



EDMISTON YACHT CHARTER DIRECTORY 2011

EDMISTON



TALITHA - See page 82



# HIDDEN



Chartering a yacht is the ultimate luxury retreat, offering the freedom to choose your itinerary – and change your mind. But what lies under those waves? A new Edmiston initiative gives charter guests the chance to find out with bespoke, one-on-one dive sessions from Dive Butler International. Delve into the depths of the ocean and discover new creatures



# DEPTHS

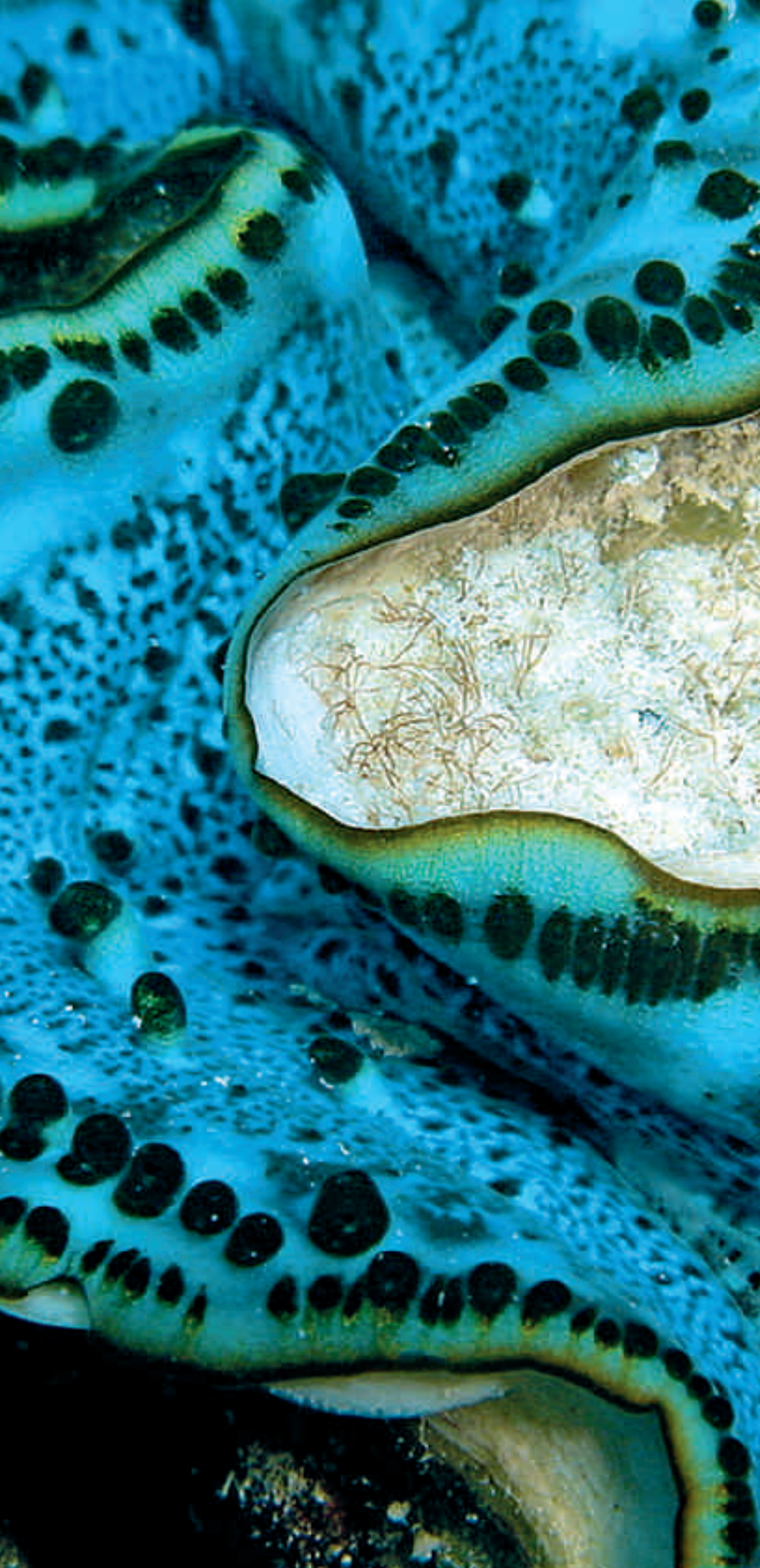


and new experiences, a spellbinding realm that has captured the imagination of so many. It was here that the famous underwater explorer, Jacques Cousteau, found a “boundless spring of inspiration and wellbeing”, an opportunity to escape the shackles of gravity and revel in a three-dimensional universe of discovery – and freedom.

“From birth, man carries the weight of gravity on his shoulders. He is bolted to the earth.  
But man has only to sink beneath the surface and he is free.”

