



**MyEXPRESS**  
Your PROFILE  
Your COMMENTS  
Your SPACE  
[SIGN IN / UP](#)

Quickly Find...

- Home | Front Page
- Lottery
- Big Brother **NEW**
- Reader Offers
- iPad App
- Dating **NEW**
- My EXPRESS
- Have Your Say
- News / Showbiz
- Sunday Express
- Scottish
- Sport
- Pictures
- Features
- Horoscope
- Our Comment
- The Crusader
- Entertainment
- TV Guide
- TV Listings
- Money
- Motoring
- Travel
- Careers
- Fun /
- Competitions
- Promotions
- Cartoon
- Blogs
- Forgotten Verse
- Have a Story?
- Contact Us
- Polls
- Retirement
- Property
- Our Paper
- Print Archive

- Finance Guides
- NEW** Annuities **NEW**
- Cruises

HOME > TRAVEL > Sharm is a diver's paradise

**TRAVEL**

## SHARM IS A DIVER'S PARADISE



The Camel Diving Club has the perfect training pool

Sunday September 9, 2012

By Sunday Express reporter

Have your say (0)

**WE WERE** trundling along on a pleasant dive on one of the reefs near Sharm El Sheikh in the Red Sea when the manta glided up from the depths. At nearly three metres, it is a big and wonderful beast, an aquatic stealth bomber that moved effortlessly through the ocean and soon disappeared from view.

[Recommend](#) 7 people recommend this. Be the first of your friends.

The five other divers who made up our small party on a day-boat out of Sharm

beamed at each other. Fifteen minutes later another giant swept into view.

This one twisted and turned like an Arabian flying carpet soaring over the reef. Amazing. Five minutes later yet another arrived and seemed to want to hang out with us, tickled by our bubbles as it swept over our heads.

This was a dive to remember. Three mantas in one dive, just five minutes from the main bustling drag of Sharm, which in the past decade has grown into a vast tourist honeypot full of five-star hotels, bars, mega clubs and packed restaurants.

As we chugged into port, with the now bearable sun slowly dipping, I realised I had been diving around Sharm for more than 20 years. Way back when there were only a couple of hotels surrounded by desert, I could vividly

remember my amazement on seeing for the first time a school of masked pufferfish and the hour spent with three

**“The deep**

By continuing to use the site, you agree to the use of cookies. You can find out more by following [this link](#).

Wine Shop

**staggering array of life**

decided to check us out. The Red Sea and Sharm El Sheikh never cease to amaze. Many people bemoan the dramatic growth of Sharm.

I can remember when there were a couple of hotels on the beach and a small dive centre in a shack tucked behind in the desert.

Today I still dive with that same centre, Camel, which has grown into a thriving hotel and is still one of the best dive operations in the world.

While the marble palaces of the five-star hotels now stretch for mile after mile up the coast, I still find the place magical and exciting.

In some ways, of course, it is different, but the ocean is wonderful.

All the development has not destroyed some of the most exciting reefs on the planet. Jacques Cousteau rated Shark Reef at Ras Mohammed one of the best dives going. Today it is a protected National Park and is still one of my all-time favourite dives.

That tiny shack set back from the sea has steadily grown. The Camel Dive Club & Hotel includes 40 rooms in a two-storey courtyard set around an oasis-like pool (the perfect place to learn to dive), bars

**MORE TRAVEL**



**Strike gold in the autumn**  
HOLIDAYS don't only have to be in the summer. Book a later cruise and enjoy the ...  
[Read More](#) [Have Your Say\(0\)](#)



**Venetian masterpiece**  
GIVE yourself over to the seductive allure of the city and you'll be rewarded w...  
[Read More](#) [Have Your Say\(0\)](#)



**Florida's Gator-way**  
KATE BOHDANOWICZ delights in Gulf Coast manatees, dolphins and pelicans, and not...  
[Read More](#) [Have Your Say\(0\)](#)



**Cornish canters**  
A COTTAGE holiday combined with horse riding on the beach proves just perfect fo...  
[Read More](#) [Have Your Say\(0\)](#)



**We love Peninsula Hot Springs**  
IMAGINE wandering through a rocky landscape along pebbled paths, up hills and th...  
[Read More](#) [Have Your Say\(0\)](#)



**Star break: Lake Como**  
A DARLING of both stage and screen, Martine McCutcheon's choice of wedding locat...  
[Read More](#) [Have Your Say\(0\)](#)



