

Izzy Diving Web Brochure

Diving The Red Sea

Surrounded by endless sand and lunar mountains, the Red Sea stretches over 1,200 miles from north to south. Of the 8 nations that claim its coastline, Egypt's 950 miles capture the largest share.

After 15 years of diving in locations ranging from Northern Scotland to Australia, and from Micronesia to the Caribbean, I always return to the Egyptian Red Sea for a reaffirmation of why I dive. Its magnificent walls, prolific marine life, crystalline waters, and the raw beauty of the Sinai Peninsula lure me back over and over again.

The four reefs in the Straits of Tiran break the surface where corals breach the interface between same-color sea and sky. Red Sea coral formations include every known species, and over 20% of the reef fish are endemic to the region. As a marine biologist I continue to be amazed by the incredible diversity and species interaction.



Drawn by the big currents that sweep the southern Sinai coast, thousands of large pelagic and schooling fish swarm the reefs. Friendly turtles approach my lens for a face shot, sometimes mouthing my regulator as if to say "give me air," and huge schools of orange-spined unicornfish, trevally, and batfish briefly block the sun. I watch the color palette shift from the pastel hues of soft coral trees to the bright neons of the Anthias.

In the distance sharks hover like gloomy ghosts, tantalizingly out of camera reach yet near enough to identify. The curious spectators may be scalloped hammerheads, gray reef, silvertip, blacktail or variegated nurse sharks. During the months of May through August giant mantas and whale sharks congregate and amaze divers with their outrageous forms. Cruising the region on a regular basis are blue-spotted, electric, spotted eagle, honeycomb, and stingrays.



As the quiet drama of the sea unfolds, spectacular subjects to photograph constantly confront me. On night dives I rarely stray out of a one-meter-square area, fascinated by the tiny brittle stars, cowries, decorator crabs and shrimp that emerge to feed as the tiny gobies and blennies all find a place for the night on one soft coral "tree."

Any diver who has seen the ss Thistlegorm understands why it is called the Holy Grail of wreck diving — because no wreck dive can ever be the same afterwards. On its massive deck armored vehicles and a steam locomotive give quiet testimony to the lives they once served before that fateful October 6 day in 1941.

Dive Operator



Cali International Dive Centre is located in Sharm El Maya and is an operation that we have been using for several years. For ten years, they have provided a personal Red Sea experience for their guests, unlike many of the bigger operators with high numbers on their boats. Catering to everyone, they are committed to protecting the Red Sea reefs for future generations. The dive staff is always courteous, knowledgeable, and eager to accommodate everyone, whether you're a beginner diver, photographer, or someone who simply wishes to relax and enjoy the beauty of Sinai.

Dives

Since Ras Mohammed National Park was created in 1983, Egypt has emerged as a leader when it comes to marine conservation. The area is well policed by marine patrol and park staff, one of whom may dive on your boat as a "local diver." Should this person observe divers harassing the marine life, or damaging the reef through carelessness or poor buoyancy control, he is empowered to fine you and the dive operator for the transgression. We wholeheartedly agree with this policy because this is one of the means by which the park has maintained its superb diversity and reef condition, despite the number of divers annually.

There's a mandatory **maximum depth limit** of **30m/100ft** in the Red Sea, and all dive operators enforce it. Most dives are about one hour in duration, unless depth or air dictates otherwise. After the first dive there's a surface interval of about 2-3 hours, during which a delicious lunch is served. Divers may snorkel, change film, nap, or share stories prior to the second or third dives

Diveboat

Diveboats are built around a traditional Arab design, carry a maximum of 10 divers, more if you require, and are spacious and comfortable. They carry first aid, oxygen, VHF radio, and emergency equipment. Fresh water showers (for a quick rinse) and marine heads are also on board. These spacious boats have a common area for lounging and eating - and also a shaded place to store valuables. Upper decks are a great place to tan and watch for dolphins or mantas.

Boats typically depart at 9am, unless other arrangements are made, and dive sites require a travel time of 30 to 90 minutes. At each site the Divemaster gives a thorough briefing, noting areas of specific interest. . The boat returns to dock at 5:00 to 5:30pm.

Dive Equipment

Equipment may be rented at the Cali diveshop and may be reserved at the time of booking. Thermal protection varies significantly in the Red Sea, water temperatures vary from around 90° F in the southern Red Sea during summer, to about 65° F in the northern Red Sea during winter. After you book your trip, we'll send you a guide for determining what to wear in the way of thermal protection for the time of year you're traveling to Sharm.



