

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE

We asked pro divers from around the world to step up and tell us about their favourite neighbourhood dive-sites. And when you've shared these 16 divers' passions, you'll really want to go diving...

Coral Garden
 Anda, Philippines
 by Marlon Manage



IN THE WESTERN PART of Anda, a small, peaceful town in south-eastern Bohol, lies a dive-site that showcases an incredible diversity of marine life, a valuable experience for underwater enthusiasts.

One of the best diving spots you could find, it's suitable for both beginners and seasoned divers and should definitely be part of a rewarding diving holiday for those who love to see healthy, colourful reefs full of marine life.

Coral Garden is 3-5 minutes away from Magic Oceans Dive Resort, a 4* boutique dive-resort, and offers a great combination of walls and sandy slopes that host a lot of marine life, creatures from XXS to XXL. More than 90% of it is made up of beautiful soft and hard corals, especially on the reef top, which is also great for snorkellers as it is only 3-5m deep.

The wall, which is 5-20m deep, has a lot of small caves and crevices that host a lot of fantastic gorgonians and sponges (ideal for wide-angle photographers).

You can see a lot of different species of reef-fish here and there is a higher chance than elsewhere of witnessing visiting pelagic fish such as giant trevallies, barracuda, Spanish mackerel, eagle rays, whale sharks and more.

This place is also home to diverse macro creatures. Among the most significant are the creature from the Magic Oceans logo, the pygmy seahorse (*Hippocampus bargibanti*) found on seafans living on the wall.

You can also see a lot of leopard anemones living on dead gorgonians, and there in turn you can find leopard shrimps.

BETH WATSON

This environment is also home to frogfish, countless resident resting sea turtles and, of course, many types of colourful nudibranchs, sea-slugs and other Indo-Pacific crustaceans.

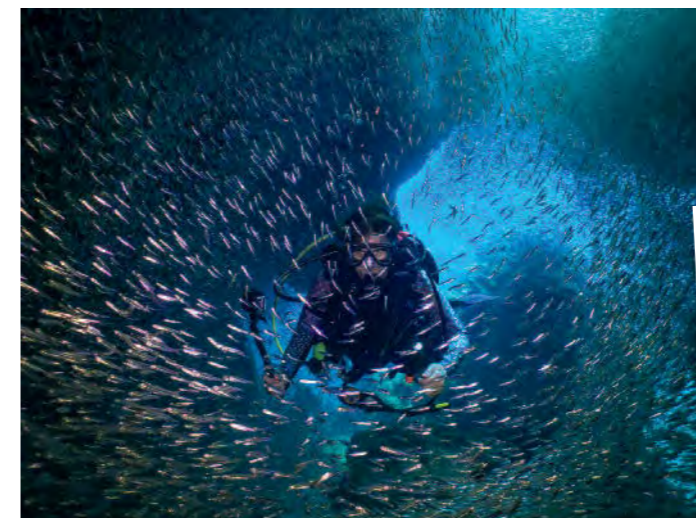
Coral Garden is guaranteed to provide you with an incredibly pleasurable dive.

Marlon has worked as marine biologist, assistant manager and dive-guide at Magic Oceans, magicresorts.online



INOSTIM BOB

Spooky Channel
 Roatan, Honduras
 by Ricardo David Calderon

chance to see common sea life such as turtles, parrotfish, angelfish and big schools of blue tangs.

At certain times of year you find giant balls of silversides seeking refuge from predators, tarpon, big snapper, grouper, green moray eels, lobster and small shrimps.

Taking a torch is recommended for exploring under crevices and ledges – you never know what you might encounter in Spooky Channel.



Ricardo is a divemaster at Anthony's Key Resort, anthonyskey.com

SPOOKY CHANNEL IS A different kind of dive, because it offers divers a different type of experience. As you approach the site you feel an adrenaline rush, because you don't know what's coming next.

It might start out as a mystery, but once you begin making your way down you'll see the amazing formations, caves, swim-throughs and canyons. It gives a feel of sightseeing but also of exploring.

At some point we think this was a waterfall, from the way it sits on the reef and how it connects from the inner lagoon to open ocean.

Visibility can vary, depending on the water conditions and also the time of year. The deepest point is about 30m, it's 15-18m wide, and because of the way it's set up it allows penetration of the sun's rays from the top part of the reef to create what looks like a cathedral under water.

