

DIVING IN RÉUNION





Diving in Reunion Island

Humpback whales, dolphins, green turtles, manta rays, moray eels, parrotfish etc. Explore Réunion's seabed. Unforgettable encounters and fairytale landscapes await you. Discover the coral reefs with their colourful inhabitants, visit the shipwrecks, home to a wide variety of species, and admire the underwater landscapes of this enchanting island ... so, get your masks on!

The Island of Réunion is a real paradise for divers and is blessed with a wide variety of diving sites, each more extraordinary than the last. Whatever your level, there's no shortage of recreational sites and areas to explore.

One of the best known spots, the Hai Hsiang shipwreck, a Taiwanese crayfishing boat, which sank in the 80s, is certainly very thrilling. As is the Antonio Lorenzo wreck whose wonderful architecture competes with the breathtaking natural beauty of the site. Admire the turtles, lounging on the rocks, at the Passe de l'Ermitage; greet the promenading schools of rays etc. Canyons, caves and other crevices reveal a thousand and one treasures. Keep your eyes open!

Reunion Island forms part of the vast Indo-Pacific region, the richest in terms of sea life: Réunion's ecosystem boasts no fewer than 3,500 species!

Discover the wealth of flora and fauna living amongst the coral reefs. Red lionfish, leaf fish, stonefish and clownfish breed there in the maze of canyons characteristic of volcanic formations. Further out to sea, all along the impressive drop offs which can reach a depth of 70 metres, you can spot large pelagic fish such as tuna, jacks and pompanos, mackerel, Indo-Pacific sailfish, wahoos and groupers who have colonized the area.

Just a few minutes from the coast, the seabed plunges to abyssal depths. An usual arrangement which makes Réunion the perfect place to observe cetaceans: Cuvier's or Blainville's beaked whale, the Southern right whale, the Pygmy killer whale and the Dwarf sperm whale etc.

As for the humpback whales, the undisputed stars of the show, every winter, you can glimpse the tip of their dorsal fin slicing through the water. They leave the cold waters of the Antarctic and travel thousands of kilometres to the warm waters of Réunion Islands where they give birth to just one calf. Go out to see these mythical animals and take in these amazing scenes not far from Réunion's coastline. Throughout the year, you'll have the opportunity to meet dolphins and turtles. The dolphins love to swim through the shipwrecks while the quiet but inquisitive turtles are bound to show off in front of you while you're out diving. Réunion caters for all, from novice to experienced divers, from first time scuba diving to more technical dives, reserved for qualified divers. You can even sample the delights of snorkelling: swimming with fins, masks and snorkels. This fun activity, suitable for ages eight and above, is available at most diving sites and will delight adults and children alike. The clarity of the island's waters, which boast underwater visibility all year round, is particularly conducive to this sport. The Indian Ocean reveals its mysteries: so get diving!

Nathalie HIBON



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Parc national, Bien du patrimoine mondial de l'UNESCO

REUNION'S UNDERWATER HERITAGE

To the great delight of its divers, Réunion's hilly terrain extends under the surface of the sea, with an impressive concentration of coral reefs and fish on the west coast.

More than 8,000 years ago, ever-resourceful coral larvae discovered this small corner of paradise, which runs along a section of the island's west coast, where they occupy a cramped but shallow, sunny plateau, protected from the eastern winds. Today, the coral forms a reef, bordering 50 km of coastline between Saint-Paul and Saint-Pierre, divided into five sections, separated by estuarine channels. In all, there is only 25 km of coral reef but that's enough to create an incredible concentration of biodiversity, with nearly 3,000 forms of animal and plant life including 600 species of fish and 148 species of coral. The profusion and variety of life forms present make this ecosystem Réunion's richest natural environment. Here, the sand is the colour of the sun and the water ranges between 22° and 30° C so you should really make the best of it! Although the lagoon is ideal for swimming, it is less suitable for diving. It's better to head for the outer reef slope, with its porites fortresses, its Acropora with their delicate, fragile branches, the elegantly shaped Turbinaria or the Favia corals with their luminescent calices. All around, the colourful fauna of the Indian ocean put on an exuberant show. Shoals of dogtooth tuna, bluefin trevallies, barracudas and eagle rays all flock to meet pelagic enthusiasts. Although sharks have become a rare spectacle, you can still spot the odd fin along the Pointe-au-Sel coast between October and November.

Although most of the diving in Réunion takes place along this marine life haven, fans of more sporty or unusual or adventurous underwater pursuits, may be tempted to explore the island's other coasts: the shipwrecks around Saint-Paul bay, sunk into charcoal coloured sand, the ragged drop offs of the "Wild South" or the lava flows on the windy east coast.



THE ISLAND OF A THOUSAND LANDSCAPES

Réunion, a volcanic island in the Indian Ocean, is a country of fabulous contrasts, with unspoiled landscapes including the listed “pitons, cirques and ramparts,” which are world heritage sites.

Réunion, forged from a union of sea and fire, emerged from the water 3 million years ago. Magma, resulting from a volcanic event, flowed to a depth of more than 3,000 metres, forming multiple layers, eventually coalescing into one incredible mountain floating off the coast of Madagascar, nearly 200 km north of the tropic of Capricorn. Since then, the mountain has collapsed around the parent volcano, the Piton des Neiges, creating three cirques next to which Gavarnie looks like a miniature model. When it comes to volcanic activity, the Piton de la Fournaise, seems to have taken over from the Piton des Neiges, erupting two to three times a year. And it's this activity that is responsible for the island's extraordinary and fascinating landscape.

- Location: in the Indian Ocean, 9,200 km from Paris, 210 km from Mauritius, 800 km from Madagascar
- Area: 2,500 km²
- Population: 800,000 inhabitants
- Coast: 210 km of coastline, including 25 km bordered by coral reefs and 35 km of sandy beaches
- Highest point: Piton des Neiges (3,071 metres); 20% of the island is above 1,900 metres

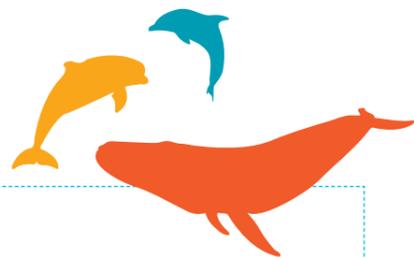
When you leave the coast, you can appreciate the full magnificence of the Hautes-Plaines with its seaside resorts, basalt cliffs and beaches lined with casuarina trees. This complex geology has resulted in the proliferation of many different natural environments. More than one hundred different types of habitat have been recorded. Large arid savannahs to the west, volcanic mineral plains, the meadows of the Hautes-Plaines interspersed with areas of wood land, high altitude primary forests, the “Bois de Couleurs,” cirques with their ramparts and waterfalls, luxurious forests on the slopes of the east coast, fields of sugar cane crisscrossed by paths of coconut trees etc. It's unusual to come across such a wealth of landscapes in such a small area. With a third of the island still covered by primary forests, Réunion has won its rightful place as one of the top 35 most important biodiversity sites included on UNESCO's world heritage list.





TRAVEL JOURNAL

The island is situated South-East of Madagascar on the 21st parallel south, nearly 10,000 km from Paris. The landscape is shaped by two large volcanic mountain ranges: in the North, the oldest volcano, the Piton des Neiges (3,071 metres,) which is now extinct, and in the South, the Piton de la Fournaise (2,631 metres) which is still active. The landscape is very precipitous with significant height differences.



Globice: cetaceans under the microscope

Just a few kilometres from the coast, the Réunion seabed gives way to the ocean's abyssal depths, an unusual feature, which makes Réunion the perfect place for cetacean-watching. The Globice Organization (Local Cetacean Observation and Identification Group), set up in 2001, keeps a close eye on these marine visitors, including Cuvier's or Blainville's beaked whale, the Southern right whale, the Pygmy killer whale and the Dwarf sperm whale etc. as well as the resident population such as the spinner dolphin or the Indian Ocean bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops aduncus*). "No fewer than 14 different species have been spotted in the island's waters and 4 other species have been stranded on the coast," explains Laurent Mouysset, responsible for awareness raising within the organization. But the local stars are the humpback whales who, having spent the summer gorging on krill in the Antarctic, come here to mate and give birth from June onwards. Most of them leave around November. Up until 2006, you would only see about fifteen or so every year. However, since then the number of individuals observed have continued to increase. During our 145 excursions last year, we were able to identify some 85 whales! In addition to the mission to identify humpback whales, Globice also conducts numerous scientific studies aimed at local policy-makers or the IUCN (International Union for the Conservation of Nature) to help them take preventative action.



