

# SOME OF THE DIVE SITES IN WATAMU, c/o Aqua Ventures

## MORAY REEF

THIS SITE IS THE HOME OF 'GEORGE' THE SEMI-TAME GIANT MORAY! THE BUOY LINE IS TIED OFF AT A DEPTH OF 9-11 METERS, NEAR THE TOP OF THE REEF. THE DROP OFF IS A SHORT SWIM AWAY, DURING WHICH, YOU ARE LIKELY TO SPOT OCTOPUS, SEVERAL SMALLER SPECIES OF MORAY, SCORPION FISH & CROCODILE FISH. THE REEF, WHICH IS ENCRUSTED WITH A WIDE VARIETY OF HARD & SOFT CORAL, DROPS OFF TO A SANDY BOTTOM AT 28-30 METERS. GEORGE'S HAUNT IS HALF WAY DOWN THE DROP OFF, AMONGST THE OVERHANGS, WHICH ALSO HOUSE VARIOUS OTHER REEF CREATURES – SUCH AS LEAF FISH, STONE FISH, NUDIBRANCHS & PERHAPS IF YOU ARE FORTUNATE- FROG FISH! THE DIVE WILL TAKE YOU EITHER NORTH OR SOUTH OF HERE, ALONG THE EDGE OF THE REEF WHICH IS ALIVE WITH VARIOUS SPECIES OF REEF FISH SUCH AS ANGEL FISH, BUTTERFLY FISH, GROUPERS, TANGS. IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE TO SEE LARGE HONEYCOMB MORAYS, LOBSTERS, TURTLES AND THE LARGER PELAGICS SUCH AS KINGFISH, BARRACUDA, RAYS, NAPOLEON WRASSE ETC.. (ADJOINING DIVE SITES – NORTH MORAY & CRACAS)

## DRUMMERS REEF

THIS IS A SHALLOW SITE, SUITABLE FOR BEGINNERS OR A SECOND DIVE OF THE DAY. THE BUOY LINE IS TIED OFF AT THE EDGE OF A SHALLOW SANDY CHANNEL AT A DEPTH OF 9-11 METRES. A CAREFUL LOOK AROUND THE SANDY CHANNEL (DOTTED WITH CORAL HEADS) WILL REVEAL BLUE-SPOTTED RAYS, MOSES SOLE, FALSE STONEFISH, CROCODILE FISH & THE OCCASIONAL LARGER RAY. THE SEAWARD SIDE OF THE SANDY CHANNEL DROPS DOWN OVER A SERIES OF OVERHANGS TO A SANDY BOTTOM AT 26-28 METERS. HERE IT IS POSSIBLE TO SEE LIONFISH, MORAYS, SCORPION FISH, LEAF FISH, TURTLES, NAPOLEON WRASSE AND OCCASIONALLY DOLPHINS, MANTAS OR OTHER PELAGIC RAYS. THE LANDWARD SIDE OF THE SANDY CHANNEL IS SURROUNDED BY A PROFUSION OF EYE-CATCHING HARD CORALS SUCH AS STAGHORN CORAL, BOULDER CORALS, TABLE CORALS ETC. HERE YOU ARE ALSO LIKELY TO ENCOUNTER TURTLES AND MAYBE A PASSING BARRACUDA.

## CANYON

THE BUOY LINE HERE IS TIED OFF AT A DEPTH OF 11-13 METERS AT THE EDGE OF THE DROP OFF WHICH DESCENDS TO A DEPTH OF 26-28 METERS. HERE THERE ARE A SERIES OF OVERHANGS AND AN ARCH FILLED WITH GLASS FISH AND SOFT CORALS, UNDERNEATH WHICH YOU ARE LIKELY TO SEE AN UNCOMMON CREATURE - THE RIBBON EEL. SOUTH OF THE BUOY IS THE 'CANYON' ITSELF – A SANDY CHANNEL WITH STEEP DROP OFFS ON TWO SIDES. AT CERTAIN TIMES OF THE YEAR IT IS POSSIBLE TO SEE BLACK OR WHITE TIPPED REEF SHARKS LYING IN THE SAND AT THE BOTTOM OF THE 'CANYON, OR LARGE GROUPERS & RAYS CRUISING DOWN THE CHANNEL. THE REEF ON THE OTHER SIDE IS ALIVE WITH LARGE SCHOOLS OF TREVALLIES, FUSILIERS, SNAPPERS, SPADEFISH OR SOMETIMES, SOMETHING LARGER PASSING BY IN THE DEEP WATER! ON THE TOP OF THIS REEF IS A PROLIFIC 'CORAL GARDEN', WHERE IT IS OFTEN POSSIBLE TO SEE TURTLES. (ADJOINING DIVE SITES – NORTH CANYON, SOUTH CANYON AND DOLPHIN POINT)