Jacques Cousteau





If you wish to follow in his footsteps – or should that be his fin steps? – many yachts in this Directory have equipment to allow charter guests to scuba dive: from wetsuits for 15 adults and five children on Moonlight II, to dive flash lights and shark pods on Samar, or Teleost which has the latest gadgets including onboard dive computers and an emergency decompression chamber. Some have their own dive instructors or even a PADI-certified dive school like the 55 metre sailing yacht Tiara or 60 metre motor yacht Arkley. However, if this is not the case then charter guests, regardless of experience, can only dive accompanied by a local scuba diving professional in a process called rendezvous diving.

Although captains always strive to find the best services there is not always a lot of choice. “I have travelled all over the world,” says Captain Pascal Pellat-Finet of Tiara, “it is no problem to locate a dive instructor, but a diver who can adapt to this level of service and client is difficult to find. Our first impression of DBI was of their professionalism – they knew how to care for our type of client.” That is why Edmiston have partnered with Dive Butler International, a scuba diving company whose expertise lies in personal, one-on-one dive sessions.

Founded by genial French-Canadian and passionate diver Alexis Vincent, Dive Butler International is far from your usual scuba diving company. The focus is on personalised, private dives at all levels for single clients or small groups. They provide charter clients with the opportunity to dive from a yacht anywhere in the world, with full insurance and a DBI instructor who knows the area.

One of the biggest advantages of diving from a yacht is the mobility it provides; the opportunities to visit several dive sites in sublime comfort, and travel to those places that regular diving trips just cannot reach. Alexis describes diving from Tiara

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in the Maldives, visiting “nine atolls, some of them very remote. To be in an atoll where you don’t see anybody – not a resort, not a boat – and to know that nobody has dived there for years, maybe ever, makes for a special feeling. For that day, for you, that spot is all yours.” This is a sentiment echoed by Captain Mike Hitch of the Golden Fleet. “Diving from the yacht gives the ultimate freedom and privacy, we can find very remote sites with ‘virgin’ coral and sea-life.” The Golden Fleet carries full diving equipment for up to 20 guests and a decompression chamber, which offers reassurance when diving in remote areas like the Rangiroa Atoll in the South Pacific.

Spectacular diving does not just happen in exotic locations. Even in the popular charter waters of the Mediterranean there are opportunities for incredible underwater experiences. DBI’s Mediterranean specialist Paul Orphanidis particularly recommends the west coast of Corsica “at the foot of the remote and beautiful Scandola Nature Reserve and among the needle-like ‘cathedrals’ in the Valinco Gulf between Propriano and Ajaccio.









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Underwater there is a reflection of the rugged mountains and jagged cliffs found on dry land. You will be exploring sheer drop offs, deep canyons, needle sharp peaks, and fanciful rock formations as you admire coral reefs populated with a myriad of fish from tiny anchovies and shrimp to large groupers. Sharks, eels, rays, marlin, tuna, and even sea turtles (including the rare loggerhead) can be seen.” Similarly, Sardinia has an exceptional underwater scene, particularly around the protected Maddalena Islands.

From Pegasus, part of the Edmiston Greek fleet, guests can explore sights such as the reefs and caves of southern Mykonos, Santorini’s caldera, Mermaid’s Cave off the coast of Naxos, where a British bomber was sunk in World War II, or the impressive Cathedral Dive near Paros, where walls covered in sponges and reefs teem with barracuda. From Metsuyan IV, guests can experience the previously out of bounds wrecks, tunnels, caverns and rocky pinnacles of Turkish waters. It seems the sights beloved by Cousteau may be closer than we think.

Wherever you dive, a great experience is complemented by a great dive expert. This is the thinking behind the partnership between Edmiston and Dive Butler International. The style of service that DBI offers reflects the exceptional levels a client encounters onboard the yacht. Alexis recognises that for some people a first dive – or even a fifty-first dive – can



■ GOLDEN SHADOW  
Part of the Golden Fleet  
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■ TIARA - See page 166



■ BEL ABRI - See page 174

be a tense experience. An understanding of people is essential. “People have called me the dive shrink,” Alexis laughs, “but you could write a beautiful essay on the psychology of diving.”

Of course, for experienced divers the benefit of having a private instructor is that they can tailor the dive to your specific level and what you want to learn or see. It could be wrecks, sharks, coral – all of the DBI instructors are experienced divers with expert geographical knowledge ranging from Canada to the Sea of Cortez, the Caribbean to the Mediterranean, or as far afield a Fiji. Many also have additional skills that they are happy to share, such as marine biologist Giovanna Bernardini, who can tell clients all there is to know about coral, or yoga instructor Katy Appleton, whose Scubayoga helps relaxation, oxygen preservation and improves flexibility.

A natural and popular combination is underwater photography. The 62m Feadship Fortunato, is equipped with the technology to take digital underwater photographs, and even movies, for onboard editing. And if you would like someone to show you the ropes, DBI instructor Lubi Kocheleva is a professional underwater photographer and videographer.

Asked why he still finds diving exciting after 18 years in the business, Alexis smiles. “Between you and me, I think I have the best job in the world, we get to travel, dive and meet amazing people. It is something wonderful.”

To arrange for Dive Butler International to accompany your charter, contact your Edmiston charter broker.