dive guides. Until about 5 years ago they were almost invariably European. Now they are mostly Egyptian. We were lucky with the weather and were able to do the full planned itinerary. As well as the usual sites we dived on some Israeli tank (well jeeps and armoured cars actually) just outside Sharm Marina. Not too exciting but we did find a large Moray which did a free swim to entertain us. The Thistlegorm was dive no less than 4 times, the best were the night dive and a very early morning dive when we had it to ourselves. Still a good dive but for how much longer? Highlight of the week was pod of dolphins at Small Danaba. They stayed around long enough for us to snorkel with them. In my excitement, I forgot to take the camera but we are hoping for a copy of video footage taken by the dive guide. The last night was spent at the Domina Oasis hotel. This is a huge complex with lots of nice features. It even has an offshore jetty where you can swim and snorkel. In fact it was here that I saw the biggest grouper of the week and a huge Tuna just cruising by. Unfortunately they also provide free wine and beer with meals so we overdosed somewhat. Overall a good holiday; now I have to start planning for next year.

Still using the Olympus C750. Some quite good shots, difficult to limit it to the 30 or so in this selection. If you click on any pictures which have a black border, you can link to a video clip. These are being added slowly as they take a long time to prepare.

We did 19 dives in total at the following sites:

Abu Nuhas Giannis D – 24M	Ras Katy – 26M	Shaab Abu Nuhas – 16M
Abu Nuhas Carnatic – 26M	Thistlegorm - 31M	Bluff Point – 21M
Abu Nuhas Marcos – 24M	Dunraven – 29M	Shag rock Kingston 22M
Small Danabah – 21M	Israeli Tanks – 28M	Ras Mohammed – 27M
Ras Umm Said – 29M	Ulysses – 27M	



Antheas at Ras Mohammed



Arabian Angel Fish taken on the Carnatic



Shoal of bannerfish,



Close up of a Batfish on the Thishtlegorm



Chris - not sure what this signal means



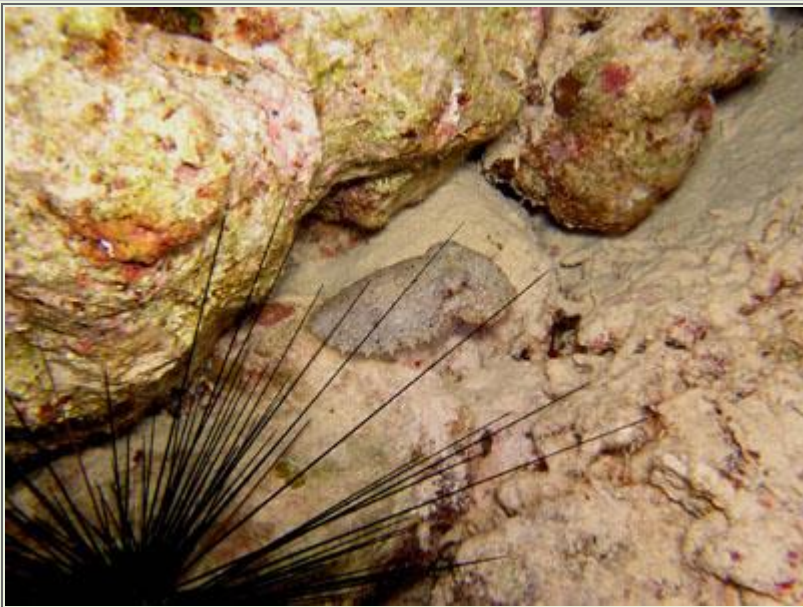
More Clownfish, They are so photogenic that its difficult to pass them by.



Unusual Coral, quite attractive shape and colour



Crocodile Fish taken on a night dive at Ras Katy



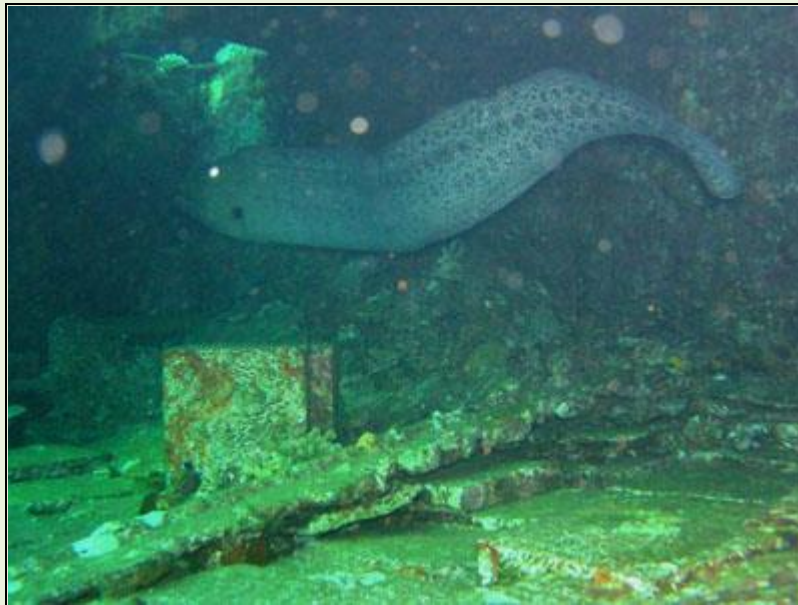
A baby Cuttlefish trying to imitate a rock



