

Dear Diver,

We would like to thank you for visiting Vakarufalhi Island Resort and spending your holiday with us.

On the following pages you can read what has happened on Vakarufalhi since June 2007.

June

Vakarufalhi has a new attraction: GOMA, a two mast Maldivian style sailing boat.

Until now we did one diving fullday excursion, many snorkeling trips and we had some fullmoon parties on Goma.

We made use of the good weather and did some fullday excursions with manta and eagleray encounters at Manta Point and four whalesharks along the outreef.

On Velagali Thila we had millions of glasfish and one ugly stonefish who's favorite diet must haven been glassfish.

On Angaga Thila we found a false stonefish who was he trying to fool.

Also unforgettable were our two flyby encouters with four mantas at Vakarufalhi Beru Thila and one guitarshark on the outreef.

July

Petra and Marc went on a tour d'Europe holiday to visit family and friends. To help Nancy and Tommy, Liam a dive instructor from Kuredu came over.

Highlighths this month were ray encounters. Quite a few dive and snorkel excursions went to Dhigurah Etere where for a couple of days mantas were hanging about.

In a couple of places we saw the mangrove ray, a dark ray with white spots and tail, and a torpedo ray also known as electric ray made an appearance.

Coming out of the canyon at Broken Rock we saw a grey reef shark on patrol and we

still find the little leaf fish on the top reef although he does not make it easy for us.

August

We had a spectacular fullday excursion were we snorkeled with 30 sailfish, 20 dolphins, one whaleshark, two pilot whales



and dived with three mantas – we have photographic proof.

Maybe the number 3 is a magic one? We found three stonefish in one spot and three orange joshi nudibranchs in another spot. We had three very special moray eels, the golden moray, the zebra moray and the albino moray. We named the albino moray according to its colour as we could not find it in any of our books.

September

On seven different dive sites we encountered up to 12 eagle rays. On the wreck and at Velagali Thila we found the most nudibranchs. We even saw them twice having sex and eggs. Talking about sex we also saw octopi entangled and for sure the red tooth trigger fish must have been doing something as there are millions of them about on all dive sites. We were wondering what the stonefish and the pipefish that was living on its back were up to and hope for the best. Shark patrols were happening at Broken Rock and Vakarufalhi Etere Thila and during a night dive on our house reef we saw a guitarshark.

At Ali Thila we had a ghostpipefish for a few days and at Kahambu Thila we found a new frogfish. Instead of the whaleshark we found porcelain crabs, leaffish, a manta and a leopard shark along the outreef.

As we came up after a two tank dive with eight mobula mantas we thought we were in the middle of a BBC nature programme as we watched 50 – 100 pilot whales and sailfish hunting at the surface for about one hour.

October

The cat is out of the bag – on 1.5.2008 Vakarufalhi will be renovated and closed for half a year. A new management group from Sri Lanka will take over. We don't have any building plans but one thing is for sure, ProDivers will be on the island when it reopens.

All around we saw sailfish jumping at the surface but on six different dive sites we even saw them underwater once up to 10 animals.

Also plenty of flyby manta encounters on many different dive sites but the whaleshark remains elusive apart from once when we saw it from the boat and one diving encounter at Dhigurah Beru.

We had great dives on the house reef with five dolphins during a course dive and cuttlefish, octopus, stonefish, giant reef ray, mobula manta and porcupine ray during orientation dives.

At Dhigurah Etere during a night dive we found our first crocodile fish in the Maldives. And for the rest we had plenty of stingrays, eagle rays and whitetip reef sharks on many of our dive sites. In the super size category we had barracudas and tunas.

November

After being elusive for far too long we finally had the chance to snorkel with

whalesharks at Dhiddoo Beru Faru and Maamigili Beru.

We had plenty of ray encounters torpedo



ray, eagleray, bannertailray and even manta rays were amongst them. Three times we even watched up to four stingrays mating.

On three different dive sites we had close encounters with sailfish, usually during the safety stop.

We saw a couple of young silvertip sharks on Angaga Thila and some real grown up grey reef sharks on Rheeti Thila. And Nancy did not even get wet when she saw a guitarshark in our lagoon while she was jogging.

To throw some Latin at you we had some pretty colourful slugs – the green and yellow miamira sinuate, joshi the magnificent in orange, white and black, the black and white jorunna funebris while laying eggs, the yellow and brown berthella martensi and Susie the flatworm. Susie must have been the lady who found the flatworm first, wouldn't you like to have a flatworm with your name!??

December

We hit the jackpot again at Maamigili Beru – a dive with three whaleshark encounters. Grey reef sharks at Aah Thila, Dhigurah Etere Thila and 15 of them at Vakarufalhi Beru Thila.

On the top reef of Kuda Rah Thila two moray eels were fighting or maybe they were love bites anyway it looked very wild. Equipped with a tennis ball, calculating excercises, lamp and slate we went to the house reef for the deep dive of the Advanced Course when three dolphins came along. NO, we did not have nitrogen narcosis!

During an orientation dive at the house reef 10 stingrays were passing by. They probably wanted to check how well our divers can clear their mask.

And again we were able to watch a big group of pilot whales on the surface displaying some acrobatics.

We started to prepare our Christmas decoration and are slowly getting into the festive mood.

From 19th to 27th of January 2008 we will be in Duesseldorf at the diving exhibition BOOT. We will be at the Pro NRC stand in hall 3 near the main stage. We would be very happy to meet you there.

We look forward diving with you again sometime and wish you a Merry Christmas and a good start into the year 2008!

Marc, Petra, Tommy, Nancy, Sobah and Mushtaq