

Parting Shot

I work as a Chief Officer in merchant vessels and I have had time to reflect on some beautiful dives in Egypt whilst on voyage.

It was November; I had returned from a long contract and I had the need to go diving as it was winter in Greece, I joined a friend's group heading to Egypt to dive the Deep South route, so here we are in the familiar Golden Dolphin 3!

As always the group was great and together with the friendly and always ready to help crew of Golden Dolphin 3 the week was promising!

During the week we had some great diving around Fury Shoal and St John's reefs. The dives had it all; the colorful reefs of the Red Sea, plentiful sea life and of course the famous coral caverns.

I had with me my new Canon 7D MKII and I was enthusiastic to use it underwater for the first time, a good thing was that my dive body had also a camera so we were in the same page in terms of making relax dives taking our time to photograph and not worrying about staying behind the rest.

I made some good photos that I was happy with, but I was waiting anxiously for the snorkeling with spinner dolphins at Sataya reef if I

remember the name correctly.

So here we are on the 5th day of our trip, we did two nice reef dives, we rested and then approached the reef where the dolphins should be. The crew went with the Zodiac to check if there was any there. I prepared my camera and I was trying to wait calmly, all the people on the boat was super excited waiting for the opportunity to see and swim close to those magnificent creatures.

Finally the Zodiac came back with good news, a big group of spinner dolphins was on the reef! I was so excited that I grabbed my camera and got in the first Zodiac.

As we approached the site I was like, what the.... Dozens of Zodiacs from other livaboards and day boats were there! And as you can guess too many people in the water! As we jumped in I saw my first dolphin; I didn't even think of taking a picture I stayed still just feeling so happy and blessed to see such a beautiful creature.

The thinking was that with so many people in the water and the Zodiacs going round to pick up divers, The dolphins most of the time did a pass and then disappeared and in the first photos I manage to make there were many people in them.



Finally me and 2-3 others from our group found ourselves further away from the crowd and there was a big group of dolphins with their young. They let us approach and they seemed to be interesting in us. It was then that I made my favourite picture of the trip when a dolphin approached me to investigate.

Overall it was a great trip and I was pleased that I had the opportunity

to see and photograph my first dolphins, but I was wondering if our "intrusion" to their home was overwhelming for them.

Canon 7D MKII with Tokina 10-17 and Ikelite housing, Iso 100, F: 5.6, Shutter speed : 500, WB set to Cloudy

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