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DIVING CONDITIONS

- The clarity of Réunion's waters ensures good underwater visibility throughout the year.
- Good proximity of diving sites; a maximum of 25 minutes sailing time which means we can offer half-day excursions.
- The variety of diving sites allows divers of all levels, from novice to expert, to develop their skills.
- The water temperature varies between 22° and 30°C, depending on the season.
- Snorkelling (swimming with fins, masks and snorkels) is open to everyone over the age of eight, all year round. This fun activity, which you can practise in all diving spots, will delight divers and non-divers alike.



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THE SEABED

- The marine reserve, set up 5 years ago, protects 35 km² of Réunion's coastline. Some of the most beautiful diving spots, frequented by GPP organizations, can be found within the reserve.
- Just ten metres in, the coral reefs boast an incredible density and diversity of marine life. An unforgettable pleasure, whether you're snorkelling or diving.
- In season, you can spot many of the ocean's giants just off the island's coast. Humpback whales and other members of the whale family, some measuring around twelve metres and weighing approximately ten tons, come to mate and give birth between June and October. It's not uncommon to come across some of these wonderful animals - an experience which will, naturally, remain forever etched in your mind - though you must be careful to treat the animals with respect.
- You'll have the opportunity to meet dolphins and turtles all year round. Some are quiet and inquisitive and will inevitably show off in front of you (you can see them when diving or snorkelling), while others love playing amongst the shipwrecks.

DIVING SEASONS

It's possible to dive all year round in Réunion; however June is the quietest period. Traditionally, this month marks the beginning of winter and although you may enjoy some marvellous diving, weather conditions are likely to lead to cancellations.

- There are only two seasons. Winter, which runs from May to September and summer, from October to April; the water temperature ranges from 22° C in winter and 30° C in summer.
- October, November and the first fortnight of December are extremely pleasant; it's the beginning of the summer and tourist season isn't yet in full swing. So you'll still have time to enjoy the diving sites and boats without the crowds of the peak season months.
- The second half of December, and the months of January and February, are the height of summer; the weather's hot and the diving is magnificent. It's a busy holiday period which coincides with school holidays both in France and Réunion.
- February, March, April, May. This is the rainy season; the water is warm and it's a great time for diving, full of wonderful encounters. At this time of year, the coral reef is at most lively. Young fish and predators populate the reef at this time.
- July, August, September: the water is cooler at this time of year - between 22° C and 24° C - and it's the season for humpback whales. Enjoy beautiful dives in clear water and the chance to meet whales, dolphins etc, during your excursions.

TYPE OF DIVING

- The landscape of Réunion Island is very varied. On the coasts, you'll find coral reefs, ideal for all levels of divers, from the novice to the experienced. There are many vertiginous drop offs, such as the Pointe-au-Sel, which start at a depth of 25 m dropping off to a maximum of 80 m. But there are also caves, ship wrecks, archways and channels etc.
- Various organizations offer themed dives such as drift diving, night diving, two-tank diving (two dives during the same trip), early morning dives (dive at night and then resurface as the sun rises), photography courses etc.
- During your dives, you can help to protect the marine environment by volunteering to participate in the diving network project established by the Marine Reserve. This involves identifying all the species observed during your explorations.

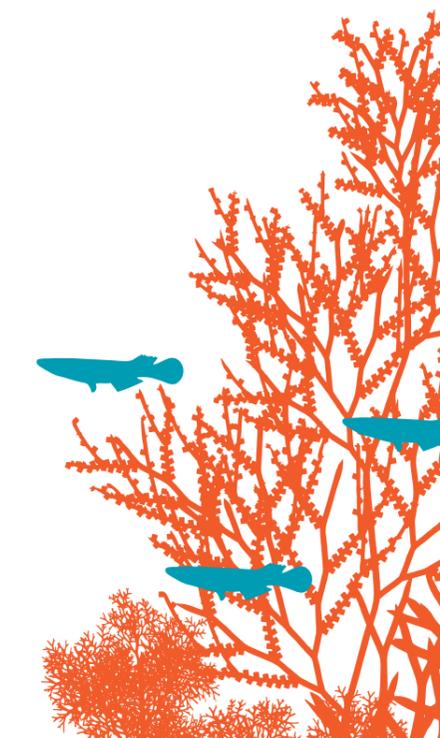


RÉUNION, A FRENCH DEPARTMENT

- The adherence to French regulations means that diving is subject to the same requirements as in France.
- Excellent hygienic and medical conditions. Hyperbaric chamber at Saint-Pierre University Hospital (CHU).
- Instructors are all state certified.

INTERNATIONAL TOURISM

- All diving organizations have English and Spanish speaking instructors.
- Diving certification includes: FFESSM, ANMP, PADI, SSI, etc...



TOUR OPERATORS DIVING SPECIALISTS

AQUAREV

2 rue du Cygne
75001 Paris
Tel: +33 (0)1 48 87 55 78
www.aquarev.com

ULTRAMARINA

25 rue Thiboumery
75015 Paris
Tel: +33 (0)825 02 98 02
www.ultramarina.com

Océanes

531 rue Paul Julien
13100 Le Tholonet
Tel: +33 (0)4 42 52 82 40
www.oceanes.com

AMV PLONGÉE

12 impasse Couzinet
Parc de la Plaine
BP 5043 - 31033 Toulouse
Cedex
Tel: +33 (0)5 62 47 41 10
www.amv-voyages.fr

VOYAGEURS DU MONDE

55 rue Sainte Anne
75002 Paris
Tel: +33 (0)1 42 86 16 73
www.vdm.com

AÉROMARINE

22 rue Royer Collard,
75005 Paris
Tel: +33 (0)1 46 33 25 16
www.aeromarine.fr

ABYSS SCUBA DIVERS SA

Rue de la Servette
45, 1203 Genève
Tel: +33 (0)41 22 733 00 08
www.abyssworld.com

DIVE SPIRIT TRAVEL

66 rue du Rhin
67694 Strasbourg/Kehl
Tel: +33 (0)6 82 90 49 72
http://dive-spirit-travel.com

NOUVELLES FRONTIÈRES

Tel: +33 (0)825 000 747
http://nouvelles-frontieres.fr

PASSION OUTREMER

85 rue du Général de Gaulle
97434 Saint-Gilles-les-Bains
Tel: +33 (0)6 92 87 48 04
www.passion-outremer.com

PROMOVACANCES

Tel: +33 (0)899 654 856
www.promovacances.com

TROPICALEMENT VOTRE

www.tropicalement-votre.com

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DIVERS



PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DIVERS

This association of 13 professional diving organizations, dotted along the west coast of Réunion, was set up on 30th March 2012. It aims to promote and develop recreational diving on the island.

Its mission:

- To promote diving and snorkelling by introducing a "diving pass."
- To raise awareness about activities to support sustainable development in the Natural Marine Reserve: members sign up to a charter and a code of ethics specific to the group.
- To ensure that all member organizations commit to providing a high quality service and optimum levels of safety.
- To encourage a commitment to the protection of the Marine Reserve and promote respect for, and raise awareness of, the marine environment: divers document any changes observed in the coral during their excursions and share information with the Reserve.

Find out about the diving network programme established by the Marine Reserve.



GETTING TO REUNION

Corsair, Air Austral, Air France and XLAirways fly to Réunion all year round. The flight time from Paris is approximately 11 hours.

GETTING AROUND

Car hire: several national and local companies are present at the airport. Information available from www.reunion.fr

TIME DIFFERENCE

+3 hours in winter, +2 hours in summer.

PROCEDURES

EU residents need a valid identity card or passport. Passport required for all other visitors.

HEALTH

No vaccines required. However, remember to bring good mosquito repellent. That said, there is no malaria risk.

ACCOMMODATION

There is a wide variety of accommodation along the coast, in the main towns and the villages inland, ranging from 5 star hotels to small guest houses, furnished and tourist accommodation, rural gîtes, farms and lodges, B&Bs etc. In the Cirque of Mafate, accommodation takes the form of lodges, an arrangement specially designed for walkers. Gîte reservations: www.reunion.fr Rooms are usually dormitory style with 4-6 beds. Price guideline: around €15 a night + €5/6 for breakfast, and €17 upwards for dinner.

RECOMPRESSION CHAMBER

Saint-Pierre Hospital Centre
Tel: +262 (0)2 62 35 90 00.

