

Wreck Week for Tech. Divers.

12th – 17th September, 2016



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12/09/2016: Day 1 - Two shore dives for “acclimatization”

Dive 1) An easy and shallow dive to start with.
Dive 2) Wreck in Gozo: Cominoland / MV Karwela

MV CominoLand: The ferry was scuttled as an artificial reef for scuba divers in Xatt L-Ahmar, Gozo along with MV Karwela on 12th August 2006. The MV Cominoland is probably the second most dived wreck around Gozo. More interesting than the MV Xlendi but further from shore and smaller than the MV Karwela, she has also has some open passageways and swim-trough's. The MV Cominoland was stripped off all of her outer paintwork prior to sinking as in comparison to the MV Karwela which was cleaned but not stripped of her paint there is a difference in marine growth settlement.

Average depth: 35 - 39 Meters
Maximum depth: 39 Meters

MV Karwela: She was launched as M/S Frisia II in 1957. During 1977 she was named the Nordpaloma and transferred to Malta in 1986. She then sailed for Comino Marina LTD until around 2002 under her present name MV Karwela. The MV Karwela ferry measures 50.31 meter by 8.50 meter and was designed to carry 863 passengers. The wreck is now fully populated with an overall coating of algae and marine invertebrates, and the sea firs along the rails are a popular feeding ground for nudibranchs. The largely calm deep water around the wreck also encourages the growth of some very large spiral tube worms (*Spirographis spallanzani*)

Average depth: 35 Meters
Maximum Depth: 40 Meters

13/09/2016: Day 2 – Full-Day-Boat Trip incl. 2 dives

DIVE 1) **Wreck of the Imperial Eagle:** the Imperial Eagle was registered under other names prior to coming to Malta. When first launched in 1938 until 1947 she was named "New Royal Lady", than in 1948 as "Royal Lady" and thereafter until 1958 as "Crested Eagle". Built by J. Crown & Sons Ltd, in Sunderland England and powered by two diesel oil engines manufactured by Crossley Bros Ltd.

After 1968 she was used to transport cargo and animals from Gozo to Valletta. She also served for storage. In Malta she was owned by Sunny & Maria Pisani a family from Gozo, and was sold to the local Diving community on the 28th November 1995 to scuttle her as an attraction for divers off Qawra Point and to form the main attraction for an Underwater Marine Park Project, a task coordinated by an action Committee set up for this purpose. It was scuttled on 19th July 1999 in 40 meters of water, half a kilometer off Qawra Point.)

Average depth: 32 – 42 Meters
Maximum depth: 42 Meters

DIVE 2) **Wreck of the Pasewalk – length 52 mtrs:** was a *Kondor I*-class minesweeper built in East Germany. After the Volksmarine was disbanded just before the reunification of Germany, she was sold to Malta in 1992 and renamed **P31** and was used as a patrol boat. After being decommissioned, she was scuttled as a dive site in 2009 off Comino.

Average depth: 12 – 18 Meters
Maximum Depth: 18 Meters

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14/09/2016: Day 3 – Full-Day-Boat Trip incl. 2 dives

DIVE 1) **Wreck of Um El Faroud:** She was built in 1969 at Smith Dock Co. Ltd, Middleborough, England and was owned by the General National Maritime Transport Company, Tripoli (GNMTC). She had been operating between Italy and Libya carrying refined fuel up to 1 February 1995. On 3 February 1995 she was docked at No.3 Dock of Malta dry docks. During the night of 3 February an explosion occurred in No.3 center tank and nine shipyard workers lost their lives.

The vessel suffered structural deformation and, following inspection and survey, was considered a total write-off. She occupied the dock in the harbor of Valletta for three years until it was decided that the best option to utilize her remaining value was to tow her to sea and scuttle her as an artificial reef in 1998. The wreck sits upright on the sandy seabed southwest of Wied iz-Zurrieq near Qrendi. Um El Faroud weighs 10,000 tons and is 115 metres [contradiction] long. The depth to the top of the bridge is 18 metres and 25 metres to the main deck. The bottom rests at 36 metres. Scuba divers might come across some squid and barracudas at the stern. The wreck can be entered fairly easily, but due to its size, this should be restricted only to divers with advanced wreck diving training.

The vessel measures 109.53 metres in length, and has a beam of 15.5 metres; the height of the vessel from keel to funnel top is approximately 22 metres. After a bad storm in winter 2005/6 the ship has now broken in two. Still relatively new, but already attracting tons of fish. Pelagic species such as Tuna, jacks and Barracudas. The dive site Um El Faroud is one of the most popular shipwrecks in Malta and a pleasure to visit.

Maximum Depth: 36 Meters

DIVE 2) **Wreck of the Boltenhagen – length 52 mtrs.** The former minesweeper was purchased by Malta on 24 July 1997 and was given the pennant number P29. P29 became a patrol boat within the Offshore Command of the Maritime Squadron of the Armed Forces of Malta. Since the former minesweepers were purchased unarmed, some light armament was then added by the AFM. P29 was then used to secure the Maltese coast against smuggling and border control operations. She was decommissioned in 2004 and was bought by the Malta Tourism Authority in September 2005. She was cleaned and then scuttled on 14 August 2007 off the port of Ċirkewwa to serve as a diving site and artificial reef.

The wreck now lies at a depth of around 35 meters. The highest point is situated only at 17 meters depth.

Average depth: 32 – 37 Meters

Maximum Depth: 38 Meters - Depth Mast top 17 Meters

15/09/2016: Day 4 – Boat Trip incl. 1 dive

DIVE 1) **Wreck of The Stubborn** was an S-class submarine of the Royal Navy, and part of the Third Group built of that class. She was built by Cammell Laird and launched on 11 November 1942. The submarine operated initially in the North Sea and the Bay of Biscay. Later, the Navy suspended the Stubborn. The HMS Stubborn was sunk on April 30, 1946 against Malta before Qawra Point as sonar exercise goal. It lies at a depth of about 55 m.

Maximum Depth: 55 Meters



16/09/2016: Day 5 – Boat Trip incl. 1 dive

DIVE 1) Wreck of the Southwold or Polynesia

HMS Southwold: Was a destroyer, Type II Hunt Class. It was given to the British Navy on 20th December 1939 and came in service a year later. After numerous operations, the ship hit a mine which caused structural damage and by trying to drag it, the ship sank on March 24, 1942. The rear of Southwold is situated deeper than the bow - more specifically 72 meters. The 28 meter long tail is in good condition unlike the heavily damaged from the mine bug, is the 28-meter-long tail in a good condition. There you will find the Heckkanaonen showing towards portside. Further aft one finds still lined the water bombs neatly. Due to the efforts made by the Maltese Government and the diving centres numerous artefacts have been preserved as well as the imposing propeller are in place.

Maximum Depth: 72 Meters

The Polynesia: launched its service in 1891 and ran between France and Australia as a passenger ship before she went to New Caledonia in 1914. It is an impressive size of 152 meters with a total of 586 passenger seats, making it an interesting dive site for technical divers. A strong current is often expected. The engine room was destroyed by a torpedo launched from the UC22 submarine which consequently sank the ship to a maximum depth of 63 meters. Overall. The wreck is well preserved.

Maximum Depth: 43 - 63 Meters

17/09/2016: Day 6 – Recreational Relaxing Day/optional

Prerequisites for this week: appropriate qualification & experience to these depths.

Cost for the above week – Including all above mentioned activities, twinset & 1 stage,

(Gas is extra)

Euro 536,-