This is a cool dive on which you can enjoy the topography of the

waterfall and the chamber-like environment, which makes it close to cave-diving but without needing certification.

As soon as you leave the main chamber of the channel you end up over the usual Caribbean shallow reef in less than 10m, and get the



Karang Sembilan
 Raja Ampat, Indonesia
 by Arif Hamid



MY FAVOURITE DIVE-SITE around Pulau Pef is Karang Sembilan, and it's so much more than just our house reef. Sembilan means "nine" in Indonesian, and the reef has the shape of the number 9.

It offers an incredible variety of types of marine life that I have rarely seen at other dive-spots.

During a typical dive, we jump from the jetty and go down to 8m. We have a good chance of seeing different types of pygmy seahorse, ghost pipefish, sexy shrimps, various types of octopus – including the blue-ringed and beautifully patterned wonderpus – and electric clams.

Following the ridge, there are many big coral blocks swirling with glassfish, sweetlips and, here and there, wobegong sharks.

We then head down to 23m, to find big shoals of yellowtail fusiliers, many blacktip sharks and occasional whitetip sharks or eagle rays.





With the reef still on our right shoulder, we slowly go up to 15 or 10m to get to the coral slope, where we usually find candy crabs, turtles, razorfish, anemones and their clownfish, bumphead parrotfish – shall I go on?

On the way back to the jetty, scattered on the reef, there are around 30 beautiful and healthy giant clams. We collected and planted them there to regrow a population that had been threatened by extinction.

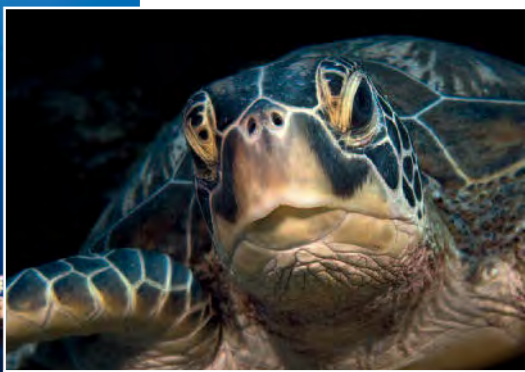
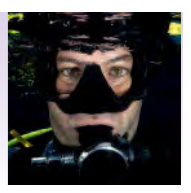
Back at the jetty, we linger around our Raja4Divers' statues, covered with colourful sponges and corals. Night-dives are especially spectacular, as we often see the endemic Raja Ampat walking shark (above left) and sometimes Walton flasher wrasse, along with lobsters and many other nocturnal creatures.

And snorkellers have come back with huge smiles on their faces after seeing a dugong swim by over the seagrass-covered area on a late afternoon!

Arif is dive manager and an instructor at Raja4Divers, raja4divers.com

Depan Kampung Bunaken, Indonesia

by Miguel Ribeiro



DEPAN KAMPUNG MEANS "in front of the village" in Bahasa, and as the dive-site is a mere 200m from Bunaken's largest village, it is aptly named. It's a continuation of the famous Lekuan wall, only here the reef becomes a slope, rather than one of the vertical underwater cliffs for which Bunaken is famous. Mooring up at the dive-site, you can already see the corals shimmering under the water's surface, and you might spot a turtle's head appear briefly as it comes up to breathe.

Bunaken is well known for drift-diving and Depan Kampung is no exception, so the typical entrance point is on a sheltered corner of the slope. As soon as you descend, you're greeted by thousands of reef fish darting above the pristine shallow corals, and once you reach 5m, some parts of the reef are already above you. With the slope on one side, the gentle currents push you effortlessly along. And on your other side is the endless blue, home to tens of thousands of redtooth triggerfish, schooling black snapper and the occasional eagle ray or tuna.



others resting on a sponge. The slope goes very deep, much deeper than most divers could ever visit. Visibility is good most of the year, so it's easy to spot some of the many

reef sharks that patrol the depths. It's not just the big things you can find here, either. The slope is home to endless critters – nudibranchs, ghost pipefish, frogfish and more. You need to visit Depan Kampung more than once. You could dive it 100 times, and never get bored.