## BRAIN CORAL

THIS DIVE SITE IS NAMED AFTER A VERY LARGE PIECE OF 'ROSE' CORAL (!) WHICH IS SITUATED NEXT TO THE BUOY LINE AT A DEPTH OF 11-13 METRES. THE 'ROSE' CORAL IS HOME TO MANY DIFFERENT SPECIES OF MARINE LIFE – OCTOPUS, SCORPION FISH, LIONFISH, NUDIBRANCHS – TO NAME A FEW! THE REEF SLOPES DOWN GENTLY ON EITHER SIDE OF THE 'ROSE' CORAL TO A DEPTH OF 13-15 METRES ON THE LANDWARD SIDE & 21-23 METRES ON THE SEAWARD SIDE. IN THE CHANNEL ON THE NORTH SIDE OF THE CORAL, THE SAND IS 'ALIVE' WITH GARDEN / SAND EELS & YOU CAN ALSO OCCASIONALLY SEE BLUE SPOTTED & THORN-TAIL RAYS. SOUTH OF THE BUOY IS A BEAUTIFUL EXAMPLE OF THE VIVID PINKY-RED 'FIRE' ANEMONE. FURTHER SOUTH ARE SEVERAL OVERHANGS LADEN WITH WHITE & YELLOW SOFT CORALS WHICH PLAY HOST TO MANY OF THE SMALLER SPECIES OF MARINE LIFE. HERE YOU WILL ALSO SWIM THROUGH VAST ' CLOUDS' OF ANTHIAS (JEWEL FISH) & GLASS FISH – IT IS NOT UNUSUAL TO BE CAUGHT AMONGST THESE FISH WHEN HUGE SCHOOLS OF TREVALLY AND EMPEROR FISH POWER THEIR WAY THROUGH IN THEIR QUEST FOR FOOD. IT IS ALSO HERE THAT WE HAVE HAD MOST OF OUR UNDERWATER DOLPHIN 'EXPERIENCES' – THOUGH THESE ARE NOT A COMMON OCCURRENCE! THERE ARE OFTEN SIGHTINGS OF TURTLES & LARGE NAPOLEON WRASSE IN THIS VICINITY. (ADJOINING DIVE SITES – DEEP PLACE & SOUTH DEEP PLACE)

## MIDA WRECK – EX SHRIMP TRAWLER

THIS WRECK IS CLOSE TO THE MOUTH OF THE SALT WATER 'MIDA' CREEK. DUE TO THIS PROXIMITY THERE ARE SUBSTANTIAL TIDE / WATER MOVEMENTS AROUND THE WRECK SO DIVES CAN ONLY TAKE PLACE AT HIGH NEAPS. IT IS A SMALL (20+ METRES), STEEL HULLED TRAWLER, WHICH LIES ON IT'S SIDE IN SAND AT A DEPTH OF APPROXIMATELY 14 METRES – MAKING THIS AN IDEAL DIVE FOR THOSE WHO HAVE NEVER VISITED A WRECK BEFORE. THE BOAT WENT DOWN IN ABOUT 1988, & IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THE CORAL GROWTH & THE MARINE LIFE THAT HAS ESTABLISHED ITSELF HERE SINCE IT SANK. YOU WILL SEE SNAPPERS, SWEEPERS, LEAF FISH, LOBSTER, SCORPION FISH, STONE FISH, OCTOPUS ETC. PLUS IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE TO SEE LARGE GROUPER LURKING IN THE OLD REFRIGERATION ROOMS. THE WRECK IS NOT SUITABLE FOR PENETRATION.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE FOLLOWING IS PROHIBITED IN THE MARINE PARK / RESERVE: - THE WEARING OF GLOVES, HARASSING / COLLECTING OF ANY MARINE LIFE, CORALS OR SHELLS, FEEDING OF FISH, SPEARFISHING ETC.