

EMPEROR LIVEBOARDS
SAFARI ROUTES

DIVE SITES

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SIMPLY THE BEST

Elphinstone, Brother, Daedalus Reef

March to November | From Hurghada and Port Ghalib

Itinerary Highlights

- Best Top 3 sites in the southern Red Sea: Big and Little Brothers, Daedalus Reef and Elphinstone.
- Sheer walls draped in colourful soft corals and gorgonian forests.
- Wrecks of Aida II and Numidia richly covered with soft and hard corals.
- Strong currents nourish offshore reefs with a diverse range of marine life such as tuna, barracudas, jacks, groupers, Napoleon, snappers and reef sharks. Occasional hammerheads, silky and oceanic white tips, dolphins and mantas. Rare chance to spot threshers.

The **Brother Islands** are the pinnacles of two undersea mountains rising from the depths of the abyss and are located about 60 miles offshore. Part of the Marine Park Islands National Park, these islands offer stunning wall diving, with the walls covered in soft corals and forests of gorgonians, creating a kaleidoscope of ever-changing colours. They attract a diverse array of marine species and large pelagics. Large tuna, jacks and snappers cruise in the blue, accompanied by occasional hammerheads, silvertips, silky and oceanic white tip sharks and mantas. Even the rare thresher shark can be found here. Sightings of the grey reef shark are almost guaranteed on the North and South Plateaux of Small Brother.

For the wreck diver, the Aida II, an Egyptian supply vessel, and the Numidia, a cargo ship, lie on the walls of the Big Brother. Both are covered in a rich growth of soft and hard corals. Marine life includes a family of Napoleon wrasse and grey reef sharks.

Daedalus Reef, also part of the Marine Park, is a large, oval reef with a lighthouse and is the furthest offshore reef in the Egyptian Red Sea. Its deep walls and drop-offs offer some of the most spectacular diving to be found. Daedalus has mountainous, pristine, hard coral formations. There is also a strong chance of spotting schooling hammerheads and grey reef sharks.

Elphinstone is approximately 30km from Port Ghalib; Elphinstone reef is 300 metres long with sheer walls richly covered in colourful pink and red soft corals and elegant red gorgonians descending to around 40 metres. Other areas of the reef have near vertical cliffs, overhangs, small caves and drop offs of up to 100 metres. Elphinstone is known to experience some strong currents attracting many diverse species such as barracuda, angel fish, groupers, Napoleons, morays, reef sharks and great shoals of dogtooth tuna and jacks. Occasional sightings include dolphins, turtles, oceanic white tip and hammerhead sharks.

FAMOUS FIVE

Rosalie Moller, Abu Nuhas, Thistlegorm, Ras Mohamed, Brother Islands, Salem Express

March to November | From Hurghada to Hurghada or Hurghada to Port Ghalib

Itinerary Highlights

- Explore the wreck graveyard at Abu Nuhas, visit the infamous SS Thistlegorm and sister Rosalie Moller, Salem Express and more.
- Breath-taking reefs and fishes at Shark & Yolanda at Ras Mohamed National Park, magnificent anemones and huge coral formations at Panorama Reef, Safaga.
- Deep walls draped in soft corals and gorgonian forests take centre stage to diverse marine life and large pelagics at the Brothers.
- Look out for big tuna, barracudas, jacks and snappers. Occasional hammerheads, silky and oceanic white tips and mantas and the rare chance to spot the thresher shark.

Starting from Hurghada, we sail north towards **Gubal Island** and on to **Abu Nuhas** and its four well-known wrecks: Giannis D, Carnatic, the 'Lentil Wreck' and the 'Tile Wreck', all offering spectacular dives and plenty of fish life. Explore the **Rosalie Moller** (the sister ship of the slightly more famous Thistlegorm), which lies from 30 to 50 metres deep and is in excellent condition. Although the visibility is not always good, the wreck is covered in glassfish from bow to stern and hunting them are masses of lionfish. Around the wreck are the usual pelagics such as tuna, trevallies, Emperor fish and many more.