Miguel is resort manager at Siladen Resort & Spa, siladen.com

Buddy's Reef Bonaire

by Macy van Sabben



YOU CAN WALK OUT of your room straight into the ocean at Buddy's Reef. It's located right in front of the resort, with a spacious dock area and different easy entry-points. Once you descend to 4m you'll find a yellow rope heading out to

the drop-off. From there on, it starts sloping down from 6-30m. I was blown away by the marine life and healthy corals when I first saw this house reef. Most of the marine life is found cruising around between 12-18m. On every dive I've done here



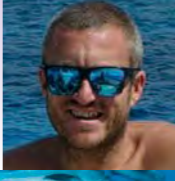
I've found big tarpon cruising along, a lot of spotted eels, slugs and octopuses. There is even a little wreck located on the north side, between 9-18m deep. The reef has

loads of different soft and hard corals, all very healthy. Because it's located in Bonaire's "bay area", currents are usually very weak. There are 34 "Reef Renewal" coral trees right in front of the drop-off – spectacular to see, and also allowing you to find your

way back super-easily! The staff and Reef Renewal Foundation take good care of their reef – it's one of the most alive and cosy reefs I have dived on Bonaire. Macy is an instructor at Buddy Resort, buddydive.com

Shark & Yolanda Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt

by 'G' Evans



FOR YEARS DURING the 1990s, I used to dive in Sharm el Sheikh with my club on a diving holiday. We usually visited the Red Sea at the start or end of the UK dive season (in April or October). Shark & Yolanda Reefs was always my favourite site, for its amazing topography and different corals. It has walls plunging down into unreachable depths, currents on which to drift with no effort, and behind the massive coral pinnacles was a plateau of soft coral among which could be found turtles, rays, crocodilefish and many other species. However, it was only in July 2002, when the UK weather was getting my father down and he offered me the chance to join him and his dive-

buddy for a week's diving in Sharm during the summer months, that I got to appreciate the true magic of Shark & Yolanda.

Year-round this site is magnificent, fed by the constant soup of nutrients that flow up from the depths to feed and replenish the reefs at the southernmost point of the Sinai Peninsula, but during summer the place comes alive, with so many shoals of different fish that have come to spawn.

With them come bigger predators. During the parrotfish aggregation, you can see giant trevally as big as cars – or so they look in the water.

We have seen a blackfin shark taking a barracuda from the midst of a swirling school, and many other types of shark, as well as manta rays, sailfish and dolphins.

Now I work full-time as a dive instructor and guide in Sharm and manager of our family-owned dive centre, and get to dive this amazing place regularly. I get to choose who does which dives and who teaches the courses, although of course I do share it out. After all, our instructors are here because of



their love of diving and marine life, and all still want to see these amazing phenomena each year.

So divers who stay away from Sharm during the summer months because of the warm weather are missing some of the best diving in the world!

G is an instructor and manager of Elite Diving, elite-diving.com



Monad Shoal Malapascua, Philippines

by Andrea Agarwal



YOUR ALARM GOES OFF in what feels like the middle of the night. But then you remember what it's for, and you jump out of bed and rush off to the dive-shop.

Before you know it, you're on the dive-boat, sipping a cup of coffee, heading east into the rising sun. Your fellow-passengers might still be waking up, but you can feel the excitement starting to build. The divers on the boat have come from all corners of the world specifically to this unique dive-site: Monad Shoal off Malapascua Island, the



only place in the world where you can reliably see thresher sharks!

The second you hit the water, you're wide awake. You start to descend, and in many ways it feels as if you're on safari. The straight drop down to 16m is quite spooky, and in the early-morning light and with 10-15m visibility, it almost feels as if the site is shrouded in mist.

Then you're off, swimming slowly over the bottom of the shoal, eyes

darting left and right in search of that shark, your heart thumping in anticipation, and you feel as if you're stalking big game through the jungle.

When, finally, through the haze the stunning silver outline of the majestic thresher shark makes an appearance, it seems to come out of nowhere. You sit still and watch in amazement as this graceful creature circles in front of you.



The shark doesn't even seem to notice you; it is just there for its early-morning cleaning.

Another thresher might join it, and perhaps a third. It's not uncommon to see several circling at once. Often they come so close that you could almost reach out and touch them.

As the dive comes to an end and

you hit the surface, there are whoops and hollers and high fives all round.

You can almost taste the adrenaline in the air. What a buzz! It's a dive you remember for the rest of your life.

Andrea is owner and MD of Thresher Shark Divers, malapascuadiving.com



Zenobia Larnaca, Cyprus

by Steve Theakston



BREAKING THE SURFACE of the eastern Mediterranean a mile from Larnaca port, and looking down the shotline into the abyss, we see every shade of blue and silver imaginable – and nothing more, until we reach around 5m.