USEFUL CONTACTS

Réunion Island Tourism (IRT)
90, rue La Boétie, 75008 Paris
Tel: +33 (0)1 40 75 02 79
www.reunion.fr

Quality charter for the professional association of divers



Members undertake to:

- Ensure that all training/supervision will be undertaken by professionals.
- Guarantee the quality of equipment available and the safety arrangements in place and ensure regular maintenance and monitoring.
- Ensure that all divers respect, protect and are aware of the region's marine biodiversity. Inform divers that they must not touch or move anything, throw anything away, feed anything or remove any rubbish that they may find when diving. They should stress the importance of good diving practice (correct stabilization and kicking techniques etc.) to help preserve the underwater flora and fauna.
- Observe the charter outlining rules of conduct when approaching whales and ensure that all instructors present during these excursions have received awareness training either from an animal welfare organization or as part of their professional training.
- Limit the waiting time between first dives to a maximum of 50 minutes.
- Minimum amount of time for a first dive: 20 minutes.
- For underwater explorations: maximum of 4 divers, of the same level, per instructor. Clubs which belong to the GPP guarantee that their coaches have a good knowledge of the diving sites.
- Ensure quality care for divers.

SNORKELLING

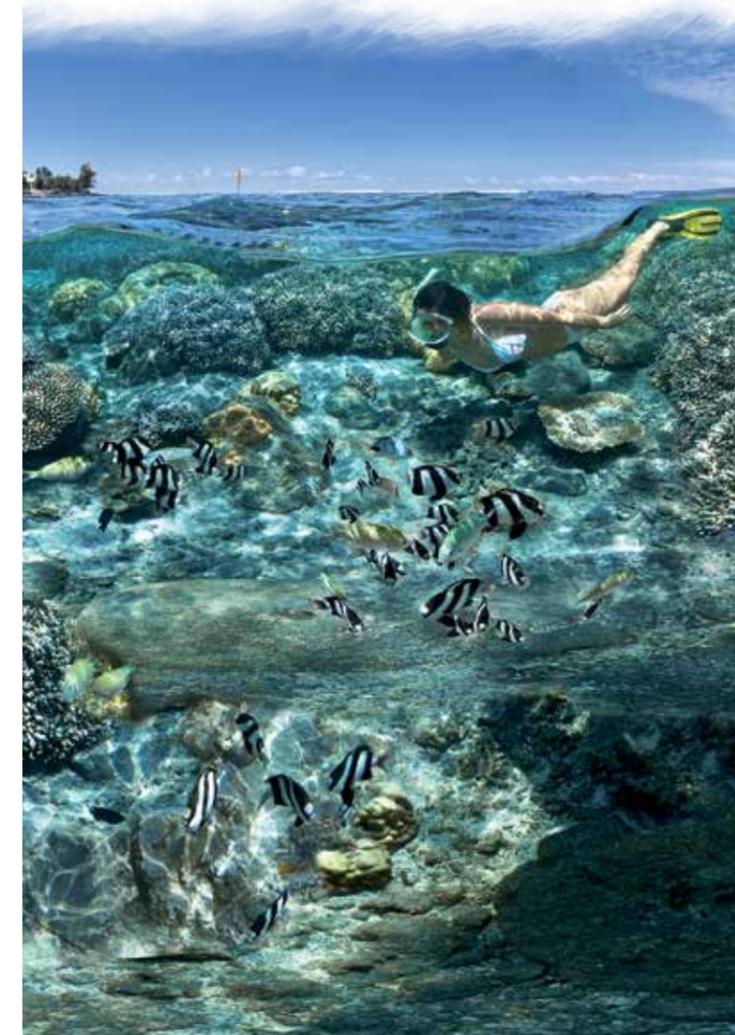
Exploring the coral reef is a fun activity suitable for all the family.

It's hard to imagine that just a few metres from the shore, in the blue oceanic waters, you can experience so many marvellous sights simply by snorkelling (70% of underwater life lives in 10 metres of water).

Simple equipment: you just need fins, a mask and a snorkel and then it's off to explore the coral reef. And that's all there is to it! Now you can observe underwater life and delight in exploring the coral reef and shoals of coloured fish etc. It's a great, fun experience, both for adults and children.

SNORKELLING A healthy way of expending energy in well-preserved and unspoiled natural surroundings. Snorkelling can also be full of surprises. The aim is to explore the silent, hidden, underwater world, to learn how to distinguish plant from animal life, and get a closer look at the fish. You may well develop a passion for photography or marine biology after such an experience.

Swimming alongside dolphins, discovering underwater drop offs and swimming over coral forests: snorkelling is undoubtedly the simplest way to experience the most thrilling - and strangest - encounters.



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DIVING SITES



→ LE PORT

Grand tombant de La Possession

Location: next to Le Port Est exit
Accessibility: Level 2 or Pe40, experienced divers
Depth: from 38 to 60 metres
Distinctive feature: drop off
Location: next to Le Port Est exit
Club: Le Dodo Palmé
Sailing time: 20 minutes

38 m-deep, V-shape rocky platform. The drop off on the east side has 2 staged levels and rapidly descends to a depth of 60 m or more. The drop off on the west side is less marked but just as deep. There are numerous holes and overhangs, especially on the east slope. The marine life is therefore very varied and dense: corals, scorpion fish, water scorpions, groupers and snappers etc. There are also lots of reef fish.

This diving site is quite remarkable as you can often encounter so-called "pelagic" fish (deep sea fish): shoals of jacks and pompanos, tunas, mackerel, Indo-Pacific sailfish and wahoos etc. You'll make your decompression stops in open water, hopefully in the company of several wahoos!

→ LE PORT

École

Location: off the town of Le Port
Accessibility: level 2 or Pe40
Depth: from 36 to 45 metres
Distinctive feature: drop off
Location: next to Le Port East exit
Club: Le Dodo Palmé
Sailing time: 20 minutes

36 m deep rocky platform with a trail of fallen rocks, descending to a depth of 45 m (approx.). Numerous holes and overhangs. Deep dive, reserved for experienced divers with level 2 and 3.

→ LE PORT

Houlographe

Location: town of Le Port
Accessibility: level 1
Depth: 15-60 metres
Distinctive feature: pebble beach and drop off
Location: town of Le Port
Club: Le Dodo Palmé
Sailing time: 5 minutes

Rocky drop off, 20-40 m deep, which runs perpendicular to the coast. Easily accessible drop off which is rich in reef fish and white gorgonians. You may even spot a few deep sea fish. Its rocky ridge extends towards the coast with a pebble beach, teeming with marine life, within just 16 m. At the foot of the drop off, rocky gullies and black basalt sand extend over a distance of 60 metres or more. This dive, at the mouth of the Rivière des galets, is typical of this area. The drop off and gorgonians are well worth seeing.



© G.P.P.

→ SAINT-PAUL BAY

Épave du Sea Venture

Location: Saint-Paul Bay
Accessibility: Level 2 or Pe40 **Depth:** 49 metres
Distinctive feature: ship wreck **Location:** Saint-Paul Bay
Club: Le Dodo Palmé
Sailing time: 20 minutes

Shipwreck resting at a depth of 49 metres/40 metres. The wreck is located in the bay of Saint-Paul near the fish farm. The entire hull is overturned. The dive's focal point is its majestic propellor. The hull is dotted with holes. A torch is recommended. It's ideally located for spotting pelagic fish, tuna, sea bream and sharks. Deep dive, for experienced divers only.



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→ SAINT-PAUL BAY

La Barge

Location: Saint-Paul Bay
Accessibility: level 2 or Pe40 **Depth:** 25 metres
Distinctive feature: shipwreck
Location: Saint-Paul Bay
Club: Le Dodo Palmé
Sailing time: 30 minutes

Shipwreck in middle of Saint-Paul Bay resting on black, basalt sand. Watch out for the electric rays! There are also lots of anchors which have been dropped in the area. Old 10 m barge with lots of holes, 24 m deep. The whole functions as a kind of artificial reef. And it's teeming with life! From butterfly fish to stonefish, frogfish, leaf fish and numerous other varieties. If you're lucky, you may even see some dolphins during your decompression stop. This dive will introduce you to a world teeming with life although, unfortunately, the terrain is completely flat. And at night, it's an amazing spectacle.



© G.P.P./Laurent Bêche

→ SAINT-PAUL BAY

Cap La Houssaye

Location: South of Saint-Paul bay
Accessibility: all levels **Depth:** between 4 and 18 metres
Distinctive feature: reef dive
Location: Saint-Paul Bay
Club: Le Dodo Palmé / 40 minutes sailing time
Diving level: first dives

South of Saint-Paul Bay. This site, situated in the extreme north of the Natural Marine Reserve, offers a huge range of attractions including reefs, sandy ocean floors, fissures, drop offs and a 6 m deep cave suitable for novice divers. The depth ranges between four and seventeen metres; all types undersea-scapes are present. You can see a wide variety of reef fish, crustaceans, molluscs and... numerous turtles. There's also an old canon, visible at around five metres. Easy dive both during day and night, full of life and colour.



