



New Wreck For Red Sea

SHOTLINES XTRA

IN APRIL 2007 *MY Hyatt* successfully completed what is thought to be the most northerly wreck expedition by a Red Sea Safari boat. The main objective of the expedition was to survey the recently discovered wreck of the *SS Turkia*, a 300' Greek cargo ship which sank after an internal explosion in May 1941 some 150 miles north of Sha'ab Ali in the Gulf of Suez.

Sponsored by Aquatours - members of the Red Sea Wreck Academy and guests surveyed the wreck and confirmed her identity. Kirk Green of Aquatours joined Peter Collings and other leading Red Sea wreck experts in exploring the wreck, which sits in only 24 metres upright and intact.

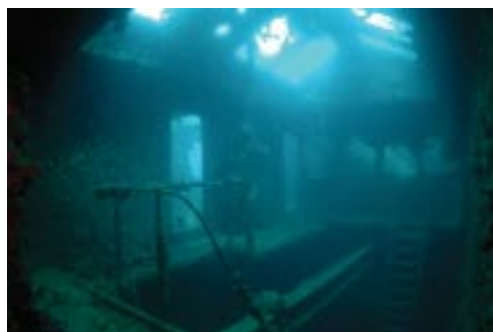
Kirk said: "I have not felt this level of excitement and euphoria since my first dive in the Red sea more than 20 years ago! Often I could not see the wreck for fish. Being upright and in 24 metres makes this perfect diving for all levels. Aquatours will now sponsor a return trip later this year to locate and dive three more wrecks one of which is over 500' long."

Peter Collings agrees: "I had located the wreck back in November 2006, and immediately realised that it was very special, but didn't think I would be able to find a boat, owner and Captain who would take up such a

challenge! "When I returned with the team in April I could not believe the staggering amount of marine life the wreck attracted. Juvenile barracuda literally blocked out the sunlight as they cascaded over the wreck.

"It is a wreck which has something for everyone, even a very healthy population of nudibranchs - not to mention the intriguing cargo of munitions vehicles, tyres and what appear to be thousands of detonator caps. Her compass binnacle still stands proud, although covered in a thick coral growth there is no doubt what it is."

The intrepid group of explorers also dived three other WW2 casualties en route to the *SS Turkia* including the *Thistlegorm*, *Rosalie Moller* and *Scalaria* plus a victim of the Arab/Israeli conflict, the survey vessel *BAKR*. They are currently planning a return trip in November which will include many of the original group, however they still have spaces for some guest divers so if you are interested in accompanying them contact Aquatours on 020 8398 0505.



The team

The recently discovered Turkia

Webster's Photo Workshop Gets Results



Image courtesy of Georgina Shellard



Image courtesy of Terry Dunbar

MARK WEBSTER has just returned from another successful underwater photo workshop on board the Blue Waves with Oonasdivers. The group enjoyed some fantastic diving at the Brothers, Daedalus and Elphinstone.

For the shark enthusiasts there were sightings of hammerheads, threshers, silky and grey reef sharks along with some very large tuna and all the regular reef species which kept the cameras busy all week.

If you have an interest in photography and want to improve your images there is still space to join Mark on his September workshop in the southern Red Sea. Contact the office for full details and see Mark's website at www.photec.co.uk or contact Oonasdivers on: 01323 648924.

The pictures featured show the sort of images you can expect to achieve with a little help from Mark's workshops.