Accommodations at Sharm El Sheikh

We offer accommodations at the following 3 resorts. Each is located at the tip of the Sinai Peninsula, on beautiful Na'ama Bay in the Gulf of Aqaba. All diving will be done exclusively with Cali International Divers.

Kahramana is a luxurious resort with 117 rooms and suites, many of which overlook the pool area. Each standard air-conditioned room has a balcony, private bath, hair dryer, phone, fridge, in-house movies, radio, satellite TV, and hotel safe. Breakfast is included in the price, and a buffet style dinner may be added for an extra charge. Other amenities include:

- ▽ Rooftop restaurant with vista of bay and mountains
- ▽ Main restaurant offering lavish indoor and outdoor buffet service
- ▽ Bars, business center, shops, car rentals, nightly shows, disco
- ▽ Table tennis, billiards, bike riding
- ▽ Swimming pool, Jacuzzi, parasailing, paddle skiing
- ▽ Children's pool, play area, cribs, highchairs, babysitting services
- ▽ Laundry, massages, and room service
- ▽ Physician on call



Fantazia is a luxurious resort with 105 standard rooms, and each one has a balcony with terrace. Each standard air-conditioned room has a private bath, phone, satellite TV. Non-smoking and specially equipped rooms for disabled guests are available if requested. Breakfast is included in the price, and a buffet style dinner may be added for an extra charge. This resort is at the southern end of Na'ama bay, with easy access to stores and great restaurants, as a result it does not offer in many "in house" restaurants and nightlife:

Tivoli is a four star resort with 26 standard rooms, 60 studios, and 6 bath and skylights. Being a smaller popular hotel it tends to fill up quickly, so it's best to book well in advance. Meals are buffet style, and breakfast is included in the price. Other amenities include:

- ▽ Restaurant, bar, pool bar serving snacks
- ▽ Large pool with a shallow end for children
- ▽ Child play area, cribs, high chairs
- ▽ Horseback riding
- ▽ Laundry and babysitting services
- ▽ Physician on call

Pricing

The average price of a one-week Sinai dive trip originating in the U.S. is approximately \$3,500 — primarily because flights from the U.S. to Sharm El Sheikh via Cairo are very expensive. We can package this trip for significantly less than that amount because we use nonstop charter flights from London to Sharm. Your flight from the U.S. to London is extra, as are any extra days spent in London. Round-trip fares from Los Angeles to London start as low as \$350, and we'll send you information regarding discount fares to London after you book a trip.



The following prices are based upon 7 nights / 6 days diving — and all flights to Sinai depart from and return to London on Sunday:

Please Email me and I will arrange a guide price and an information pack to be sent to you

Prices Include

- ▽ Round-trip flight from London Gatwick to Sharm El Sheikh
- ▽ All transfers from airport to hotel and hotel to diveboat
- ▽ Hotel accommodations (2-person standard occupancy) and breakfast
- ▽ All diving and one night dive (except for the Thistleworm wreck dive)
- ▽ Ras Mohammed National Park fees and chamber fees
- ▽ Lunch on board the boat

Prices Do Not Include

- ▽ Round-trip flight from home to London
- ▽ Expenses in London
- ▽ Dive certification and specialty courses
- ▽ Additional night dives (\$35 each) and Thistleworm wreck dive (\$100)

Reservations and Payments

If you wish to make a reservation or have questions, send an e-mail to Izzydiving@hotmail.com. The minimum number of persons required to book a trip is 10, and a \$200 non-refundable deposit applies to all bookings. Checks should be made payable to "Izzy Diving" and sent to the address shown below. Airline tickets and a final information packet are sent directly to each person or to the group leader (if applicable). You will be met at London Gatwick Airport for check-in and boarding the flight to Sharm.



Health/Passport/Visa/Insurance/PADI Courses

Health

No immunizations are required for travel to the Sinai Peninsula, and there is no malaria in this region. However, please consult your physician regarding tetanus, polio, and typhoid immunizations.



Passport and Visa

Any U.S. passport must have ***at least*** six months remaining before expiration date. A visa is also required for entry into Sinai, which may be obtained at the airport upon entry for \$US15 cash. However, this is a Sinai visa only — not an Egyptian visa. Those wishing to visit any part of Egypt other than Sinai must obtain an Egyptian visa prior to departure from the:

Egyptian Consulate General
30001 Pacific Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94115
(415) 346-9700
www.egy2000.com

Insurance

Dive travel and accident insurance is mandatory for the duration of the trip. After you book your trip, we'll send you summary information to help you select insurance that meets your needs.

