

Red Sea Trip October 2012- Simply Magnificent

Our annual trip to the Red Sea was about 6 weeks earlier than usual this year. When we went in late November 2011 we all felt quite cold at times with the water temp around 23-24 at most sites. For 2012 we decided to go in early October and to book an itinerary which took us further South. This year water temp was never below 28 degrees and often nearer 30 and we had a mill pond sea state all week as a bonus. There were eight in the party, Paul Taylor, Paul Wilson, Keith Walter, Tim Dews, Mick Marchant, Andy Joyce, Ken Blay and myself. The holiday was booked through Regal Divers. Due to the lack of UK flights to Marsa Alam, we had to fly to Hurdghada with a coach to Port Ghalib where we joined the Emperor Divers MV Elite. Aboard there were two other Brits Roy & Sue, the rest of the party were from Russia, Denmark, and Scandinavia. A very pleasant bunch altogether and never a cross word all week. The boat, the crew and the dive guides Danielle and Shaba were all excellent, in fact they had been presented with a top award the night we arrived which the Emperor manager came down in person to put on display. The itinerary was called Simply Magnificent and included Daedalus, Rocky, Zhabargad, St Johns and Fury Shoal giving a good variety of diving conditions. All the long haul bits were done overnight and each morning we awoke to a new location. We were offered at least 3 dives every day, including the last day which was a novelty. Due to restriction on night diving at some locations only three night dives were possible though we skipped one of those by mutual consent, having a lazy evening instead. Between us we took a shedload of pictures a random selection of which are included in this web page. This was certainly one of our best trips and we would all be quite happy to repeat it at some future time with the same boat and crew. The dive sites were:

Abu dabab 3 and 6 Check Dives plus a night dive	Daedalus East Side, South Side and West Side	Rocky – Two Dives
Zhabargad	Habib Ali – St Johns	Gota Soraya – St Johns
St Johns Caves	Satara – Night Dive	Shaab Claudia
Abu Galani Soraya	Shirimat (Abu Gimal)	Gota Radir – Noght Dive
Elphinstone – North and South Plateaus	Oom Roos (formerly Marsa Mubarrak)	20 Dives. Average dive time 60 mins, max depth 34m

A selection of pictures of the trip. As will be seen in the credits, not all the pictures were taken by me. Where someone else got a better photo than mine I have with the authors permission, included the best shot.



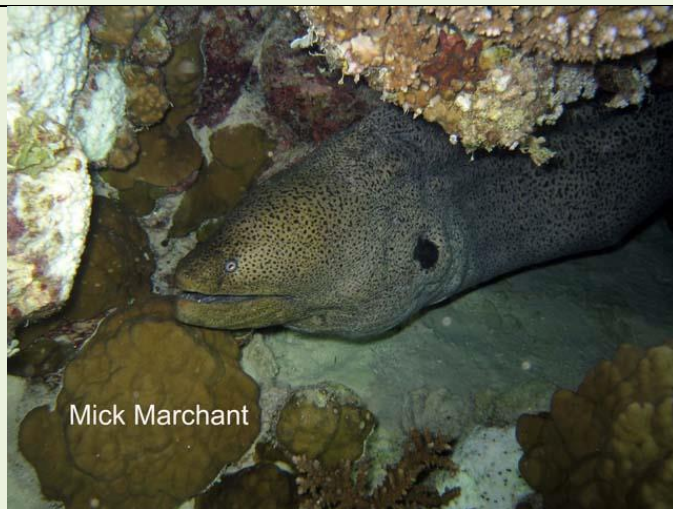
A porcupine puffer fish



Me taking a shot of some unsuspecting creature



A brace of Oceanic White Tips. Not sure who took this photo so unable to give credit but a cracking shot



Mick Marchant

A Moray Eel taken on a night dive



A pair of pillowslip nudibranches



My personal favourite, Christmas Tree worms



Keith Walter

A surgeon fish hunting on top of a coral head



A hawkfish in typical pose



Paul Wilson

Yellow Fusilier Fish in formation



Paul Wilson

Not sure what these guys are – need to consult the book



Group Photo taken by Roy, LtoR Me, Mick, Andy, Paul W and Keith. The rest had gone to back to the boat



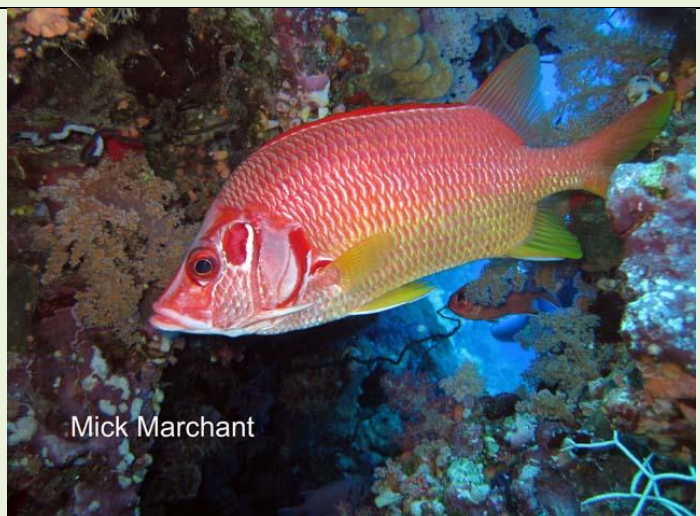
Paul Taylor

Another close-up of an Oceanic



Mick Marchant

Somtehing else I don't know the name of but pretty



Mick Marchant

A Red Snapper lurking



Blue Spot Ray with a cleaner wrasse on his tail



Group photo on the last day



Lion Fish on the prowl



Close-up of a yellow Christmas Tree worm



These things only appear at night and



Small coral head with some rare tiny yellow fish which Danielle was very excited about – name forgotten



Nice collection of soft corals and sponges



Yet more Christmas Tree worms



A Scorpion Fish before it had a chance to change colour to match its background



Zhabargab Island, Known in Roman times for a semi-precious mineral which was mined there until recently



Small anenomes



Another type of nudibranch



View of the mooring at Daedalus from the top of the lighthouse. Elite is the farthest boat awaiting our return before heading off to Rocky.



Part of aneome city at Daedalus



Close-up of the anemone and its resident clown fish



A Spanish Dancer caught ona night dive. Never yet seen one swimming.



On the same dive we found this turtle asleep under a ledge. Despite being air breathing mammals, they can slow down their metabolism and stay down for hours



Puffer Dish caught in the glare of the torch



A crocodile fish, the only one we saw this trip. Very hard to get good photo of these creatures.



A young scorpion fish showing how effective they can camouflage themselves



A giant clam unusual in that it is just sitting on the sand. Normally they are embedded in the coral



Nice scenic view



Tim Dews with his mask mounted camera



More clown fish, perhaps the most photogenic of the Red Sea's inhabitants



Puffer fish, hawkfish and nice hard corals



The team hanging on the anchor rope of another dive boat, waiting for the Oceanic White Tip to swim by. It was from here that we got the shark pictures below.

[Click Picture Oceanic for Video](#)

