



# BEST OF TIRAN



## THE BEST OF NORTHERN EGYPT

An extension of the «northern cruise,» this circuit takes you to the Strait of Tiran in the Gulf of Aqaba, passing through the famous Ras Mohamed Reserve and the legendary wrecks of the Thistlegorm, Rosalie Moeller...

Dolphins will accompany you for part of the journey as you dive along pristine vertical walls where pelagic life thrives: jacks, eagle rays, sharks...

Itineraries and dive sites cannot be guaranteed and may be modified according to seasons. The instructors, in consultation with the captain, select the best itineraries based on local conditions. We always strive to offer the best possible dives while maintaining high safety standards.

- 16 dives over 6 days included (additional dives possible)
- Minimum level required: Level 1, Open Water or equivalent + 10 logged dives
- Departure and return: Hurghada

## HIGHLIGHTS:

- Encounters with dolphins...
- The Ras Mohamed reserve
- Legendary wrecks: Thistlegorm, Giannis D...



- 1- SHAAB EL ERG
- 2- DUNRAVEN (WRECK)
- 3- RAS MOHAMED
- 4- JACKSON REEF (TIRAN)
- 5- GORDON REEF (TIRAN)

- 6- THOMAS REEF (TIRAN)
- 7- WOODHOUSE REEF (TIRAN)
- 8- JACKFISH ALLEY
- 9/10- SS THISTLEGORM (WRECK)
- 11/12- GUBAL ISLAND

- 13- GIANIS D (WRECK)
- 14- CARNATIC (WRECK)
- 15- POLICE STATION
- 16- ERG SORAYA

## Circuit and dive sites



### Sites principaux

#### 1- SHA'AB EL ERG

Level : Easy • Depth : 15m • Photo : Wide

Beautiful horseshoe-shaped reef where pods of dolphins regularly pass on the outside of the reef or in the lagoon. We'll do our warm-up dive here. We can observe them either while diving or snorkeling.

#### 2- DUNRAVEN (WRECK)

Level : Moy./Conf. • Depth : 30m • Photo : Wide

This British ship, which measured 80 meters, sank in 1876 after hitting a reef near Sha'ab Mahmoud. Resting at a depth of 30 meters, the wreck is divided into two parts, with its hull inverted and covered in coral. Divers can explore its open holds, home to schools of surgeonfish, soldierfish, and moray eels.

#### 3- RAS MOHAMED

Level : Fac./Moy. • Depth : 40m • Photo : Macro / Wide

Natural reserve located at the southern tip of Sinai, the ultimate separation between the Gulf of Aqaba and the Gulf of Suez. The water masses from both straits meet and generate strong currents. Numerous pelagics evolve along these vertical walls (schools of barracudas, snappers...)

We'll dive at the extreme southern point: «Shark Reef» and «Yolanda Reef,» the park's most extraordinary sites. The dive is done as a drift dive. We'll descend on «Shark Reef» and its steep wall that drops to -800m! We'll follow this vertiginous wall then ascend to the plateau towards «Yolanda Reef.» We can observe numerous coral formations covered with soft corals and gorgonians. We'll cross this magnificent territory inhabited by giant

moray eels, Napoleon wrasses, turtles, groupers, and a huge school of batfish, before ending our dive on the remains of a Cypriot wreck that ran aground in 1980 and gave its name to the site (the Yolanda). Only part of the cargo and debris from the wreck remains, which has slid much lower down the wall. The Yolanda was carrying bathroom fixtures!! You can therefore see a row of bathtubs and other sanitary items that are now home to numerous fish.

### LE DÉTROIT DE TIRAN

Four magnificent fringing coral reefs surface in the middle of this strait. Its narrowness brings often significant current, allowing observation of many pelagic fish: jacks, eagle rays, barracudas, grey sharks, hammerheads... You can discover two wreck remains stranded on these reefs. They are «posed» upright like two guardians of the place. These are the cargo ships Louilla (Gordon) and Lara (Jackson). During your dives, you can observe numerous cargo debris from boats that have hit this reef. All these remains are covered with coral.

#### 4/7- JACKSON REEF & WOODHOUSE REEF

Level : Moyen • Depth : 30m • Photo : Macro / Wide

After following the reef in the direction of the western plateau, you'll observe large gorgonians. You'll surely meet a turtle on the plateau (20m) that separates Jackson from Woodhouse; they're very often in this area. The current can be quite strong, bringing pelagic fish to the wall and sometimes even above the plateau. Possibility of encountering ham-

## Circuit and dive sites

merhead sharks in June/July.