A short ride across the Straits of Gubal and you visit the most famous wreck of the Red Sea, the **SS Thistlegorm!** An awe-inspiring World War II British vessel with a cargo full of armaments, Bedford trucks and BSA motorbikes, which were all destined for the British troops in North Africa. She was sunk by the German Luftwaffe and now lies in 30 metres of water. Depending on divers' experience, along with weather and current conditions, we try to offer a night dive here. Nearby is the **Ras Mohamed National Park**, offering a morning dive at the renowned 'Shark and Yolanda' reefs. Ras Mohamed National Park is the furthest Sinai destination before heading south towards the **Brothers**.

The **Brother Islands** are the pinnacles of two undersea mountains rising from the depths of the abyss and are located about 60 miles offshore from El Quseir. Part of the Marine Park Islands National Park, these islands offer stunning wall diving, with the walls covered in soft corals and forests of gorgonians, creating a kaleidoscope of ever-changing colours. They attract a diverse array of marine species and large pelagics. Big tuna, barracudas, jacks and snappers cruise in the blue, accompanied by occasional hammerheads, silky and oceanic white tip sharks and mantas. Even the rare thresher shark can sometimes be found there. Sightings of the grey reef shark are almost guaranteed on the North and South Plateaux of Small Brother.

For the wreck diver, the Aida II, an Egyptian supply vessel, and the Numidia, a cargo ship, lie on the walls of the Big Brother. Both are covered in a rich growth of soft and hard corals. Marine life includes a family of Napoleon wrasse and grey reef sharks.

The boat will then sail back to Hurghada via **Safaga** where you can dive at **Panorama Reef** or the famous wreck of **Salem Express** for a memorable finale!

REEFS & WRECK

Shaab El Erg, Abu Nuhas, Straits of Gubal, SS Thistlegorm, Ras Mohamed,
Straits of Tiran, Ulysses and others

All Year | From Hurghada to Hurghada

Itinerary Highlights

- 21+ dives on some of the best reefs and iconic wrecks in the northern Red Sea
- Explore the wreck graveyard at Abu Nuhas
- Stunning reefs and marine life Ras Mohamed and Tiran
- The infamous wreck of SS Thistlegorm
- Ulysses and so much more

This itinerary presents the best of both worlds, where you visit famous wrecks in the northern Red Sea along with some stunning reef diving. As a 21+ dives cruise, there's a good chance to enjoy 21 or more dives on a 7-day safari if you choose to. The famous horseshoe shaped reef of **Shaab El Erg** is a perfect example of the reefs on offer on this cruise with its beautiful hard coral garden and the chance to see dolphins. **Abu Nuhas** has four well-known wrecks: Giannis D, Carnatic, the **Chrisoula K** ('tile wreck') and the **Kimon M** ('lentil wreck'), all offering spectacular dives and plenty of fish life.

In between wreck dives you will also visit the reefs of the Straits of Gubal, Gulf of Suez and those to the north of Hurghada. A variety of deep walls and hard coral gardens with an abundance of reef fish make them well worth a visit.

Night dives can be superb as Gubal Island offers protected anchoring for the night. A small wreck at 8-10 metres makes for a spectacular night dive with lionfish, scorpion fish and its resident giant moray eel as well as the wreck of the Ulysses. Next onto the Kingston lying at Shag Rock, the Carina lying close to Sha'ab Ali and the Dunraven at Beacon Rock.

Ras Mohamed lies on the southernmost tip of the Sinai and is one of the best kept National Parks in Egypt with waters full of nutrients, steep walls going down to a depth of 1000 metres attracting a large amount of big fish and earning itself a reputation as one of the top diving areas in the world. Whilst here, you may have the chance to dive at Shark Reef, a sheer wall falling into the blue, as well as the wreck of the Yolanda.

Jackson Reef, locally named the 'Aquarium', is Tiran's most popular dive with the 'Jackson Drift' being Sharm's fastest and most exhilarating drift dive past a stunning wall bursting with prolific coral growth. Occasionally, in the summer months, a school of scalloped hammerheads can be seen. Thomas Reef gives you plunging walls covered with soft coral, gorgonians and colourful fish life. The west wall is darker with overhangs and caves full of glassfish and sweepers. A night dive at Gordon Reef promises various species of coral, small nudibranchs hidden in the crevices and the soft corals and a chance to see white tip reef sharks, eagle rays, octopus and different types of eel such as moray, peppered and gold edged morays.