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→ SAINT-GILLES-LES-BAINS

L'Hai Hsiang

Position: opposite Le Cap des Aigrettes
Accessibility: level 3, experienced divers
Depth: 54 metres
Distinctive feature: ship wreck

The Hai Hsiang (wild pig) wreck, awaits you, precariously positioned, upright in the sand, at a depth of 54 m. The 49 m long Formosan (Taiwanese) crayfishing boat was, impounded by customs officers and then voluntarily sunk during the 1980s off the Cirque des Aigrettes. Divers who visit the site are guaranteed a thrilling experience. After a magnificent descent into the ocean depths, your eyes will gradually adjust to the light, revealing the ship's mast, followed by the rest of the wreck. The architecture - including the structure of the boat - is bewitching and you'll be equally enchanted by the underwater sea life: huge shoals of snappers have taken up residence there and from the bow to the stern, the place is teeming with life! A drift dive that promises unforgettable moments, accessible to level 3 divers (equivalent) or above; open water descent and possible current require some experience (3/5).



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→ SAINT-GILLES-LES-BAINS

Pain de Sucre

Accessibility: all levels
Depth: 20 metres

Just before you reach Cap la Houssaye, you'll spot the looming form of the Pain de Sucre at the side of the road. And it has an underwater equivalent, surrounded by fissures, canyons, archways and grottos, traversing a small drop off covered with magnificent corals, ranging in depth from approximately 6-16 m. This is one of the most beautiful dives in the Saint-Gilles area; you'll discover a rich variety of landscapes and a surprising abundance of sea life: jacks and pompanos hunting, in a symbiotic relationship, with moral eels, turtles and ray etc. All forms of marine life are there. Fun and adventure are always on the menu, both day and night!



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→ SAINT-GILLES-LES-BAINS

Passé de l'Ermitage

Location: opposite Ermitage lagoon
Accessibility: level 1
Depth: 25 metres
Distinctive feature: channel

It marks the boundary between the Ermitage and Saline-les-bains lagoons. The depth varies between 6 and 22 m (approx.); exploring this site and uncovering its mysteries is a thrilling experience. Green turtles have chosen to set up their "cleaning station" there and it's not unusual to see a few of them lounging on the rocks. But schools of snappers and fusiliers also live here. And if you're very lucky, shoals of eagle rays sometimes deign to put in an appearance. This "easy" dive (1/5) which is accessible to all, apart from first time divers, boasts a succession of large boulders and deep fissures. For the brave amongst you: there's a beautiful cave to visit! As with all channels, the water exchange between the lagoon and the open sea, results in a breathtaking variety of flora and fauna. This flow of water means that visibility can be variable. An unmissable dive!



© G.P.P.

→SAINT-GILLES-LES-BAINS

La cheminée

Location: North of Saint-Gilles

Accessibility: PE40 minimum

Depth: 22-30 metres

Distinctive feature: chimney/archway/maze/sand bank/gorgonians, this can be a technical dive if there's a current.

Fun and adventure are always on the menu. Immerse yourself gently along the mooring, where you'll often be greeted by the "resident chief," a porcupine fish.

At a depth of 15 m, a 6 to 8 m chimney suddenly looms into view. Check your ears are OK. When descending the tunnel, it's important to ensure good stabilization. On the walls, you may be able to pick out the antennae of the lobster...

Twenty-two metres down, on your right, you'll notice a beautiful archway, located behind a sand bank where you can often see "louloute," a twenty (or so) year old turtle, going for a stroll.

Heading north to the "26m," mark, while navigating along a mini drop off, you'll be able to admire scorpionfish, stonefish, nudibranchs, surgeonfish, hawkfish, bluefin trevallies, parrot fish and many other species.

After about 10 to 15 minutes, on your right, you'll see a magnificent yellow gorgonian which conceals the entrance to a small corridor... To enter the corridor, which leads to the mazes, you need to gently retrace your steps. Stop and blow a few bubbles to the delightful clownfish, who are fiercely protective of their symbiotic partner: the anemone... A mass of beautiful corridors come into view - and a multitude of snappers, with very large eyes. You may also spot a few groupers, a moray eel here and there etc.



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→SAINT-LEU

Le Jardin des Kiosques

Location: South of Saint-Leu bay

Accessibility: all levels

Depth: 6-30 metres

Distinctive feature: coral reef

Ideal site for underwater exploration, suitable for all levels; often used for first dives.

After you've passed the south buoy, you'll glide gently towards a sand bank where you'll spot eagle rays soaring majestically above you returning to the reef flat. Continuing north, you'll pass one of many fissures which harbour a huge variety of species, cohabiting in the heart of the coral reef. As you return to the coast, your instructor will undoubtedly take you past the silent cave, after, of course, you've visited the clownfish sheltered amongst the anemones. You'll recognize them from their golden underbelly and three white stripes (Amphiprion chrysogaster). Even first-time divers may be lucky enough to glimpse some of the many stonefish camouflaged in the numerous overhangs.



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→SAINT-LEU

Sec jaune

Location: Pointe au Sel, towards Étang-Salé

Accessibility: level 1

Depth: 20 metres

Distinctive feature: 2 archways, a shoal, drop offs

This shoal, covered with fire coral (Millepora sp) is a great place to dive in fine weather. The Sec Jaune, located behind the Pointe au Sel, probably boasts the richest variety of flora and fauna south of Saint-Leu. At its highest point, an abundance of marine life stretches out in front of you.

Towards the coast:

Exploratory dive, exclusively for level 1 divers; you follow a wall bordering an expanse of sand which gradually drops off to a depth of around 20 metres. Enjoy a wonderful, leisurely glide as far as the rocky drop off which flanks the coast. Next, swim through the small archway - unfortunately when we did it, the half-pressure signal made us turn back. On the way back to the boat, in a small, recessed cavity, you'll almost certainly spot Twospot Turkeyfish (Dendrochirus biocellatus) and if you look hard enough, you may also find a magnificent common egg cowrie (Ovula ovum) whose black shell is speckled with black spots; they eat soft coral such as Sinularia.

Further out to sea:

There are two caves, at the foot of a 25 m drop off. Be careful if you go inside: remember to illuminate the ceiling as there are swarms of lionfish. As you emerge, follow the wall to ascend, keeping an eye out for the sponges and fire coral that line its surface. The dive finishes at the top of the drop-off where you can blow out some of the bubbles that you forgot to release in the caves...perhaps you'll spot the giant frogfish (Antennarius commerson) nestling into, and camouflaged by, his host sponge.





© G.P.P./Laurent Bêche

→SAINT-LEU

L'Antonio Lorenzo

Location: South of Pointe des Châteaux

Accessibility: Level 2 or Pe40

Depth: 40 metres

Distinctive feature: ship wreck

This "pirate" longliner, flying the flag of Chile, was seized while fishing illegally near the Kerguelen Islands, in the French Southern and Antarctic Territories. After being cleaned and secured, it was sunk to a depth of 38 metres, making it accessible to Level 2 divers or those with Pe3. After a lovely descent into the ocean depths, the left hand side of the wreck suddenly comes into view. Deposited on largely flat terrain, it now serves as a type of artificial reef providing shelter for numerous bluestripe snappers (*Lutjanus kasmira*) and magnificent lionfish (*Pterois miles*). It's not unusual to catch sight of a large, pretty, laced moray (*Gymnothorax favagineus*) or a round ribbontail ray buried in the sand, revealing just its eyes, spiracles and tail.



© G.P.P./Laurent Bêche

→SAINT-LEU

Tombant de la Pointe au Sel

Location: off La Pointe au Sel

Accessibility: Level 2 or Pe40, experienced divers

Depth: 60 metres

Distinctive feature: vertiginous drop off

The current usually flows in a North-South direction; it's a legendary dive, amongst the most famous and fantastic. As soon as you enter the water, you'll be greeted by a multitude of yellow and blue-backed fusiliers (*Caesio teres*) and a shoal of longfin bannerfish (*Heniochus acuminatus*). Once you pass the reef flat you hit the current; descend along the wall until you reach the 60 metre mark so favoured by level 3 divers. When there's a strong current, pelagic fish come to the area to hunt. Pointe au Sel is a meeting point for numerous varieties of tuna as well as hundreds of jacks and pompanos which swirl around near the ocean floor, at the foot of the Éperon. Remember to look down the fissures along the drop off: giant morays (*Gymnothorax javanicus*) and harlequin sweetlips (*Plectorhinchus chaetodonoides*) like to rest there. If you're really lucky, you may even spot an inquisitive marlin during your decompression stops, or a school of dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) swimming past.