At that point a huge, imposing shadow looms into view – our first glimpse of the Zenobia.

We reach midships on the starboard side that lies uppermost at around 18m, and at once are engulfed in a melee of two-banded bream, saddle bream, damselfish and huge grouper. This is a breathtaking wreck, its impressive 172m length disappearing into the distance to left and right.

We descend over the starboard rail and immediately see some of the 104 articulated lorries that were once secured to the deck.

Now they either lie like corpses along the seabed at 42m, or cling precariously by their chains to this huge roll-on, roll-off ferry in their final acts of defiance, as they are slowly claimed by the sea.

We descend to a trailer at 30m. It still contains the skeletal remains of its cargo of meat.

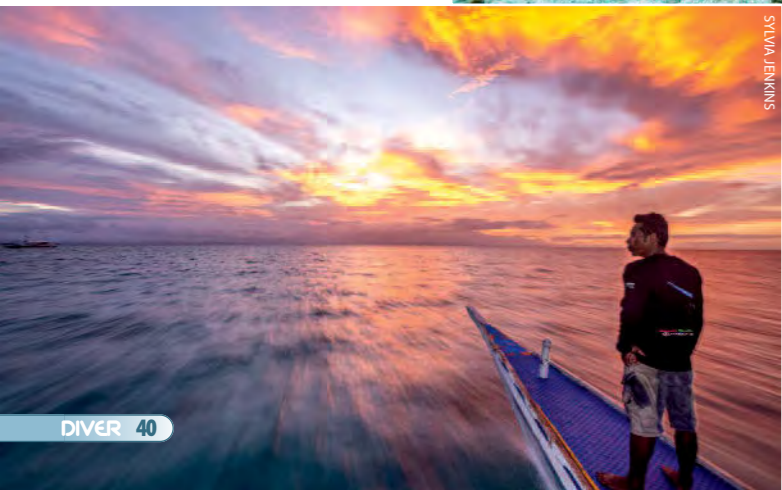
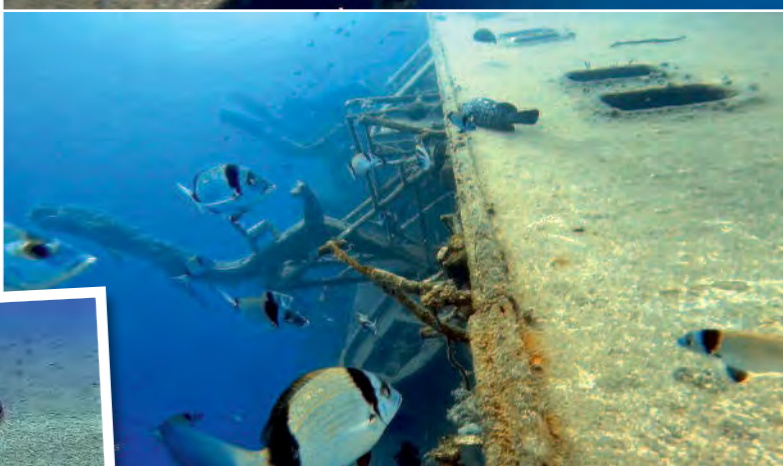
We continue towards the stern cargo doors, maintaining our depth of 30m halfway down the deck. We see many lionfish, briefly encounter the resident loggerhead

turtle and might have the pleasure of swimming through huge, menacing schools of barracuda, all the while enjoying this impressive scrapyards of trucks and trailers.

Once between the cargo doors we continue to the bottom of the wreck to explore the two impressive propellers, the uppermost at around 25m.

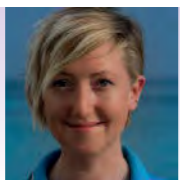
We ascend to the starboard side at around 20m before heading back to the shotline, over the huge funnels, starboard rail and mind-blowing amount of aquatic life now resident on this magnificent wreck.

Steve is the owner of Pissouri Bay Divers, pissouribaydivers.com



Blue Hole Baa Atoll, Maldives

by Elena Clare Tranmer



MY FAVOURITE DIVE-SITE lies on the north-western side of the house reef of Amilla Fushi, in the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve of Baa Atoll. The hole starts at the edge of the top reef at around 6m, with an entrance/exit at 12m and another exit at the bottom at around 22m.

It's a hole but not an enclosed one

– which means that cave-diving specialities are not required to dive this site. You could describe it as more of an underwater chimney.

