NAUTICA ASSISTANCE

YACHT AGENTS AND SUPPLIERS

SARDINIA - CORSICA - SINT MAARTEN

DIVING SITES TAVOLARA E MOLARA

In the granite panorama of Gallura, the Island of Tavolara represents an exception: 565m of height, 6 km of length and 1 km of width, it is an enormous trapezium-shaped calcareous plateau, whose cliffs vertically dive for over 20m. Called Hermaea Insula by the Romans, it dominates all the coast and preserves its natural landscape thanks to the building prohibition imposed by the Municipality of Olbia. Two appendixes lie at the eastern and western edges: Spalmatore di Fuori, mountainous and steep, and Spalmatore di Terra, almost entirely flat. Here you can find a tiny group of houses, two restaurants, a cemetery, and a small harbor. Tavolara houses a rich avifauna and some rare botanic species. Between Tavolara and Capo Coda Cavallo, Isolotto di Molara and Scoglio del Molarotto emerge from the sea: the first re-presents the geological and environmental continuity of the nearby coast of Coda Cavallo and is formed by granite

CALA CICALE

This is a very peaceful dive, which runs on a mixture of bottom debris, rocks and Posidonia: this site is characterized by the presence of small rocks, tumbled down from the cliff and abundantly covered with coral reef. Bream, comber, scorpion fish, glances, sailed, damselfish, raven swim undisturbed. The initial depth is around -15 m, and the average is around -20 meters and allows the possibility of different paths depending on the level of experience. It takes its name from the magnose, or insects of the sea which in early summer, especially at night, are found between boulders and ledges. The species is quite rare and therefore protected. The encounter with these crustaceans which are rather "cumbersome" always leaves divers astonished.

IL GROTTONE

This spectacular dive site, the Grottone deserves a fuller description than is really possible, if only because you canmake at least three different dives:Targeted to observe, with ever new wonder, the beauty of plants and animals that inhabit the dark regions of this large cavity; swimming at a depth of between -18 and -24 meters, including continuous rock masses, small landslides and huge rocks shaped by time; to go in search of some large groupers who have elected to dwell among the cracks in the basement to over 35 meters deep. Of course, it is the cave that attracts most divers. When one leaves the sunlight behind, the eyes must first adjust to the dark, and then the spectacle offered by the multitude of colors that cover the great vault comes to life. It always happens when you are in these environments, where the apparent calm of the world that we're

watching often attracts divers: an experience that happens every time you get close to its entrance. Inside the cave, on the bottom sediment at least a dozen large cerianti can be observed, mechanical pieces of shrimp, a few small grouper swimming along, lots of nudibranchs, a large bunch of red mullet with their barbels combing the bottom looking for small prey. At the deepest dive point, at the end of summer, when the visibility is unbelievable, you can meet great snapper and amberjack at the dozens, swim and hunting among the huge flocks of anchovies.

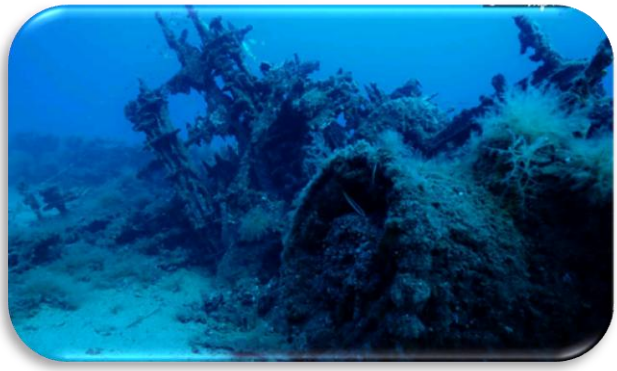
ISOLOTTO ROSSO

In our Marine Protected Area is a "Red Island", a name characterising it's attributes almost everywhere on the surface rocks. In fact it is shown on charts as the small island of Reulino, training with red granite, a few hundred meters from the mainland, just opposite the place where, more than 30 years ago, the wreck of the ship Criss ran aground and then caught fire. This little island, no bigger than 20 meters over the sea, is covered by dense vegetation in the Mediterranean where, in early summer, gulls hatch hundreds of eggs, resulting in a continuous flight of birds that come and go to feed newborn chicks. Underwater, one is faced with scenarios that are constantly changing: we start with a landslide of stones covered with a felt Codium, green seaweed with a characteristic round shape, swim through a vast prairie of Posidonia. A big rock that juts out toward the surface, covered with sponges and sea fans, hidden between the cracks of beautiful cowries, crabs and hermit crabs mechanical and moving towards the east, the depth increases gradually but does not exceed -18 mt if you follow the line of rocky ridge that marks the limit of removal from the boat. Along the return path, you will discover debris, hundreds of piecesof amphorae of various ages and some conglomerate of galena, the ore from which we extract the lead.

