

GULEN

Dive Resorts



Impressions

from



by Christian Skauge

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The owners of Gulen Dive Resort,
Ørjan Sandnes and Monica Bakkeli.

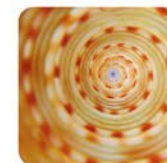


Welcome to Gulen!

Gulen Dive Resort is located just north of Bergen on the Norwegian west coast. Here, close to the mouth of the famous Sognefjord, you'll find an Eldorado for scuba diving.

The area is littered with wrecks, and offers great kelp forests, soft coral reefs and an amazingly abundant marine life. The house reef has more nudibranchs than anywhere else in Norway.

The resort caters for all kinds of divers, both inexperienced, tech and rebreather divers. We have something for everyone. Welcome to Gulen Dive Resort!





Gulen Dive Resort is located right at the waterfront, with everything you need for a great diving holiday at your doorstep.



Where do we dive?

We have a huge playground with dozens of dive sites in the surrounding area, and try to give our guests a diverse experience with different types of dives.

We dive both in the fjords and on the coast, both easily reached with our 52 ft. dive yacht. Enjoy the kelp forest, soft coral reefs, wrecks or excellent macro diving – it's all close by.

If you book one of our special events it's a different story: Then we do one thing and one thing only – to the max. We also do longer trips and visit certain wrecks on request. Ask us!



This is our playground, with dozens of
divesites, wrecks and a plethora of marine life!



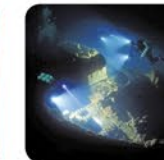


World class wreck diving

The area around the Sognefjord was of great strategic importance during WWII. It was not as heavily defended by German fighters as further south, and still within reach of Allied bombers.

Gulen Dive Resort offer 30+ wrecks and several of them are truly world class. Our pride and joy is Frankenwald, voted Norway's Best Wreck in 2009 by the Norwegian dive magazine.

We dive wrecks every week, and also offer special wreck diving events for both recreational and technical divers throughout the year. Check out www.gulendiveresort.com for details.



Over 30 wrecks are waiting for you in the Gulen area, close to the mouth of the famous Sognefjord.

The wrecks of Gulen

This list shows just a few of our most popular wrecks. In total, we have 30+ wrecks on offer! At Gulen you'll find rust for everyone, almost from the surface and well into technical diving depths. Just ask!

Background image: Oldenburg

Formerly known under the name Möwe, Oldenburg was the most successful German merchant raider during the First World War, capturing and sinking more than 40 ships. In 1933 she was sold to a German shipping company and served between Germany and occupied Norway in WWII. On April 7, 1945 she was attacked and sunk by Beaufighters from Coastal Command – a considerable propaganda victory for the British. The wreck rests in 27–65 meters depth.

Wreck	Length	Sunk	Depth
Frankenwald	122 m	1940	25-44 m
Ferndale	116 m	1944	8-40 m
Parat	32 m	1944	45-60 m
Solvang	32 m	1992	8-25 m
Bandak	38 m	1949	18-29 m
Oldenburg	124 m	1945	27-65 m
Havda	55 m	1944	16-30 m
Ingerseks	116 m	1945	24-65 m
KNM Uller	27 m	1940	55-60 m
Server	179.5 m	2007	2-25 m
Tyrifjord	101 m	1944	27-37 m
Optima	72.2 m	1943	30-42 m
Aquila	105.7 m	1944	40-65 m
Helga Ferdinand	95.7 m	1944	35-60 m
Mercantil Marica	280 m	1989	25-50 m
Welheim	135 m	1944	15-70 m
Ilse Fritzen	107 m	1945	45-65 m
Bjergfin	54 m	1945	42-55 m
Lynx	70 m	1944	90-100 m
SIF	99 m	1919	24-39 m
Macbeth	46 m	1950	35-40 m
Haakon	45 m	1910	30-45 m

Frankenwald

Download a free story
about Frankenwald!



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Frankenwald was voted Norway's Best Wreck
in 2009 by the readers of Dykking Magazine!



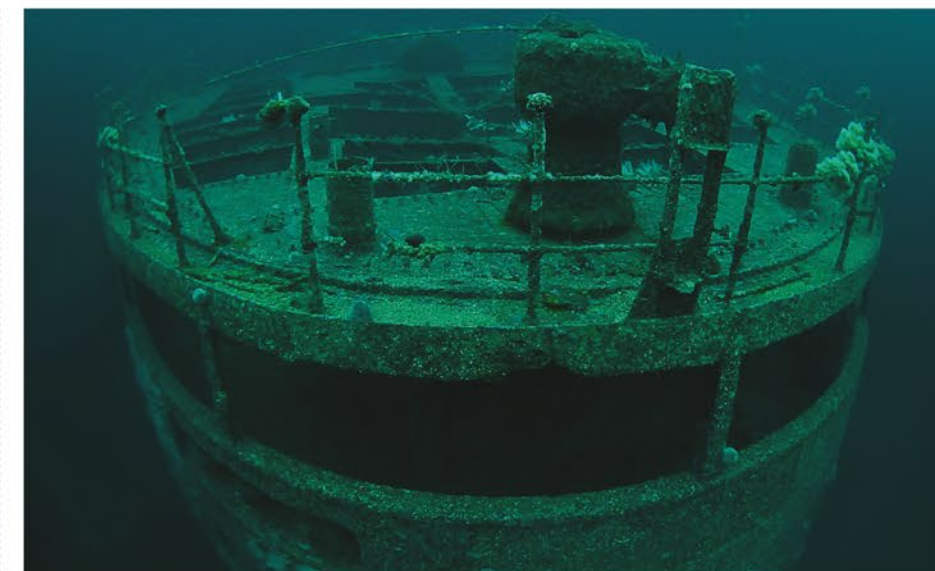
First things first

The bow of Frankenwald at 34 meters depth is truly a stunning sight. In good visibility you can see all the way to the mast and bridge almost 40 meters further behind! The fore-deck is full of interesting details like bollards, winches, ventilation pipes and much more.



The Captain's bathroom

Inside the superstructure, a bathtub, toilet and a mirror still hanging on the wall can be found in the Captain's cabin.



The famous stern

Frankenwald was built in steel in Hamburg in 1922, and is a full 122 meters long. Although it is possible to swim the entire length in one dive, you need several dives to see and explore the whole wreck. The stern is epic and Frankenwald's signature image.

Norway's Best Wreck

In 2009, the readers of the Norwegian scuba diving magazine Dykking voted Frankenwald to be the Best Wreck in Norwegian waters – by a healthy margin.

Standing upright at 44 meters depth, this 122 meter long German freighter is a truly magnificent sight. She's still in extremely good condition after over 70 years at the bottom of the sea, and several dives are necessary to explore all her secrets.

The deck lies at 24–34 meters, and this dive is suitable for anyone with a little experience and an Advanced Open Water certification.

Frankenwald was built in steel in Hamburg in 1922 for HAPAG.

Frankenwald is just huge, and you'll need several dives to explore all of the wreck.





Ran aground and sank

On January 6, 1940 Frankenwald was heading south on her way from Narvik, laden with iron ore. In the narrow Steinsundet a fishing vessel suddenly was in her way.

Half speed was ordered, but then Frankenwald got caught by the strong current and didn't answer the rudder. The Captain ordered full speed to try to regain control, but it was too late. Frankenwald ran aground on Brattholmen and sank about two hours later in 40 meters of water.

The Norwegian pilots were blamed for the accident, which gave rise to rumors locally – was Frankenwald really heading south, and where's the cargo?



All hands on deck

There are literally tons to explore on Frankenwald. The decks are full of interesting things, and the four wide-open holds offer access to the innards of the ship. This is however reserved for experienced wreck divers with proper gear and training.



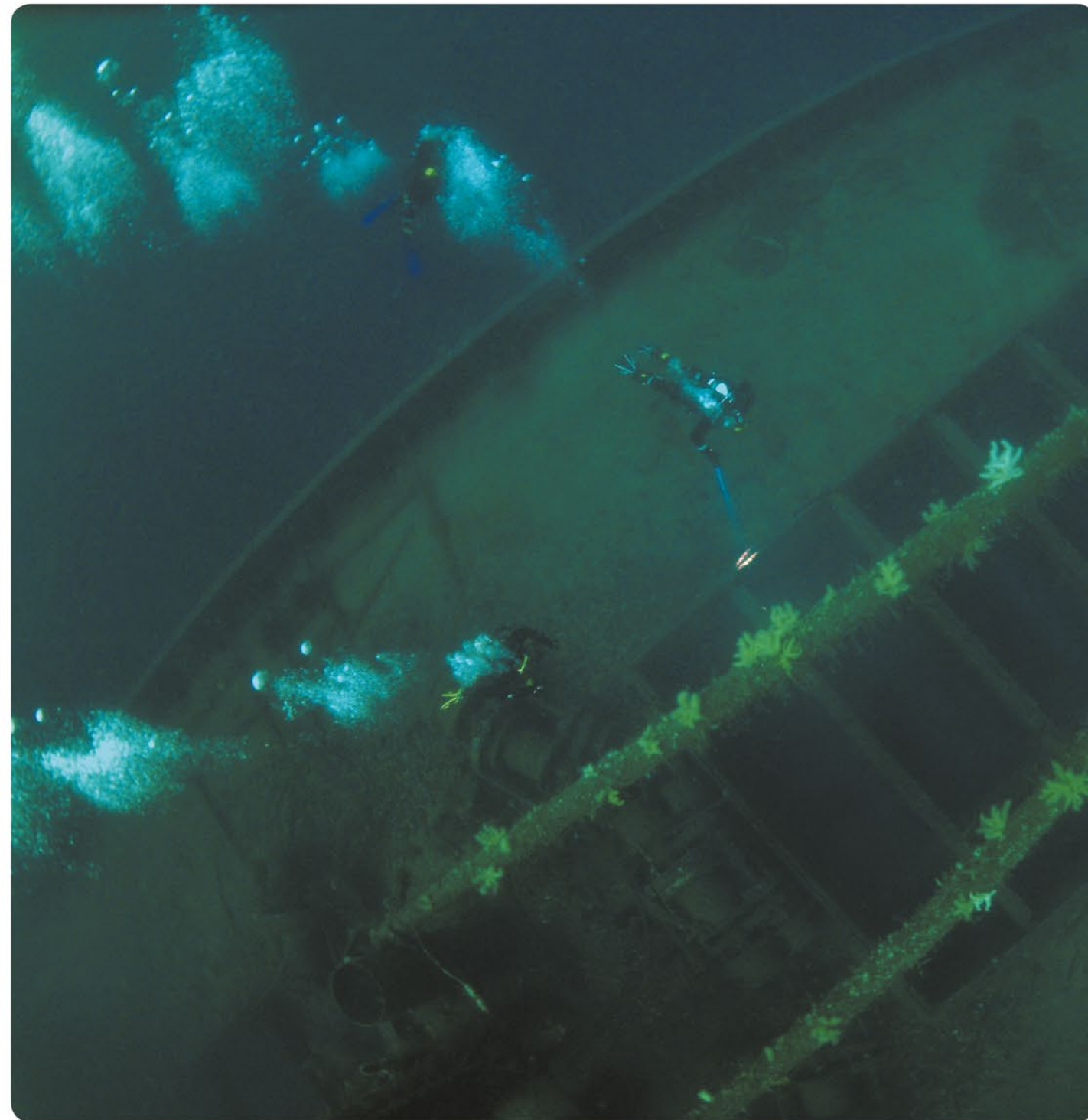
The bridge

The bridge where Captain Alexander Moritz Otto Erich von Frankenberg was in charge has partly collapsed – but otherwise Frankenwald is in remarkably good condition. Even after more than 70 years on the bottom she is largely intact and is a spectacular sight.



Covered in anemones

Both masts are still standing, and the aft mast goes all the way up to 7 meters which is perfect for deco and safety stops.



Ferndale & Parat

A unique twin wreck dive – spectacular WWII rust from 7 to 60 meters!

Photo: Wenche Strand



A great photo opportunity

Although the perspective in this image makes Ferndale look quite small, she's not: With a length of 116 meters and a width of 16 meters, Ferndale weighed in at 4.302 GRT. The bow and foreship was salvaged after the war, leaving the midship and stern untouched.

Unique Twin Wrecks

How often can you dive two WWII wrecks at the same time? In December 1944, the German freighter Ferndale ran aground, and the rescue steamer Parat was called in to help.

The next morning they were discovered by allied aircraft, and shot into flames.

The 30 meter long Parat sank first, settling at a depth of 45-60 meters. Four hours later the giant Ferndale followed her into the deep, missing the smaller vessel by just four feet!

Today, the twin wrecks offer a perfect dive profile from 60 to 7 meters, suitable for both technical and sports divers.



Spectacular view

When you hover above the two wrecks you get a view not many have been lucky enough to see – it's simply spectacular.



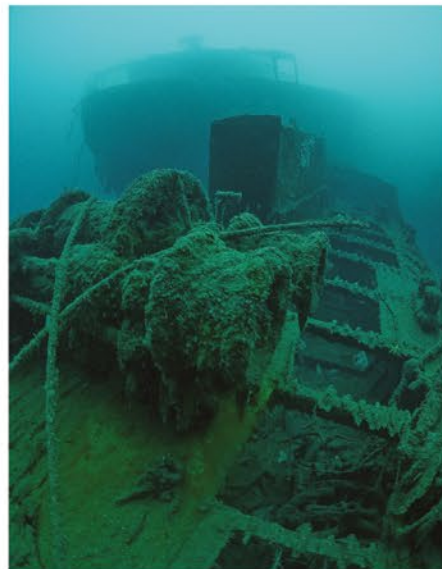
Huge dimensions

Ferndale was built in 1925 in Germany, and was owned by the Norwegian shipping company Glittre AS. After the German invasion in 1940 she was taken over by the Kriegsmarine to be used as a supply ship.



In the dark

Even in low-light conditions Parat is a spectacular sight – all you need are some dive buddies with insanely strong lights! Although possible, there is not much to penetrate on Parat. She was a small ship, unlike her neighbor Ferndale.



Two in one

When hovering over Parat at 45 meters depth, Ferndale towers over you reaching almost to the surface.



As close as it gets

Four hours after Parat sank, Ferndale followed. She almost crushed the smaller vessel, settling just a few feet away.



Beautiful posterior

The only superstructure left on Ferndale sits on the stern. When you reach the end of Ferndale at 34 meters depth you can see Parat below. The rescue steamer lies from 45 to 60 meters and is only suitable for technical divers.



After diving Ferndale and Parat you end the dive around the gigantic Sail Rock, which is covered in anemones.

KNM Uller



Uller's over-sized cannon is a spectacular sight. Several mines are found on and around the wreck.

All photos: Håkon Sevheim



Technical dive

At around 60 meters depth the stern of KNM Uller with her large propeller and rudder is an amazing sight. On the bottom next to the wreck there are still the remains of several mines, more of which can be found on the starboard side on the deck.



Unique view

Very few people have had the pleasure of diving KNM Uller so far – the wreck wasn't discovered until 2009.



Norwegian mine layer

KNM Uller lies at a sand slope, and is still relatively intact. The 27 meter long gunship was equipped with two steam engines and several guns and cannons. She could carry 50 mines and was involved in laying the minefield outside Bergen the day before Germany invaded.

Discovered in 2009

HMS Uller was a flat-iron gunboat built in 1876. She was later rebuilt as a mine layer, and was captured by the Germans when they invaded Norway on April 9, 1940.

Pressed into Kriegsmarine service, Uller was laying mines in the Sognefjord when she came under attack from a Norwegian Heinkel He 115. A bomb hit very close to the ship, and the captain beached her on some small skerries.

The wreck slipped off the skerries and sank, and was found as late as 2009 in 55 meters of water. A splendid dive for technical divers, KNM Uller is partly intact with her huge muzzle-loading cannon as the main attraction.

S/S Havda

The wreck of Havda lies in just 15-25 meters depth. The old passenger ship is an absolutely gorgeous sight.

Photo: David Gutteridge

"Wow, that was great!"



Bandak

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about wreck diving in Gulen!



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Only the stern of Bandak remains. The rest
of the ship has steamrolled flat by waves.



Steamrolled

The wreckage of Bandak is spread out on the sandy bottom below a rock wall. She's located in a weatherbeaten spot and the waves have ripped the ship apart and completely steamrolled the hull. Only the stern remains intact, and it's a great sight.

The ship that sank twice

In January 1949 the 42 meter long coastal freighter Bandak was heading in the Sognefjord. It was a terrible storm, and Bandak was crushed against the rocks. She took her entire crew of nine with her.

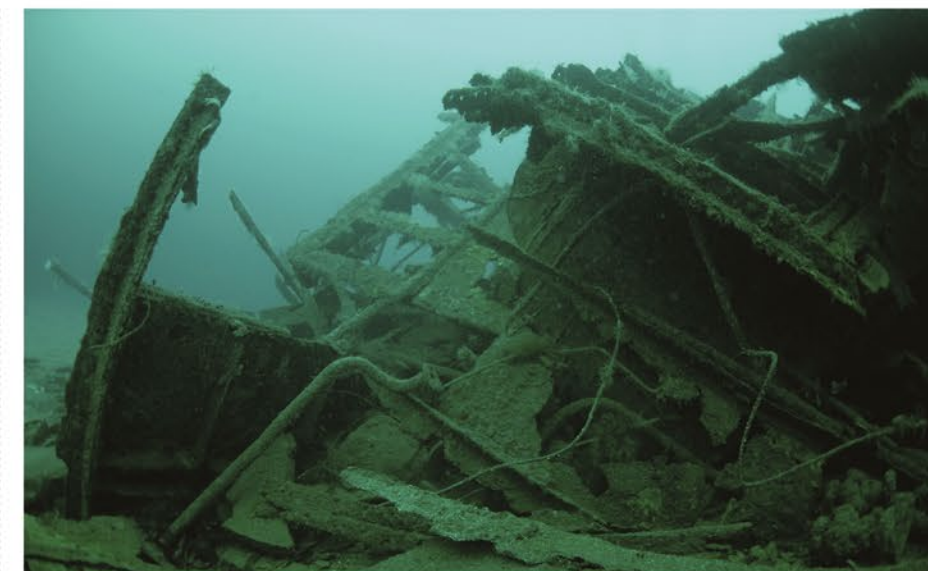
Incredibly, this was not the first time Bandak sunk: In 1937 she collided with another ship in the strait between Sweden and Denmark and went to the bottom.