PADI Courses

PADI open water certification and specialty courses are available if requested at the time of booking. .

Please Email me your requirements and I will arrange a tailored costing for your personal needs.

For the past several years Izzy Diving has been organizing Red Sea dive trips at affordable prices you'll find hard to match. We look forward to your business and making your Red Sea dream a reality.



Izzy Diving, Inc. • 1263 Key Deer Blvd. • Big Pine Key, FL 33043-4703 •

Flights

Airfares, departures and arrivals are subject to change without notice. Your reservation is only guaranteed when we receive full payment and a ticket is issued. Izzy Diving Inc. uses recognized international charter airlines to and from the United Kingdom. For this reason we ask that you book your trip sufficiently in advance to ensure the flight and date you want to travel is available, also indicate an alternate date should the preferred one not be available for travel.

Travel Insurance

We strongly suggest that you purchase dive travel insurance for the duration of your trip, there is a space provided on the booking form to show evidence of carrier. A portion of your trip cost goes towards Ras Mohammed Park fees and Sharm El Sheikh recompression chamber fees, this is a world class facility and manned 24 hours a day.

Reservations and Payment

For one to 15 persons a deposit of \$300 per person is required, with the balance of the money being payable no later than 60 days prior to the planned departure. Reservations made less than 60 days must include the full payment by check or money order.

For groups of 15 or more persons, a deposit of \$200 per person may secure reservations, again, the balance is payable 60 days before the planned departure date. All Payments must be made in US Dollars. There is a \$200 non-refundable booking fee on all parties wishing to travel.

Refunds

All arrangements are inclusive, there is no refund granted for unused meals, accommodation, diving or other services except by prior arrangement at the time of booking.

Changing or canceling reservations

Requests for rescheduling or canceling a reservation in writing made 60 days prior to departure will be honored, but will be subject to the \$200 booking fee. Less than 60 days, a cancellation fee of 25% applies to all parties, for cancellations made fourteen to eight days prior to departure the fee is 50%. No refund is granted to those who cancel seven days or less prior to a planned departure, or for those who fail to participate in a trip.

Responsibility

Izzy Diving Inc. (Izzy Diving) a Florida registered Corporation acts only as an agent for the suppliers of travel, accommodation, and diving as identified in the brochure in connection with your purchase of the tours described. Izzy Diving shall not be held responsible for any wrongful or negligent acts or omissions by any supplier, or other party not directly owned or controlled by Izzy Diving, or by the failure operated by any supplier or other party. Izzy Diving shall not be liable for any loss, injury, or damage to person, property, or otherwise, in connection with any accommodations, transportation or other services, resulting directly or indirectly from any acts of God, dangers incident to the sea, fire, breakdown of any machinery or equipment, acts of government or other authorities, wars, whether or not declared, hostilities, civil disturbances, strikes, riots, thefts, pilferage's, epidemics, quarantines, medical or customs regulations, defaults, delays or cancellations of or to itineraries or schedules, or from any causes resulting from insufficient or improperly issued passports, visas, or other documents.

Neither Izzy Diving nor any of its affiliates or subsidiaries shall be or become liable or responsible for any additional expenses or liabilities incurred by the tour member as a result of any of the aforementioned causes. Izzy Diving's responsibility to passengers carried in vehicles and aircraft for transfers and excursions and tours is governed by the laws of the respective countries in which the tours take place and no other country. All claims are subject to the jurisdiction of the courts of the country in which the action arises.

The right is reserved to substitute hotels. The right is also reserved to cancel the tour prior to departure. If any tour is cancelled prior to the passengers joining the tour, Izzy Diving is liable for a refund of monies received by Izzy Diving less the booking fee. Izzy Diving is not responsible for defaults of those not directly under the control of Izzy Diving.

The traveler assumes full and complete responsibility for, and hereby releases Izzy Diving from any duty of checking and verifying any and all passport, visa, vaccination or other entry requirement for any destination, and all safety conditions during the length of the proposed travel. For information regarding possible dangers at international travel destinations please contact the Travel Advisory Section of the US Department of State in Washington DC, tel: (202) 647-5225. For medical information, call the Public Health Service, tel: 301.443.2403

By embarking on his/her travel, the traveler voluntarily assumes all risks involved in such travel, whether expected or unexpected. The traveler is hereby warned of the aforementioned risks as well as possible travel industry bankruptcies and medical and climactic disruptions.

Prices are subject to change.

The receipt of your deposit and/or final payment will indicate that you have read these Terms and Conditions, and that you have agreed to them.