### 5- GORDON REEF

*Level : Easy • Depth : 20m • Photo : Macro / Wide*  
 Along the eastern wall, looking into the «blue,» you may see grey sharks that don't seem to be bothered by the current, quite the contrary. Then, if you head south, ascending to the plateau, you should see a nice small sandbank occupied by a colony of garden eels, standing vertically... Further on, a very large school of longfin bannerfish and blue triggerfish.

### 6-THOMAS REEF

*Level : Moyen • Depth : 40m • Photo : Macro / Wide*  
 The smallest of the four but the richest! It's frequent to see grey and hammerhead sharks on the north face where you can admire numerous gorgonians and soft corals. The east face is exceptional as well. On the north/east angle, at about thirty meters depth, begins a very beautiful narrow canyon with several arches. The dive ends on a large plateau that overlooks this vertical wall. It's very common to encounter turtles here. You'll finish your dive on the magnificent coral garden in the ten-meter zone, among sweetlips, emperors, butterflyfish, jacks...

### 9/10- THISTLEGORM (JOUR/NUIT)

*Level : Moyen • Depth : 30m • Photo : Wide*  
 This English cargo ship sank on October 6, 1941, bombed by German aviation while carrying ammunition and war material (trucks, cars, motorcycles...). You can see all these remains that are still present in the wreck. It's one of the most famous wrecks in the world.

### 11/12- GUBAL ISLAND

*Level : Easy • Depth : 20m • Photo : Wide*

The shallow reefs offer exceptional visibility and harbor diverse marine life. You can observe schools of colorful fish, butterflyfish, parrotfish, as well as moray eels and rays. The coral formations are impressive, with a beautiful variety of soft and hard corals. Possibility to dive on the Ulysses wreck if weather permits.

### SHA'AB ABU NUHAS

Better known as the «ship graveyard,» this west/east oriented reef is very close to the maritime route connecting Europe to the Orient. Indeed, some ships that exited the Gubal strait after passing through the Suez Canal came to hit this reef that fringes the surface. On its north face, several wrecks are aligned:

### 13- LE GHIANNIS D

*Level : Easy • Depth : 20m • Photo : Macro / Wide*

A 100m long cargo ship, 2900 tons, sunk in 1983. It was making a connection between Croatia and Yemen and was carrying wood.

### 14- LE CARNATIC

*Level : Easy • Depth : 20m • Photo : Macro / Wide*

A steam-sail steamer 90m long and 1800 tons that ended its days on this reef one night in 1869 and lies between 18 and 24m. The cargo was recovered: 32,000 pounds sterling in gold bars. 8,000 are still missing... The hull is covered with hard corals, multicolored soft corals, and sponges. Inside, countless glassfish mingle with beautiful lionfish.