Bandak was raised and rebuilt, but 12 years later she became the ship that sank twice. This time there was nothing to be salvaged, and the wreckage now rests at 18-28 meters depth.



Rudder and propeller

Below the stern the rudder and propeller are still intact, much to the delight of most underwater photographers.



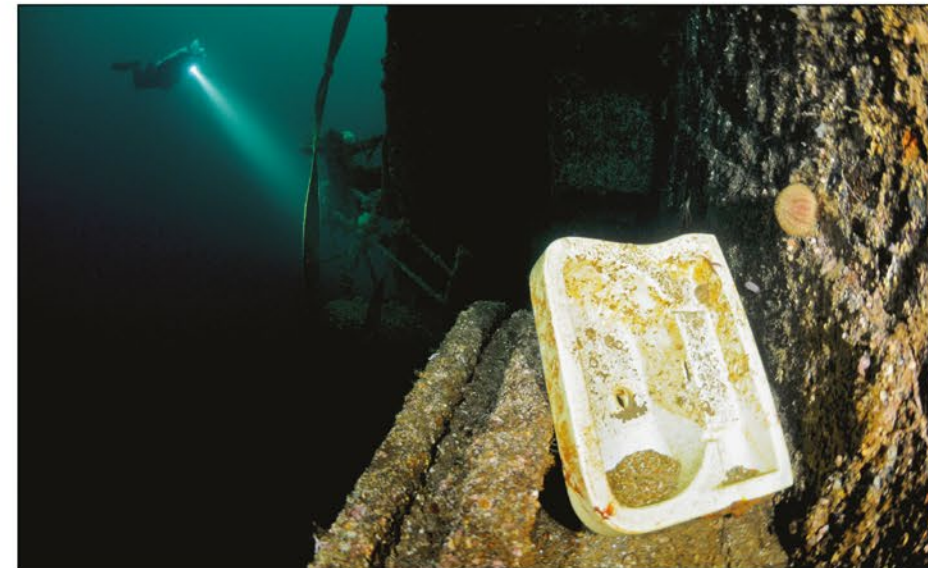
Wreckage

The storm which sealed the fate of the coastal freighter Bandak was horrible, and nine crew members were lost. The remains of the ship is badly beaten, some parts are just tangled wreckage and twisted steel.

Welheim



Welheim sank after being torpedoed by a Norwegian motor torpedo boat in 1944.



Find the sunken sink

Starting from the bow, you will reach the port bridge wing at around 36 meters depth. In-between there are lots of exciting sights – like this old porcelain sink. If you go deeper at the forward part of the wreck, the huge cranes tower above you.

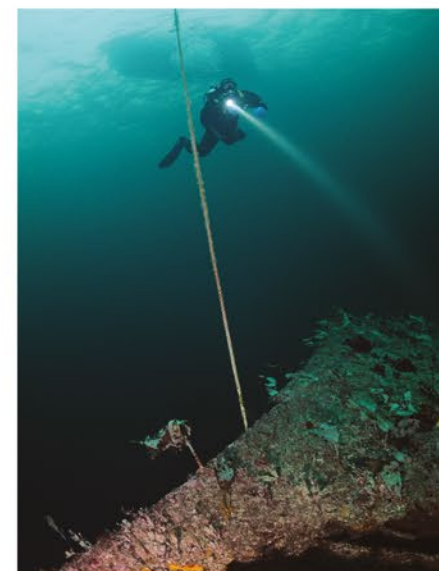
Sunk by a torpedo

Welheim was one of many German freighters serving as supply ships for the Kriegsmarine during WWII. Built in 1939 Welheim was a modern ship for her age, and was equipped with a diesel engine.

On November 28, 1944 Welheim was on her way to Ålesund loaded with coal when she was attacked by the Norwegian MTB-717. Hit by a torpedo, the 135 meter long freighter was doomed and sank after a few hours.

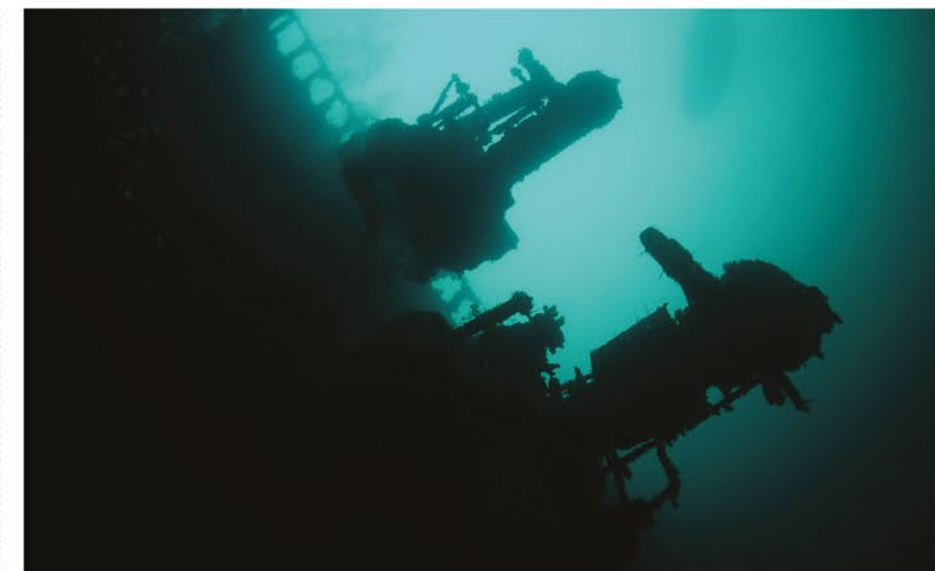
The wreck rests on her port side from 14 to 70 meters and is in excellent condition.

Welheim is only done on full day trips because of the distance. Don't worry, you'll be comfortable on the dive yacht!



135 meters of rust

Welheim lies on her port side at an 85° angle. The bow is at 14 meters, and the twin propellers can be found at 70 meters.

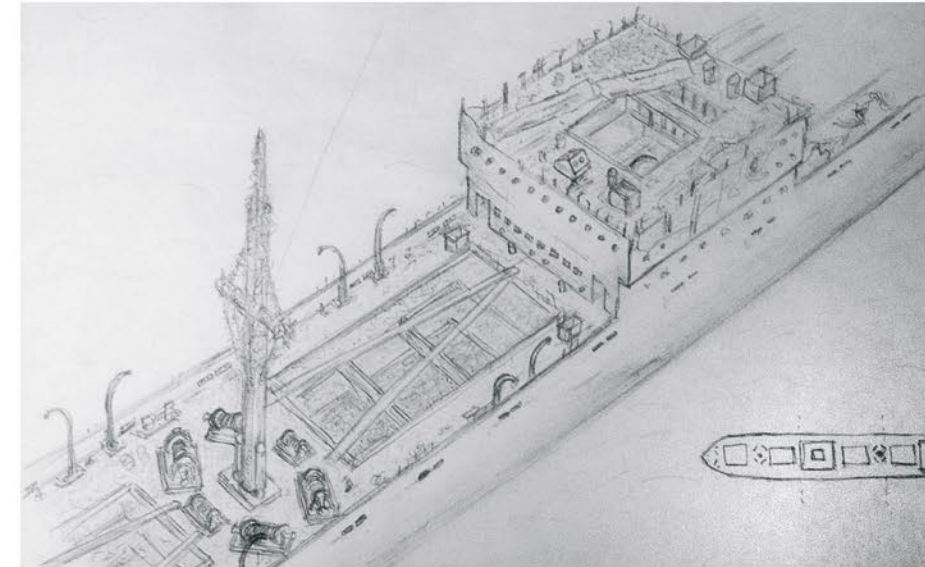


Huge winches

Welheim was a modern ship for her age. She didn't have the huge masts and loading booms common on freighters built before WWII – instead she was equipped with four huge cranes at the hulls fore and aft. They are still standing on the deck, creating a beautiful silhouette.

Wreck Safari

We have 30+ wrecks on the menu
– which ones do you want to dive?



Detailed briefings

Before each dive, a thorough briefing will be given. Not every wreck comes with a drawing as detailed as this, but we do our best to make sure you get the most out of every wreck dive – and other dives too, of course. But on the wreck events rust is all that counts.

Get wrecked at Gulen!

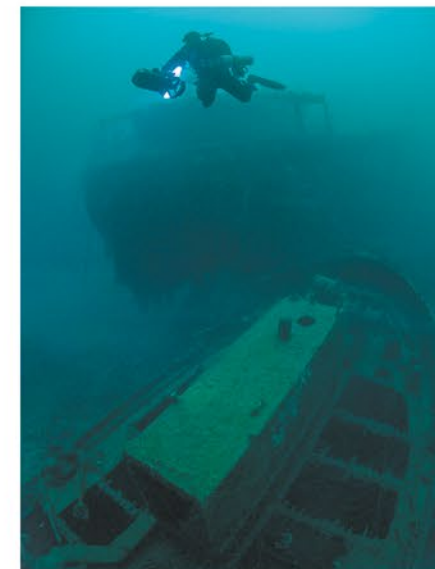
Join one of our wreck events and treat yourself to some serious rust. We have 30+ wrecks on offer, and you will be able to dive several of them on one of our wreck safaris.

In the evenings you will learn more about the history of the wrecks and why they sank – and see pictures so you know what to expect the next day.

Hanging out with other wreck divers, sharing tall tales over a glass in the pub at night while watching great images and videos – could it be better?

We dive wrecks all year, but if you're a feinschmecker a wreck event is a must!

www.gulendiveresort.com



Great scooter diving

If you have a scooter, bring it along – all the wreck diving will make you tired! We also have two Torpedo's for hire.



Learn more about history

At our wreck events there will be slideshows and lectures which tell you more about the history of the wrecks you are diving. Since many of the wrecks at Gulen are from WWII they stories about how they were sunk are often quite dramatic and exciting.

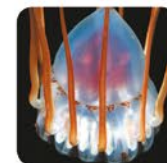


Wonderful marine life

The Gulen area is home to a plethora of marine life. The kelp forest is often dubbed “the rainforest of the sea”, and hundreds of species find food and shelter below the canopy.

On the house reef alone, 70+ species of nudibranchs have been documented – and there is also a multitude of other things to see and experience.

Crustaceans, cephalopods, echinoderms, bryozoans, fish – whatever your interest, you will not be disappointed. The following pages should give you an idea of what to expect.



Kelp Forest

Experience "The Rainforest of the Sea"!



Kelp Canyon

One of our most cherished divespots, Kelp Canyon offers both huge kelp forest and narrow passages, canyons and cliffs. The exposed location usually offers very clear water, and you never know what you will see around the next corner.

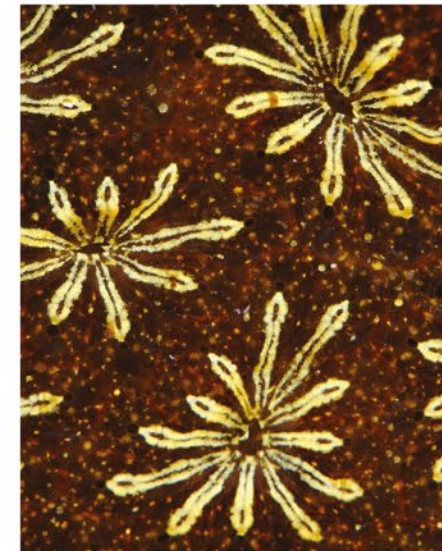
Rainforest of the Sea

The kelp forest is made up of millions of huge *Laminaria* kelp plants, which may reach a height of over two meters in certain places.

It is the single most important habitat and ecosystem along the Norwegian coast, offering food and shelter to hundreds if not thousands of species.

From Gulen Dive Resort it is just a very short boat ride to several dive sites in the midst of this underwater rainforest, and it is a must-see for visiting divers.

Don't spend the entire dive hovering above this ever-moving kelp landscape – when you look underneath the canopy there's a world of critters waiting for you!




Beautiful flowers

The pattern on the colonial ascidians which are found growing on the kelp stems are pretty close to the real thing.



A swaying, ever-changing seascape

The kelp forest is always in motion, swaying back and forth with the waves and currents. On top you'll experience a landscape like no other – and beneath the canopy, hundreds of different marine species find food and shelter.

A scuba diver in a black wetsuit and mask is swimming through a dense kelp forest. The diver is positioned on the left side of the frame, looking towards the camera. The kelp is a vibrant green and yellow, swaying in the water. The background is a deep blue, suggesting the open ocean.

The kelp forest is an ever-changing, swaying world. Underneath the canopy hundreds of marine species find their food and shelter.

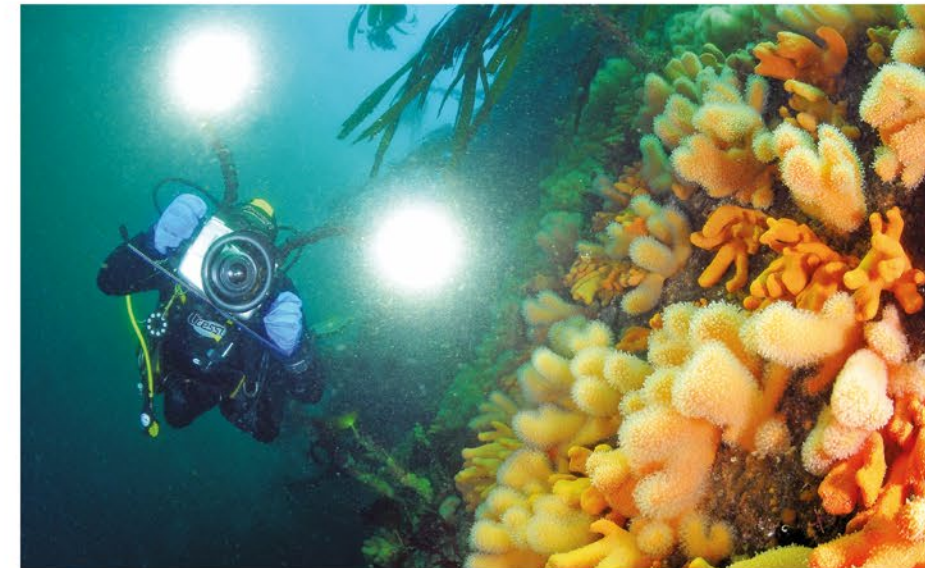
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Coral Reefs

Great drift diving opportunities at Gulen!



Popular among underwater photographers

Underwater photographers are especially fond of the drift dives we do. The brilliant colors promise some spectacular footage, although it may be difficult to shoot stills if the current is strong... A GoPro is an excellent thing to bring on one of these dives!

Endless soft coral

If you thought the Norwegian west coast did not have coral reefs, think again! In many places where there are strong currents, the *Alcyonium digitatum* or dead men's fingers thrive.

They can form reefs stretching for hundreds of meters, completely covering the rocks on which they grow.

Above you very often have giant kelp swaying in the current, and it's a spectacular experience to be rushed along the sparkling colors by the current!

We normally dive on low current to give you the best experience, and we always go with the current –not against it.



Polyp colonies

The dead men's finger reefs are made up of countless small polyps, which perch together in a beautiful colony.

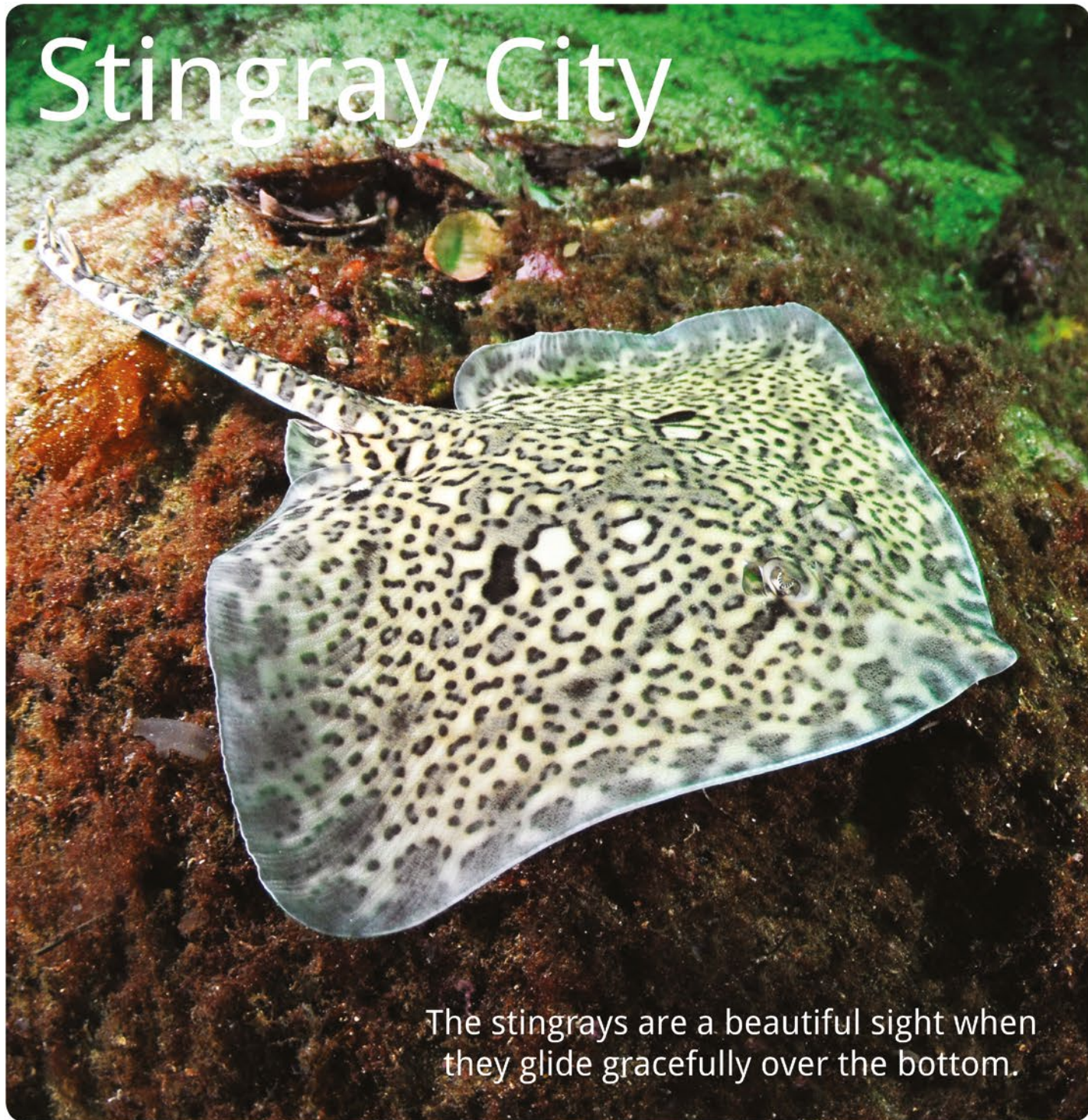


Kelp and coral

You can't really see kelp and coral on the same dive too many places in the world. At Gulen this is an everyday experience, but that does not mean it's dull or commonplace. We cherish every opportunity to go drift diving, and would love to share the experience.

