

## SUMMER DIVE/STAY PACKAGE - DIVESITES

**15 Reef Dives** – Ranging in depths of 80ft (24 m) to 60ft (18m) Max depths.

**7 Shipwrecks** - In the late 1980s, 7 ships were refloated, towed off the north coast and scuttled in 80ft (24 m) to 60ft (18m) Max depths

### Sea Fan Reef (Snorkel & Dive Site)

This reef is what we consider the safest dive site in Anguilla. The boat is anchored on a Sandy bottom in 7 to 8 feet of water. It is protected by three reef structures which means that is always calm with very little water movement. However, once you hit the start of the reef in 15 feet of water you are surrounded by all types of soft coral and a forest of sea fans; max depth is 40 feet. This dive is great for snorkelers and novice divers alike and offers a great chance of seeing Southern Stingrays, Eagle Rays and Turtles.

### Angel Reef (Snorkel & Dive Site)

What a great dive this is! One of our personal staff favorites for snorkeling and diving, its name is due to the large number of Angel fish seen at this dive site. This site has 10-12 feet high sea whip and huge sea fans. We anchor in 22 feet of water at the edge of the reef which goes anywhere from 1ft to 65 ft. deep. Lots of Stingrays and Turtles spotted here

### Lobster Reef (Dive Site only)

This reef takes its name from the Caribbean lobster that can be found moving about over this hard coral reef. Most reef sites in Anguilla are made up of Soft coral however this is a huge horseshoe shaped plateau that starts in 25ft and goes to a drop off at 45 ft., from there we hit a sandy bottom in 85-100 ft. of water. On the edge of the drop-off we are able to see Nurse Sharks under the ledgers.

### Shoal Bay Reef (Snorkel & Dive Site)

This reef is famous on Anguilla for offering great snorkeling. Its reputation is not unfounded, the plateau is in 15 to 18ft of water and goes down towards a 45 degree drop-off at 25ft after that point it drops off anywhere from 30 feet at its Eastern end to 85 ft. on its Western end. At the base of the reef is a sandy bottom where we often see Southern String Rays, Lobster, Crayfish and Eels in the overhangs and holes within the reef itself.

### Crystal Reef (Dive Site only)

A dive favorite for those who like to find marine life like Eels, Arrow Crabs, Cleaner Shrimp, Red Claw Shrimp and Caribbean Spiny lobster. This site offers good safe diving with only a short boat ride. We anchor in 15-20 ft. of water on the top on the reef where large Elkhorn coral formations can be found; these are seen on the edge of the drop-off at 25 ft. where it drops off to an 80ft sandy bottom.

### Frenchman's Reef (Dive Site only)

We named this reef after Michel, simply because he was French and it sounded better than Michel. That said it is an interesting reef with a large flat area at 8 to 30ft with a steep drop-off to 83ft where the reef then goes out flat to about 100ft. Most of our dive sites have sandy bottoms but this site has coral heads and sandy circles that are great for Southern stingrays and Lobster that are quite often caught in the open running between holes.

### The Beacon Reef (Dive Site only)

This site is situated with steep cliffs and caves as a backdrop to the reef site. The caves only go back about twenty feet so they are not suitable for divers. What we have here though is a very wide plateau at about 22 feet; it has trenches that run at 90 degrees to the shoreline until they meet the drop-off about twenty feet apart. You can follow these to the drop-off and slide down the reef to about 70 ft. The trenches are the perfect place for searching for those critters that love to hide.

### Captain Turtle/Face In The Wall (Snorkel & Dive Site)

This site was named 'Captain Turtle' for two reasons. This is because we often see turtles here. The second reason is that the owner of Le-Bar the restaurant behind our shop loves to dive this site and people sometimes call him Captain Turtle because of his love of the sea. If you get a chance ask him about the medallions that were on his bar at Sandy Ground! This is one of the writer's favorite dives. The plateau has lots of places for Nurse Sharks to sleep so we always look for them when we are there. Soft coral fans lead the way to the drop-off. This dive can range anywhere from 20ft to 65ft. A nice easy dive that entertains the novice to the most experienced diver.

### Limestone Reef (Snorkel & Dive Site)

One of Anguilla's few dives that can be done as a shore dive; this reef is one of the last shoreline reefs sites before the limestone cliffs that line our shores. This site ranges in depth from 15ft to 60 ft. Lots of southern stingrays can be found on the sandy bottoms.

### Little Bay (Snorkel & Dive Site)

Not really a dive site due to its shallow depth of 20ft maximum but worth a mention as a great place to snorkel. This area is very calm and protected from the winter storms. Even the most novice snorkelers can have a great time here. There are lots of small fish and lobsters here as the site is a nursery area for young fish.

### Sandy Deep (Snorkel & Dive Site)

The most known of three of Sandy Island's dive sites. It is at the Southern edge of the horseshoe shaped plateau that

surrounds Sandy Island. It goes from 15 to 60 feet at the edge. It offers a wide range of fish.

### Sandy Shallow (Dive Site Only)

This site is in fact the deepest at 70 feet (who said names had to be true to the site?). It is very similar to Sandy Deep

and offers the same types of coral and fish. We are more likely to see stingrays here and slightly harder coral heads.

