

Coastal Dive Spots

COZHINHA - All levels from Open Water, max. depth: 18m

The divesite is located on the East Side of Ilhéu de Vila Franca do Campo. Huge boulders forming an under water scene which easy to explore. Impressive Canyons and swimthroughs on your way back. Here, you can expect to have a nice relaxing time, spotting Seabreams, Guinean Pufferfishes, Striped Red Mullet, Groupers, Damsels, Madeira Rockfish, Flounders, Grey Triggerfishes, Morays, Nudibranchs, Barracudas, and maybe a Sting or Eagle Ray if you are lucky!

CRACAS - All levels from Open Water, max. depth: 24m

Located on the South-East part of Ilhéu de Vila Franca do Campo. The flow of lava formed an interesting underwater landscape. Lot's of cracks and wholes where you will find various marine life and around in the blue you spot a lot of pelagic fish like Jacks and Barracudas. Seabreams, Grey Triggerfish, Wrasses, Hogfish, Parrot fish, Groupers, and even Rays sometimes will let you enjoy this dive.

ILHÉU DE VILA FRANCA OESTE - All levels from Open Water, max. depth: 20m

The West Coast of the Islet of Vila Franca do Campo forms a wall with huge canyons leading deep towards the inside of the island. Beside pelagics and several reef fish you might have the chance to spot huge sting rays down on the sand. This dive is mostly done as a drift dive.

ÂNCORAS - All levels from Open Water, max. depth: 20m

Come diving in the history of Vila Franca! In the past, there were no harbours in Vila Franca or Ponta Delgada, the big ships had to anchor between Vila Franca and Ilheu, because this area was protected from the big waves and wind. But the reef down there is very dense and some boats lost their anchors at the time. There are big broken rocks in a rectangular shape area. And at the end of the area, you will see a few big Anchors. Don't be surprised if you fall face a face with a huge Dusky Groupers or Hogfish. Some inhabitants of the reef here include also Madeira Rockfishes, Nudibranchs and Flounders.

ARCOS DE CALOURA - All levels from Open Water, max. depth: 17m

Situated in front of the beautiful village of Caloura, the dive site is only 300 meter from the coast and 15 minutes by boat to the Marina of Vila Franca.

The top of the reef is at about 6 meter and the dive site is composed by amazing big arches, come and enjoy the swims through and little caves. This is the perfect place to improve your buoyancy! You will be able to observe a multitude of moray eels, nudibranch, starfish and scorpion fishes on the walls and in the halls of the reef. Be aware of triggerfish that will check you out closely.

BAIXA DAS CASTANHETAS - Advanced Open Water or higher, max. depth: 40m

It will take around 15 minutes by boat to arrive to the dive site.

This huge underwater seamount starts from 12m where you can observe a great quantity of damsel fishes. The reef top is composed by lots of caverns, caves and tunnels. At 30 metres and more, you might have the chance to find the swallowtail sea perch only found at this depth. Open your eyes, you might spot some slipper lobsters and beautiful nudibranch inside them.

The reef wall drops to a depth of 40 metres and if you keep an eye into the blue you might see schools of barracudas, jacks or even devil rays!

SHIP WRECK DORI - All levels from Open Water, max. depth: 20m

To reach the wreck it will take around 25min. Any level can come and join us to explore this incredible wreck, where the shallowest parts are the bow and stern at a depth of only 8 -10m.

The 134,4-meter-long and 11,3-meter-wide wreck is one of more than 2,750 Liberty Ships built in the United States during World War II to provide assistance to the Allies. It sunk in 1964 while transporting steel. Because of a leak the crew decided to go off the ship close the shore. A lot of different species use this wreck as an artificial reef. You can spot octopus, moray eels, nudibranch, jacks, barracudas, seabreams and a lot of triggerfish.

Offshore Dive Spots

FORMIGAS - Advanced Open Water or higher, max. depth: 40m

The nature reserve of Formigas Islets is situated in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean. It will take around 2 hours from São Miguel to reach them. This trip is offered as a full day trip with 2 dives.

It's an exceptional trip where you have the better chance to spot big pelagic fish in greater quantities.

Thanks to the offshore location, we generally find an amazing visibility (25metres +).

The reefs can drop up to 70 metres, with shallow platforms at 12 metres, ideal to observe schools of pelagic fishes like Jacks, Trevallies, Tunas or Barracudas. Many big groupers are living around the reef and can get very close to you. The best chance to spot oceanic mobulas or mantas is between August – October.

Apart from the exceptional visibility and the variety of species we can observe, we can say that the marine reserve of Formigas Islands, is one of the best diving spots in the Azores . Don't miss it!!

DOLLABARAT - Advanced Open Water or higher, max. depth: 40m
(reef named after a basque captain : Pierre Dollabarats)

This dive site is offered in combination with one of the reefs around Formigas Islets on the full day trip.

The reef is actually belonging to the nature reserve of the Formigas Bank is named after a basque captain, Pierre Dollabarats because his small boat wrecked on march 7th 1788 on this shoal. It is situated ca. 3 nautical miles south-southeast of the Formigas Islets, on the Formigas Bank in the Azores archipelago.

The reef is about 800m long and forms a great wall to drift along. The shallowest parts are 3m on the reffitop and the walls are dopping in steps between from 20-40 m. Most likely you will encounter a great variety of pelagic fish schools appearing from out of the blue.