It's a wonderful experience to drift along a
several hundred meters long soft coral reef,
with swaying kelp at the top.





Stingray City

The stingrays are a beautiful sight when they glide gracefully over the bottom.



Graceful rays

Seeing a big stingray cruise slowly above the bottom is both impressive and beautiful. The thornback ray grows to about a meter in length, and fly through the water almost like a bird by gracefully flapping its flexible wings.

Stingray City

Stingray City is one of our most popular dive sites. Located just 15 minutes away, it's easy to reach and offers exciting encounters in almost any weather.

The sandy bottom slopes from about 14 to 20+ meters, and stingrays are spotted on almost every dive.

Other interesting fish life includes the rare megrim, a large flatfish which is usually found below 60 meters. It is relatively common at Stingray City.

The flashy dragonet is another fish very common on this site. The male exhibits splendid colors during mating season in early summer.



Rare flatfish

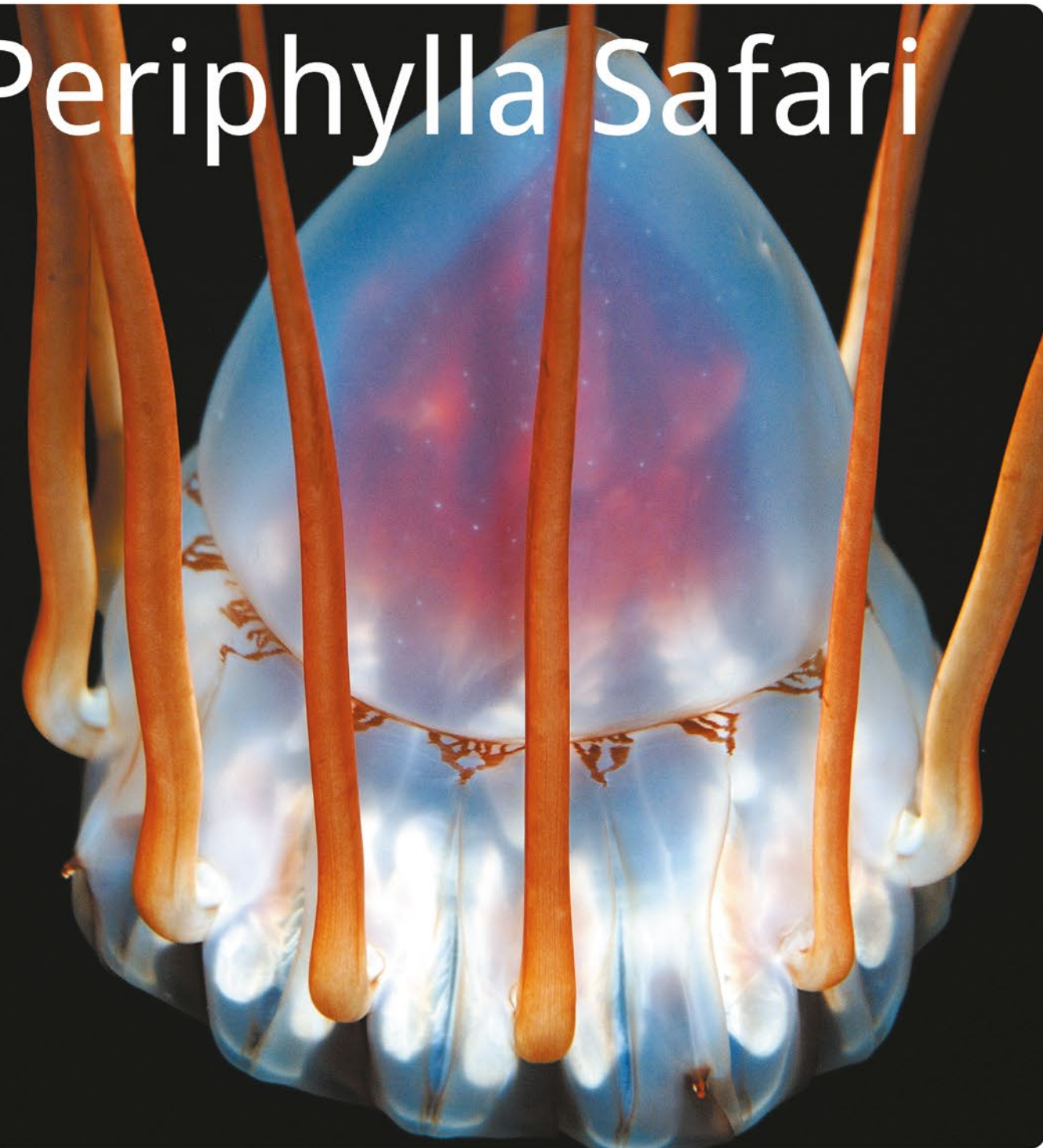
The megrim (*Lepidorhombus whiffiagonis*) is an unusual sight. It lives in deep water, but is often spotted at Stingray City.



Keep your eyes peeled

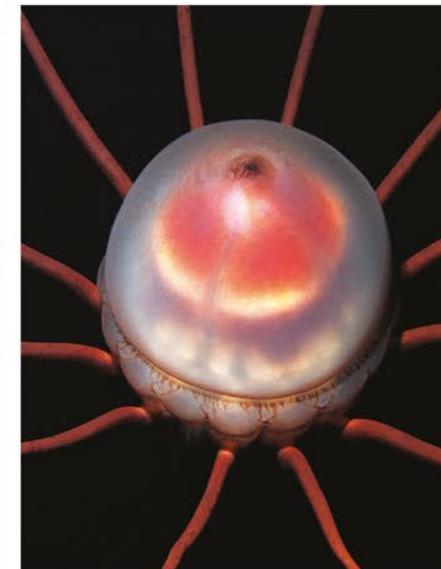
Stingrays hunt for food near the bottom, and they're usually found on sand. Their mottled pattern is perfect camouflage, and sometimes their eyes are the only thing giving them away. They are intelligent fish and often display interesting behavior.

Periphylla Safari



Spectacular sight

The bell of the *Periphylla* may reach 15-20 cm in height, and the 12 tentacles grow to almost half a meter.



Glow-in-the-dark

The *Periphylla* is bioluminescent, it can produce its own light. At the same time it is allergic to sunlight and prefers the deep.

Join the Periphylla Safari!

If you'd like to dive with the mysterious deep-sea *Periphylla* jellyfish, you have come to the right place!

The *Periphylla* jellyfish live from several hundreds to several thousands meters deep in the open ocean, and is only seen by divers on extremely rare occasions.

In the middle of the winter, in the middle of the night, in the middle of one particular fjord – that's when the *Periphylla* come to the surface. With 300 meters to the bottom we go in the water for a unique encounter.

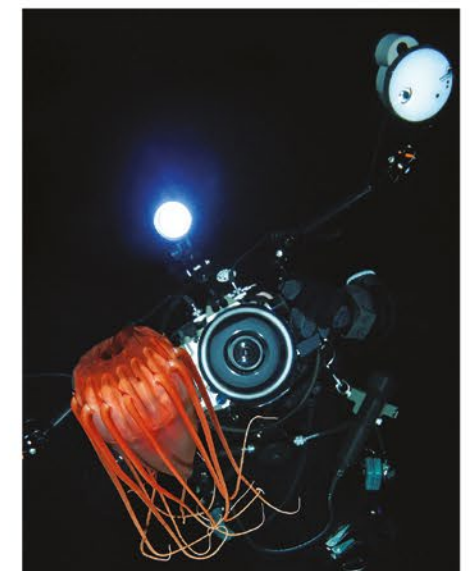
Lectures are included on the Periphylla Safari, which is held each January.

www.gulendiveresort.com



Spectacular night diving

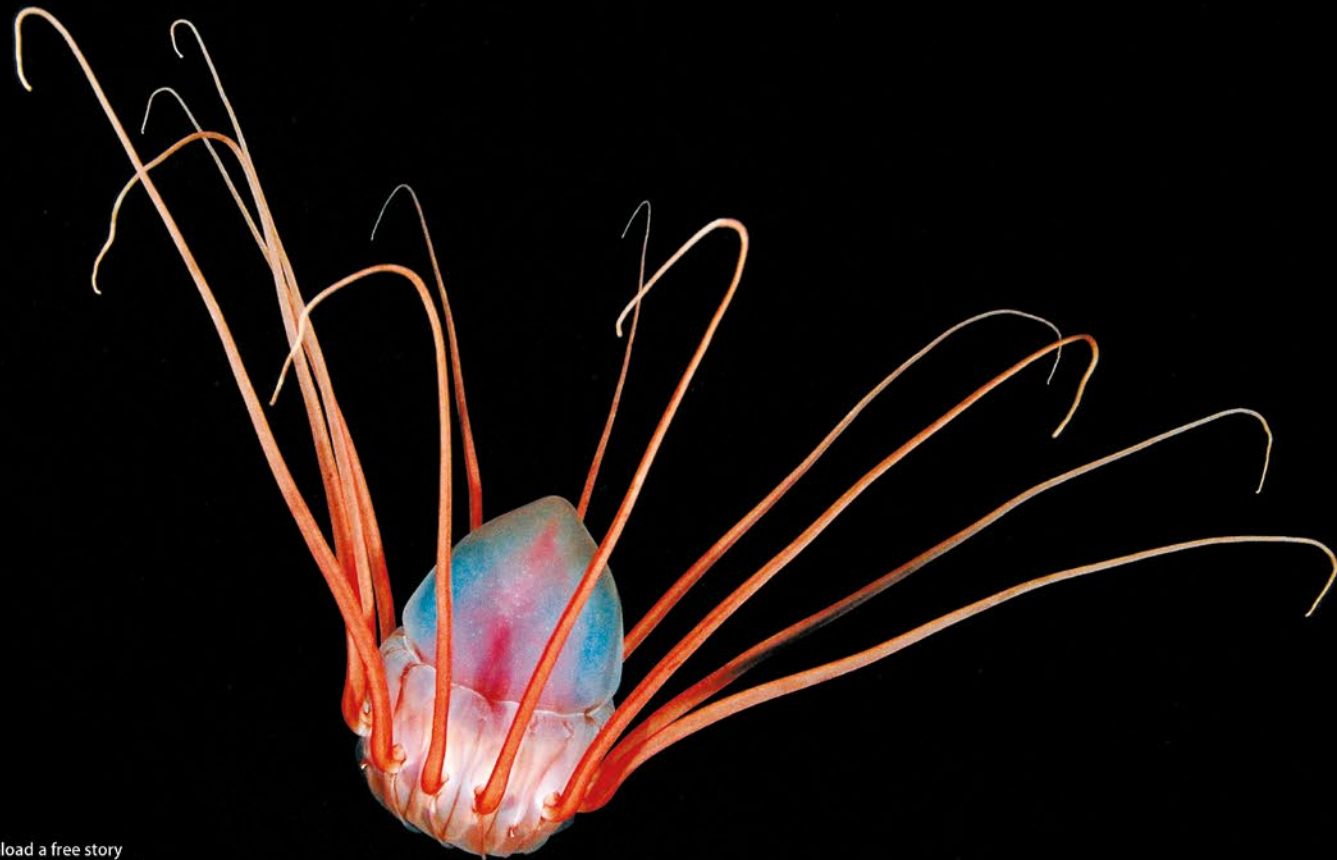
Diving with the *Periphylla* is not like anything you have ever done: We dive in open water, in the middle of the night. Luckily, we usually see plenty of jellyfish at 15-20 meters depth, but buoyancy control takes on a whole new meaning when it's 300 meters to the bottom...



Unique opportunity

Not many underwater photographers have pictures of the *Periphylla*. Join the safari next year and become one of them!

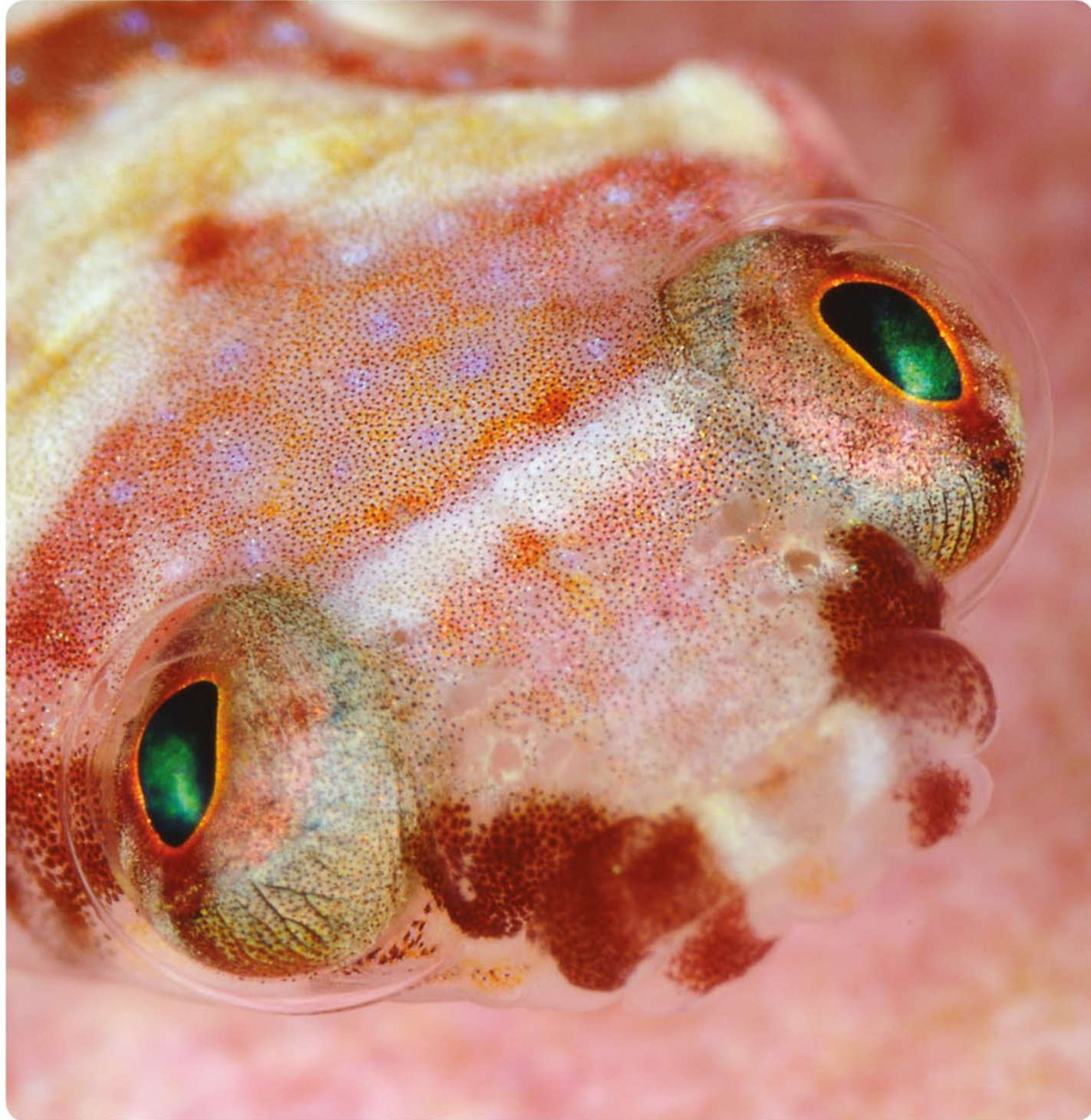
Diving with the *Periphylla* deep-sea jellyfish
is one of the most extreme black-water diving
experiences in the world.



Download a free story
about the Periphylla Safari!



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World class house reef

Although we have lots of wrecks and other great dive sites in the surrounding area, the house reef is one of the most popular dives – because of the nudibranchs and other critters.

Thanks to favorable topography, water currents, plentiful nutrients and several depth levels, the house reef offers many different habitats and an astonishing array of marine life.

If you're into finding and photographing critters, the house reef will be your new favorite place – some have even compared it to Lembeh Strait. Discover our kind of muck diving!