Blue Hole is great for divers of all levels. There is a huge range of marine life to be seen both around the hole itself and along the reef.

On very rare occasions, you might



even be lucky enough to see a guitar or leopard shark.

At certain times of year the hole is filled with hundreds of glassfish, and you can often find lobsters and nurse sharks hiding in the crevices, as well as inquisitive hawksbill turtles swimming by. There is also the occasional green turtle, although these are less common.

During the manta season from June to November we have seen manta rays passing by, either along the top of the reef or from the drop-off into the blue.

Looking under coral blocks or ledges you can find lionfish, octopuses and a variety of moray eels among other marine life.

Along the top reef, you'll see

schools of blue-striped snapper, bannerfish, triggerfish, parrotfish, oriental sweetlips and blacktip reef sharks, to name a few.

With the top of the site so shallow, we also enjoy snorkelling or freediving there. Sometimes huge schools of bannerfish cover the reef and the entrance to the hole.

With each dive, whether on scuba or freediving, I've found something new to discover. Whether I'm creating videos or photos for our social-media channels or guiding divers, it's always an exciting site to visit – and you never know how lucky your day might be!

Elena is PR executive for Dive Butler International, dive-butler.com ●

Veronica L Grenada

by Keone Drew



VISIBLE FROM THE SURFACE on most days, a descent onto this shallow shipwreck provides an exciting adventure for divers at all levels. An inter-island cargo barge sitting fully between the shelving coral reefs of Grand Anse Bay, this 30m vessel provides the comfort of a beginner-level wreck dive with its maximum depth of 16m, yet all the while exhibiting the coral growth and marine life of the most advanced wreck dives on Grenada.

With orange cup corals, sponges and hydroids covering the wreck's surface a variety of marine life thrives – blennies, fireworms,



basket seastars, moray eels, octopuses, coral crabs and lobsters to name a few. This is the

advantage of resting in a coral bed, and divers can also explore the surrounding reef to glimpse nurse sharks, rays, seahorses and the occasional frogfish.

Shoals of chromis and creole wrasse surround Veronica L as divers navigate the coral growth.

With barjack, trevallies and yellowtail snapper hunting as well, the action on this wreck can be immense; a spectacle for any avid diver. It makes for a particularly impressive night-dive, with the cup

corals extended in all their vibrant orange and yellow glory.

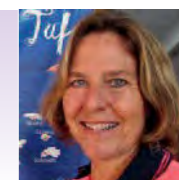
To add to the character of the wreck, along the mid-section sits a welded crane that houses a giant green moray eel at its base.

With its open hull, wheelhouse and an engine-room that's intact and visible, a dive on the Veronica L is a delight for all visiting divers.

Keone is an MSDT and underwater photographer with Eco Dive, ecodivegrenada.com ●

Stewards Reef Tufi, Papua New Guinea

by Jana Röttgers



WHEN I WAS A KID, my dream was to dive with all the different fish in the seas around the world. At Tufi Resort, my dream has come true.

The guests and team are gearing up to visit my favourite dive-site, Stewards, a reef that blows your mind with its amazing colours.

Set against the dark blue at depth to the light blue at the top, we take a journey through the spectrum among a rich variety of fish and corals, not forgetting all those special sea-slugs and other critters.

Expect the unexpected from the moment you release the air from your BC, and the world of Stewards welcomes you with open arms.

In front of us, a little blue-ringed octopus tries to hide itself.

Some metres ahead, the next stop is always with the beloved clownfish in their anemone. The nudibranch colours are spectacular, little visions

in pink, blue, yellow...

The corals are huge and healthy – I have never seen such beauties elsewhere.

And all the little things are taking the opportunity to use this coral garden as their home, including the very cute pygmy seahorse, shrimps and featherstars.

The funny thing is that, as at all

Tufi's reefs, you look down the wall to left and right and there are all the big fish – barracuda, lionfish and more or less all the sharks you might wish to see, including our favourite albino hammerhead.

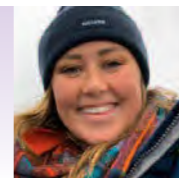
After a fantastic dive and on our way back to Tufi Resort, a school of dolphins has fun with the boat.

My words to describe this great location? Breathtaking, stunning, spectacular... fantastic.