The remains of one of the two locomotives on the Thistlegorm



Small white Moray



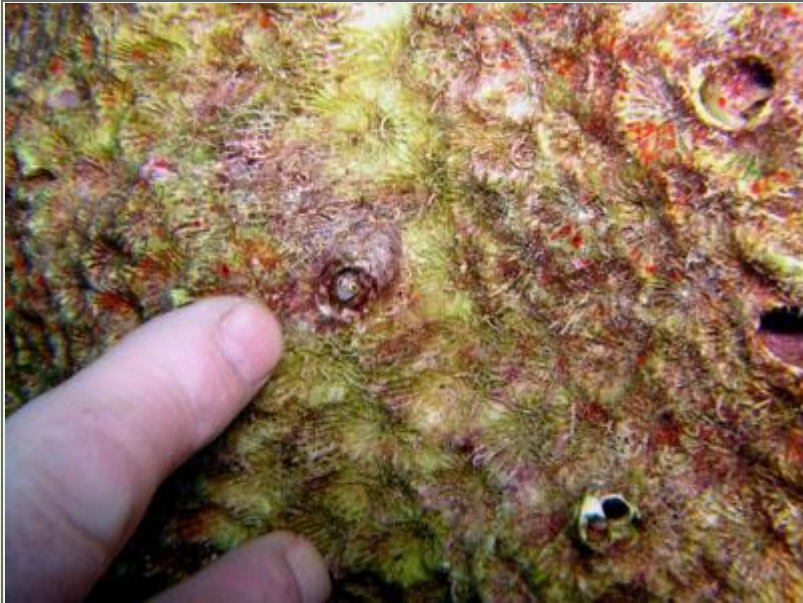
A free swimming Moray on the Giannis D



Another bigish Moray taken at Ras Mohammed



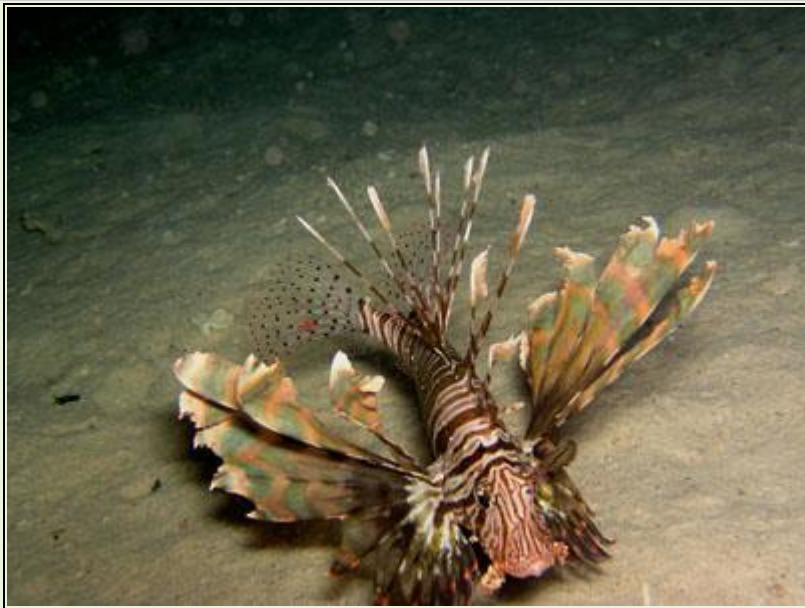
A Surge Fish, note the bright Orange scalpel at the tail.



Ken's finger is pointing to a tiny Goby hiding in hole in the coral



In this picture you can see one of the Gobi's out of his hole.



Lion Fish taken at night at Ras Katy



A different Lion Fish (but of the same type) also taken at night



A File Fish, something else I rarely get a decent picture of.



Shoal of small Barracuda taken near the Dunraven as we were doing a safety stop



Quite a big Napoleon Wrasse swimming under the boat when we dived the Dunraven



A very large Scorpion Fish (or it may even be a Stone Fish).
Taken at Ras Mohammed



Parrotfish eating Coral on the Gianni D



Close up of a Yellow Nudibranch.



Ken Richard and Chris examining a Crown of Thorns starfish on the Carnatic



Another Moray on Ras Mohammed



A Hawksbill Turtle asleep under a rock,



A group of dives boats moored over the Thistlegorm. We were about to join them.



Looking up from the engine room on the Giannis D, through a sea of Glassfish



Another view from inside the wreck. Looks a bit like a being inside a prison



Richard swimming pas the propellor of the Marcos



A view down the wreck of the Kingston.



Bow of the Thistlegorm with Richard looking down and Ken being a good samaritan rescuing a Batfish which was hooked up in fishing line.



Ken sitting on the barrel of the gun at the stern of the Thistlegorm



Ken and Richard on the dive Platform of the Orchid



Chris and Richard



The Orchid at moorings in Sharm marina



Dining Room/Lounge area of the Orchid



The offshore platform at the Domina Oasis Hotel. Excellent place to snorkel from



General view of part of the Domina Oasis hotel. Its huge, everything in this picture is part of the hotel