House reef

- Close and convenient
- Several different routes
- Safe and easy
- Entry/exit on floating dock
- Favorable dive profile
- 0–40 meter depth
- Ideal for training or courses
- Great marine diversity
- Several different habitats
- 70+ species of nudibranchs
- A macro photographers heaven

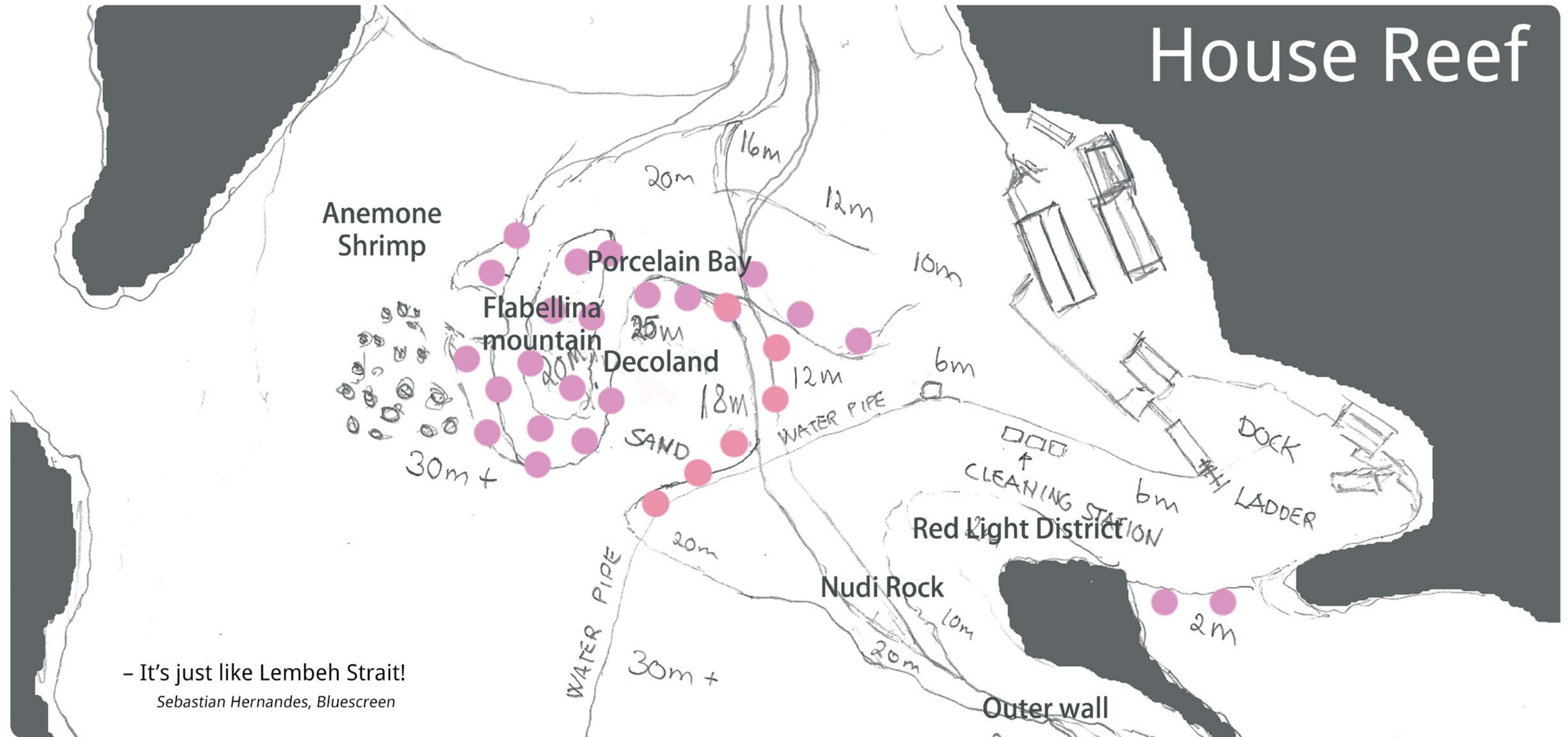
Download a free story
about muck diving in Gulen!



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The house reef at Gulen Dive Resort offers 4-5 completely different dives depending on which way you choose to go.

House Reef



– It's just like Lembeh Strait!

Sebastian Hernandez, Bluescreen

Nudibranchs



Download a free story
about nudibranchs in Gulen!



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Dive with more than 75 different species of
nudibranchs – on the house reef alone!



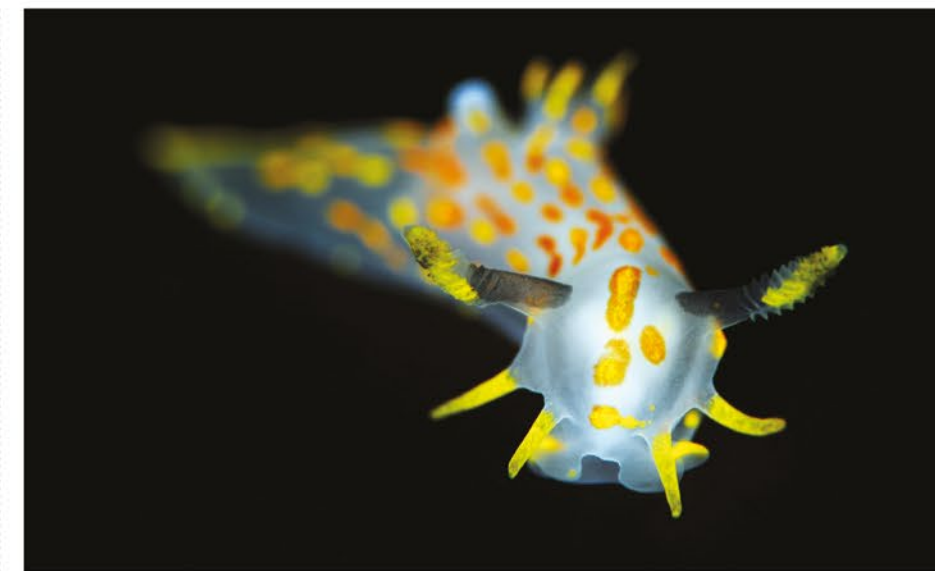
Floating for food

Some nudibranchs, like this *Facelina bostoniensis*, have a particular way of getting around when their food runs out: They climb to the top of a kelp frond and let go! The current will gently transport them to another area, which hopefully offers more to eat.



A seasonal treat

The rare *Cumanotus beaumonti* only feeds on the hydroid *Corymorpha nutans* – and can only be found from May–July.



Polycera quadrilineata

This is one of the most common nudibranch in Norwegian waters, and at the right time the shallow parts of the house reef is teeming with them. Their brilliant colors and attractive markings make them a very popular subject for underwater photographers.

Spectacular nudibranchs

The house reef at Gulen Dive Resort is home to a staggering 75+ species of nudibranchs – all found in one and the same place.

The number of species have been confirmed by the scientists who take part in the annual Nudibranch Safari which is held in March every year.

The local currents and underwater topography come together in a very special way, creating many different habitats. Nudibranchs can be found in all of them, sometimes in the thousands.

No other place in Norway have more nudibranchs than we do! And who said it was better in the tropics?



Flabellina pellucida

With spectacular long rhinophores (head tentacles) and bushy, blood-red fringes on the back, this nudibranch cannot easily be confused with other species. It is often abundant during the summer months at Gulen Dive Resort.



Flabellina nobilis

This big, red nudibranch is very common on the house reef, where it feeds on hydroids. Grows to 5-6 cm in length.



Tergipes tergipes

Very small and difficult to find, this funny-looking fellow is probably much more common than you'd think.



Eubranchus farrani

This species is extremely variable in color, and may be difficult to identify. No so when it has this beautiful yellow color.



Cuthona foliata

This small nudibranch has funny orange "eyes" and is usually found on kelp fronds. At just 10 mm in length it's hard to spot.



Lophodoris danielsseni

Often called "the signature species of Gulen", this little nudibranch is very rare and only known from very few locations.



Eubranchus pallidus

This species is very similar to *Eubranchus farrani*, but this has colored pigment on the back of the animal.



Cuthona rubescens

Normally considered to be rare, this nudibranch is quite common in Gulen and is found on the Nudibranch Safari every year.



Doto coronata

Cute, but difficult: Nudibranchs in the *Doto* family can be very hard to tell apart. This is probably a *Doto coronata*.



Flabellina pedata

This gorgeous nudibranch is very easy to identify – it's the only purple-colored nudibranch found in Norwegian waters. It is quite common at certain times, and hard not to notice because of the color – even though it's no bigger than 30 mm.



Undescribed *Flabellina* sp.

This strange-looking nudibranch has been the focus on the Nudibranch Safari the last two years. It appears to be a variety of *Flabellina lineata*, but DNA barcoding has confirmed it is a separate species. Scientists are now working on the description of this new species.



Flabellina lineata

This is how a "proper" *Flabellina lineata* should look – quite different from its unknown cousin to the left.



Hero formosa

Pink or even yellowish in color the *Hero formosa* is a very rare nudibranch. It's often found under rocks at the house reef.



Eubranchus exiguus

Very common, but very small – that's why most people don't see this species. At times it can be found almost everywhere!



Dendronotus frondosus

This bushy nudibranch is one of the biggest species in Norwegian waters, reaching 10 cm or more. Very common.



Limacia clavigera

One of the most common species in Gulen, the *Limacia clavigera* can be found all-year round at the house reef.



Goniodoris nodosa

This tiny nudibranch cannot be mistaken for any other species, and is relatively common in shallow waters.



Flabellina gracilis

This species is possibly a *Flabellina gracilis*, but it's very hard to be sure unless you look at it under a microscope.



Hydroid feeders

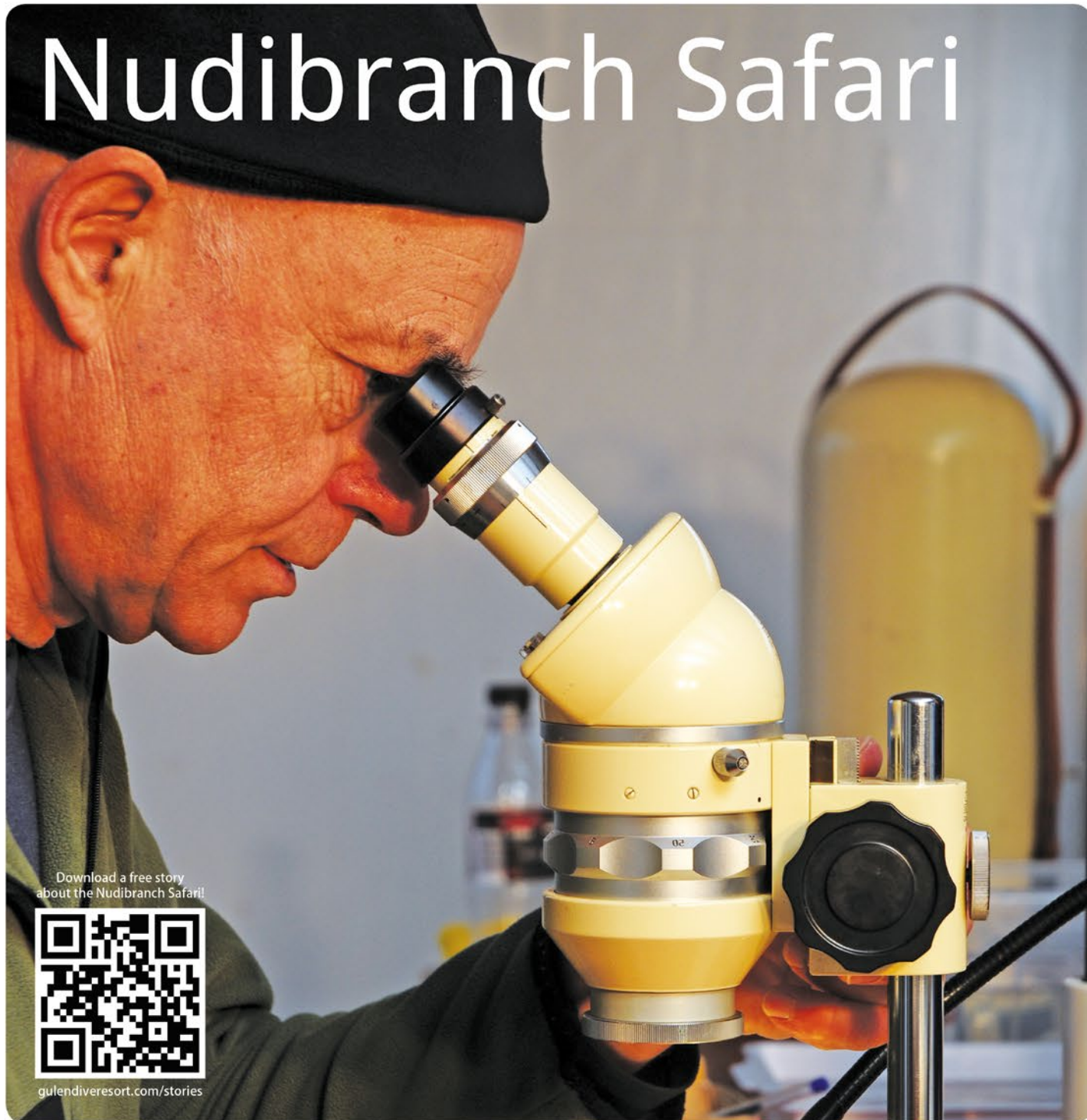
Flabellina, *Cuthona* and *Eubranchus* species feed on hydroids, stealing the stinger cells for their own protection.



Favorinus blianus

The white beauty is very easy to identify based on the three bulbs on each of the rhinophores. *Favorinus blianus* grows to about 30 mm in length, and feeds on the eggs of other nudibranchs – it's almost a cannibal.

Nudibranch Safari



Download a free story
about the Nudibranch Safari!



gulendiveresort.com/stories



A great learning experience

Joining a workshop to learn more about your favorite subject is always a good idea. You'll meet like-minded people who can help you learn more and better understand things, and it is always fun to share experiences. The Nudibranch Safari is definitely no exception!

Join the Nudibranch Safari!

If you're interested in nudibranchs and want to learn more, you should definitely consider joining the Nudibranch Safari.

Held in March every year, the Nudibranch Safari workshop is hosted by internationally acclaimed experts who will teach you more about identification, behavior, feeding habits and biology.

Typically, the Nudibranch Safari also includes a lecture on how to best photograph nudibranchs.

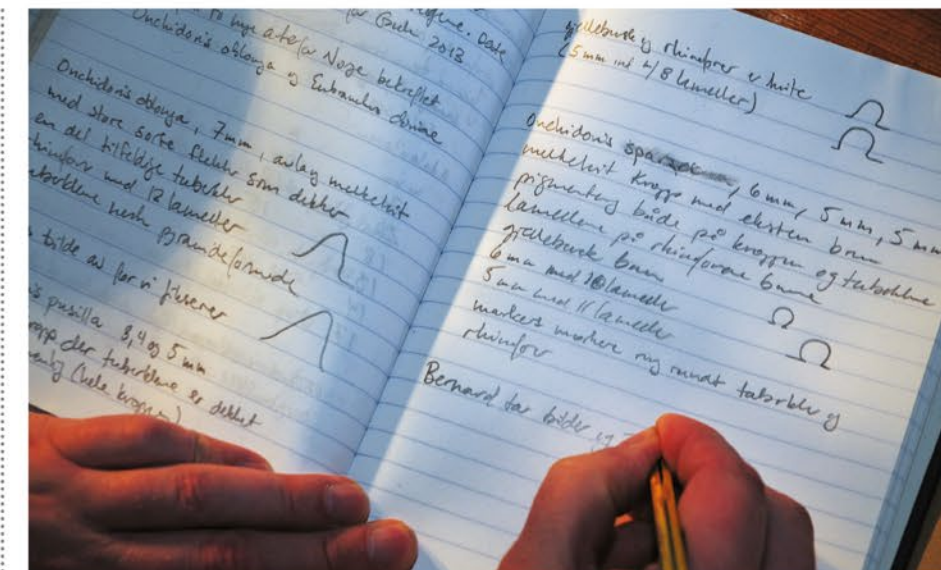
Join us for unlimited nudibranch fun and experience first hand the amazing array of species we have on the house reef!

www.gulendiveresort.com



Nudibranch identification

After attending the Nudibranch Safari you will know that this is a *Favorinus blianus*, and more importantly - why.



Scientific field work

The experts who hold the lectures on the Nudibranch Safari are seasoned scientists. Often, the trip is part of their scientific field work, and meticulous notes are taken down when they study the collected nudibranchs in close detail.

Berghia norvegica



This nudibranch had not been seen since 1937
– then it showed up on the house reef of Gulen Dive Resort!



And there it was – underneath a rock!

Berghia norvegica is a very illusive species. Despite being relatively large nobody had ever seen it – until we started turning rocks. We found that it lives below rocks and in-between gravel! Why is not known, but it certainly is a good hiding place...

A spectacular discovery

The *Berghia norvegica* was described in 1937, after Niels Ohdner found to specimens using a bottom scrape. Since then, nobody has ever seen it... until December 2010.

It took several months, DNA samples, and collecting more specimens before the scientists were certain – it really was *Berghia norvegica*!

On the Nudibranch Safaris in 2012 and 2013 several specimens were found.

Since then, this species has been found in two other places – but the house reef of Gulen Dive Resort is the only place in the world where this nudibranch can be seen with any certainty!



A mystery

It took quite some research to finally identify this mysterious but beautiful, orange nudibranch.



A scientific sensation

The discovery of *Berghia norvegica* caused quite a sensation, and was reported by several newspapers. At the Nudibranch Safari in March 2012, the scientists got their first opportunity to have a closer look at this extremely rare nudibranch.

Fishlife



Trisopterus minutus

The poor cod is a small codfish which is most active during the night. Its large eye makes it well adapted to hunting in the darkness, and it often hangs around divers. During the day it is generally found in small schools at 25 meters or more, but at night they are found shallower.

Seasonal seas

The fishlife in Norway varies greatly with the seasons. Some species can be seen all year, while others only show up during the spring or summer when they feed and reproduce in the shallows.