© G.P.P.

→SAINT-LEU

Arche de Noël

Location: North of le Souffleur

Accessibility: Pe40

Depth: 40 metres

Distinctive feature: archways

A rapid immersion and you're in the ocean depths. You'll quickly discover a very steep, large rocky ridge. At the bottom, at a depth of 42 metres, you can swim through the archway, which is approximately 10 m in diameter. If you continue out to sea and ascend very slightly, you should come across a small tunnel. Once you've passed the tip of the rock, you need to be careful of the current; a whip coral will serve as a reminder (*Cirrihipathes anguina*); remember to check to see if there's a whip goby (*Bryaninops youngei*) hiding there. When you head back to the coast, with a bit of luck, you may come across a green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*). From July to October, remember to make the most of this fabulous opportunity, and see if you can spot any humpback whales with their calves (*Megapetra novaeangliae*). They frequent the island at this time of year to mate or give birth.



© G.P.P.

→SAINT-LEU

Sec Zitte

Location: Saint-Leu port exit

Accessibility: level 1

Depth: 40 metres

Distinctive feature: Carpet of anemones

This site, located in front of the port, off Saint-Leu's famous "Gauche" beach, is ideal when sea conditions make sailing difficult. The dive takes its name from a fisherman belonging to the Zitte family. Two rocky coral reef flats, on a 40 m sandy seabed, ascend over a distance of 16 metres. You'll be able to spot a large anchor resting on the south slope, at a depth of 25 metres. Around the mooring, you'll notice - almost immediately - a large number of anemones (*Heteractis magnifica*) together with their clownfish (*Amphiprion chrysogaster*). Although you'll be protected from the current, to complete this dive, you still need a diving qualification and you need to be mindful of the depth. Remember to look up; a Manta ray or some pelagic fish may be swimming above you.

If you descend along the rocky ridge, at a depth of 35 metres, you'll be able to see a small cave colonized by stonefish (*Synanceia verrucosa*) and pretty leaf scorpionfish (*Taenianotus triacanthus*). On the second reef flat, you'll be greeted by a myriad of brightly coloured Evan's Anthias (*Pseudanthias evansi*) and as you make your way across, you're sure to encounter another variety of anemone harbouring a few glass anemone shrimps (*Periclimenes brevicarpalis*) or small squat shrimps (*Thor amboinensis*). On your way back, once your eyes are accustomed to the light, you're certain to spot a few nudibranchs. The dancing nudibranch (*Bornella anguilla*) is particularly beautiful!



© G.P.P./Laurent Bêche

→SAINT-LEU

Boxy's Canyon

Location: North of Pointe au Sel

Accessibility: level 1

Depth: 20 metres

Distinctive feature: drop off

When there's no current, this small drop off, whose highest point is 8 m deep, boasts a multitude of species, hidden amongst the coral branches which cover them. You'll see small velvet fish (*Caracanthus madagascariensis*), some young Indo-Pacific surgeonfish (*Paracanthurus hepatus*) as well as small rusty guard crabs (*Trapezia ferruginea*). On the ocean floor (20 metres), the uneven terrain will reveal numerous crevices. Remember to bring a headlamp so you can uncover the fauna hiding there. It's not uncommon to encounter a laced moray (*Gymnothorax favagineus*), some lunar-tailed bigeyes (*Priacanthus hamrur*) or even some small brittle stars (*Ophiothrix* sp) hiding from the light. If you swim out further to sea, you'll come to a larger drop off, this time reserved exclusively for experienced divers.



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© G.P.P./Laurent Bèche



© G.P.P./Laurent Bèche



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→ SAINT-LEU

Les Deux Arches

Location: Saint-Leu bay

Accessibility: all levels

Depth: 3 - 30 metres

Distinctive feature: coral reef, archways

Near the coral reef, you'll discover one of richest underwater scenes, accessible to divers of all levels. You'll swim over the canyons where the so-called "deux arches," (two archways) are located. The first is populated by numerous lobsters who live alongside a large Eyestripe Surgeonfish (*Acanthurus dussumieri*). As you descend, facing the open sea, you'll discover several leaf fish (*Taenianotus triacanthus*) hidden amongst the uneven terrain.

At the foot of the rock, you'll find two large coral heads covered with anemones providing shelter for clownfish. Further south, you'll reach a large coral cirque where you can often see a couple of Devil scorpionfish (*Scopaeopsis diabolus*). If you're lucky, you'll see a pretty ribbon eel (*Rhinomuraena quaesita*) which changes colour during its life. As you swim back towards the boat, you'll be amazed by the richness and colour of the coral reef. As you go through the second archway, almost under the boat, you're sure to come across a shoal of surgeonfish. A small pinecone fish (*Monocentris japonicus*) also set up home there recently.

→ ÉTANG-SALÉ-LES-BAINS

Le petit tombant

Location: port exit

Accessibility: all levels

Depth: 18 metres

Distinctive feature: high density and variety of fauna

Just a few minutes from the surface, you'll meet 80% of Réunion's animal species. The site is situated on the outer slope of the lagoon; it consists of a sandy-bottomed cirque bordered by a small drop off with a rather pretty overhanging coral ledge and boasts a wealth of amazing fauna. It's suitable for all levels; for supervised divers, your instructor will be at hand to point out the tiniest forms of marine life while autonomous divers will find the layout of the site reassuringly simple.

→ SAINT-LEU

Poséidon

Location: opposite the port

Accessibility: level 2 and above

Depth: 60 metres

Distinctive feature: drop off

Your experience of deep sea diving means that you'll feel comfortable exploring the edge of the drop off or even descending to the bottom of this rock overhang. Perhaps you'll get to see the enormous grouper - king of this underwater land - as well as some of the pelagic fish that come to visit him. Whatever your experience, this 37-60 m drop off is always full of nice surprises.

