

Geobiology and Biodiversity of Recent and Fossil Coral Reefs and Geology of the Sinai

Jun. Prof. Dr. Gert Woerheide and Dr. Mike Reich

During the first days of the study course an overview about the geobiology and biodiversity of the recent fringing reefs as well as the Pleistocene reefs will be given. Reefs in direct vicinity of the RSEC and Dahab, as well as more distant ones in the southern Ras Mohammed National Park will be visited during the course. In Nabq National Park we look at the northernmost mangroves, in Ras Mohammed National Park, at the southernmost point of the Sinai, we will visit diverse habitats, from recent to fossil (particularly fish-rich coral reefs, expanded lagoons, elevated Pleistocene reefs, mangroves, sabkhas). During further day trips to the hinterland of the Sinai (Wadi Qnai), attention will be drawn to local geology as well as to cultural aspects (e.g. St. Katherine's Monastery and Mount Sinai can be visited during free day).

During four days of the study course, students will accomplish own small research projects in small groups in Dahab around the RSEC, to familiarize themselves with the biodiversity and geobiology of the recent and fossil reefs. During this time, other participants can book a 3 day live-aboard trip to dive the Tiran Island Reefs and/or Ras Mohammed/Thistleworm wreck or participate in those student projects. This live-aboard trip, as well as any SCUBA diving is an extra and not included in the costs of the package.

Departure is scheduled on Tuesday September 26, 2006 from Hannover Airport (relatively close to Bremen), with return on October 10.

Due to the gap between the end of the conference in Bremen and the start of the field course, participants can also make their own travel arrangements to Egypt and meet us in Dahab.

If you are interested to come along to visit the spectacular recent and fossil coral reefs of the Red Sea and enjoy a cup of authentic bedouin tea and the Arabic lifestyle, we request that you reply **BEFORE MAY 1, 2006**. Sorry for the late notice and close deadline, but flights during this peak season need to be booked asap.

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