OCCHIO DI DIO

For divers who are familiar with the mountain, watching the Tavolara wall comparse with the dolomite cliffs. From a few tens of meters from the surface reach the top, large cavities and fragments of crumbling times in distant past, accumulations sediment due to the flow of rainwater, and concretions, which demonstrate a past in which, even in the south of the island, there was a stretch of sand. The route starts from the classic dive-depth and can grow up to 18mt-30mt then winds its way through the boulders, full of cracks, crevices and cavities, where the kings of mullet swim quietly, away from direct light coming from the surface and here you can find small lobsters well hidden and, turning his gaze out to sea. From time to time you can observe, amberjack and snapper that swim undisturbed. Returning to the mooring buoy, swim at a lower altitude to observe all that covers the vertical walls, from the surface diving into the sea. The dive ends just below the' eye ', a triangular slit with a large boulder in the middle, which can be seen arriving by boat. The walls of the rift, which are formed by fractures from the surface, are completely covered by colonial invertebrates, calcareous red algae, sponges, worms, and sea slugs. An ideal position to know and observe the life that is formed and develops in areas less exposed to light.

OUED YQUEM WRECK



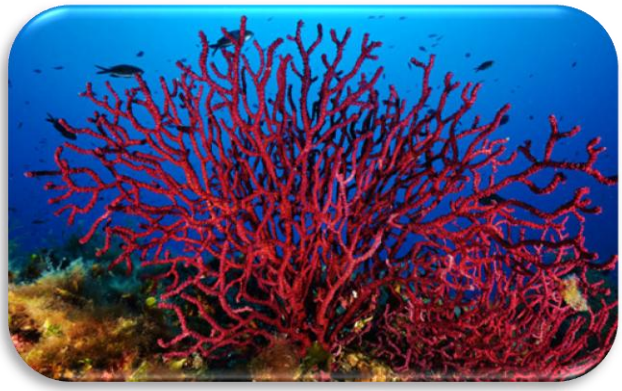
Almost a mile to the south of Molara, lying on a bed of white sand at a depth of 39m, is the wreck of a ship which for years was without a name. Allied submarines sunk at least two vessels off the east coast of Sardinia, especially between Molara and San

Teodoro: a minesweeper, and a tramp steamer carrying bales of tobacco and, probably, cereals. Collating eyewitness accounts and archive data allows us to think that the first was almost certainly the Amalia, while the second, also known as “the Molara wreck”, was recently identified as the Oued Yquem. The Oued Yquem was built in 1920 in the A. Van Dulvendijk shipyard and named Noordzee. She was sold in 1922 to the Compagnie de Navigation Paquet of Marseilles, which gave her the name she had when she sank. The huge two-piston steam engine clearly indicates that she sailed under mechanical power. Her size, too, was equally substantial: over 70m of her wood-and-steel hull can still be seen. It seems she was already in a poor condition when she was sunk. Witnesses say that she was sailing to Marseilles from Latakia in Syria. She had a French skipper and a crew of 12-13 men. On 3 October 1941 at 12.32 pm the Oued Yquem was torpedoed from further offshore by the Dutch submarine O21. Eyewitnesses say the submarine only took the captain prisoner, while the crew, which had put off in a lifeboat, wasallowed to escape. This dive into the “deep blue”, of course, is exceptional both for the characteristics of the wreck (this is virtually a case of naval archaeology) and the clarity of the water.