Jana is an instructor at Tufi Resort, tufiresort.com ●

Vera-K Paphos, Cyprus

by Sophie Pearson



JUST A 10-MINUTE boat journey from Paphos Harbour in the south of Cyprus lies the Vera-K, a Lebanese freighter that beached on shallow ground in 1972.

This wreckage was then used for target practice by the Cypriot military until 1974, when it was deemed dangerous to passing vessels. The local authorities decided to blow it up, and it's now settled inside a crater in the reef. All this means that it's not unusual to find old ammunition lying amid the debris.

After anchoring onto the top of the reef, we begin our steady descent into the crater, where you

can often see green turtles grazing in the seagrass meadows.

With a maximum depth of 12m, there's plenty of time to enjoy this picturesque underwater world.

We begin the dive by following the crater wall to the westernmost point of the dive-site, to find a large swim-through full of colourful algae, natural light and large grouper that have made their home there.

Continuing around the crater, breaks in the reef open up small gullies and overhangs, perfect for divers to explore before reaching the main attraction.

The Vera-K is in four main pieces:

bow, stern, bridge and engine, all scattered over the seabed. The bridge is still intact, though slightly too narrow to penetrate, but it's great for peering into, looking for hidden marine life such as cardinalfish and lionfish.

Although the bow and stern sections are still identifiable, they took the biggest hit in the explosion and now offer refuge to juvenile fish during tougher weather.

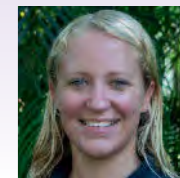
A highlight of this dive is the engine, sitting in the middle of the crater and perfectly intact and connected to the transmitter. It's a photographer's paradise.

The combination of natural beauty alongside a wreck with history make this one of my favourite sites around the island.

Sophie is an instructor with Cydive, cydive.com ●

Atmosphere House Reef Dauin, Philippines

by Kirsty Richards



TAKE A FEW STEPS from Atmosphere Resorts & Spa and you'll enter one of the largest marine sanctuaries in Dauin. Our house reef is more than just a standard shore dive; it's home to a huge diversity of marine life, and there's plenty to hold your attention over multiple dives.

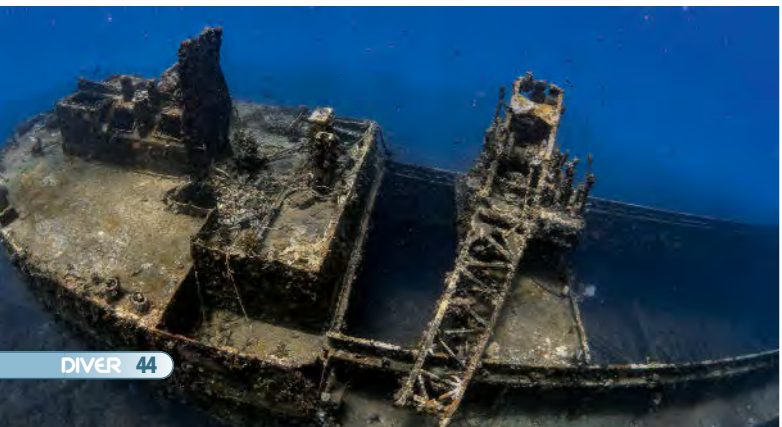
Green turtles munch on seagrass as you make your way through the shallows, while trevally and emperors scour the reef in packs searching for their next meal.

Head north to encounter blue tangs cruising among the corals and schooling barracuda hanging in the blue. Head south and see blue-spotted stingrays and inquisitive turtle-headed sea-snakes hunting over the reef.

For macro lovers, hairy shrimp, ghost pipefish, frogfish, mantis shrimp and nudibranchs can be found while, if you're really lucky, grape-sized flamboyant cuttlefish eggs can be seen developing right before your eyes.

Dive a little deeper and you'll come across three shipping containers, sunk in 2011. These artificial structures have proved popular with batfish, nudibranchs, scorpionfish and juvenile sweetlips.

Back on the reef, the critter-hunt continues with jawfish mouth-brooding their eggs and broadclub ●

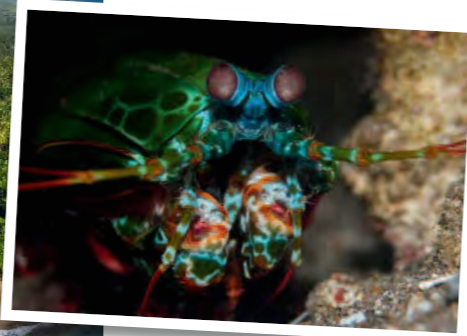


cuttlefish buried in the sand. Finish up in the shallows, where colourful anthias and damselfish twinkle in the sunlight and garden eels, schools of razorfish and sea moths are scattered over the seagrass beds.