→ SAINT-LEU

Les grottes du portail

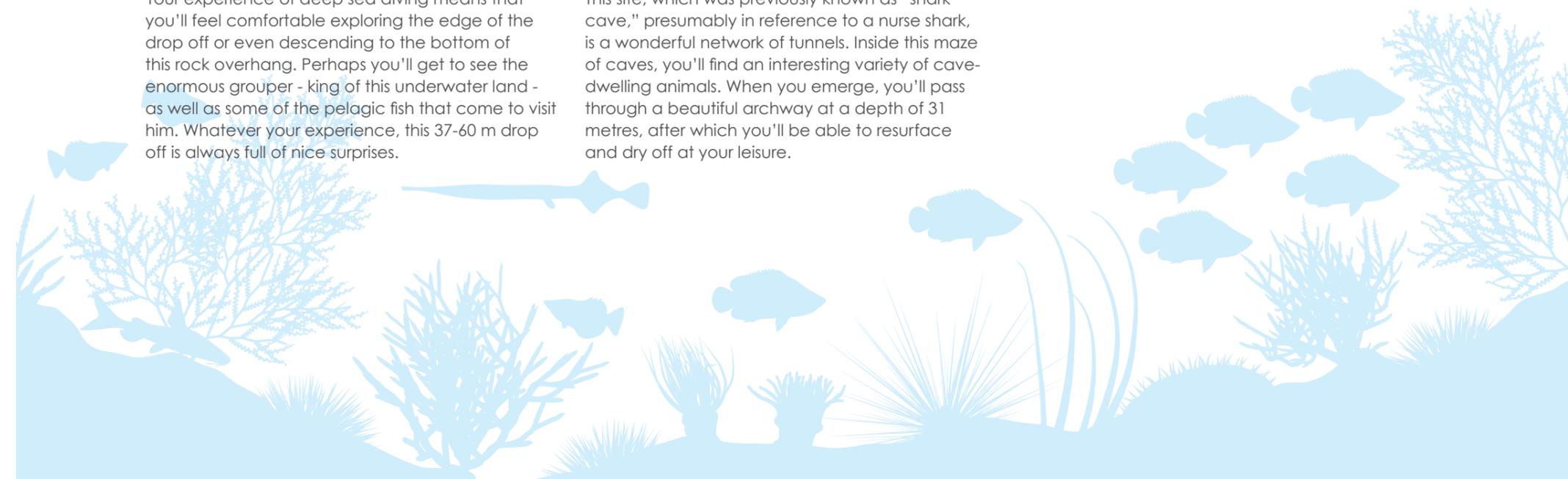
Location: North of Pointe au Sel

Accessibility: level 1

Depth: 20 metres

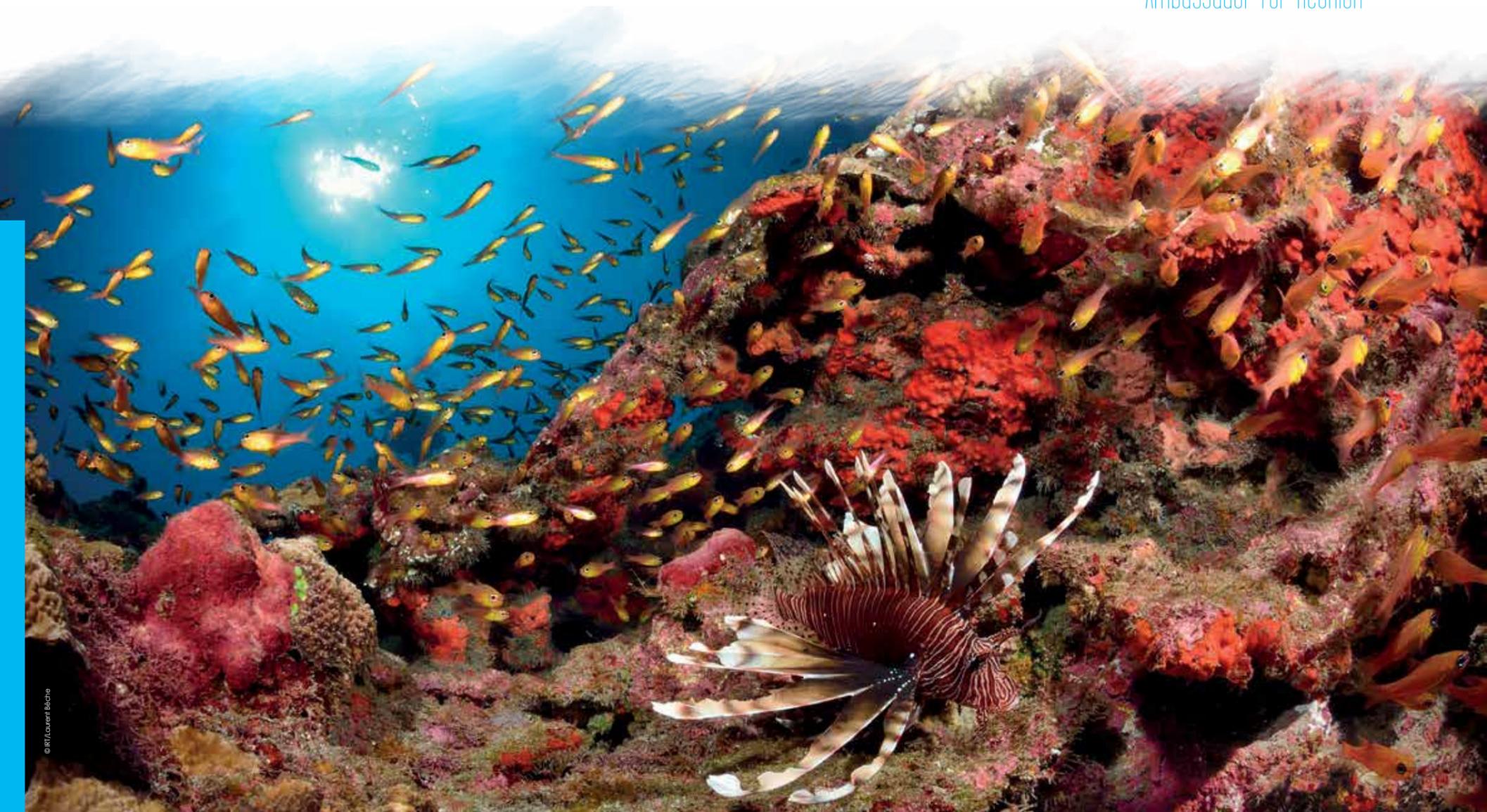
Distinctive feature: drop off

This site, which was previously known as "shark cave," presumably in reference to a nurse shark, is a wonderful network of tunnels. Inside this maze of caves, you'll find an interesting variety of cave-dwelling animals. When you emerge, you'll pass through a beautiful archway at a depth of 31 metres, after which you'll be able to resurface and dry off at your leisure.



LAURENT BÊCHE AND HIS PASSION FOR REUNION ISLAND

Ambassador for Réunion



Laurent Bêche first came to Réunion in 1989 as a diving instructor and was immediately seduced by the island's underwater scapes and fauna. "From the moment I arrived in Réunion, I wanted to capture the special character of the island's underwater landscapes and take these wonderful memories away with me." In my luggage, I had brought with me an old underwater camera but I didn't know how to use it; I have to admit I was very slow at first! At the time, there were no digital cameras and no way of seeing the final result before developing the film! "

After a long process of trial and error, he embarked upon some serious training, following a course organized by the Federation. "And that, I suppose, was when it clicked. I had finally acquired the basics of underwater photography; now I just had to work at it." Gradually, over the years, Laurent won a large number of competitions in the island; he then started competing against some of the best French photographers and was twice crowned French Champion; then in 2007, he was runner up in the world championships, narrowly missing first place. Laurent "retired" from competitions in 2009 after winning his final French championship title; however, he hasn't hung up his camera but has just taken up new challenges: spherical underwater panoramic photography, achieving considerable success in this field, such as this world-first: a half-water/half-air panoramic photo which you can see on the following site. <http://www.reunion.fr/visites/index.html>



One of his most recent works: a fabulous book entirely dedicated to underwater photographs of Réunion Island. Here again, Laurent introduces us to a magical universe, presenting us with new and unexpected vistas thanks to a particular photographic technique which allows you to see above and below the surface of the water simultaneously, without the use of any special effects. You can see some extracts from the book on the following website: <http://laurentbeche.free.fr/>

Laurent: after more than twenty years spent scouring these seas, do you still feel passionate about what you do?

"It's true; it's been more than twenty years but I never felt that it was the same or repetitive! Of course, I know many of the diving sites like the back of my hand but

all dives are different. The changing seasons mean that you meet different creatures each time: from June to October, you'll often come across whales and you can hear them sing when you're diving. You can encounter dolphins all year round as well as turtles, although these are less common. The Réunion ecosystem boasts around 3,500 different species of flora and fauna combined! When it's mating season, which varies from species to species, you need an experienced eye to help you spot: coral, nudibranchs, fish etc. The variations in light are also an important fact: the morning light is very dazzling while the afternoon light is somewhat gentler, transforming the appearance of the landscape. Night diving provides an opportunity to get a clearer look at the animals and observe the ecosystem close up."

Réunion's Natural Marine Reserve



In 2007, after around ten years of concerted effort, a marine reserve was created to help protect the coral reef ecosystem. This Marine Protected Area was established by the Interministerial decree n° 2007-236 of 21st February 2007. It boasts more than 3,500 different species which contribute both to its biodiversity and its exceptional character. Although smaller in area than the Polynesian reefs, Réunion boasts a greater richness in terms of diversity of coral with more than 160 different species of hard corals. It's managed by a Public Interest Group (PIG), the Réunion National Marine Reserve Public Interest Group (GIP-RNMR), overseen by Réunion's Prefect. The GIP-RNMR's brief extends to the following areas: "Police and surveillance," "Motivating and raising awareness," "Knowledge, management and protection of natural heritage" and "Administration and finance." Réunion's Natural Marine Reserve extends over 40 km of coastline and covers an area of 35 km² from Le Cap La Houssaye to Saint-Paul, la Roche aux Oiseaux and Étang-Salé. It has three levels of protection. The idea is to protect the environment so we can enjoy its benefits for a long time! Réunion's Natural Marine Reserve does not seek to disrupt visitor activities but rather to start a process of behaviour modification to encourage greater respect for our natural heritage over the long term.

- To limit the waiting time between first dives to a maximum of 50 minutes.
- Minimum amount of time for a first dive: 20 minutes.
- For underwater explorations: maximum of 4 divers, of the same level, per instructor. Clubs which belong to the GPP guarantee that their coaches have a good knowledge of the diving sites.
- Ensure quality care for divers.

Information displayed at sea and on land.

At sea, the markers indicate the outer edges of the reserve. Warning; if this symbol (no entry) is displayed, this indicates that the area is a Level 3, fully protected zone with no activity permitted.

Contact:
 The Réunion National Marine Reserve Public Interest Group
 39, rue du lagon - Lotissement Dayot 1
 97434 La Saline-les-Bains
 Tel: +262 (0)2 62 34 64 44
 Fax: +262 (0)2 62 34 64 45
 info@reservemarinereunion.fr



LIST OF DIVING PROFESSIONALS IN REUNION

ABYSS PLONGÉE

Member of GPP
(Professional Diving Association)
17, Boulevard Bonnier - 97436 Saint-Leu
Tel./Fax: +262 (0)2 62 34 79 79
plongeurs@abyss-plongee.com
www.abyss-plongee.com
Beginners, underwater exploration, children's diving ANMP, PADI, FFESSM training courses (all levels). First dives, exploration, snorkelling 'Pardon' store in centre; training available for levels 1-4, packages available for 3, 6 and 10 dives. Price: from €30/person/autonomous underwater exploration (with equipment).

