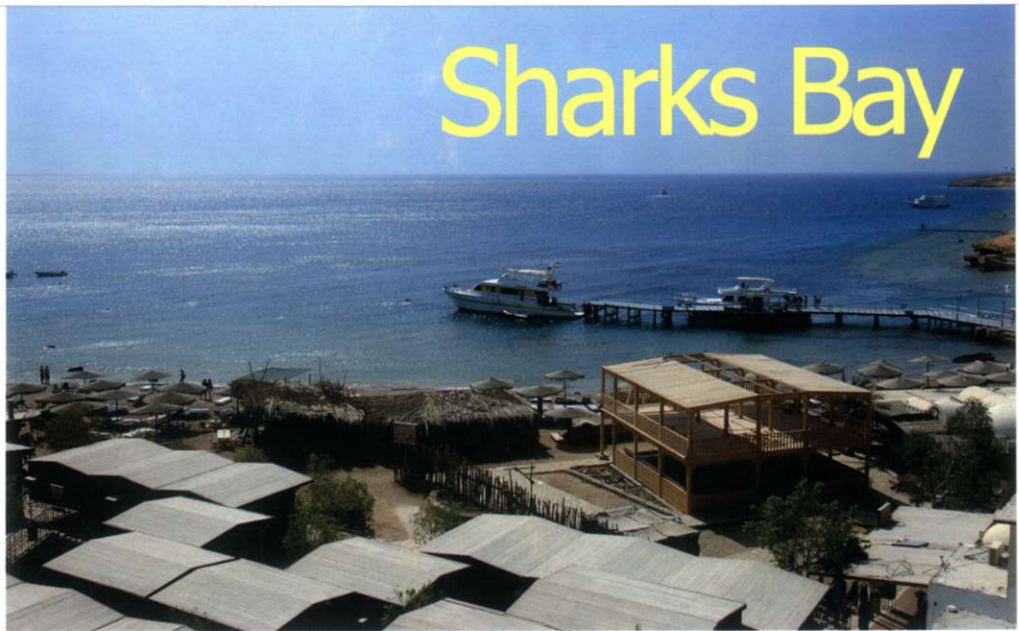


HOLIDAY DIVER



Sharks Bay



The Charm Of Old Sharm

ONASDIVERS ARE excited to have been appointed the sole UK agent for what must be the best kept secret in the Sinai - Sharks Bay. And what a find it is - Sharks Bay manages to retain a friendly village feel and yet is only 10 minutes from the lights of Sharm El Sheikh.

The picturesque bay has its own private jetty, restaurant, beach bar and accommodation. The new individually styled Bedouin village has recently been completed on the cliff above the bay and all the rooms have direct sea views, most with balconies.

The dive centre has two modern compressors and a great house reef for swimming, snorkelling or easy diving. Sharks Bay has its own Freedom fleet of five diving boats, four of which can be used for diving safaris. The reefs of Tiran are only 30 minutes away and the beautiful dive sites of Ras Nasrani and Ras Gamila are 15 minutes away. That's the great thing about the bay - everything is on site and therefore no long stuffy transfers to

the boats. You just stroll along the beach to the jetty.

Sharm residents say that the bay still retains the feel of how Sharm used to be before the arrival of large scale tourism. It's a laid back, friendly and relaxing spot with a little hint of the surreal when you see camels walking along the beach between the cafés and the sea.

The city of Sharm el Sheikh is not actually that old. The settlement began with the Israelis in the 1970s and when they left in 1982 a few small dive centres and hotels started to set themselves up in Naama Bay under the umbrella of the Egyptian Ministry of Tourism.

The settlement of Sharks Bay can date its origins back to this period. A well known local Bedouin-Umbarak (Umbi) - started to run diving trips to the reefs of Nabq and Tiran from the bay. Born and bred on the shores of the Red Sea, he used the engine of his Land Rover to compress the air for the scuba tanks. It was a pioneering enterprise and the first Bedouin-run dive

centre in the area. The facilities of the bay have moved on a long way since then but the warm Bedouin hospitality remains.

But why the name Sharks Bay? Well, there have a variety of answers to that question. Some say that until 12 years ago several species of shark did in fact inhabit the bay but others dispute this. Others say that the name derives from early tourists who used to spot what they thought were sharks but were in fact mantas or milk fish. Probably the most likely explanation comes from Umbi himself who says that in the early 1980s someone came to see him and asked him the name of the bay and without a moments thought he called it Sharks Bay as it sounded nice.

But what no-one will explain to us is their logo which is a duck. Sharks Bay, a duck? It makes no sense to us either so if anyone finds out please let us know!

For further details contact Onas on 01323 648924, web: www.onasdivers.com



The Dive Centre



Tiran Island



Sharks Bay - Bedouin Village