Wait a few hours and another rare critter can be encountered. As the sun sets behind the palm trees, technicoloured mandarinfish begin their complex, but brief, mating rituals. Be patient and you won't be disappointed by these small but



JONAH ANDERSON



KIRSTY RICHARDS

a safe crevice and settle in for the night, but others are only just beginning to stir. If you're lucky, bobtail squid and the elusive blue-ringed octopus can be seen exploring the reef, manoeuvring around colonies of fluorescing corals.

Whichever time of day you drop under the waves, this house reef will have you coming up smiling.

Kirsty is an instructor and in-house marine biologist at Atmosphere Resort, atmosphereresorts.com



RENEE CAPOZZOLA

beautiful fish. Once darkness sets in, life on the reef changes again. Many fish find



KIRSTY RICHARDS

Gumi Cenik Bali, Indonesia

by Ian Keeling



A SHORT BOAT-RIDE from the dive-centre takes us to the corner of a bay typical of northern Bali. We descend along a small reef that continues into a sandy slope and follow its course, keeping an eye out for inquisitive garden eels.

Before we actually see the main reef, the clouds of schooling fish give its location away.

Descending along its edge, we're greeted by beautiful corals, schooling snapper, blue-spotted

sting rays by the dozen and the occasional tuna whizzing by.

Looking more closely at the reef we find nudibranchs, scorpionfish hiding, frogfish, leaf-fish and ghost pipefish. Often we find a turtle munching away or just sleeping wedged between coral blocks.

Making our way shallower on the other side of the V-shaped reef, we cross a sandy patch to a smaller reef alongside the main one. It is characterised by big barrel



sponges growing right in its centre. Moray eels seem to love living in the shadow of these massive structures, and lionfish regard

the ridges of the sponges as prime real estate. Leaving the reef, the seabed composition changes from sand to

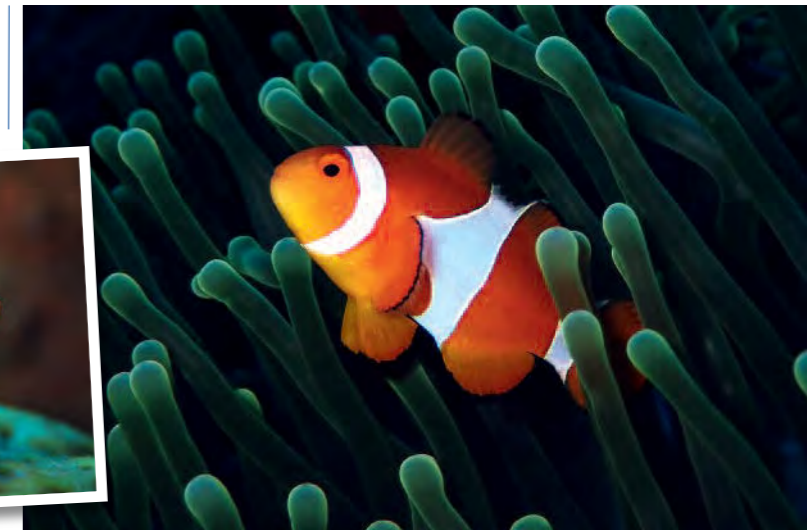
stones. Anyone who has been on muck dives will realise that critters love hanging out here, and taking time to look at this seemingly empty rubble slope, you start to notice things moving.

The whole bottom seems to be scattered with the most colourful nudibranchs, special types of shrimps, mimic octopus and the occasional fingernail-sized baby frogfish hiding in plain sight.

The depth here is 4-7m, so it makes the perfect place for your

safety stop and the end of a beautiful dive.

Ian is manager of Alam Anda Diving Centre, wernerlau.org



Kuredu House Reef Lhaviyani Atoll, Maldives

by Jacob Alguren



ALL THE DIVE-SITES here in the Lhaviyani Atoll are beautiful. With the right current they can become amazing and leave you with lifelong memories of underwater islands, walls, outer-reef drop-offs and corners full of sharks and rays, but one that stands out for me is Kuredu Island Resort's house reef.