In general, there is less fish life in the winter, but there are still plenty of fish action for those who care to look closely.

The sandy areas of the house reef are home to several species of rare gobies, and clingfish and snailfish are hiding under rocks and seashells.

Larger predators like cod, hake and pollock are very common, and wolffish and monkfish may be seen at certain times of the year.



Phrynorhombus norvegicus

The Norwegian topknot is one of the most colorful fish found in Norway. It changes color to blend into the background.



Diplecogaster bimaculata

The two-spot clingfish is certainly one of the cutest fish. They can be very tricky to find, but if you turn over some empty seashells at around 24 meters depth, your just might get lucky... In the summer they can even be found with eggs!

Jeffrey's Goby is a rare species in Norwegian waters, but is easy to find on the house reef.

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Acantholabrus palloni

The scale-rayed wrasse is quite rare in Norway, but on deeper walls it may be encountered regularly.

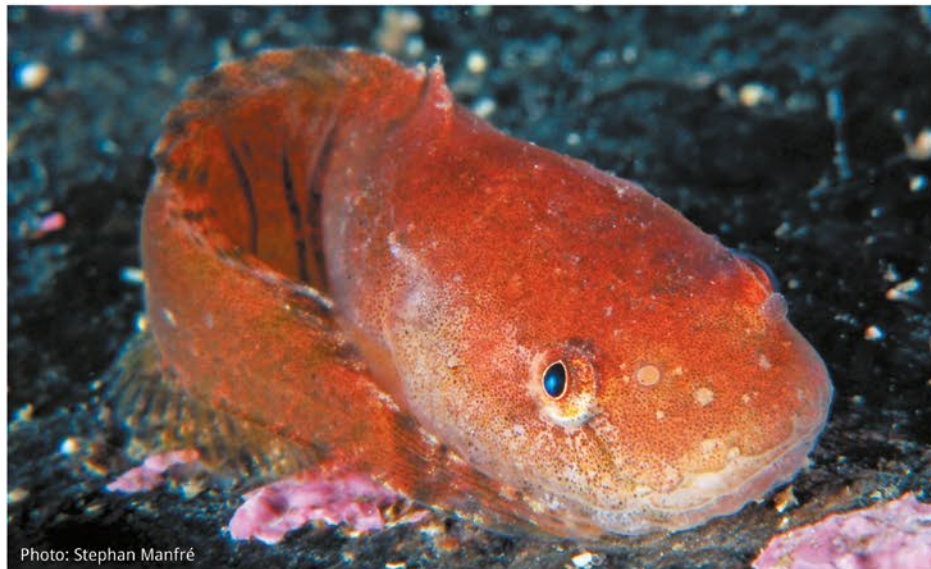


Photo: Stephan Manfré

Liparis montagui

The cute, tadpole-like Montague's seasnail grows to about 10 cm, and is a rare sight. It was discovered on the house reef of Gulen Dive Resort as late as January 2014! It lives beneath rocks and hidden in kelp and algae from 0–30 meters.



Symphodus melops

The corkwing wrasse is one of the most colorful fish in Norwegian waters, often found in shallow water during the summer.

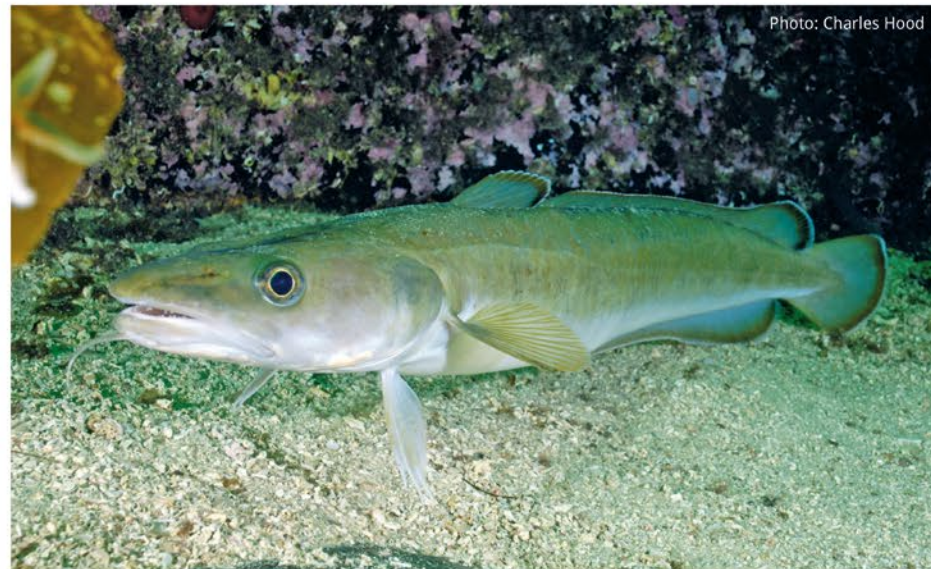


Photo: Charles Hood

Molva molva

We often see lings on the house reef and at other dives sites in the Gulen area. This fish is related to the cod and grows to 200 cm and 45 kg. The ling is a voracious predator, and is very often curious about divers and may even use the light from your torch to hunt!

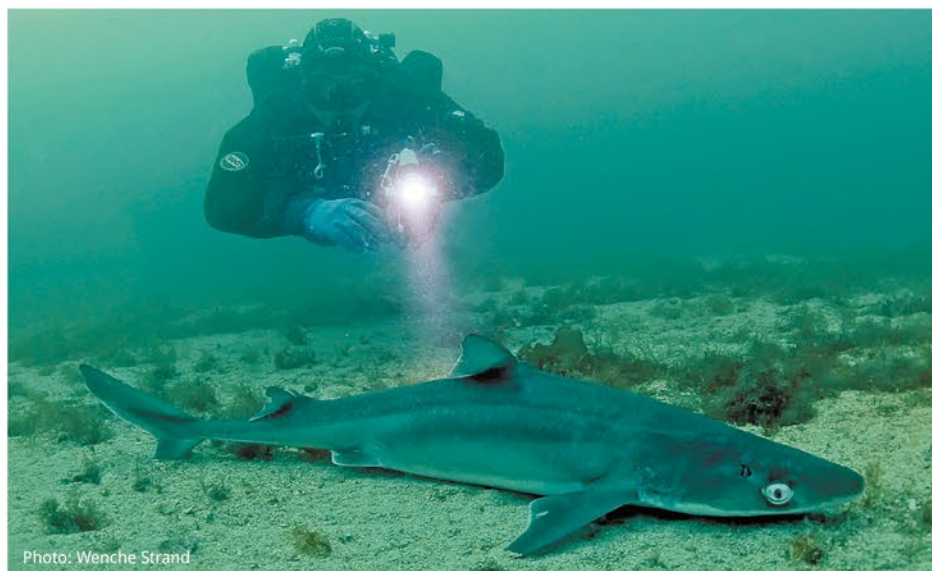


Photo: Wenche Strand

Spurdog sharks

We don't see sharks every day, but on occasion divers come across the spurdog, also known as spiny dogfish (*Squalus acanthias*) – even on the house reef. These sharks grow to around 1,5 meters and can live to be 75 years old. They are not dangerous to humans.



Chirolophis ascanii

Yarell's Blenny is a funny-looking little fish, which loves to hide inside cracks and crevices. Quite common on the house reef.



The mother of all anglerfish

The mighty monkfish (*Lophius piscatorius*) grows to an impressive 2 meters and weighs over 60 kg. More commonly, specimens up to a meter in length can be encountered on the deeper part of the house reef, and in many sandy areas.



Lebetus scorpioides

The diminutive goby is very small and hides in the substrate. Counted as rare elsewhere, it is very common in Gulen.



Wolf Fish

This fierce-looking fish may grow up to 150 cm and weight almost 20 kilos.



A fearsome predator

The wolf fish usually comes up from deeper water around May, and can be seen on the house reef during the summer. They are territorial and often return to the same area year after year to mate and lay their eggs.

The Wolffish

One of the most impressive fish in Norwegian waters, the *Anarhichas lupus* or Atlantic wolf fish reaches a length of 150 cm and 18 kg.

It feeds on sea urchins, scallops and crabs which are crushed with an almost grotesque-looking set of teeth. Divers are wise to keep their hands away...

During the summer we may have one or even more wolf fish on the house reef. Ask us to tell you about the secret places where they usually hang around!

Wolf fish are normally not very shy if you approach them carefully, and if you find a gentle one it's easy to get some stunning pictures.



Impressive teeth

The teeth look almost like our own, and are much tougher than those found in most fish. Keep your fingers to yourself!



Rock hard menu

The wolf fish has incredible crushing power, and a bony plate in the upper part of its mouth allows it to feed on long-spined sea urchins without being hurt. In Norwegian the fish is known as steinbit, which literally means 'stone biter'.



Entelurus aequoreus

We don't have seahorses in Norway, but the snake pipefish is pretty close. Pipefish are usually hiding among algae.



Microstomus kitt

The lemon sole is very common at Gulen, both on the house reef and elsewhere. It's a very active predator, always looking for the next meal. Sometimes they are buried in the sand with only the eyes showing, at other times they are showing off their splendid colors.



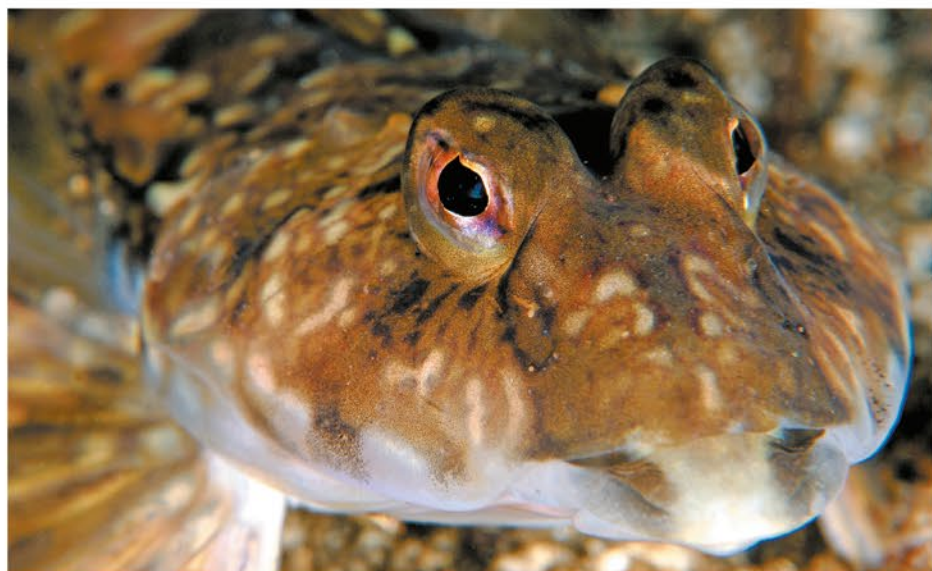
Merlangius merlangus

Juvenile whittings often hide in between the tentacles of lion's mane jellyfish, seeking protection from predators. It is a rare fish to encounter at diveable depths, but sometimes they come in from deeper water onto the house reef.



Taurulus bubalis

The long-spined bullhead is very common, but thanks to the almost perfect camouflage they are still hard to find.



Callionymus lyra

The common dragonet is very common in sandy areas, often not deeper than 12-15 meters. While the females are relatively drab, the males display beautiful blue and yellow colors – especially during mating season in early summer.



Cyclopterus lumpus

The male lumpsucker defends and takes extremely good care of the eggs, which are often deposited in the kelp fronds.



Gobiusculus flavescens

The Two-spotted goby is very common in shallow waters all year round. The male guards the eggs hidden in the kelp.



Thorogobius ephippiatus

Not native to Norway, the leopard goby has nevertheless become an increasingly common sight along the west coast. It grows to about 13 cm and often hides in cracks and crevices, especially during the day. Usually found in shallow water down to about 15 meters.

Crustaceans



Squat lobsters are very common at the house reef, and are especially easy to spot on night dives.



Grumpy

Small swimming crabs are very common at the house reef of Gulen Dive Resort. They typically hide between small rocks and underneath empty seashells. If you have a keen eye and take your time, you're bound to find lots of these cute little fellows.

Gladiators of the Sea

The crustaceans are the biggest animal group found in the oceans. From microscopic plankton to huge lobster and spider crab they can be found in almost any habitat.

The house reef of Gulen Dive Resort has an exceptional diversity of crustaceans – especially in the autumn.

You can expect to see lobster, stone crabs, swimming crabs, camouflage shrimp, cleaner shrimp, sea spiders, barnacles, decorator crabs, squat lobsters and many other varieties.

Many crustaceans are active at night, so donning your gear a little later in the evening leaves you the best chance to observe them up close and personal.



Useful symbiosis

One species of hermit crab lets an anemone grow on its back for protection, and offer scraps of food in return.



Anemone shrimp

The friendly blade shrimp (*Spirontocaris liljeborgii*) is often found underneath big *Bolocera* anemones, where they are protected by the stinging tentacles. Sometimes you can come across a whole family of shrimp under one anemone.



Ebalia tumefacta

The tiny Bryer's nut crab is found in sand and rubble on the bottom, often inside empty shells. They are beautiful and trusty little fellows, which normally will let an underwater photographer have his or her way with it without complaining.



Mobile home

The big hermit crab *Pagurus bernhardus* is extremely common, always very busy with whatever it is it needs to do.



Crab portrait

The Norwegian stone crab *Lithodes maja* is normally not shy at all, and will let you get close enough to shoot stunning portraits.



Sea spiders

Sea spiders are very common between 25 and 40 meters depth at the Gulen Dive Resort house reef. They are very strange animals, with bodies so thin that some of their internal organs are actually extending out into their legs – there is not enough room!



Homarus gammarus

The European lobster holds a territory, and can live there for years. The house reef at Gulen is home to three lobsters.



Cleaning shrimp

Did you think you had to go to tropical waters to find cleaning shrimp? Think again! Several species like *Pandalus montagui* may display this kind of behavior and will very often check out a glove-clad hand if carefully offered by a diver.



A master of camouflage

The little *Hippolytes varians* shrimp can adapt to almost any color, making it difficult to spot. This one got it wrong!



Spider crab

The tiny spider crab *Macropodia rostrata* is found in abundance in shallow water, where it hides among algae.



Awesome critters

The house reef is teeming with camouflage crabs, decorator crabs and other quirky crustaceans – like this odd fellow here.

Echinoderms

Starfish, feather stars, sea urchins and brittle stars are very common at Gulen Dive Resort.



Voracious predators

At Gulen you'll find plenty of starfish. Just under the pier there's always an aggregation of big, orange *Marthasterias glacialis* waiting for mussels to fall off. Deeper there's a wide variety of other species, some of which are quite rare to see in shallow waters.

Echinoderm heaven

For some reason echinoderms seem to love Gulen. There is an abundance of different sea urchins, starfish and brittle stars, and even some sea cucumbers.

We're especially proud of all the beautiful feather stars found on the house reef. These graceful filter feeders are usually found at 40+ meters, but at the house reef we have plenty of them in just 15-25 meters depth.

Sometimes they perch camera-friendly on the kelp stalks, and they may even have small squat lobsters or other crustaceans hiding at the base.

Whatever your echinoderm desires, you'll be able to fulfill them!



Juvenile cushion star

Cushion stars can be found in all sizes at the Gulen Dive Resort house reef. This baby is just the size of a small coin.



Plenty of feather stars

Feather stars are normally found deeper than 40 meters in Norwegian waters, but on the house reef of Gulen Dive Resort they are common as shallow as 12 meters. This close-up shows the foot used to hold on to a kelp stalk or a rock so the feather star doesn't drift off.



Stars of the ocean

Starfish comes in many shapes and colors, and live in almost all habitats of the ocean. They may have up to 40.000 hydraulic tube feet that help them move around and also to open mussels, which is their favorite food.



Interesting details

When studying echinoderms up close and personal you'll find that they offer surprisingly many interesting details.



In the kelp forest

Starfish thrive underneath the kelp forest canopy. They are opportunistic and will feed on almost anything organic.



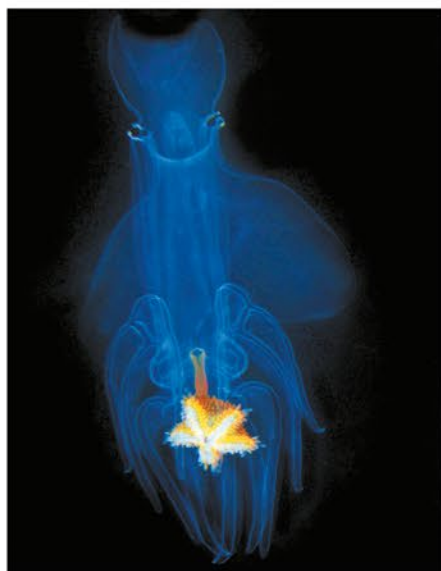
Rare deep-sea species

Pteraster militaris normally lives below 60 meters depth or more, but it can sometimes be spotted on the deeper parts of the house reef. The beautiful white color is unusual for echinoderms, and finding this starfish is always considered at treat.



Spiky balls

The gonads of the edible sea urchin is considered a delicacy in Japan. In our waters, the wolffish is their main enemy.