**Wild times in Nova Scotia**  
AS OUR vessel is engulfed by another chocolate-coloured wave someone yells w here...  
[Read More](#) [Have Your Say\(0\)](#)



**Celebrity traveller- Melanie Sykes**  
TV presenter and model Melanie Sykes

[Accept Cookies](#)

[Read More](#) [Have Your Say\(0\)](#)



**Late deals**  
PLUNGE into Bath Explore the fabulous spa city of Bath w with its Roman baths and ...  
[Read More](#) [Have Your Say\(0\)](#)



**Get packing**  
BEST FOOT FORWARD A great way of exploring our green and pleasant land is on fo...  
[Read More](#) [Have Your Say\(0\)](#)



**Brewing up a storm on the Isle of Thanet**  
I AM standing on Botany Bay Beach which is thronged with families and surfers an...  
[Read More](#) [Have Your Say\(0\)](#)



**The Beer essentials of the Munich Oktoberfest**  
...  
[Read More](#) [Have Your Say\(0\)](#)

...the story, scuba divers are sure to love (the perfect place to learn to dive), bars and restaurants.

The dive centre is the place to come if you want to learn to dive. Sharm certifies more divers than anywhere else in the world.

You can do the full open-water course including classroom lectures, pool dives and open ocean dives in five days or you could do the theory and pool element at your leisure in the UK and just finish off the open-water part in the warm and colourful Red Sea.

The day after the manta encounter, we headed for Ras Mohammed. This headland juts into the Red Sea where it is joined by the Gulf of Aqaba.

The deep swirling currents attract a staggering array of life and the reefs are some of the most beautiful going.

The current was slight, we ventured out into the blue and were surrounded by a school of silver jacks about a metre in size, the light bouncing off their gunmetal sides.

As we returned to the reef we were engulfed by thousands upon thousands of pastel pink and pale blue juvenile parrotfish, which only aggregate for a week each year before maturing and dispersing.

They rushed here and there in a vast synchronised pack as predators feasted on them. Another special dive. Unforgettable.

#### GETTING THERE

Camel Dive Club & Hotel (dialling from UK 00 20 69 360 0700/cameldive.com) offers seven nights in Sharm El Sheikh from £324pp (two sharing), B&B.

Price includes airport transfers and three days' guided diving with two dives per day. easyJet (0843 104 5000/easyjet.com) offers return flights to Sharm El Sheikh from Gatwick, Luton and Manchester from £212 return.

Egyptian State Tourist Office: 020 7493 5283/egypt.travel

### Also On Express.co.uk

- **Maddie McCann may have been watched from balcony, witness tells Yard**
- **Clare Balding left teary by applause at Paralympics**
- **Road tax to be scrapped**
- **Lord Sugar's fury over Clegg's threat to pensioner perks**
- **Naked check helps Duchess of Cambridge find her feet**
- **Can I give up my mirror addiction?**

### From Around The Web

- **Finally, One Link Established- Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS), Lupus, Fibromyalgia, Autoimmune disease and Chronic Lyme Disease** (*Envita*)
- **7 Habits of Highly Frugal People** (*MoneyNing*)
- **Anne Hathaway's Wedding Dress Revealed** (*Vogue*)
- **The snub heard around the world** (*Global Connections*)
- **A Mysterious Lady Wakes Up Dead** (*The New York Times*)
- **Study Suggests That Dogs Understand Us Best** (*Vetstreet*)

[what's this]

 **"Have Your Say"** Comment on this story now! [CLICK HERE TO HAVE YOUR SAY](#)

<b>Share...</b>  BOOKMARK  <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Got A Story? Get in touch online</li><li>• Email the news desk directly here!</li></ul>	<b>Next story...</b>  <b>The perfect Finnish to glorious summer</b> I AM feeling pretty pleased with myself. I have just been swimming in a stretch of sea... <a href="#">NEXT STORY...</a>
--	---





---

[Home](#) | [Dating](#) | [Archive](#) | [NEWS](#) | [SPORT](#) | [FEATURES](#) | [MONEY](#) | [HOROSCOPE](#) | [TRAVELOK! Magazine](#) | [The Daily Star](#) | [new! Magazine](#) | [Star Magazine](#)  
[Sitemap](#) | [Print Archive](#) | [Contact](#) | [Advertise Here](#) | [Site Credits](#) Copyright ©2006-2012 Northern and Shell Media Publications. "Daily Express" is a registered trademark.  
All rights reserved. By viewing this site you agree to our [Terms and Conditions](#), [Privacy Policy](#) and [Cookie Policy](#).