



DIVE SITES

Anemone City - Shark Reef - Yolanda Reef

Egypt - Red Sea · Riff

Riff

TYPE

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ROUTES

Rainer Mo

At the southernmost tip of the Sinai Peninsula lie two of the Red Sea's most famous dive sites: Shark and Yolanda Reef. Especially during the summer months, these reefs rightfully earn their place among the top ten best dive sites in the world, as huge schools of snappers, batfish, trevally, barracudas, and blue-lined surgeonfish gather here to reproduce.



All details subject to change. Current prices and availability at:
<https://omneia.de/en/dive-sites/anemone-city-shark-reef-yolanda-reef>

Description

At the southernmost tip of the Sinai Peninsula lie two of the Red Sea's most famous dive sites: Shark and Yolanda Reef. Especially during the summer months, these reefs rightfully earn their place among the top ten best dive sites in the world, as huge schools of snappers, batfish, trevally, barracudas, and blue-lined surgeonfish gather here to reproduce. With a little luck, you might spot several blacktip sharks (*Carcharhinus limbatus*) in the midst of the massive barracuda school, and sometimes even a whale shark. When the current is favorable, the dive usually begins northeast of Shark Reef at **Anemone City**, a plateau with a depth of 12m–20m that juts out like a balcony into the blue water. Here you'll find a large number of anemones (*Heteractis magnifica* and *Entacmaea quadricolor*), inhabited by countless Red Sea clownfish (*Amphiprion bicinctus*). At a depth of about 14 meters, you'll find a vertical metal pole that was erected in the 1970s in memory of a diver who lost his life here. You then spend a few minutes crossing the blue water at a depth of about 15 meters and, heading 150 degrees, reach the imposing wall of **Shark Reef**, which drops vertically to a depth of more than 750 meters. With the reef on your right shoulder, you now dive through the gigantic schools of fish in the blue until you finally reach the sandy saddle that lies funnel-shaped between Shark and Yolanda Reef. Here you'll often encounter sea turtles and the resident Napoleon wrasses, which frequently follow divers out of curiosity. At a depth of about 14 meters, a massive gorgonian signals the start of **Yolanda Reef's** fantastic coral garden. Soft corals in red, white, orange, and crimson stand densely packed on this plateau before the terrain drops off to great depths on the eastern side. You traverse this coral garden—teeming with fish—parallel to the Yolanda main reef to the southern corner, reaching the wreck of the Cypriot merchant ship Yolanda, which ran aground and sank here on its way to Aqaba during the night of April 1–2, 1980. Parts of the ship remained visible above the water for a long time until, following a violent storm in 1987, it finally slid down to greater depths. The bow of the Yolanda was not discovered until 2008 by technical divers on the outer edge of the Yolanda Reef at a depth of 155 meters. The remains of the cargo—consisting of bathtubs, toilet bowls, sinks, and containers—are scattered across the gently sloping sandy bottom and are now colonized by many soft corals. Many fusiliers, groupers, moray eels, and blue-spotted stingrays can be found among the cargo debris, and a trained eye can also spot true stonefish here. If you have enough air, the dive usually ends at the small **Satellite Reef**, which lies opposite the wreck of the Yolanda. Here you can comfortably complete your safety stop and surface. **Caution:** This dive should only be undertaken by somewhat experienced divers, as the current—especially during the summer months—can often be very strong and unpredictable. Due to the reef's topography, it's not unusual to experience currents from the front, back, top, and bottom during a single dive—which, given the immense depth and the fact that you're diving in open water, requires excellent buoyancy control! Otherwise, this is a dive that no one is likely to forget anytime soon.

Routes

- ✓ Brother Islands - Ras Mohammed-Tiran
- ✓ Brothers - Tiran - Rosalie Moller
- ✓ Northern Strait of Tiran

Images