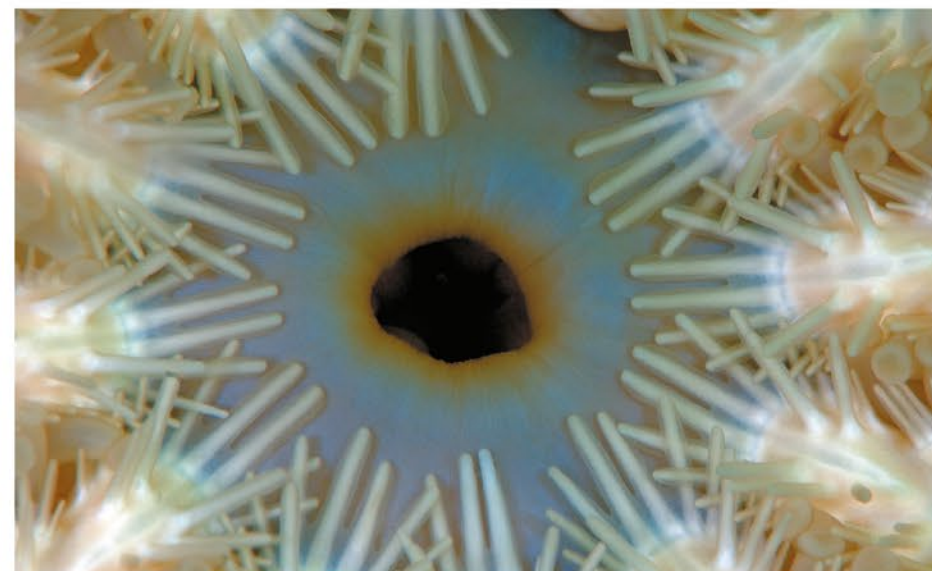
Who are you, my tiny alien?

Starfish larvae can be everywhere in mid-water at certain times, giving you a feeling that the aliens have started their invasion...



Brittle star

Several species of brittle stars are very common at Gulen. They sometimes aggregate in large numbers.



Peculiar feeding habits

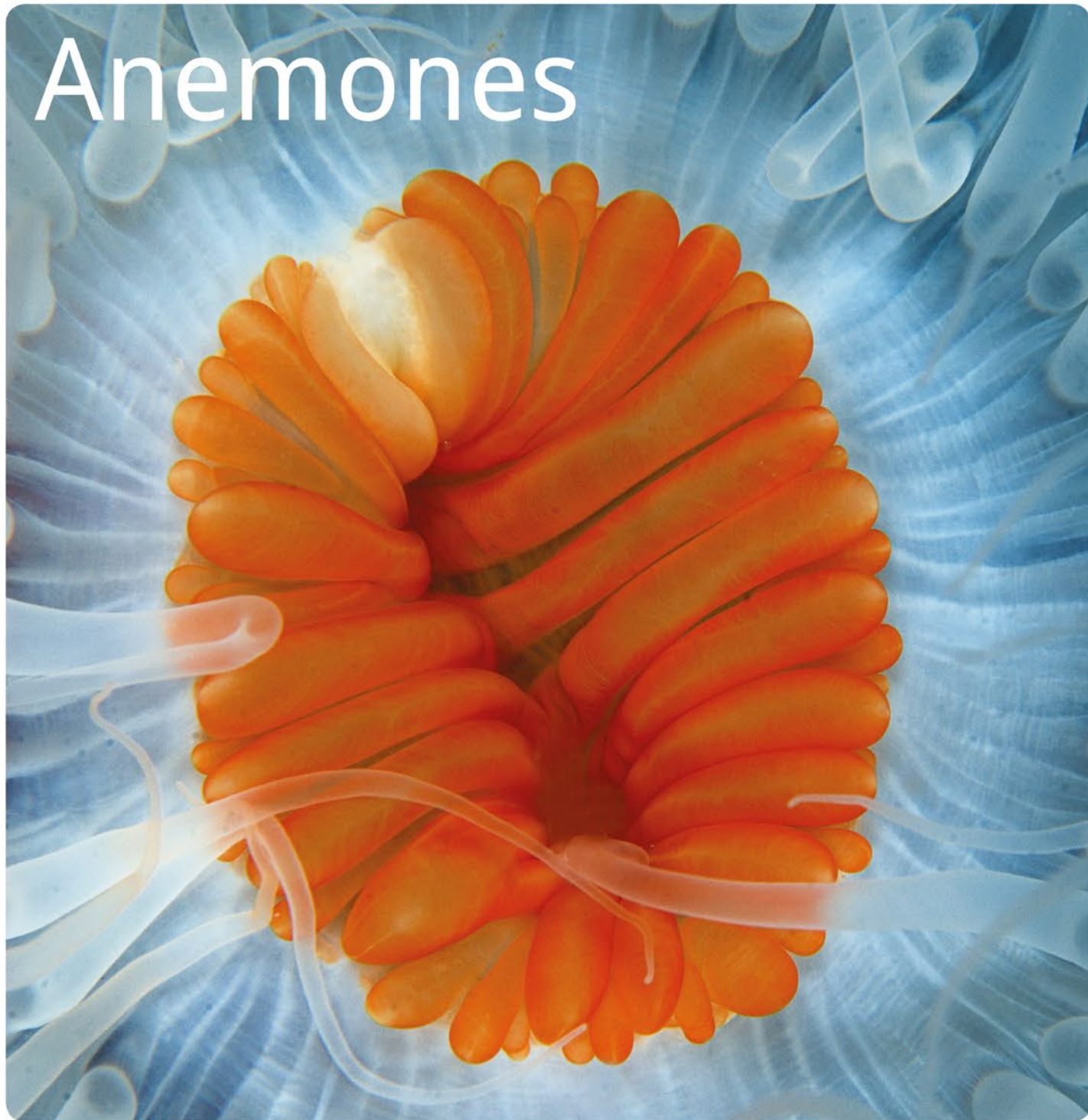
The mouth of a *Marthasterias glacialis* starfish. These echinoderms feed by forcing open mussels, before they turn their stomach inside-out and digest them while they're still in their shell! Afterwards the stomach is sucked back in through the mouth opening.



Feather star mouth

Not just red and white – the feather stars at Gulen Dive Resort house reef sometimes take on this beautiful golden hue.

Anemones



Anemone bonanza

Anemones come in many shapes and sizes. They often have brilliant colors and come in a wide variety of patterns.

We find anemones from the surface all the way to the bottom of our deepest dives. Some of them are petite and wax-white in color, others huge and bright pink – or anything in-between.

Beneath some anemones you can be lucky and find whole families of tiny, bright red shrimp. Other may offer its stinging protection to a stone crab that has just moulted.

If you shine a torch on an anemone on a night it often gets really busy catching all the small stuff attracted by the light.

The mighty Bolocera

Our biggest anemone, the *Bolocera tueidae* or deeplet anemone grows to a sizable 25 cm across at the foot. It is normally found below 20 meters, and is quite common at the house reef. It often harbors families of friendly blade shrimp or even stone crabs.



Stinging tentacles

Anemones belong to the cnidaria, a group of animals which have stinging cells. These are used to stun prey that comes drifting.



Spectacular patterns

Some underwater photographers never seem to get enough of the sparkling colors and astonishing patterns found on anemones. We have to admit it's pretty hard to overlook some of them, especially when they look like this Dahlia anemone (*Urticina felina*).



Teeming with life



Colorful coral

The cup coral is one of very few hard coral species found in Norwegian waters. It lives solitary and does not form reefs, but the beautiful colors still attract divers and underwater photographers. The cup coral is normally found below 20 meters depth.

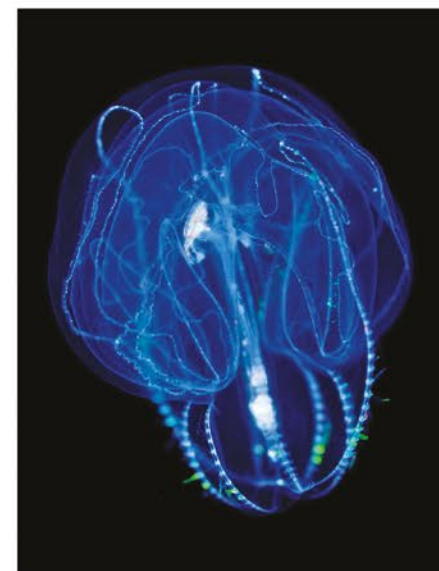
Spectacular diversity

The Gulen area does not just offer plenty of fish, crustaceans, nudibranchs, echinoderms and anemones.

There is a multitude of other animals to be found, such as cup coral, octopus and squid, bryozoans, clams and mussels, sea snails, jellyfish, hydroids and sea squirts, just to mention a few.

Those who have a keen eye will discover so many strange, small animals they can hardly believe it!

Some of these animals are very common, while some have just been spotted a few times. That's part of the Gulen charm – you never know what will turn up!



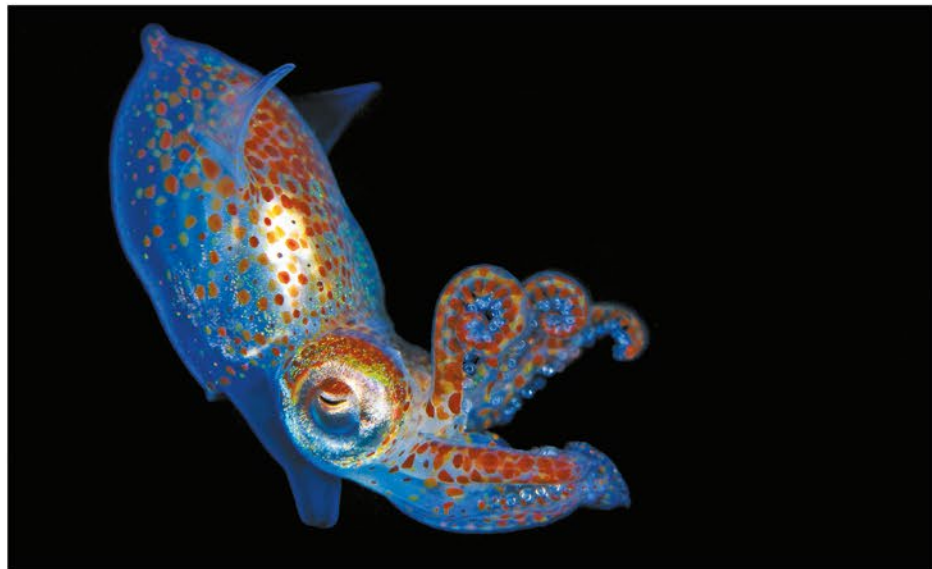
Jellyfish

Certain times of the year the water is teeming with all kinds of small jellyfish and hydromedusae – like this *Bolinopsis*.



Pecten maximus

One of the ocean's finest delicacies, the big *Pecten maximus* clam can grow to well over 20 cm across the shell. The love sandy bottoms, and will observe you closely with their 30+ pairs of eyes – they probably prefer not to be eaten...



Tiny little squid

In September the tiny bobtail squid *Sepietta oweniana* can be found fluttering above the sand in a certain spot at the Gulen Dive Resort house reef. Although sometimes shy, these brilliantly colored animals sometimes pose for the photographers and put on a show.



Bryozoans

These minute animals often cover the kelp with their white net-like veil. Look out for nudibranchs, as they favor this for food.



Delicate feathers

Beautiful pipeworms are mostly found a little deeper, and they seem to love wrecks just as much as we do.



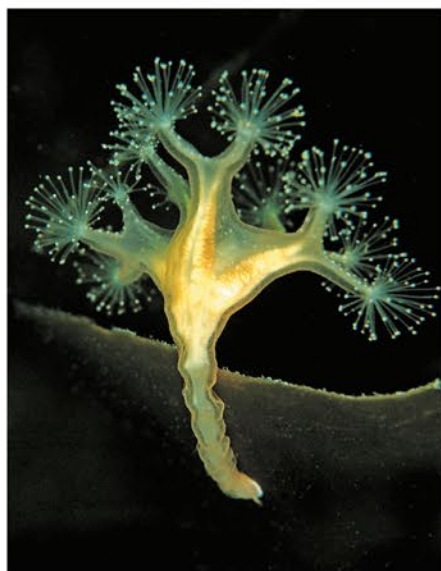
Aplysia punctata

Not actually a true nudibranch, the sea hare is often counted among their shell-less relatives anyway. When you study it closely you will find that the sea hare has a thin, internal shell which can be seen between the "flaps" on its back.



Mussel love

Even ordinary mussels like this ocean quahog or *Arctica islandica* offer the opportunity to shoot a beautiful image.



Stalked jellyfish

The stalked jellyfish attaches itself to the kelp, and prefers a stationary lifestyle instead of floating around like its relatives.



Spiraling beauty

The Painted top shell *Calliostoma zizyphinum* is very, very common on the kelp in Gulen – you'll see it everywhere!



Football jersey worm

The house reef is home to some truly strange animals, like this worm which can be several meters long!



Trivia arctica

This is only cowrie found in Norwegian waters. It is called "coffee bean" in Norwegian, and is very common.



Hydromedusae

It always pays off to check what's swimming in mid-water on your safety stop – you might see some hydromedusae.

At night, Gulen takes on a completely new hue.

Download a free story
about diving in Gulen!



gulendiveresort.com/stories

Workshops & Events

- Periphylla Safari
- Wreck-O-Mania
- Nudibranch Safari
- Critter Shootout
- UW Photo Workshops
- Marine Biology Workshop
- Wreck Safari
- Captain Crab & the Starfish
- Tailor Made Workshops
- Coast & Fjord Photo Safari
- Dive Courses

At Gulen Dive Resort we host several workshops every year – a great opportunity to learn more about your favorite subject.

Photo Workshops

One of our photo workshops in 2010 saw the participants all dressed up like vikings - epic!



Learn from the best!

A photo workshop is a great way to learn more about underwater photography. Top photographers teach you more about finding subjects, composition, lighting, post-processing and more – and you get to dive some of our top spots at the same time!

Underwater photography

...is becoming more and more popular, and most of our guests have a camera in their hands.

To help them become better underwater photographers, we host photo workshops with some of the top names in the business – like Alex Mustard.

Whether you're a beginner or a seasoned hobby photographer, joining a workshop will give you creative input and help you refine your technique.

There is no shortage of photo subjects – the house reef is teeming with life, the kelp forest is at our doorstep and there are plenty of wrecks nearby!



Ceitter Shootout

We invented and hosted the first Critter Shootout together with Lembeh Resort in Indonesia, which got worldwide attention.



A sought-after destination

Because of the abundant marine life and proximity to the fjords, Gulen is a sought-after destination even for professionals. In 2012 the Spanish production company Bluescreen filmed an entire episode for their Seas & Oceans TV-series here!



The dive resort

Gulen Dive Resort has been around for over 10 years, and we have continuously upgraded the resort and facilities. Everything is in one place – you don't have to walk more than 30 meters!

Divers stay in cozy twin rooms with a common kitchen and living room area, and there's a supermarket just 5 minutes away. We also welcome mobile homes and offer parking spots.

On the following pages you can read more about the dive boat, our compressor and blending facility, rental tanks and the dive resort in general.



At Gulen Dive Resort you have
everything you need in one place.



Dive yacht



Photo: Atle Ove Martinussen

"Our 52 ft. dive yacht is equipped with an elevator for divers at the back. It is spacious and offers a comfortable ride."



Elevator at the back

When you come back up after a great dive, the last thing you want is a strenuous boat entry. That's why we have installed an electrical elevator at the back, which will raise you safely and effortlessly to the dive deck without any effort at all. Pure luxury!



All you need

Vikingfjord is very well equipped with a kitchen, three cabins, a spacious lounge, hot shower and of course a restroom.



Spacious, warm and comfortable

The spacious lounge area allow you to relax before, between and after dives. We do mostly two-tank dive trips, which means you spend less time in the boat and more time in the water and at the resort. Time for a nap? Feel free to do what you like!

52 ft. luxury dive yacht

From spring 2016 we have a new 52 ft. dive yacht called Vikingfjord, which allows us to have a much greater range than before. This means we can reach more wrecks, and you can relax in style in between dives.

At the back, Vikingfjord has a brand new diver elevator installed, so you never have to work hard to get back on board.

Vikingfjord has 3 cabins, toilet, shower, kitchen, sundeck and a spacious lounge area – in addition to the dive deck at the back. En route you can enjoy coffee, beverages, a slice of pizza – and free wifi!

Vikingfjord has advanced navigation equipment and safety measures according to the strict maritime code.



Vikingfjord offers long range, comfort and safety. On board you'll find everything you need for a perfect day of diving, including free wifi. We can even do liveaboard trips for smaller groups!



Cruising in style

While cruising to and from the divespots you can enjoy the scenic beauty of the Norwegian west coast. If the weather is good you'll probably prefer to be out at the sundeck – if not you'll be perfectly comfortable enjoying the amenities in the spacious cabin.



Our goal...

...is to provide spectacular diving for our guests, in a safe and fun way – no matter which boat we use to get to the divesites!



Fancy a fast RIB trip?

In addition to Vikingfjord, we have a 10,5 meter fast RIB which may be used if it's the better choice at any given time.



Warm and comfortable

Thanks to the canopy at the back of the boat, divers can sit inside and stay dry and warm. It can be heated in the winter – or taken off in the summer. Even at speeds up to 35 knots it's cozy inside, allowing you to get in the water without being cold before you start.

The dive boats are waiting at the dock,
just 30 meters from the diveshop.



Breathing



Gulen Dive Resort offers air, nitrox and trimix – and we're rebreather friendly.



New filling station

The newly installed filling station for air, nitrox and any kind of trimix gas. Behind the wall is the compressor room and a huge bank with 300 bar air and 32% nitrox. Gulen Dive Resort is rebreather friendly, and provide an area where divers can do repairs.

What you breathe...

...is important to us. All air is filtered and we keep track of the humidity levels. Filters are of course changed according to the maintenance schedule. We pride ourselves in delivering good air quality.

Our compressor and filling station was completely rebuilt in late 2013. We have installed a Lenhardt & Wagner silent compressor, which is housed outside the divers area to reduce noise.

As a rule, we try to run the compressor as little as possible when the divers are in, and fill the tank while they're out.

Getting a full tank is easy – just place the empty one in the designated area and wait for it... you'll be ready to dive again in no time!



DIN valves

At Gulen Dive Resort we use DIN valves as standard, but they can be fitted with an adapter if you have a yoke/INT regulator.



Single and double rental tanks

Rental tanks are standard 15/200 steel tanks fitted with double valves to accommodate those having two first stages. There are also a number of twin sets and stage bottles available, but make sure you check the availability before you arrive.

