

DINING 5.8m DOWN IN THE MALDIVES

BRITAIN'S BEST-SELLING DIVING MAGAZINE

DIVER

JUNE 2017

divernet.com

UNDER WORLD

There are caves in
our hotel basement!

TAMING NARCOSIS

How the pros manage
delirium of the deeps

BIG TIMES IN IBIZA

Don Pedro wreck, 10 years after

5-STAR CARIBBEAN SPECIAL

- Cuba
- Mexico
- Roatan
- St Lucia
- Tobago



£4.40



Ying & Yang in the Maldives

An unusual high-end offering is Floating Resort by ScubaSpa, which sets sail for "the Maldives' best, most beautiful and hidden spots."

For divers travelling with non-diving partners, or "wellness" travellers, the itinerary offers Scuba Holiday (15-17 dives) or Spa Holiday (eight treatments) packages, or a Scuba & Spa combo, which includes six dives and four spa treatments.

Your temporary home will be one of what are said to be the two biggest liveaboards in the Maldives, the purpose-built, near-50m yachts Ying and Yang, each taking up to 40 guests in 19 suites, with one staff member per guest.

The boats – or rather ships – are also said to be the only ones in the Maldives with a 5* PADI rating, and have an accompanying 20m dive dhooni with nitrox compressor.

The two upper decks are dedicated to a wide variety of spa treatments – yes, it's said to be the biggest on-board spa in the Maldives!

Seven nights on a Scuba Holiday package costs from US \$1990. This covers airport transfers, full board, diving, yoga classes, island barbecue, farewell cocktail night and excursions.

➔ scubaspa.com



SUDANESE POSITIVES



Planet Dive Holidays recommends exploring some of the 530 miles of Red Sea coastline that are Sudanese waters, and says that a liveaboard offers divers the chance to visit "unspoilt islands, reefs and wrecks that are rich in aquatic life."

Mantas it describes as the hallmark of the region, and says that coral pinnacles form "some of the world's greatest pelagic feeding grounds,"

particularly in September and October.

Dugongs, hammerheads, reef sharks and barracuda shoals are among possible sightings. If you book now, from mid-November through to Christmas (the end of manta season) discounted prices are available, starting from £978 for a week's package, excluding flights.

➔ planetdiveholidays.com



Dive-centric chain **Werner Lau** is running a contest to find underwater photography to include in the 2018 edition of its desk calendar. A seven-night half-board stay with diving at its Oasis Dive Resort in Marsa Alam, Egypt, is on offer as a prize, and closing date is 30 May.

➔ wernerlau.com/calendar/campaign

IN BRIEF

Your operator The Scuba Place has launched a new website called Come Dive With Us, which it says is dedicated to special offers and discounted group travel.

➔ comedivewithus.co.uk

Biosphere Expeditions is relocating to Ireland from the UK in protest against its impending split with the EU. "In wildlife conservation especially, it is important to think beyond borders – which are human creations after all – and in terms of international co-operation," it says.

➔ biosphere-expeditions.org

Jack Ingle Technical Diving's annual Malta expeditions embrace mainly war wrecks in the 40-70m range, and £690pp covers five days' boat-diving, self-catering apartment, group vehicle hire, transfers and twin-set or rebreather cylinder hire. Starting dates are 30 October and 5, 11 and 17 November.

➔ Jack@jackingle.co.uk

Just hanging out

Guadalupe Island off Mexico's Pacific coast is one of the best destinations in the world for calm, clear water and a consistently high probability of multiple great white shark 9m-deep cage-diving encounters per day, says Regal Dive, with two or three of the 200 or so recognised sharks in the area expected on most dives. Access is also easy for UK divers, it says, by taking direct flights to San Diego.

Five-night trips aboard *Nautilus Under Sea*, *Belle Amie* or *Explorer* start from £2190pp (boat only), sharing a triple-stateroom with 3-4 dives a day.

➔ regaldive.co.uk