SCOGLIO DEL FICO

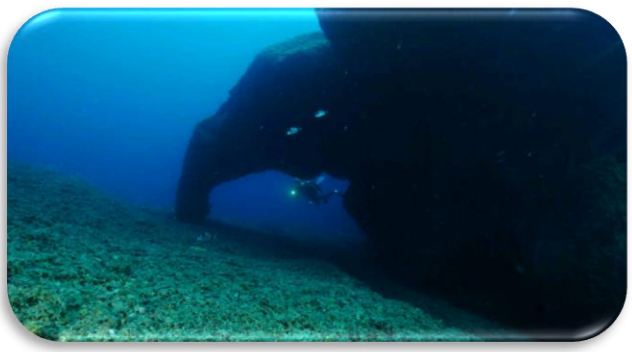
As described in the introductory pages of the site, when you spoke of geomorphologic differences between the islands of this small archipelago, diving around the rocks of the fig after watching him towering out of the water can give an idea of what has modelled this stone over thousands of years. It is interesting to note that although it is clearly visible above the water at about ten meters, this point of immersion is the ideal beginning of a continuing series of further dives under water in the direction of the channel between islands Molara and Tavolara, and that can be visited along pathways that descend deeper and deeper. Conversely, visiting the rock of the fig is really easy and fun, this is a long swim to a depth of nearly continuous 15/17 mt, it allows easy circumnavigation of crystal clear water and full of unexpected surprises for divers who are normally sceptical of "shallow water". The route winds through boulders, vertical walls rising up on the top of the rock, deep fissures and fractures, cavities that often hide the presence of large groupers.

SECCA DEL PAPA



Anyone who has had the opportunity to read the journals, descriptions of the dives that lend themselves to remember, you will have to dive the "Secca del Papa," This site is the most talked about and photographed during the whole ' year. Even for those who dive continuously on this site, it is hard not to get involved emotionally with the beauty of the images that are fixed indelibly in the memory, simply because it is a fantastic place! Rightly considered among the finest in the Mediterranean, it requires repeated dives at different depths to understand the magic, to follow the contours, to observe the huge variety and quantity of plant and animal species, making it an extraordinary synthesis of what can be seen in the sea. However, this is not a dive for everyone. Particularly at the depth of -50 m, which reaches the bottom around the main area, the need for an excellent buoyancy control is necessary, having to swim a half' water to "fly over" the areas where the numerous and large groupers, reside but mostly because you get closer to the giant gorgonian fans, red or yellow should be prevented from touching and damaging.

SECCA DELL’ELEFANTE



In an extension of the ridge running from the rock of the fig tree, the final dive that you can , is that of the elephant, which is characterized by an amazing rock

formation that seems as if it were carved out of the hands of an artist. It represents a huge elephant head complete with ears and trunk that rests on the stone. As for the dive itself, given the position in the channel, visibility is not always optimal, and also the water temperature changes as a result of the current: nevertheless, this is a location offers great diving points of photographic, environmental and scientific interest. A dive of -14 and -30 m, between large granite boulders perched on the sand and surrounded by beautiful prairie of Posidonia, you can see moray and conger eels and comber and damselfish that come out of the many crevices. Goupers, with brown eyes swim in midwater. You can inspectdifferent views of the rock formation as you winds upwards at different heights, and sometimes follow the profile of stones covered by the felt of brown algae to reach the sandy bottom, a sea area, among other which lends itself to meeting fish passaging such as snapper or amberjack that hunt around the peaks of granite. The sandy areas that are opened from time to time between the Posidonia, are populated by mullets that move on the bottom in search of food.

SECCA DI PUNTA ARRESTO

A simply extraordinary, memorable dive if you consider how close it is to the coast and the low depth at which the underwater route starts. The Punta Arresto shoal lies just a few dozen meters off the shore at the north-eastern tip of Molara island. It lends its name to a vast rocky complex of huge projections of pale granite that rise to -3m under the surface. The quantity of light reaching the various underwater environments is one of the main factors that contribute to a greater presence of animal and plant organisms, and Secca di Punta Arresto – one of the best dives in the area – provides a clear example of this effect. There are often amazing views to be seen even before you enter the water. On bright, calm days you can lean out of the boat to look at the sea floor: you can easily distinguish the pinnacles and clefts that define the route, and the gullies, which start at an average depth of -14m and reach as deep as -33m.

SPALMATORE BEACH ROCK

The Rock Beach and beach fossils are what remains of the coasts of thousands of years ago, characterized by long ridges of rock that, due to the erosion of the sea and then by the weight of the water, have fractured into square block.Primarily distributed in areas of poor seismic action and which are found at variable depths.

Just beneath the water surface on the north side of the beach at Spalmatore Tavolara in direction of Capo Ceraso you can recognize the change at variable depths. Diving on these sites is particularly interesting, not only for its obvious geological evidence, but also for the particular ecosystem that has been created around them.