Tech diving



At Gulen Dive Resort we're no strangers to tech diving – in fact, many technical divers prefer to use us!



Technical diving is nothing new to us

Being technical divers ourselves we know what you need and when you need it. We provide qualified surface support in addition to our knowledge about the wrecks and other dive spots, and aim to make your extended dives both safe and enjoyable.

Full-fledged tech resort

We have over 10 years experience in catering for tech divers, and have hosted GUE, IANTD, TDI and PADI tech courses as well as rebreather gatherings.

No matter which organization you belong to, at Gulen Dive Resort you can go deep and do extended dives, provided you have the certification needed.

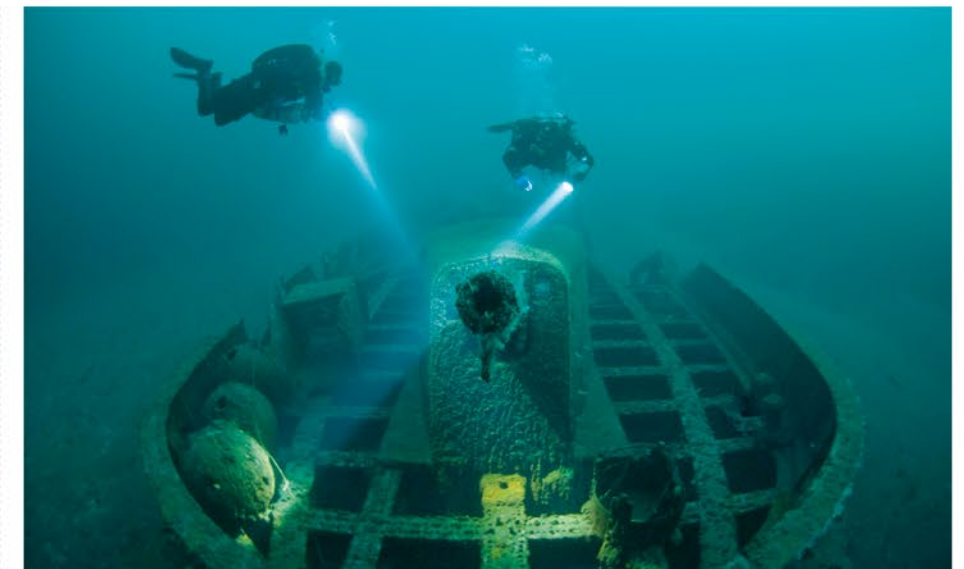
Being technical divers ourselves we know what you need and when you need it. We can handle all your needs in terms of tanks, stages, Sofnolime, gas and technical drysuits.

We offer some truly awesome deep wreck dives – come to Gulen Dive Resort and experience it yourself!



Learn tech or sidemount

If you want to take a tech diving course or learn sidemount diving, don't hesitate to get in touch!



Deep delights

KNM Uller is just one of the technical wreck dives we offer at Gulen Dive Resort. If you have the right equipment, training and attitude we will take you for some unforgettable deep excitement – and you can dive it according to your own diveplan.



If you want to learn to dive, or expand your horizon by taking further courses, Gulen Dive Resort offers all you need.

- Discover Scuba
- Open Water Diver
- Advanced Open Water
- Nitrox & Drysuit Courses
- Rescue Diver
- Sidemount
- Tec Deep Diver 40/45/50
- Technical Courses
- Divemaster
- Various Specialty Courses

Download a free story
about diving in Gulen!



gulendiveresort.com/stories

Relax and enjoy



A cold beer in the hot-tub after a couple of great dives – what better way to end the day?

Photo: Olga Kamenskaya



Barbecue party

Going on a dive trip is not all about diving, even though that's the main objective. Having a barbecue in the summer is a great way to get to know new people, and have fun with old friends – perhaps even with some scallops or crabs you have caught yourself!



Happy meals

The resort has a nice indoor dinner area, but in the summer it's even better to sit outside if the weather allows it.



We're at the waterfront

Gulen Dive Resort is located right at the waterfront in a narrow strait. You have beautiful scenery right outside your window, and quite often porpoises are seen at the surface. Sea eagles, otter and even harbor seals show up from time to time.

Feel at home!

It's very important to us that our guests relax and enjoy their stay at Gulen Dive Resort.

Apart from the rooms and indoor areas (more about that a few pages later) we offer a nice outdoor area, a gas barbecue and other amenities.

One of the most popular extras is the wood-fire hot tub. Prices depend on self-service or not. Please let us know in good time – it takes a few hours to heat.

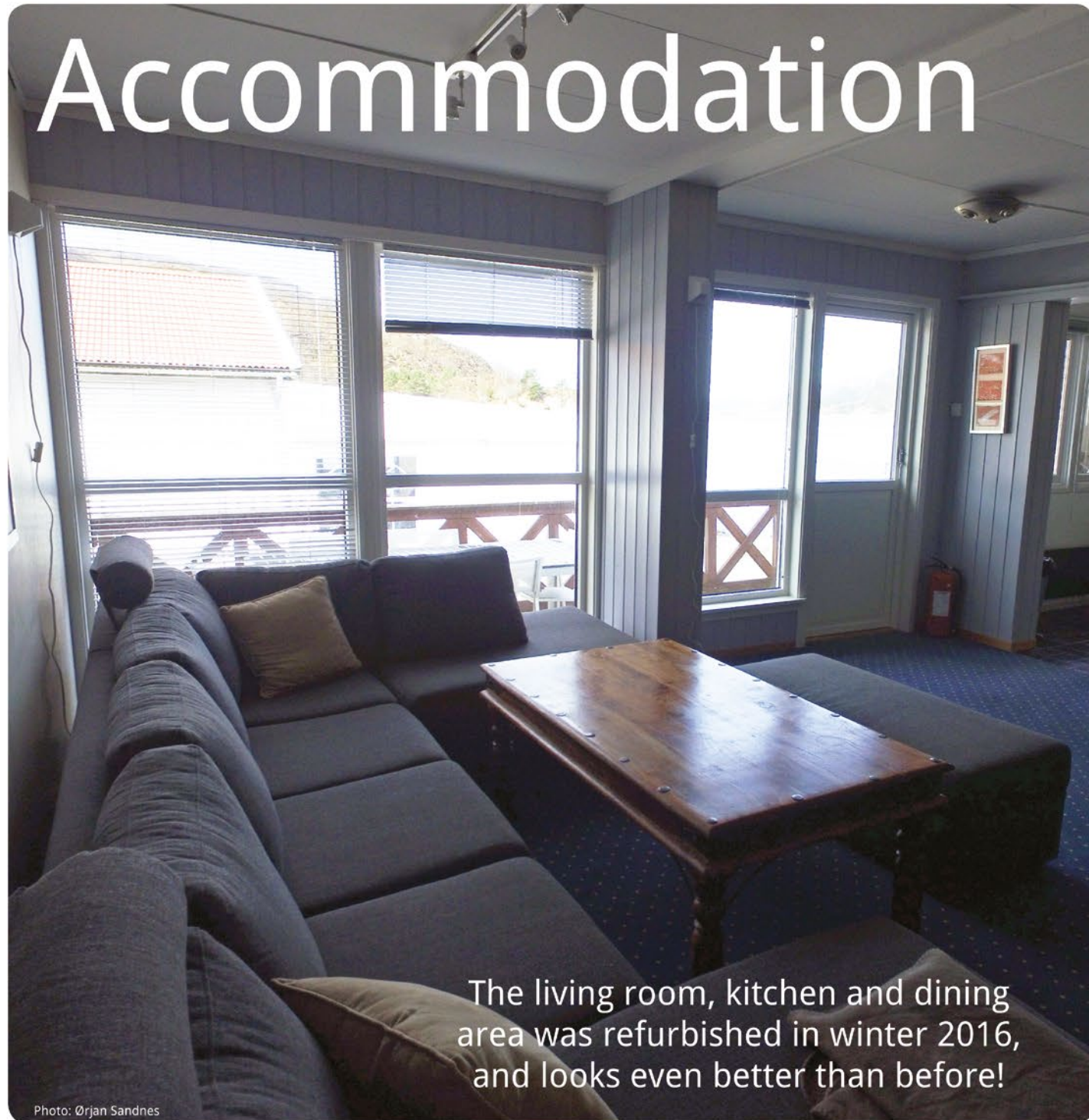
The pub is open to divers staying at the resort, and to the locals every other weekend or so.

We wish you a relaxing and fun stay!

A close-up photograph of several grilled scallops served in their shells. The scallops are white and tender, topped with a small pile of cooked, crumbled bacon. The shells are arranged on a dark, weathered wooden surface, likely a boardwalk or beach. The lighting is natural, highlighting the textures of the scallops and the wood.

Grilled scallops never taste better
than the ones you have just picked yourself!

Accommodation



The living room, kitchen and dining area was refurbished in winter 2016, and looks even better than before!

Photo: Ørjan Sandnes



Cozy and practical twin rooms

Our rooms have either two separate beds or bunk beds. Two rooms have the bed arrangement shown above – bunk beds with room for two at the bottom and a child (or luggage) at the top. Either way you'll sleep well!



For singles and couples

Half the rooms are equipped with two separate beds like this. They can be moved together should you want to.



Kitchen

In the kitchen area you'll find everything you need to make breakfast, lunch and dinner. There are two fridges and a freezer, plenty of pots, plates and cutlery, coffeemaker, a stove and a microwave. The supermarket is just 5 minutes away.

Enjoy your stay!

We have eight cozy twin rooms with different bed arrangements – either twin beds or bunk beds.

There are two bathrooms/showers at the end of the hall, and a nice, spacious living room and dining area which was refurbished in winter 2016.

The kitchen has also been refurbished, and is well equipped for your culinary needs. Two new fridges have been installed for your convenience.

The dive shop is in the building next to where you're staying, and you don't have to walk more than 30 meters to get in the water!

www.divegulen.com



Environment



A cold beer in the hot-tub after a couple of great dives – what better way to end the day?



Keep it clean!

We want to keep our house reef clean and debris-free, and ask all visiting divers to help collect any trash they find on the bottom. This can be disposed of in our underwater recycling station at 6 meters depth! The bins are emptied when necessary.

Care for the environment

At Gulen Dive Resort we care about the environment. This starts with recycling returnable bottles and cans, but naturally the underwater environment is especially important to us.

For years, we have been asking visiting divers to help us keep the house reef clean, which they can do by putting empty cans or other trash in the bins of our underwater recycling station!

A couple of times a year we also arrange clean-up dives at the house reef.

The house reef is off limits for catching fish or any other animals, and we have recently applied for a non-fishing zone outside the dive resort.



The sins of yesteryear

We still see the results of the "out of sight, out of mind" attitude. Luckily, people of today seem less absent-minded.

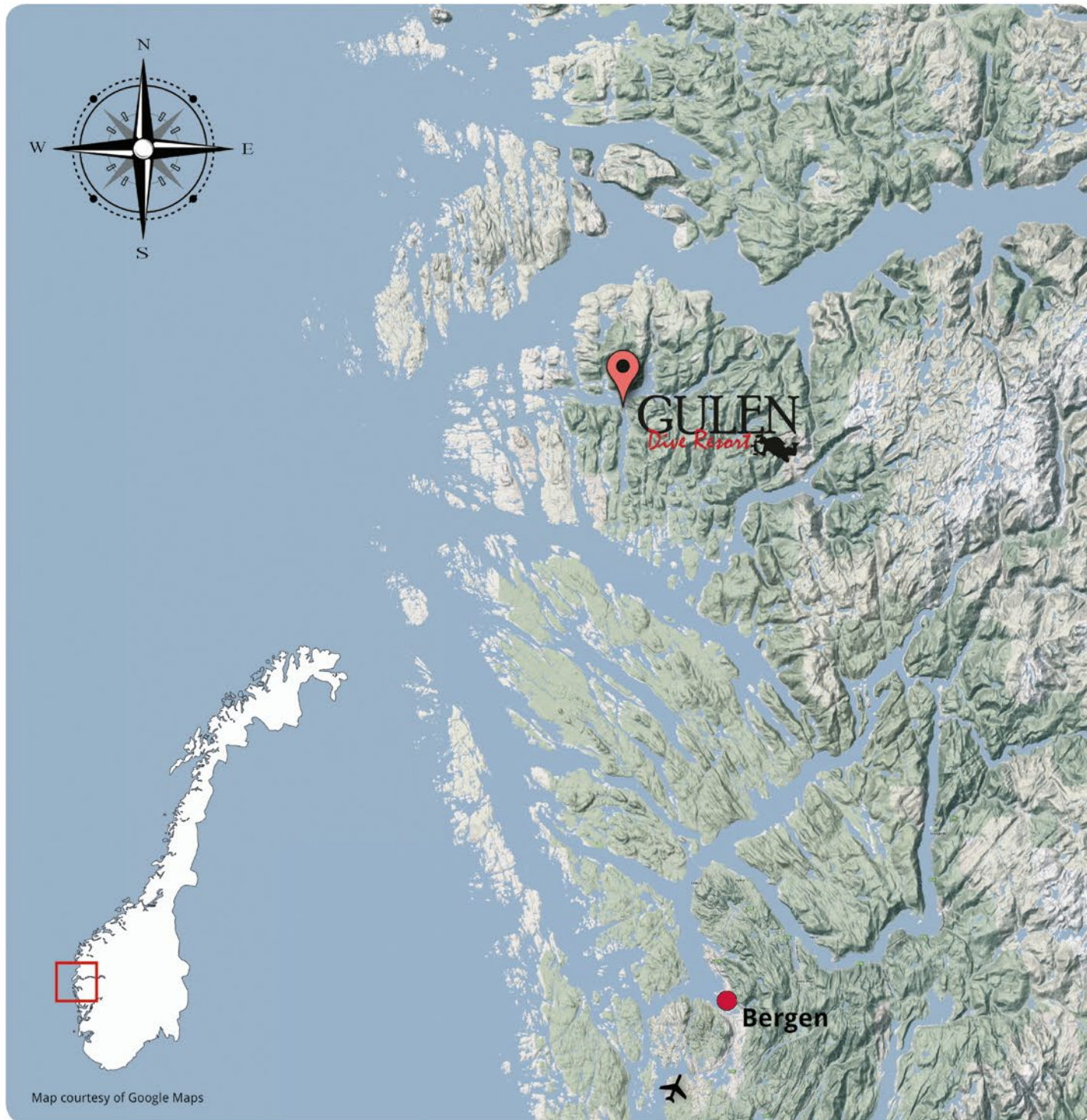


We want fish to grow up in a healthy environment

We support Project AWARE and other environmental organizations, and make a point to arrange clean-up dives at the house reef on regular occasions. We have hauled up a lot of trash over the years, and the underwater environment is slowly returning to normal.

Caring about the environment is important. At Gulen Dive Resort, guests can help keep the house reef clean.





How to get to Gulen?

Luckily, it's very easy to get to Gulen Dive Resort. All you have to do is get on the northbound speed ferry from Bergen – and you'll get a free sightseeing on the way!

The speed ferry terminal is just 80 meters from where the bus from the airport stops in downtown Bergen. Get on the ferry, and you'll be in Gulen in less than three hours.

Switch to the local speedboat at Mjømna and before you know it you'll be at the dock right next to the dive resort. We can also organize a pick-up by car – or you can drive yourself.



Fly to Bergen



You can reach Bergen directly from 40 cities in Germany, Sweden, Denmark, England and even from New York.



Fly to Bergen

Flying doesn't cost what it used to do – thankfully. Getting to Bergen by plane is easy, and in most cases cheaper than driving your own car. Most airlines will let you bring an extra bag for your dive equipment. You get more time at the destination for less money!

Well connected

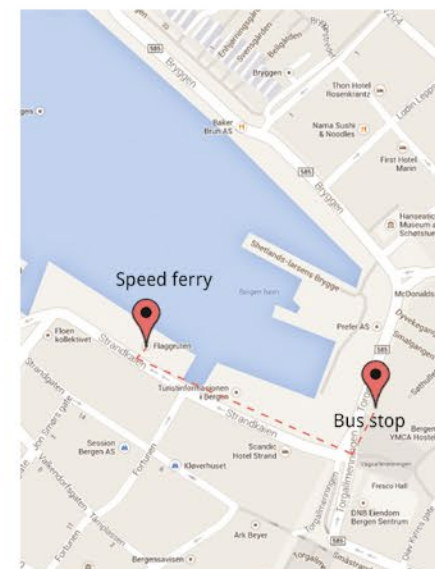
Bergen airport has direct connections to around 40 European cities, including several in Sweden, Denmark, Great Britain and Germany.

It's easy to get from the airport to downtown Bergen (or back) – just hop on the airport bus which will deliver you front row center in about 35 minutes.

Check out Norwegian, SAS or Easyjet for the best prices – and fly to your next dive holiday.

Check out the following pages for more details about transfer and how to get to Gulen Dive Resort.

More info: www.norwegian.com, www.easyjet.com or www.sas.no



80 meters walk

If you get off the bus from the airport at Vågen, there's just an 80 meter walk over to the speed ferry terminal.



Need transfer?

You can get to Gulen Dive Resort by speed ferry, rent a car or have us pick you up at the airport (groups only) – the choice is yours. Either way it doesn't take more than 2-3 hours before you're at our doorstep.

Transfer



Get on the speed ferry from Bergen and get a free sightseeing while transferring to Gulen!



Sightseeing along the way

The area west of Gulen is littered with islands – more than one and a half thousand, to be precise. When you enjoy this beautiful journey through the island kingdom, it's easy to forget you being transported to the dive resort at the same time...



Brand new speed ferry

The brand new speed ferry "Solundir" will take you the last leg to Gulen Dive Resort swiftly and comfortably.



Group pick-up by car

If you're not driving yourself, or don't want to take the speed ferry from Bergen, we can come pick you up at the airport or wherever you want to. This service is only available to groups. Please make sure you arrange your pick-up well in advance.