AUSTRALE PLONGÉE

Member of GPP
(Professional Diving Association)
121 chemin Bassin plat
97410 Saint Pierre.
GSM : +262 (0)2 692 14 01 76
plongeeaustrale@orange.fr
www.plongeeaustrale.com
Plongée Australe is a diving centre and Aqualung partner centre.
We offer first dives, underwater exploration

in the wild south as well as training courses for levels 1-3.
Our diving sites extend from Pierrefond to Petite île.
And on reservation: Petite île, Saint-Joseph
Open every day.
Price: First dives from €60/person.
Exploration from: €36.
Formation: Prices available on request.
packages available for 5 and 10 dives.
Prices available on request.

AQUABULLE PLONGÉE

Member of GPP
(Professional Diving Association)
30, rue des Cocotiers - 97436 Saint-Leu
Tel: +262 (0)2 62 34 88 58
Mobile: +262 (0)6 92 18 04 22
aquabulle.plongee@gmail.com
www.aquabulle-plongee.com
Beginners, underwater exploration, diving. ANMP, FFESSM, PADI training. Nitrox training, rebreather diving.

ATLANTIDE ÉVASION

Member of GPP
(Professional Diving Association)
Laurent Donzeaux
Saint-Gilles port
97434 Saint-Gilles-les-Bains
Mobile: +262 (0)6 92 82 51 66
laurentdonzeaux@hotmail.fr
Atlantide Évasion offers training, underwater exploration and first time dives, led by state-certified instructors, from Tuesday to Sunday inclusive. Snorkelling exploration and training sessions are also held every Sunday. We offer all day diving and/or snorkelling excursions, with lunch on board, (food not provided) as well as half-day whale-watching excursions, in season, according to demand. All customers will be offered tea and a snack on board during each excursion. Itinerary: meet at Saint-Gilles-les-Bains port. Languages: French, English.
Price: from €45/person/first dive.

BLEU MARINE RÉUNION

Member of GPP
(Professional Diving Association)
Marina de Saint-Gilles-les-Bains
BP 8 - 97434 Saint-Gilles-les-Bains
Tel: +262 (0)2 62 24 22 00
Mobile: +262 (0)6 92 85 80 83
Fax: +262 (0)2 62 24 30 04
bleu-marine-run@wanadoo.fr
www.bleu-marine-reunion.com
Authorized Aqua Lung Dive centre. First dives, underwater explorations, training courses for all levels, including tailor-made classes. Night diving, children's diving, snorkelling. International (CMAS) and French (FFESSM) certification. Full equipment available, all sizes from 6 years to XXL. Bleu marine is ideally located in Saint-Gilles marina and welcomes all members of the public (children, families etc.). It offers tailor-made excursions and themed dives such as "Whale" dives in season (from June to October). Price: from €50/person/underwater exploration.

BLEU OCÉAN

Member of GPP
(Professional Diving Association)
25, rue du Général Lambert
97436 Saint-Leu
Tel/Fax: +262 (0)2 62 34 97 49
bleuocean2@wanadoo.fr
www.bleuocean.fr
ANMP, FFESSM, SSI, PADI.
First dives, underwater exploration and training sessions for all levels. Deep sea diving, night diving etc. Several packages available for individuals, families or groups. Prices available on request.

BULLE D'AIR

Member of GPP
(Professional Diving Association)
Karine Bagnères
13, rue des Canneliers
97436 Saint-Leu
Mobile: +262 (0)6 92 27 44 54
karine.bagneres@wanadoo.fr
Mobile diving around the island, maximum 4 people per excursion.
First dives, underwater exploration, training. Price: from €50/ person.

CEREPS PLONGÉE

161, rue du Général de Gaulle
97434 Saint-Gilles-les-Bains
Tel: +262 (0)2 62 24 40 12
First dives, underwater exploration, autonomous dives. Price: from €40/ person/ autonomous underwater exploration (with equipment).

LE CINQUIÈME ÉLÉMENT

47, route de Trou d'Eau
Appt n°7 - 97434 Saline-les-Bains
Mobile: +262 (0)6 92 86 29 48
aquafilou@hotmail.com
www.le5element.com
First dives, underwater exploration, training for adults and children aged 8 years and upwards.
Price: from €50/person/first dive.

CORAIL PLONGÉE

Member of GPP
(Professional Diving Association)
97434 Saint-Gilles-les-Bains
Tel: +262 (0)2 62 24 37 25
Fax: +262 (0)2 62 24 46 38
info@corail-plongee.com
www.corail-plongee.com
Beginners, underwater exploration, CMAS and FFESSM training (all levels), Centre Scubapro. 2 boats, hot shower.
Price: from €45/person.

DALLEAU DIDIER

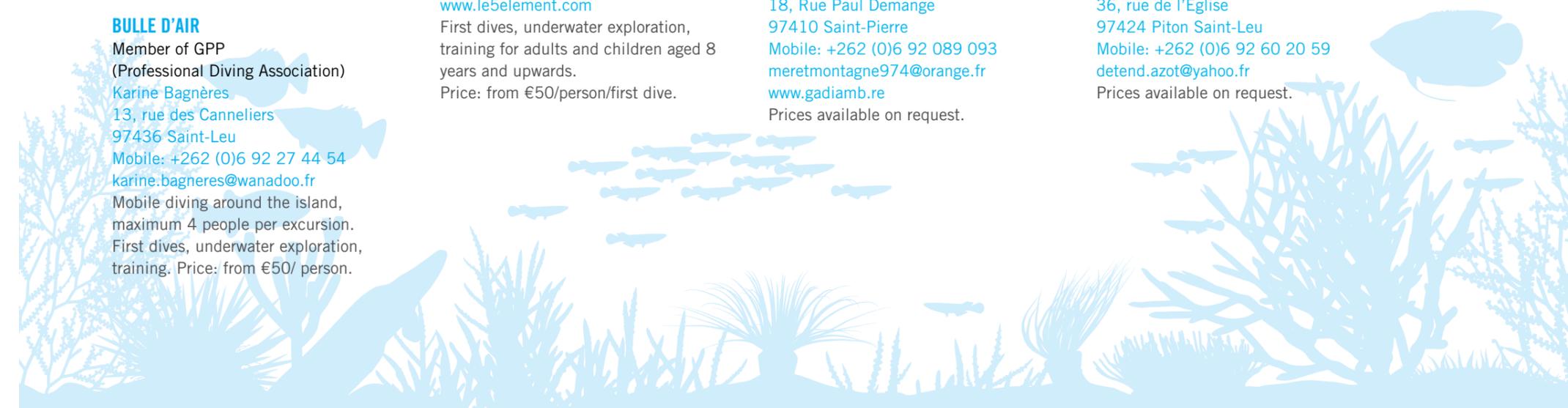
18, Rue Paul Demange
97410 Saint-Pierre
Mobile: +262 (0)6 92 089 093
meretmontagne974@orange.fr
www.gadiamb.re
Prices available on request.

DEWULF STEFAAN - WULFY DIVING

2, rue de L'Étang
97460 Saint-Paul
Mobile: +262 (0)6 92 60 04 93
stef_dewulf@hotmail.fr
www.plongee-wulfy-reunion.com
Diving throughout the island, specialists in underwater photography and marine biology. First dives, training available in French, English and Dutch. ANMP, PADI.
Prices available on request.

DÉTEND A ZOT LAURENDEAU EMMANUEL

36, rue de l'Église
97424 Piton Saint-Leu
Mobile: +262 (0)6 92 60 20 59
detend.azot@yahoo.fr
Prices available on request.



LIST OF DIVING PROFESSIONALS IN REUNION



DODO PALME (LE)
Member of GPP
(Professional Diving Association)
1, rue Berthier - Port de plaisance
Pointe des Galets - 97420 Le Port
Mobile: +262 (0)6 92 77 60 71
contact@dodopalme.com
www.dodopalme.com

Diving throughout the island. Groups welcome and EC visitors. FFESSM, ANMP and PADI. Aqua Lung partner centre with store selling diving equipment. Courses for boat licence. Creperie - perfect for a post-diving snack.
Rates and directions on internet.

