

African trainee dive masters. Carlos, one of the first Mozambican native dive masters, is a great critter-spotter. Their crew will also load and unload the dive kit into the boat, something that Diversity insisted on its clients helping with. Unlike Diversity, their centre is right on the beach with a pleasant deck where one can enjoy great breakfast and lunches including superb, freshly baked muffins. John will blend Nitrox. The extra bottom time that buys after most other divers ascended was well worth it. Unfortunately, fresh water and electricity are intermittent in Tofo, and don't count on everyone having generators. The air conditioner in our room, one of 3 units in the whole village, was largely ornamental. Tofo is mainly a backpacker resort. It also attracts lots of Teutonic divers looking for an alternative to pricy Maldives and the crowded Red Sea. US-based visitors are advised to use a South African agent to help with logistics. Flights to Inhambane are tricky to book. I recommend [www.mozambiquetravelservice.com](http://www.mozambiquetravelservice.com).

## OMAN

**Oman Dive Centre, Shangri-la (Al Bustan), January 2007, Angela Gostling ([angela.gostling@btinternet.com](mailto:angela.gostling@btinternet.com)), London, W4 3SS.** Experience: 251-500 dives. Vis: 10 to 20 Feet. Water: 23 to 25 Celsius, choppy, no currents. Shangri-la Hotel provided us with complimentary transfer to and from the dive centre every day. The centre was well appointed, with good rinsing and storage facilities, so we were able to leave our gear to drip at the dive centre overnight and didn't have to cart it back to our luxury accommodation to make pools in our bathroom. Diving was interesting, topology comprising enor-

mous boulders, some corals and some real giants, such as honeycomb morays. We also spotted a number of creatures endemic to the area, such as Arabian angel fish. The windy conditions made diving risky in the afternoons when the conditions became more difficult. Diving was cancelled on one occasion because the conditions were not safe. The festival of Eid meant we were healthy divers as the hotel did not serve alcoholic drinks over the two days of the festival. We felt virtuous during this short period.

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## RED SEA

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## EGYPT

Europeans flock to the Red Sea for excellent live-aboard diving, scoffing at Americans who miss the fine diving because of their inordinate fear of terrorism. Hurghada dive operators are failing to care for their reefs, so divers head farther south. Live-aboards get divers to the best Red Sea diving. Water temperatures can drop into the cool 60s during February and rise into the 80s by August.

**Colona Divers, Sheraton, January 2007, Rainer and Kristin Farrag ([kweck@cardunal.net](mailto:kweck@cardunal.net)), Dundee, IL.** Experience: 251-500 dives. Vis: 75 to 100 Feet. Water: 67 to 68 F, choppy, surge. Colona Divers was terrific! experienced divemasters, (it's Swedish owned/operated, but everyone speaks English). They were accommodating when we realized the unseasonably cold water temp (normally we go there in October and the water is 84 degrees F) of 68 — brrrr! I usually only dive with a