



Poll Topping Santorini



Santorini - the beautiful island at its best

THE GREEK island of Santorini is among the most popular island destinations in the world - hardly surprising as the island has everything a great holiday destination needs.

The island has many facets to its charm. Not only blessed with stunning sunsets, it is also home to some of the most spectacular scenery and landscapes in the world. It is scattered with cliff top villages that boast views to die for and there are plenty of impressive beaches that cater for all tastes with red, black and white sand to choose from!

Of course, it is the abundance of excellent dive sites on offer at Santorini - not to mention the talk of a connection between the island and the City of Atlantis - that will interest readers of **SCOTTISH DIVER** and for those of you looking for a diving holiday that is as relaxing and scenic as it is exciting and unique look no further than the 8-day Athens-Santorini tour that Santorini

Divecenter has to offer.

The historic capital of Greece will be the starting point of the trip, where you will be able to enjoy some free time to explore (the Acropolis, the Ancient Market and the Royal Palace are on the itinerary) and

sample the delights of an old world taverna.

The boat journey to Santorini will take about 4-5 hours, but it will give you a chance to experience the natural beauty of the area with its amazing landscape and crystal clear sea, and put you in the mood for diving the spectacular volcanic underwater world that surrounds the islands.

You will dive through the ledges and crevices of the volcanic drop-offs where you will see seahorses, nudibranchs and tiny arrow crabs. Sometimes divers have the unique experience of diving in sulphide water, which comes from the numerous thermal springs that surround the volcanic crater and makes the water a bright yellowish/green colour.

A highlight of the trip is the Caldera Cliff, where the western coastline of the island meets the famous Santorini Caldera. This is a large basin that covers

roughly 32 square miles and offers fantastic wall diving that can descend to a depth of 300-600 metres of clear blue water. You will be shown through the lava walls where you will see many different coloured sponges, small fish, some groupers and a type of barracuda.

An option on this trip is a full day tour of the island and begins with a guided tour of the site of Akrotiri, where archaeologists have discovered one of the most important prehistoric settlements of the Aegean. From here you will be taken to one of Santorini's famous wineries, given a guided tour of the vineyards and, of course, the chance to sample their wine. Next stop is Oia, a lovely little town built on the edge of a cliff - the perfect place to experience one of Santorini's amazing sunsets.

The last full day on the island is left free to check out the shops and do some last minute souvenir shopping before. Prices for this trip are £705 for certified divers and £650 for non-divers (per person based on double occupancy). For those who want to take advantage of an introductory diving course, the extra cost is £30.

For further information about this trip contact Bessie Monsul at travel@divecenter.gr or visit: www.diveclub.gr/divecenter.asp

An Extra Holiday

IF YOU ARE a shark fanatic looking for a holiday with a difference - why not take Dive Worldwide up on their offer of combining your annual trip abroad with an active role in an underwater TV documentary featuring whale sharks? The documentary is being

carried out in conjunction with the Shark Research Institute and will focus on whale sharks present in the Mozambique Channel. Dive Worldwide are offering one-week diving holidays to coincide with the filming throughout the months of October, November and December 2005.

This is a unique chance for you to join scientists, technicians, film crew and other like-minded people united in the spirit of adventure and with a thirst for knowledge. The exploration will be led by Jean-Marc Bour the renowned underwater documentary maker, who has worked with filmmakers such as, Luc

Besson (The Big Blue) and Jean-Michel Cousteau (White Sharks in South Africa, without cage).

Workshops aboard the research vessel will predominantly focus on whale sharks and underwater filming. Video and photo techniques will be demonstrated during daily briefings in addition to reviewing the day's rushes and planning the following day's shooting.

If you are mad about sharks and want to combine the thrill of shark diving with the excitement of filming then don't miss out on this rare opportunity where you will be able to live and learn with

some of the world's leading experts in both fields!

One week diving holidays coinciding with filming are available departing Dar es Salaam - October 27, November 3, 10, 17 & 24, and December 1, 8 and 17, 2005.

The tour costs from £1,915 p/p including scheduled flights, transfers, 7-nights accommodation aboard the research vessel with all meals and expertly guided exploration activities.

For more details contact Teresa Bennett at Dive Worldwide - tel 0845 130 6980, email: info@diveworldwide.com or visit www.diveworldwide.com