Finally the most famous wreck in the Red Sea, the **SS Thistlegorm**, at Shaab Ali including a night dive on Thistle. The Thistlegorm was sunk in 1941 after being bombed by the German Luftwaffe while on a mission to deliver a cargo of ammunition and other war materials to the British troops in North Africa.

GET WRECKED

Abu Nuhas, Straits of Gubal, Ulysses , Rosalie Moller, Thistlegorm, Dunraven and others

All Year | From Hurghada to Hurghada

Itinerary Highlights

- 21+ dives cruise
- Dive the “best of the best” iconic wrecks the north Red Sea has to offer.
- Explore the wreck graveyard at Abu Nuhas; Carnatic, Chrisoula K, Kimon M and Giannis D
- The infamous wreck of SS Thistlegorm and sister Rosalie Moller
- Dunraven at Ras Mohamed, Ulysses and so much more

The Get Wrecked cruise combines the ‘best of the best’ of the most famous wrecks in the northern Red Sea along with some stunning reef diving. As a 21+ dives cruise, there’s a good chance to enjoy 21 or more dives on a 7-day safari if you choose to.

Leaving from Hurghada, we aim to dive all the wrecks in the area including:

El Mina, an Egyptian mine sweeper lying just outside Hurghada’s harbour; the **Carnatic**, the **Chrisoula K** (‘tile wreck’), the **Kimon M** (‘lentil wreck’) and **Giannis D** at **Abu Nuhas**; at Gubal islands we dive the **Barge**, the **Ulysses** (sunk in 1887) and the **Rosalie Moeller**; next onto the **Kingston** (or Sarah H, sunk in 1881) lying at Shag Rock; and, of course, the **Dunraven** (sunk 1876) at Beacon Rock situated in the Ras Mohammed National Park, then finally the most famous wreck in the Red Sea, the **Thistlegorm**, which lies at Shaab Ali.

These wrecks are spectacular and make fantastic material for the underwater photographer, being smothered in corals, especially the Carnatic, which sank in 1869. The famous SS Thistlegorm and the Rosalie Moller are World War II wrecks and one of the highlights of this cruise.

The SS Thistlegorm was sunk in 1941 after being bombed by the German Luftwaffe while on a mission to deliver a cargo of ammunition and other war materials to the British troops in North Africa. The Rosalie Moeller, carrying a cargo of coal, suffered the same fate just two days later.

In between wreck dives you will also visit the reefs of the Straits of Gubal, Gulf of Suez and those to the north of Hurghada. A variety of deep walls and hard coral gardens with an abundance of reef fish make them well worth a visit.

SAFADA, BROTHERS & ELPHINSTONE

Panorama Reef, Middle Reef, Salem Express, Brothers Islands, Abu Dabab, Elphinstone

All Year | Hurghada to Port Ghalive or Port Ghalib to Hurghada

Itinerary Highlights

- Sheer walls draped in colourful soft corals and gorgonian forests at the Brothers and Elphinstone.

- In Safaga, magnificent anemones, glass fish and huge coral formations at Panorama Reef. Artificial reef of the Salem Express thriving with life; frogfish, blue-spotted stingrays, angel and butterfly fish.
- Diverse range of marine life such as tuna, barracudas, jacks, groupers, snappers and reef sharks. Occasional hammerheads, silky and oceanic white tips, dolphins and mantas. Rare chance to spot threshers.

The area around Safaga has some great diving, the best being the offshore reefs of Panorama Reef, Middle Reef and Abu Kafan. Some divers say this area equals the great sites of Ras Mohamed. The diving offers a combination of shallow reef dives and drop-offs, as well as the famous wreck of the Salem Express. The **Salem Express** is a dramatic wreck dive. It is now home to a thriving underwater life, including a famous resident frogfish, blue-spotted stingrays, angel and butterfly fish. The ship itself is covered in a large quantity of hard and soft corals. It is one of the largest wrecks in the Egyptian Red Sea, roughly the same size as the Thistlegorm.

There is superb wall diving at **Panorama**: on the south-east side of the plateau is a gorgonian and glassfish corner with the whole plateau covered in soft corals and on the south side is an anemone city. **Hal Hal (Middle Reef)** is a rarely chosen dive site due to its distance from the coast, which makes it a virgin spot. The north side is a drop off going down to 80 metres and is a perfect location to spot tunas, barracudas, turtles and sharks. The southern side has colourful coral gardens along with some caves and canyons.