ESCAPADE PLONGÉE

Member of GPP
(Professional Diving Association)
3, rue des Bénitiers
97434 Saint-Gilles-les-Bains
Mobile: +262 (0)6 92 76 17 47
escapade.plongee@gmail.com
www.escapadeplongee.com
Price: from €20.
Fins, mask, snorkel.



L'EXCELSUS
Member of GPP
(Professional Diving Association)
1, impasse des Plongeurs
Z.A. Pointe des Châteaux
97436 Saint-Leu
Tel/Fax: +262 (0)2 62 34 73 65
contact@excelsus-plongee.com
www.excelsus-plongee.com

S.E.A Scuba Pro Centre, École Nouvelles Frontières. Underwater exploration, first dives, training courses for all levels. Night diving available on request. CMAS, ANMP, FFESSM.

Discovering snorkelling, beginners snorkelling course. Special packages available.
Babysitting available. On reservation. Catamaran day excursion. 2 boats.
Price: from €30/person/
discovering snorkelling.

MASCAREIGNES PLONGÉE

Port de plaisance
97434 Saint-Gilles-les-Bains
Tel: +262 (0)2 62 44 27 74
Mobile: +262 (0)6 92 85 57 55
reunion@mascareignes-plongee.fr
www.mascareignes-plongee.fr

First dives, exploration and training sessions for all levels. Underwater exploration and training package.
Price: from €47/person/
underwater exploration-discovery.



O SEA BLEU
Member of GPP
(Professional Diving Association)
Port Area
97434 Saint-Gilles-les-Bains
Tel: +262 (0)2 62 24 23 30
Mobile: +262 (0)6 92 68 68 53
Fax: +262 (0)2 62 89 23 30
oseableu@reunion-plongee.com
www.reunion-plongee.com

Affiliated with FFESSM and ANMP. Equivalent of PADI, NALII, CMAS, CEDIP. State certified instructors. The centre has 4 boats which can accommodate 27, 20, 18

and 12 divers. Scubapro equipment (S.E.A centre). Excursions every day, on reservation. Beginners, discovery sessions, underwater exploration and training for all levels. Diving for all, from 8 years upwards. Souvenir photos plus waterproof, digital camera available for hire. Themed dives, night and deep dives, shipwrecks, drop off. Packages available; groups welcome. Price: from €30/person/autonomous underwater exploration (with equipment).

PLONGÉE ATTITUDE

38, chemin Lelievre
97436 Saint-Leu
Mobile: +262 (0)6 92 72 58 59
Plongeeattitude@wanadoo.fr

Training for levels 1-3, from 12 years upwards. "Explorer" training for 8-12 years. Underwater exploration - all levels
Boat club departures from Saint-Leu, Monday-Sunday morning. Possible boat departures from Saint-Gilles, Étang-Salé and Saint-Pierre. Shore departures to Cap la Houssaye, Saint-Philippe, Langevin, and Grand-Bois.
Price: from €50/person/first dive.

PLONGÉE OCÉAN INDIEN

Port de Saint-Pierre
97410 Saint-Pierre
Mobile: +262 (0)6 92 69 41 57
Fax: +262 (0)2 62 31 03 91
plongee.oceanindien@wanadoo.fr
www.plongeeoceanindien.com

Professional diving centre. Courses provided by ANMP. State certified instructors. Scubapro equipment (S.E.A centre), underwater explorations, first dives, training levels 1, 2 and 3 and "mixed gas" diving. Boat: 9.5 m.
Price: from €35/person

PLONGÉE SALÉE

Member of GPP
(Professional Diving Association)
5, rue Motais de Narbonne
97427 Étang-Salé
Tel: +262 (0)2 62 91 71 23
Mobile: +262 (0)6 92 34 44 35
contact@plongeesaleereunion.com
www.plongeesaleereunion.com

Prices available on request.

2 bis lot. des Frangipaniers
97424 Piton Saint-Leu
Mobile: +262 (0)6 92 04 30 80
info@poadive.com
www.poadive.com
Prices available on request.

PREMIÈRES BULLES

(diving exclusively for children)
10, ch Edouard Rivière
97425 Les Avirons
Mobile: +262 (0)6 92 85 76 57
zdom@yahoo.fr
www.plongee-enfant-reunion.
webliberte.net

Beginners and holiday courses. From 4 years of age, group and individual sessions.
Trips to La Saline, Saint-Leu and Saint-Pierre lagoons.
Price: from €37/per session

RÉUNION FORMATION PLONGÉE

103 bis, chemin de l'Éperon
97435 Saint-Gilles-les-Hauts
Tel./Fax: +262 (0)2 62 34 14 68
Mobile: +262 (0)6 92 70 71 06
contact@reunion-formation-plongee.fr
www.reunion-formation-plongee.fr

First dives, underwater exploration, discovery session with equipment, Level 1 training, discovery snorkelling package (fins, mask, snorkel).
Price: from €20/person/discovery snorkelling package.

RÉUNION PLONGÉE

13, avenue des Artisans
97436 Saint-Leu
Tel./Fax: +262 (0)2 62 34 77 77
clubhouse@reunionplongee.com
www.reunionplongee.com

FFESSM, ANMP, PADI, Nitrox, rebreather diving. First dives, underwater exploration, whale excursions, children's diving and training for all levels. 1 boat.
Price: from €36/person.
autonomous underwater exploration (with equipment).

SUBMARINE

Stéphane Hautin
Plage des Brisants
97434 Saint-Gilles-les-Bains
Tel: +262 (0)2 62 33 82 60
Mobile: +262 (0)6 92 20 25 49
contact@submarine.fr
www.submarine.fr

Training courses and underwater exploration.
Price: from €25/person
autonomous underwater exploration (with equipment).

RECOMMENDED TRIPS

Marine Ecotourism trip

Sophie is offering a trip to explore the western coastline, from the volcanic cliffs of the Cap La Houssaye right up to the white sandy beaches of the Ermitage lagoon. You will hear the story told by a professional guide of how Réunion's coral reef was formed, along with a load of cultural and scientific anecdotes. "Along the route, you will be able to enjoy some unbelievable views overlooking or in the centre of the coral reef and thus appreciate this remarkable biodiversity in a new way".

Sophie DURVILLE Head of the Aquarium de La Réunion

FOCUS : Every southern winter, the humpback whales leave the cold waters of Antarctica to cover thousands of kilometres to return to the warm waters of the island of Réunion for the purpose of giving birth to a single calf. Go out to see these mythical animals and take in these amazing scenes not far from Réunion's coastline.



Over 4 days, the marine ecotourism tour, begins with a night in a high-quality establishment, that is both enchanting and surrounded by nature, just a few metres from the beach...

Our recommendation regarding your accommodation : in the west, the Closerie du Lagon - 4, furnished tourist accommodation (meublé de tourisme) or Senteur Vanille gîte, a charming villa which combines wood, stone and old objects.*

The 2nd day, it's off to see the reef! To go on a 2-hour exploration with a nature guide to inspect the reef formations and the coastal features from the Cap La Houssaye to Cap Homard.

Then there is transportation to take you to the Ermitage beach. There, a group leader of the marine nature reserve will welcome you to spend some time in discussion where he will talk about the purpose of the

reserve and will inform you about the delicate balance of the environment and its abundant riches.

Time to eat! La Marmite restaurant serves a typical Creole lunch with a great curry cooked on a wood fire. You can then relax and, this time, feast your eyes on the Aquarium de Saint-Gilles. Nothing is left to chance to entice the visitor into going on a journey to the heart of the blue planet. Before your visit a brief conference will be held to explain how Réunion's coral reef was formed. Dinner overlooking Saint-Gilles Port; return to your accommodation.

A visit to the special sea turtle observatory is an essential stop on your 3rd day. Located on the sea front at Saint-Leu, from where you can also admire the talented surfers.

A few hours after lunch, what better than an outing on board a catamaran? The Cata Passion, is a unique and large-scale boat, with facilities of the highest standard.

Activities such as kayaking, stand up paddle boarding or snorkelling with fins, mask and a snorkel are available: all the necessary equipment is available. You can also try your hand at offshore fishing. At the end of the day, a pre-dinner drink and nibbles are served at sunset. Dinner at the hotel or a place of your choice. And for the grand finale, on the fourth and last day: Réunion seen from the skies: from a paraglider! Feel what it's like to be a bird. Silence. Softness. A thrilling experience. Before lunch, you have to take a detour to the Marché Forain and the Tour des Roches at Saint-Paul. The market with thousands of colours. Very popular with tourists. You will find a range of handicrafts from Réunion and the entire Indian Ocean. The Tour des Roches is a peaceful place, steeped in history, with the sounds of water and singing birds and exotic vegetation to boot: bamboo trees, coconut trees, papyrus, palm trees...



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