### No Name (Dive Site Only)

The third and the best of Sandy Island's dive sites. It got its name because we were fed up of Sandy 'this' and Sandy 'that' so we never gave it a name and people started to call it 'No Name' and it stuck. That aside, it's a very pretty soft coral reef that is anywhere from 20-65 feet.

#### Frenchman's West (Dive Site Only)

At the edge of limestone cliffs sits this shallow reef. The ledge that can be found at 30ft is a good site for Nurse Sharks

to sleep and Lobsters to hide. An easy and fun shallow dive that runs parallel to shore.

#### Deep South (Dive Site Only)

This flat reef is situated across from the Osterdeep wreck. It is a large flat reef that is at a depth of 60-80 ft. We find both soft and hard coral here. Southern stingrays' are caught feeding on the sandy bottom at the edge of this reef.

**7 Shipwrecks** - In the late 1980s, 7 ships were refloated, towed off the north coast and scuttled in 80ft (24 m) to 60ft (18m) Max depths

#### Ida Marie Wreck (Dive Site Only)

The most damaged of the wrecks it was originally 120ft long but is more compacted by storms, it sits on the northwest side of Sandy Island. It is located on the reef in 60 ft. of water and has had the bow twisted on its side from a storm. Both the wreck and reef offer a long bottom time at only 60 ft. There is a car, well what is left of it off to the right if you are facing the bow.

#### Osterdiep Wreck (Dive Site Only)

This is a well preserved wreck is 142ft and sits at a max depth of 80ft. The bow faces into Sandy ground and has the

remains of a VW car off to its stern. We see garden eels, southern stingrays and a very playful turtle on this wreck

#### Meppel Wreck (Dive Site Only)

HISTORIC WWII SHIP RE-DISCOVERED Played a heroic role in the evacuation of Dunkir. Unfortunately, in September, 1995, category 5 hurricane Luis made a direct hit on Anguilla, destroying the buoy marking the location of one of the wrecks - the 130 foot inter-island freighter M/V "Meppel" – known as The "Hilda" arrived at Dunkirk 28 May, put into the beach (her draft was only 8.5 feet), and took on 500 allied troops who waded out. These were delivered to waiting destroyers, then another 400 were shuttled out, and finally that day, 100 serious casualties were shuttled to destroyers. On the 29th, the "Hilda" took on another 600 evacuees, but because of heavy shelling of destroyers, was forced to deliver the troops directly to Dover, in the UK. She returned to Dunkirk on the 31st towing 6 smaller boats to be used for the evacuation, and evacuated another 600 troops to destroyers. Her final pick up was 100 troops on 1 June, but while delivering these troops to the destroyer "Keith", both the "Keith" and the smaller M/S "Skipjack" were shelled, and "Hilda" picked up the survivors from both. Finally, while returning to England, dive bombers sank 2 smaller private boats (the "Scotia" and "Brighten") in convoy with "Hilda", so she also picked up these survivors, disembarking a total of 530 troops and survivors at Ramsgate, UK. She returned to Dunkirk one last time on 3 June, but found no troops to evacuate. Official records show that Hilda evacuated a total of 835 troops to the UK, Anguilla is proud to be the final resting place for this heroic little ship, and encourages anyone interested to visit this unique dive site.

### Kathlee H wreck (Dive Site Only)

This is Anguilla's only steel freighter wrecks sites that was not sunk on purpose. This 100ft vessel was in the process of being cleaned up when a fire on board got out of control and was left to burn its self out. However over night the wreck sunk in the sandy area outside of Road Bay and only the top of the mast could be seen. The mast this was cut off at 30ft so that it would not be a navigation hazard and it became a dive site. Even though there is no reef around it has still become a great attraction for the fish. The wreck sits intact and upright on the bottom and ranges in depth from 30 to 60 feet.

### The Commerce Wreck (Dive Site Only)

This 99ft long wreck sits in 82ft of water by the stern. It is intact and upright but has received damage due to storms that have passed though over the last six years, however rather that detracting from the dive site it has added a strange eerie feel to this wreck. Some of the biggest lobsters to be found can be seen here with the largest lobster ranging anywhere from 20 to 30 pounds depending on who is telling the fisherman's tale. This wreck is located on a reef and has introduced the larger fish to this area. We often see hog fish, Atlantic spadefish, goat fish, lobster and barracuda at 15 to 20 feet on the mooring line.

### The Wreck of The Lady Vie (Dive Site Only)

Although sunk in the late 1980's, this wreck was lost to us until the end of 2013, when it was rediscovered at a depth of 80 ft. This 127 ft vessel was deliberately sunk and sits totally intact and upright and on the bottom. This vessel is also pack full with cars and other items which look totally undisturbed since this vessel was sunk. We lots to see on the wreck plus the marine life that inhabits it you will come away with some great memories.

### The Sara (Dive Site Only)

By far the biggest of the wrecks at 232ft, it sits out toward the 12 miles of reef that runs between Prickly Pear and Island Harbour. Like most of the wrecks, she was sunk intact and upright in the water. The cargo areas and the hull sit in 80ft of water but the top of the wheelhouse is only 30ft. There was a large Jew Fish in residence, but it has not been seen in a while. The sheer size of this wreck makes it a worthwhile dive.