Abu Kafan is a 300-metre long, narrow reef offering a plateau at both north and south tips. We normally jump in the water on the north plateau and glide with the frequent strong current southwards along the impressive walls covered with soft and black coral, giant fans and gorgonians.

The Brother Islands are the pinnacles of two undersea mountains rising from the depths of the abyss and are located about 60 miles offshore. Part of the Marine Park Islands National Park, these islands offer stunning wall diving, with the walls covered in soft corals and forests of gorgonians, creating a kaleidoscope of ever-changing colours. They attract a diverse array of marine species and large pelagics. Large tuna, jacks and snappers cruise in the blue, accompanied by occasional hammerheads, silvertips, silky and oceanic white tip sharks and mantas. Even the rare thresher shark can be found here. Sightings of the grey reef shark are almost guaranteed on the North and South Plateaux of Small Brother.

Abu Dabab is six reefs commonly known as “Fathers Steps” or “Fathers Stepping Stones” and as the name suggests a set of fairly shallow reefs ranging from depths of 25 metres to the seafloor. In between Abu Dabab II and III at approximately 15 metres is the wreckage of a small ship sunk after a fire in 2004. **Elphinstone** is approximately 30km from Port Ghalib; Elphinstone reef is 300 metres long with sheer walls richly covered in colourful pink and red soft corals and elegant red gorgonians descending to around 40 metres. Other areas of the reef have near vertical cliffs, overhangs, small caves and drop offs of up to 100 metres. Elphinstone is known to experience some strong currents attracting many diverse species such as barracuda, angel fish, groupers, Napoleons, morays, reef sharks and great shoals of dogtooth tuna and jacks. Occasional sightings include dolphins, turtles, oceanic white tip and hammerhead sharks.

NORTH & EASY

Sha'ab El Erg, Ras Mohamed, Straits of Tiran, Dunraven, SS Thistlegorm,
Straits of Gubal

May to September | Hurghada to Hurghada

Itinerary Highlights

- Showcasing some of the best highlights the Northern Red Sea has to offer.

- Cruising at a relaxed pace whether diving or snorkelling and suitable for both divers and non-divers.
- Operating May through to September, the best time of year for dolphin spotting and the world class fish schooling event at Ras Mohamed.
- Our experienced guides select the best spots to dive, snorkel and swim in each location and to suit local conditions, marine life opportunities and your skill level.

Designed to showcase some of the highlights of the Northern Red Sea at a relaxed pace whether diving or snorkelling, it's ideal for both divers and non-divers. It's also the best time of year for dolphin spotting and the world class fish schooling event at Ras Mohamed.

We spend more time moored at each location and less time travelling from dive site to dive site; perfectly designed for the divers who like to take things easy, the photo enthusiasts looking for more dive time to capture that perfect photo opportunity or for non-divers looking to soak up the scenery, both below and above the water. Our open deck policy at certain dive sites on these trips mean you can simply relax and sunbathe or grab your snorkel or dive gear whenever you want to hit the water.

Enjoy the breath-taking scenery as we start from Hurghada, sail across to well-known areas such as Sha'ab El Erg, two of the world's best dive sites including Ras Mohamed National Park (Shark and Yolanda reefs) and the wreck of the Thistlegorm, breath-taking schools of glass fish on the wreck of the Dunraven and the colourful coral gardens on the islands of Tiran.

This itinerary allows up to 4 dives per day for qualified divers whilst non-divers have the chance to experience an 'introductory dive'. Our experienced guides will select the best spots to dive, snorkel and swim in each location and to suit local conditions, marine life opportunities and your skill.

SOUTH & ST JOHNS

St John and Fury Shoals reef systems

May to September | Hurghada to Hurghada

Itinerary Highlights

- Spoilt for choice with 21+ dives at the most remote and rewarding reef systems of the south
- A less arduous itinerary for a more relaxed diving pace
- Stunning topography with coral gardens, walls, overhangs and swim-throughs
- Expect to see turtles, sharks, grey reef sharks, reef fishes, macro, shoals of glass fish, snappers, butterfly fish and barracuda

This trip takes you to some of the best diving the Red Sea has to offer. Here the diving is less arduous so it's a trip for those who want to see the best but have a more relaxed time while doing so. As a 21+ dives cruise, there's a good chance to enjoy 21 or more dives on a 7-day safari if you choose to. Sailing to the southernmost reefs, you'll depart from Port Ghalib and dive some sites to the South before sailing overnight to your southernmost point in the St. John's area. Depending on weather, government approval and marine life sightings in recent weeks, we may sail to the southernmost islands of Rocky and Zabargad, or we'll moor instead in the vast reef system of St John's to begin the adventure in the South.