This long reef can be accessed by shore or boat, and stretches between two shark-filled channels on the inside of the island known as the biggest turtle sanctuary in the Maldives. It's perfect for beginners, optimal for courses, and thrilling even for the most fastidious diver.

You're immediately immersed in a fish soup of vibrant colours and movement. The top of the reef is covered with sand, which makes the sun reflect and light up the site with a spectacular gradient of blue hues.

The first attraction is a shipwreck, placed by Prodivers as an artificial reef.

Covered in both hard and soft corals, it invites you to take a closer look into the cargo holds and the bridge for frogfish, nudis, ghost pipefish and the signature 2m-long moray eel getting cleaned behind one of the doors to the bow.

As you move along the reef, you see turtles swimming, sometimes "too" close, seeking out spots to get cleaned or to scratch their shells.

Looking into the blue, you might well see squadrons of eagle rays hovering within arm's length.

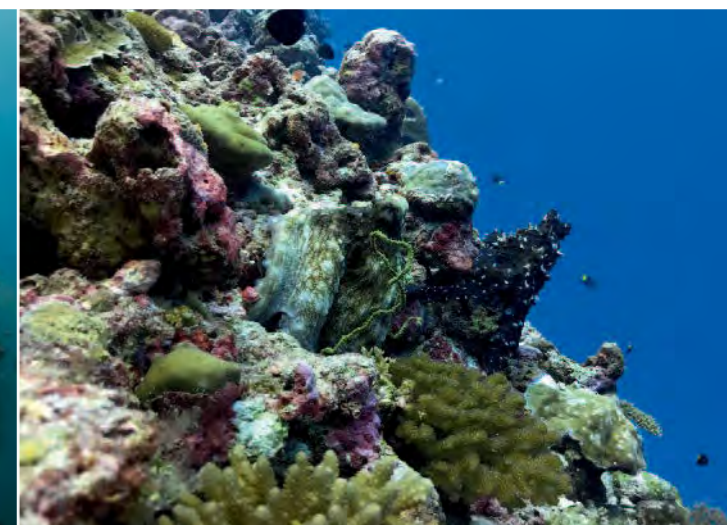


The fortunate few might even find themselves in the presence of the majestic ornate eagle ray, as it passes the reef for a bite to eat on the sandy bottom.

And the end of the dive in the nearby channel might provide grey

reef sharks cruising in the current, waiting for brave cleaning wrasse to swim into their mouths and "brush their teeth".

Jacob works for Prodivers Maldives, prodivers.com



Bianca C Grenada

by Robin Burkhardt



LAST CHECK: fins on, wetsuit zipped up, all pinch-buckles closed, dive computer set to 30% nitrox, gas on, tank and pony full, weights are in my pocket and mask is defogged. All the guests are in their equipment and checked.

I have two couples, one from the USA, the other from the UK. One couple are fiddling with their GoPro, making last-minute setting

adjustments, while the others are nervously waiting for the boat to stop. All are experienced divers; we never take anyone to *Bianca C* unless we have vetted them first.

Easy step off the dive platform, negative entry and they can use my flagline as a reference on the way down. Gotta get to the wreck fast in case there is an unexpected current lower down. One last glance to the

top to make sure everyone is following. Sometimes the swim down feels endless, but you always know you hit the right spot when the enormous shadow engulfs you.

At the stern, the usual shy reef shark welcomes me before the other divers arrive. Only the early

birds will get a glimpse of him. Now I can focus on the sheer size of the hulk of metal. It's always an eerie feeling when you're by yourself.

One hundred and eighty metres to cover in less than 20 minutes. The divers arrive beside me at 35m and we start swimming towards the bow. First, of course, we have a dip in the pool – "the deepest pool dive you'll ever take" as I joked in the briefing – 40m to the bottom.

I can see the large school of horseeye jack shimmering in the distance. I slow the group and signal to breathe slowly, so we don't scare them off. Always an amazing sight.

Someone is banging a tank – must be the other group on the reef, shallower but parallel to the wreck. It makes me turn, and there they are, six majestic eagle rays dancing alongside the wreck.

I signal the divers to turn around. We drift with the gentle current as the rays slowly fly by.

Approaching the bow, we're now at 30m. I signal everyone to check their gauges. If everyone has over 100 bar, we can head to Whibbles Reef. Everyone is OK. Slight eastern turn until we are greeted by black gorgonians and schools of fish.

Another 20 minutes drifting over this beautiful reef and we head for our safety stop and back to the surface.

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