## Circuit and dive sites

### 15- POLICE STATION

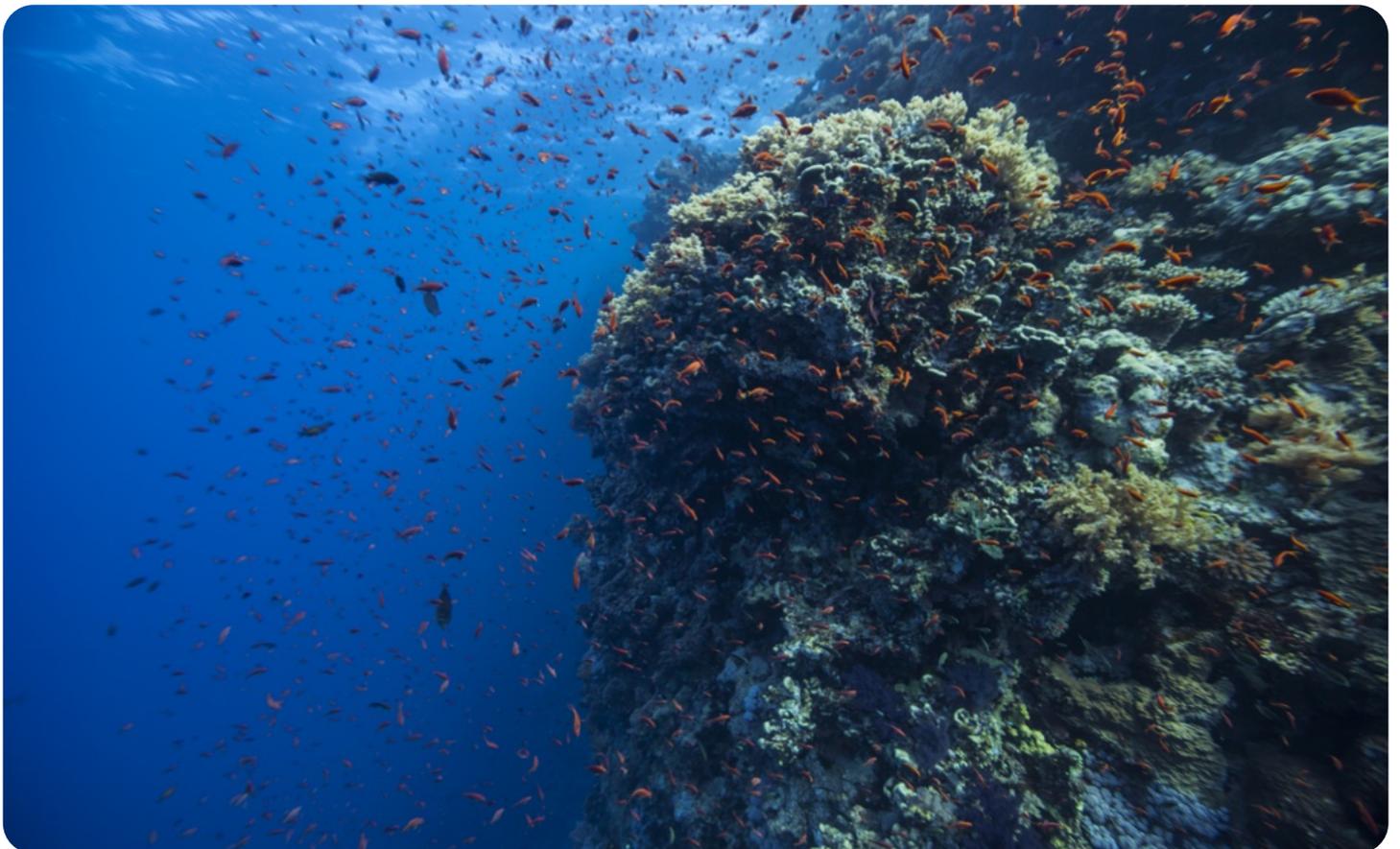
Level : moyen • Depth : 40m • Photo : Wide

Site prized for its varied marine life and underwater landscapes. This gently sloping reef offers excellent visibility and coral diversity, attracting many divers. Divers can observe schools of fish, including butterflyfish, parrotfish, and clownfish, as well as moray eels and turtles. The area is also known for its magnificent coral formations and walls featuring beautiful gorgonians, creating an ideal habitat for marine life.

### 16- ERG SOMAYA

Level : moyen • Depth : 20m • Photo : Wide

Complex coral reef with unique geological formations. Drift dive between 20 and 40 meters. Rich marine biodiversity including eagle rays. Cavities and overhangs offering refuge to numerous species. Spectacular soft corals and gorgonians.





## Safety first

All aquatic activities are under the supervision of a qualified instructor (CMAS or PADI) of the Seafari team. Before each activity Instructors on board will make a detailed presentation of the site, currents, wildlife and safety rules to be observed.

The choice of sites is at the discretion of the captain and Seafari Senior Instructor depending on the season and weather conditions.

The senior instructor may impose In water supervision or restriction from diving to any diver whose technical level is not sufficient to guaranty safe diving conditions.

# D i c t i o n a r y

f o r D i v e r s i n E g y p t

**Barracuda** : Agaam

**Boat** : Markeb

**Coral** : Shaab

**Current** : Mate

**Desert** : Sahara

**Dolphin** : Abu Salama

**Drop off** : Razir

**Dugong** : Geld

**Fins** : Saanef

**Goodbye** : Maa Salama

**Great** : Gamile

**Hello** : Saba el Rih

**Mask** : Madala el Baah

**OK** : Tamam

**Ray** : Arget

**Scuba diving** : Ratss

**Sea** : Baah

**Shark** : Téouch

**Thank you** : Choukrane

**Tuna** : Mouhagaba

**Turtle** : Solhefa

**Whale** : Hout

**Wreck** : Ohtam

*Have a great trip!  
The Seafari team*

CIRCUITS, PLANNING : [www.seafari-diving.net](http://www.seafari-diving.net)