When leaving Port Ghalib the route can sometimes take in a dive at **Abu Dabab** on the first or last day. Often spoilt for choice, your guides will pick sites that they know to be the best for the time of year and can find excellent alternatives should the weather affect the normal route. Although the distances are long, where possible we travel overnight so, as a 21 plus route, our aim is to get as many dives in as possible at some of the most impressive reefs. Below are some of the highlights. On the way to Fury Shoals, we'll dive **Sha'ab Sharm** with its wall dives and white tip reef sharks. At Fury Shoals, dive **Sha'ab Claude** with its famous swim-throughs and huge porite corals. White tip reef sharks and an anemone and clownfish settlement can be seen a little off the reef to the South. **Abu Galawa Soraya** has a fantastic coral garden and a wreck of a private sailing boat populated with glass fish.

St Johns is a vast collection of small reefs offering some of the most remote and rewarding diving in the Red Sea. This incredibly beautiful reef lies a short distance north of the Sudanese border. The reef covers a huge area and many dives would be needed to explore the numerous coral heads and islands. Habili Ali offers giant gorgonians and black corals whilst grey reef, silvertip and schools of hammerhead sharks might be found on the west side. Habili Gafaar is a mass of soft corals teaming with shoals of snappers, butterfly fish and barracudas. Mantas, grey reef and silvertip sharks can often be seen in the blue.

Gota Kebir is a massive reef, famous for its tunnels and south plateau, where jacks and barracudas can be seen and the occasional manta. The tunnels are ideal for novice cave divers. **Gota Soraya** is rated as possibly one of the best wall dives in the Red Sea, with overhangs and cracks in the reef wall full of glass fish and sweepers and an abundance of corals, Grey Reef, Silvertips and Hammerhead sharks. On the last day as we head back to port, we will try to take in a dive or two on the world famous **Elphinstone Reef** if weather and diver experience permits us, or we will finish in the Abu Dabab area perhaps with another dive or two closer to Port Ghalib to relax and unwind before your final night in port.

DAEDALUS, FURY & ELPHINSTONE

Elphinstone, Daedalus, Fury Shoals

March to November | Port Ghalib to Port Ghalib

Itinerary Highlights

- Sheer walls richly covered in colourful pink and red soft corals, elegant red gorgonians, vertical cliffs, overhangs, small caves and drop offs at Elphinstone. Likely oceanic white tip encounters.
- Mountainous Daedalus with pristine, hard coral formations and a strong chance of spotting schooling hammerheads and grey reef sharks.

- Fury Shoals, a vast reef system to explore such as Sataya's resident spinner dolphins, famous swim-throughs and huge porites corals at Sha'ab Claude, mazes and friendly turtles, fantastic coral gardens and much more that will simply blow you away!

This trip offers you some of the best diving in the Red Sea and includes Daedalus, Fury Shoals and Elphinstone. With less distance to travel than some routes, you have more time to dive these iconic sites and there is less chance of seasickness with shorter sailings and secure moorings. Depending on prevailing weather conditions your guides will pick sites suitable for night dives outside the Marine Park.

Heading first to **Fury Shoals**, we may dive around the Marsa Alam area or perhaps dive Sha'ab Sharm with its wall dives and white tip reef sharks. Oceanic white tips and silky sharks can sometimes be found in the blue and turtles often visit the south side before heading further south. At Fury Shoals, we have more time to explore the vast reef system than other itineraries afford. Of course we will dive the classics such as Sha'ab Claude (a.k.a. Claudio) with its famous swim-throughs and huge porite corals, Malahi with its mazes and friendly turtles and Abu Galawa Soraya with its fantastic coral garden and a wreck of a private sailing boat smothered with glass fish. Sataya with its resident spinner dolphin population is a must for snorkelling between dives, as well as having some good underwater offerings, and on top of that we can spend time exploring less dived sites such as Sha'ab Hamam (Stairway to Heaven), Abu Galawa Kebir with the Tien Hsing wreck, Gota Sataya and if the weather is kind there are some submerged reefs that can be moored on such as Habili Sameh that will blow you away!

