



After the trauma of the 2004 tsunami the big Indian Ocean dive locations are starting to get back to normal and that is reflected in the reopening of two great resorts in the Maldives ...

## Kandooma Resort Is Back ...

SOUTH MALE contains some of the Maldives' greatest dive sites which over the years were accessible from just a small handful of dive resorts. The tsunami of 2004 forced the closure of most of these resorts, but what did not change was the quality of the diving as the reefs and marine life remained unaffected and continued to thrive despite the absence of visits from local shore-based divers.

This summer has seen the long awaited reopening of, arguably, the best located of all these resorts, Kandooma. Sitting right in Kandooma channel this well loved dive resort has new owner-managers and just about everything is new and improved. Now a stylish yet unfussy first class, four star resort there are a selection of spacious room types including the duplex rooms with a private rinse tank for you to keep your precious electronic dive gear close to hand between dives or while you cook dinner on a private Bar-B-Q at your room.

The Australasian management want to 'celebrate life' so have designed the resort's facilities with an active guest in mind. At its heart is the brand new dive centre with a beautiful, huge deck area for kitting up, a state of the art compressor system, from which they offer free Nitrox to qualified guests, and a range of diver training courses.

The resort also offers a variety of watersports including snorkelling with the resident marine biologist, beach volleyball and underwater hockey. There's also plenty to help you chill out whether that be a quiet spot on the beach or watching a black and white movie on the silver screen.

H2O's Daniel Le Merle has just returned from Kandooma following its reopening:

"I have been looking forward to this day ever since I heard the plans for the new Kandooma. What I found did not disappoint and I also saw many unexpected extra touches that I'm sure our guests will really

appreciate. We were therefore very happy to be named as Kandooma's only dive specialist tour operator for the UK.



South Male Island



Stylish accommodation

## And Divers Baros Maldives Returns To Action

DIVERS BAROS Maldives is proud to announce the re-opening of its new diving and water sports centre after extensive renovation. The centre is now fully up to date with the latest diving, water sports and snorkel equipment.

The brand new classrooms, mean that the resident marine environmentalist can customise your diving experience with Baros's 'diving by design' programmes in the comfort of a sitting down area. The centre also offers a diving shop, extensive reference books and a plasma screen for all-day slideshows.

By opening this brand new diving centre, Baros is aiming to customise and personalise every guests diving experience. There are 30 diving sites within 60 minutes of Baros and the

dive specialists can take you wherever you wish by the diving dhoni. Discuss your ideas with the instructors and they will design diving 'a la carte' to reward you and your partner with exotic marine life.

The dive centre also offers windsurfing and catamaran sailing, private snorkelling tours and Molokine clear canoes.

Sovereign Luxury Holidays offers 7 nights at Baros Maldives from £1,479pp in a deluxe room on a B&B basis including flights from London Gatwick, private speedboat transfers and complimentary UK airport lounge passes.

For more information contact Sovereign Luxury Holidays on: 08716640227 or [www.sovereign.comits](http://www.sovereign.comits) reopening:



Stunning vistas



Stunning marine life (turtle)



Did we mention stunning marine life? (stingray)

# New Look At The Red Sea

LONGWOOD HOLIDAYS has now added a number of seats flying direct to Aqaba. Departures start from November 4 from London Gatwick.

Dan Lion at Longwood Holidays told **SCOTTISH DIVER**: "This is a great opportunity to dive an area of the Red Sea which has not been easily accessible until now.

"We can now sell the resort as a diving package holiday using our direct flight plus we can sell multi-centre tours via Aqaba,

making it a lot more convenient for people who wish combine diving with some sight seeing.

"Over the last year we've seen a huge increase in interest for Jordan, including Aqaba. With the resort offering all the typical benefits



of a Red Sea resort – spectacular diving, year round glorious weather, a host of water sports and fabulous sandy beaches – but without yet being spoilt by commercialised tourism, it's easy to see why it's becoming so popular. It also acts as a great base from which to explore the sights of Jordan including Petra and Wadi Rum which is why we're hoping our charter seats will allow us to offer more convenient multi-centre itineraries."

Sample packages  
7nts bed & breakfast,  
5\*Intercontinental  
Hotel, Aqaba from  
£745 (based on  
departures Dec 9,  
2008). Price includes  
return flights from  
Gatwick to Aqaba,  
accommodation, taxes  
and surcharges.

For more information  
call: 020 8418 2570 or  
visit [www.longwoodholidays.co.uk](http://www.longwoodholidays.co.uk)

# Oonas Team Add New Places



OONASDIVERS HAS just announced that they have now developed a series of special interest and activity holidays to complement their already popular range of diving holidays.

Should your interests extend beyond diving then you might be interested to know that the new brochure includes; trekking in India, walking in El Hierro, cultural tours as well as

kite surfing and wind surfing in Egypt.

Their diving destinations have also expanded to include, Egypt, South Africa, Malta and Gozo, Sudan, Tobago, Thailand and Burma as well as The Maldives.

Call Oonasdivers today to get your copy of their new brochure hot off the press 01323 648924. Check out their website [www.oonasdivers.com](http://www.oonasdivers.com)

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE DETAILS OF NEW DESTINATIONS, FLIGHTS OR OTHER INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR COMPANY TO BE INCLUDED IN THE HOLIDAY DIVER SECTION PLEASE CALL 0141 332 3933 or CONTACT LOUISE - [louise@tfti.demon.co.uk](mailto:louise@tfti.demon.co.uk)**



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# DIVEBUNKER



Come Dive the Fifth of Forth – one of the best wreck diving sites in the UK

The Dive Bunker is a long established PADI Dive School and Dive Shop. From our base at Burntisland in Fife we are within easy access of Burntisland harbour and the local slipway.

We offer a broad range of services including:

- Diver Training and Development
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