

Happy Diving in Egypt

Busy season has arrived! October and November has always been the season for Scandinavians to travel to Egypt, but this year it was busier than ever. Colona Hurghada had up to 10 boats at a time, daily and safaris, with Colona Sharm and Colona El Gouna not far behind. Plenty of work – and a lot of happy customers. Therefore we at Colona Divers would like to apologize for this Colona News delay, and at the same time we would like to thank all of you for visiting us. So – what's been new this autumn?

THE STAFF AT COLONA!

Fanta Winner Certified!

On the 10th of November, Fanta winner Päivi Vähäsarja from Finland was certified as a PADI Open Water Diver. PADI Nordic; Coca Cola Company; and Colona arranged a lottery, with the first prize being a PADI Open Water Diver Course at Colona Dive Center in Hurghada. If you are lucky enough to buy just the right bottle of Fanta, you can become a diver too! Congratulations Päivi!

Red Anemone

In Sharm, there are three known locations for Red Anemones. Due to them being so small and attractive as food for certain bigger fish, makes them hard to find. Divers arrive from all over the world to look at these – but if you don't have the exact position where you jump in, the exact depth and the exact moment when you look, you might miss it.

Colona Sharm Renovated

Nowadays, if you visit Colona Sharm, you will find our new equipment area down the stairs, right beside the classroom. Anticipating this season being busy, we invested in some new gear and needed more space for all the BCD's, regulators and wetsuits. Also, the reception desk has gotten longer with a bigger mask-rack behind the counter. The staff has expanded too; you will find both new and familiar faces here this winter!

Paris Dakar Rally

In January 2003, Sharm El Sheikh attracted not only divers, but rally fanatics too! The world famous Paris-Dakar rally, that started in Marseille this year, had its finishing line in Sharm El Sheikh on the 19th of January. Although Colona Sharm did have a boat out that day, most of the guests joined Colona Divers and Fritidsresor / Star Tours / Finnmatkat for a day by the finishing line.



Photo: Thomas Tillberg

We welcomed PG Lundmark to

Sharm El Sheikh, spoke to Ari Vatanen and Tina Törner for a while; and now all rally enthusiasts can admire their autographs in our Swedish and Finnish flags at the center.

After the rally finals, there were prizes at the Sheraton, where we also got a good look at the cars, bikes and trucks.



Photo: Thomas Tillberg

Liveboards

This autumn we have been very busy with dive safaris. Safaris are an excellent way of experiencing diving in the Red Sea! You live on board, and have the perfect opportunity to make early morning dives at popular dive sites – before the daily boats arrive and the place gets crowded. We recommend safaris for all divers who require something out of the ordinary, and if you are an experienced diver with high requirements, a safari is a must! By the way - instructor Tero,

a.k.a. Abu Shanab, seems to be something of a dolphin magnet: on all safaris so far this season, he has met these fascinating creatures of the sea.



Photo: Kimmo Hagman

Buddy Inspiration

Colona Hurghada is on its way to become an "inspiration friendly" dive center. Manager Kimmo has finally received his Re-breather. A re-breather is a self-contained breathing device which allows divers to reuse their breath – as opposed to normal Scuba diving, when the divers' breath is expelled directly into the sea. Advantages with re-breathers are smaller tanks; longer bottom times; and that the system is quiet: closed circuit systems make no, or very few, bubbles!

Now that Kimmo has got his closed circuit device, he spends all his time in the water, equipped with his cameras. This way, he is able to quietly sneak close to the more shy aquatic species, the ones that are rarely spotted by Scuba divers. We all look forward to admire some stunning close shots! Already you can see parts of Kimmo's picture gallery at

<http://www.kimmohagman.com>

Note: as with all kinds of diving, when it comes to re-breathers, training is required. Never dive with equipment you do not master properly.



Photo: Said Arafat