Daedalus Reef, part of the Red Sea offshore Marine Park, is a large, oval reef with a lighthouse and is the furthest offshore reef in the Egyptian Red Sea. Its deep walls and drop-offs offer some of the most spectacular diving. Daedalus has mountainous, pristine, hard coral formations. There is also a strong chance of spotting schooling hammerheads, especially from May to November, and grey reef sharks.

Of course no trip to the South would be complete without stopping at world famous **Elphinstone**, with its sheer walls covered in soft corals, and likely encounters with oceanic white tip sharks. Depending on the experience of the group and the weather, you may even get the chance to dive it at the beginning and end of your amazing trip!

SOUTHERN SOLITUDE

Elphinstone, Daedalus, Rocky Island, Zabargad, St. John's, Fury Shoals, Abu Dabab

April to November | Port Ghalib to Port Ghalib

Itinerary Highlights

- Going 'against the flow' to see the best sites in the southern Red Sea at their quietest times.
- Elphinstone, Daedalus and St John's at their quietest with the rarely dived sites of Rocky and Zabargad also included.
- This is a **21+ dives itinerary** with all dives made offshore. By staying out of port on the last night there's potential for up to 22 dives on the trip – the most any of our itineraries offer.

- A diverse range of marine life such as tuna, barracudas, jacks, groupers, Napoleon, bumphead parrotfish and sharks including hammerheads and occasionally silky and oceanic white tips. Dolphins and turtles in the Fury Shoals, while manta, thresher sharks and whalesharks can always surprise.

New for 2023, Emperor Divers are running an itinerary to give experienced divers the chance to go against the flow and dive the best sites of the Red Sea on what should be their quietest days.

By approaching these iconic sites in the opposite direction to most standard itineraries, we hope to offer you the best opportunity to dive with the fewest number of people around you.

Southern Solitude is a dive-focused trip, heading out of Port Ghalib and immediately arriving in the Elphinstone area. This enables us to make a check dive nearby and then get straight to a site which is normally frequented on the final days of trips. With fewer boats around it should give the chance to enjoy the 300-metre-long reef's colourful pink and red soft coral sheer walls in relative peace and quiet.

We'll then go to Daedalus, arriving before most others, to take in its deep walls and drop-offs which offer some of the most spectacular diving to be found, before heading down to the exceptionally remote, and usually quiet, Rocky and Zabargad Islands where even many Red Sea veterans cannot boast to have dived.

Over the next couple of days we will move up through St John's and Fury Shoals where our guides will find the quietest spots in this vast collection of stunning reef system, which offers some of the most picturesque and rewarding diving in the Red Sea. Fury Shoals also boasts an amazing selection of marine life including super-friendly turtles and a resident pod of spinner dolphins.

This will bring us up to day six when, while others cram into local onshore bays, we'll do a full day and night diving program on some offshore reefs as we travel north.

This trip is one of our 21+ dives itineraries, and should offer around 22 dives on proper safari sites by spending six full nights out of port, returning on the morning of day seven just before departure time.

And, while there are few certainties in life, we're pretty sure that by taking a different approach we can give you the best chance of some Southern Solitude.

RED SEA SHARKS

Open Itinerary

March to November | Port Ghalib to Port Ghalib

Itinerary Highlights

- There are no guarantees in life but exploring the Red Sea during the warm summer months and having the flexibility to change diving plans at the last minute gives us the best chance of close encounters of the 'sharky' kind.
- Our experienced guides select the best possible action sites based on their immense local knowledge and recent activity.
- Expect to spend some time waiting 'in the blue' or in the shallows looking for those unmistakable shapes and shadows.

Looking for some shark action? We know the best time to have the best chance to see those sharks in action! Explore the majestic Red Sea during the warm summer months of May to August with our much anticipated Red Sea Sharks itinerary offering flexibility and focus for 'action' dives. These months are best-known for the variety of sharks visiting some of the remote offshore reefs. But be prepared to change diving plans at the last minute because we go where the action is.

Our guides select the best possible action sites to visit based on their immense local knowledge and on insider-data on recent activity including a variety of Red Sea sharks, dolphins and anything else that chooses to join the party.