



HOLIDAY DIVER

Discover Florida's Wrecks



HERE'S A THOUGHT for wreck diving enthusiasts - you could do worse than holiday in Florida and visit Key Largo, home to two of the largest ships in the world ever to be purposely sunk to create an artificial reef for divers. The recent sinking of *USS Oriskansy* (a retired aircraft carrier) is a real reason to get yourself on a fly drive to America's Sunshine State. It lies in 212 feet of water and is about 22 miles off shore, while its neighbour wreck - the *Spiegel Grove* (a decommissioned 510 foot Naval Landing Ship Dock) is positioned six miles out of Key Largo in about 130 feet of water.

Not only will you get to dive and explore these intact wrecks, but you will also be privy to the plethora of fish which they are now home to - a reported 170 different species of fish have been spotted on the *Oriskansy* already.

Spiegel Grove is the number one requested wreck dive in Key Largo since she was sunk four

years ago, and the *Oriskansy* looks to prove as popular - so popular in fact that there is another military vessel now planned for artificial reef status, the *Gen. Hoyt S. Vandenberg*, a retired 520-foot-long United States Air Force missile-tracking ship.

If you think wreck diving in the sunny climes of Florida is something you fancy then visit: <http://www.fla-keys.com/keywest/> for more information on dive companies and accommodation.

image above: *USS Oriskansy*; and below: underwater Florida is superb



A Maltese Break

MALTA IS home to spectacular scenery both above and below the water. Steep, rugged cliffs, caves and picturesque rock formations dominate the dramatic coastline. And what is going on beneath the clear blue waters is just as breathtaking, only divers get the honour of visiting it exclusively.

Among Malta's many plus points for diving include the warm temperatures, crystal clear blue waters, virtually no tide or current and a fantastic array of marine life just waiting to be discovered.

Gozo is the place to visit for the



best diving Malta has to offer (I hope my old geography teacher's not reading this but you know what I mean), with its spectacular caves, caverns, drop offs, offshore reef structures, gullies, chimneys, tunnels and arches.

Scuba Diving Malta offers scuba diving packages that are tailor-made for clubs and groups and can include 12 dives spread over five days at a variety of dive

sites around Malta.

If you are interested in taking a summer break to Malta then email them at: scubadivemalta@gmail.com for a price quotation.

Discover & Enjoy



discoveringgozo.com



Malta is a member of the European Union and the Schengen Area. The official language is Maltese. The national flag is white with a red cross and a blue triangle at the top containing a white Maltese cross. The national emblem is a shield with a white cross and a blue triangle at the top containing a white Maltese cross. The national motto is 'Għodda waħda' (One voice). The national anthem is 'Marsxall' (March of the Knights). The national day is 21st September. The national flag is white with a red cross and a blue triangle at the top containing a white Maltese cross. The national emblem is a shield with a white cross and a blue triangle at the top containing a white Maltese cross. The national motto is 'Għodda waħda' (One voice). The national anthem is 'Marsxall' (March of the Knights). The national day is 21st September.