Transfer to Gulen

If you want a great sightseeing while transferring to Gulen Dive Resort, you should get on the 16.30 northbound speed ferry in Bergen.

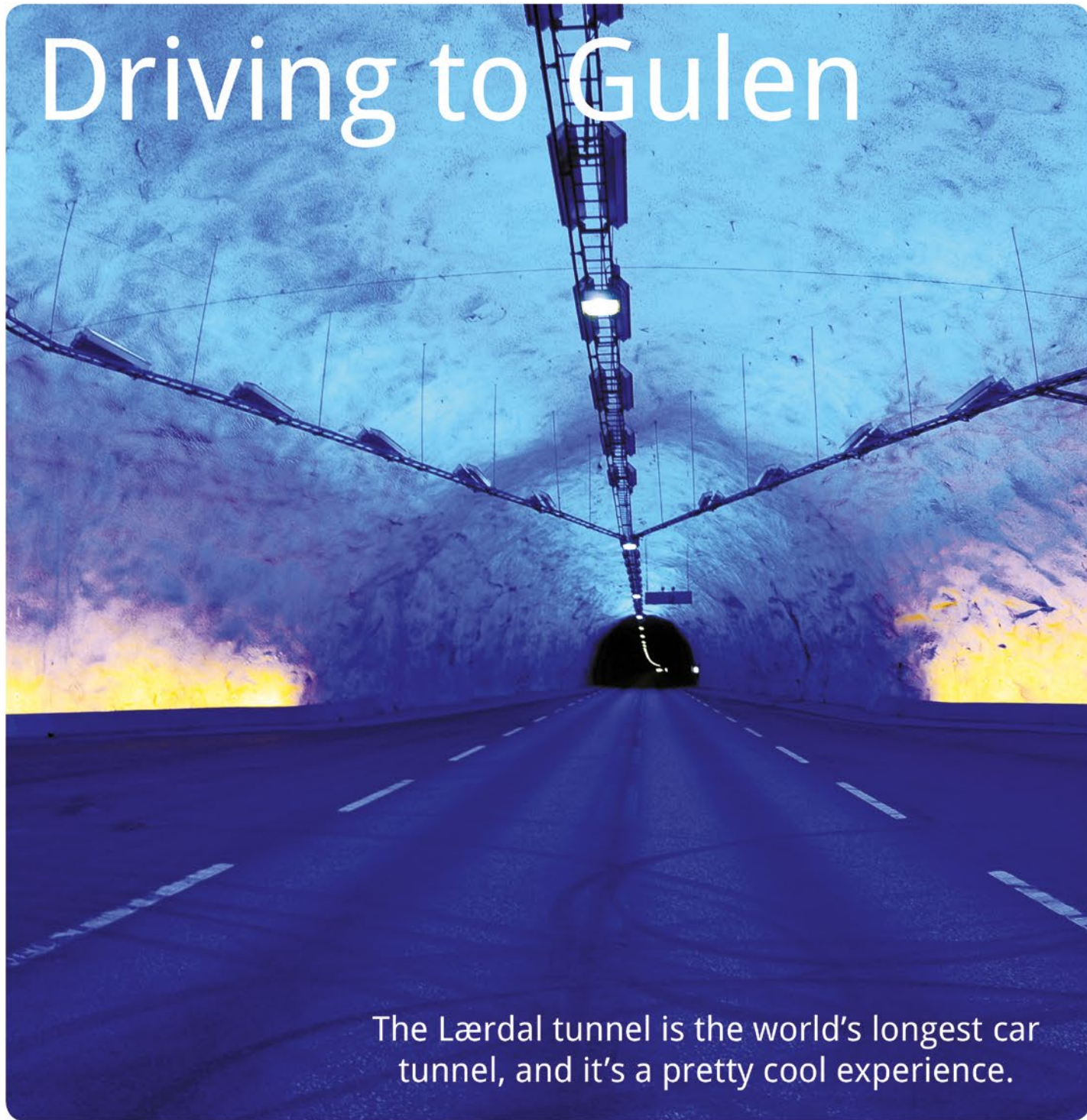
The ferry terminal is just 80 yards from where the airport bus stops. The speed ferry takes less than three hours, and you land directly at our doorstep.

Remember to switch to the local speedboat at Mjømna, and let the crew know you want to go to Gulen Dive Resort. You will be here in no time.

Great diving is only a few hours away, almost not matter where you live. Come see us at Gulen Dive Resort!

Timetable at www.norled.no

Driving to Gulen



The Lærdal tunnel is the world's longest car tunnel, and it's a pretty cool experience.



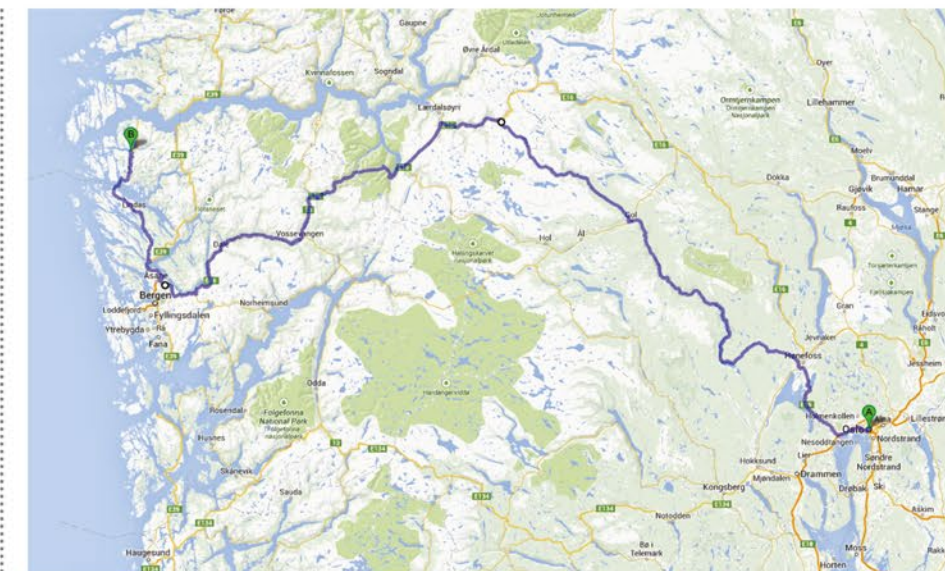
Drive through the mountains

If you're just driving up from Bergen it's not more than a two-hour trip, including a ferry – and no mountains to cross. If you're coming from the east (Oslo, for instance) you will have to go across the mountains – a great journey, but roads may be closed in the winter.



Convenient

Bring your own car (or a rental) is very convenient, but no must at Gulen Dive Resort. Mobile homes are welcome!



Drive from Oslo

Several different routes that all pass over the mountains. The quickest ones are usually RV7+RV52 or E16. Driving from Oslo usually takes about nine hours, but it may take longer in the winter or in bad weather. Road and traffic updates can be found at www.175.no.

Want to drive?

Getting to Gulen by car is not hard at all, you just need to know where you're going. On our website you'll find detailed directions thanks to Google Maps.

If you're driving from Oslo you will have a great journey through the mountains and pass through the longest car tunnel in the world in Lærdal.

In the summer driving is a breeze. If you're visiting us during the winter months, please make sure you have proper tires as it may be snow and ice when you cross from east to west.

On the west coast the climate is milder and driving conditions are usually better.

A few times a year the magic northern light
Aurora borealis can be seen in the skies above Gulen.

Download a free story
about diving in Gulen



gulendiveresort.com/stories

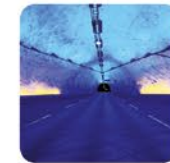


Explore Bergen

When you visit Gulen Dive Resort, you're most likely passing through Bergen on the way. We encourage you to see some of the city's sights – perhaps you should plan an extra day!

Bergen is an international city packed with history and tradition. There's a pretty good aquarium, and the outdoor fish market is a must during the summer months.

You also have to see Bryggen, an old hanseatic wharf which is on the UNESCO World Heritage List. Explore the gateway to the fjords, before or after your visit to Gulen Dive Resort.



Bryggen



Kjøttbasaren

The old meat market has been converted into a bustling downtown gourmet hangout. Both meat, fish and local produce is sold and served. It's worth a visit even if you don't plan to buy anything – just enjoy the smells and sights, and maybe a free taste if you're lucky!

Culture and history

Bergen has been welcoming visitors for more than 900 years. The city is buzzing with life, especially in the summer when it is a busy cruise port.

Dozens of languages are spoken at the famous fish market, where you can sample the local delicacies.

Bergen's hanseatic heritage manifests itself at the old wharf called Bryggen, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Explore quirky little shops and see handicraft and artwork being made.

Bergen offers plenty of options for accommodation, from five-star hotels to cheap hostels and rental apartments.

More into at www.visitbergen.com



UNESCO Heritage Site

The old hanseatic wharf is a must even if you only have an hour to spare. Why not have a cold beer in the sun?



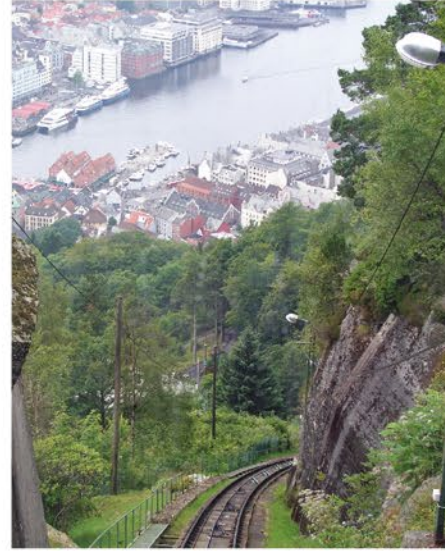
Explore the alleyways

Exploring the backyards and narrow alleyways at Bryggen is exciting. Local artists and craftsmen have their small shops where they produce knitwear, pottery, glassware and many other things. In the front, shops offer souvenirs, fashion and other goods.



Fløibanen

The famous Fløibanen is an extremely steep funicular railroad which takes you to the top of the mountain Fløien, where you can enjoy both a spectacular view of Bergen and the surrounding area. The station is downtown, just a hundred meters or so from Bryggen.



Steep? You bet!

Fløibanen is a one-of-a-kind experience, and a must if you have a few hours to spare in Bergen.



Poseidon

Bergen's proud maritime history dates back to the vikings. Poseidon, the god of the ocean, watches over the city.



Great view

The view from Fløien is spectacular on a clear day. You can see all of Bergen and the surrounding area, and even have lunch or dinner at the restaurant at the top before heading back to the city to sample the buzzing nightlife or enjoy a visit to the aquarium.





Fish Market



Norwegian lobster

This particular kind of crayfish lives deeper than 40 meters, usually on muddy bottom where it digs its hide. Divers rarely encounter this crustacean unless they seek it out. Unlike the lobster, this species is bright red even before being cooked – and it tastes delicious.



Fresh fish and shellfish

Bergen's fish market offer almost any kind of fish you can think of. Enjoy the sounds, smells, sights and tastes of the fish market!



Red king crab

This internationally acclaimed delicacy is fished in northern Norway, after being introduced by the Russians in the 1960-ies.

Local delicacies

The fish market is a must-see during the summer months. Earlier it closed in the winter, but now there's even an indoor market in the building housing the tourist information at the dock.

Tourists and locals alike are drawn to the fish market to get a meal, try a local delicacy or just to have a look around.

Fresh fish and shellfish are brought in every morning by local fishermen, and the abundance of cod, hake, haddock, monkfish, mackerel, wolffish, crabs, crayfish, scallops and last but not least salmon is almost overwhelming.

Fresh seafood platters and sandwiches are served by several vendors, so you don't have to go hungry.



Caviar

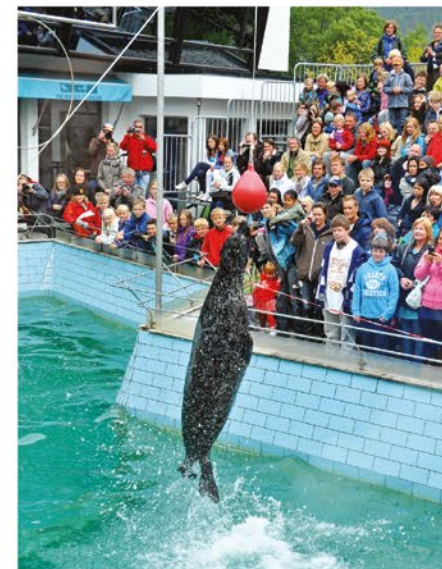
This product is not made from sturgeon, but from lumpsucker eggs. It's very tasty and a must when you want to be posh.

Bergen Aquarium



Give me fish!

The seals in Bergen Aquarium are trained to do various tricks, and several times a day there's a show which is much appreciated, especially among the kids. After performing their stunts the seals are rewarded a treat – something they seem to know all too well...



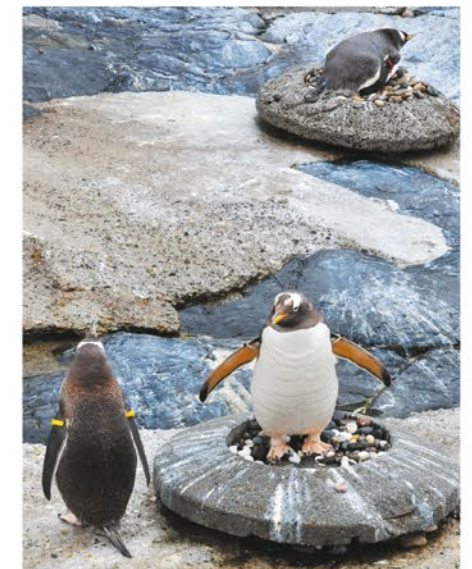
Showing off

Every few hours, the harbor seals show off their incredible skills in the outdoor pool – much to the delight of the crowd.



Anarhichas lupus

The wolffish tank is very popular, and if you're lucky you may experience these ugly fish in the wild at Gulen Dive Resort.



Cute penguins

Another favorite is the outdoor penguin area, where you can experience these funny-looking, flightless birds close up.

Traditional aquarium

Bergen Aquarium may not be the biggest in the world, but to the people of Bergen it's an institution. Everyone has visited it when they were in school, and now they go back with their kids again and again.

When it opened in 1960 it was considered to be the largest and most modern aquarium in Northern Europe. Some time has passed since then, but new attractions have also been added.

Today, Bergen Aquarium offers several tanks displaying the marine life of Norway, a fun touch-pool for the kids, tropical fish tanks, a shark tunnel, cute and playful seals, penguins and even some snakes and crocodiles.

More info: www.akvariet.no





Photo: Ørjan Sandnes



Experience Camp Gulen

Scuba diving is not the only thing to do at Gulen. Through our adventure concept Camp Gulen you can experience a lot of other activities and get close to nature in the fjords.

We offer high-speed RIB safaris, lighthouse safari, hiking, kayaking, deep-sea fishing, watersports and a chance to experience the local culture. Just tell us what you want to do!

The area at the mouth of the Sognefjord is known around the world for its beautiful scenery, and the area offers wildlife like sea eagles, orcas and seals.



RIB fjord safari



Photo: Brian Sandnes



Photo: Casper Tybjerg

Fast, open RIBs

Our boats are equipped with powerful twin outboard engines and has a cruising speed of over 30 knots. The top speed is classified! We guarantee that you will have a thrilling ride and experience the forces of nature first hand.

RIB Fjord Safari

What better way to explore and experience the fjords? With our fast RIB you get a thrilling ride through narrow sounds and straits while taking in the amazing fjord scenery.

We offer trips of different lengths, and depending on the weather we also go out to the coast for more fun and action.

The Gulen area has 1.500 islands and we have plenty of places to go. Very often we see sea eagles along the way. There are also numerous places where we can go ashore.

A RIB safari is fast and action-packed, but we also sometimes go slow to experience animals or birds close up.



Photo: Endre Hopland, Nordhordland Avis

Thrilling rides

Going faster than everyone else is always fun! You really get close to nature on the RIB fjord safari.



Photo: Havsportvekt, Oceanordic

Safe fun

The adrenaline is pumping when we let all the horsepower loose and dart across the water. Goggles and warm safety suits are provided to make sure the experience is pleasant and safe. Look forward to jumping on the waves!

Lighthouse Safari



Photo: Kari Midtgård Råsberg



Experience nature and history

On the lighthouse safari speed is not the main focus. We still use our big RIB, because it is a safe and comfortable boat – and don't worry, we'll speed up to the max here too! At the lighthouses we go ashore and take our time to explore and take pictures.

Lighthouse Safari

The Gulen area has a long coastline, dotted with over 1.500 islands with narrow straits and treacherous reefs that have been causing problems for ships for many centuries.

To ensure a safe passage many lighthouses have been set up, some of them so picturesque you'd think they were placed there solely for that purpose.

On a lighthouse safari we visit two or three of the outermost lighthouses, and may even have lunch or dinner at one of them.

We normally visit the lighthouses at Utvær, Hellisøy and others in the area depending on the weather.



Photo: Ørjan Sandnes

Hellisøy lighthouse

One of the westernmost lighthouses in Norway, the red and white tower stands 32 meters tall and was built in 1855.



Spectacular scenery

We're not just seeing lighthouses on this trip – great scenery sort of comes with the territory anyway. What better way to end the day than cruising home under the a dazzling sunset like this? Join us at Camp Gulen and see what we have to offer!

Kayaking

With more than 1.500 islands, the Gulen area is a kayaking Eldorado.

Photo: Havsportveka/Oceanordic



Get close to nature

You rarely get as close to the elements as you do when you're in a kayak. You get into the rhythm, and almost effortlessly glide across the water.

The Gulen area has more than 1.500 islands, and is an Eldorado for kayaking.

You can always find calm water, and paddling through picturesque narrow sounds and in-between small islets and skerries gets you close to nature.

Being silent, you also have a great chance to happen upon sea eagles and other birds.

Gulen is a great place for both beginners and experienced kayakers!

Don't know how? We'll teach you!

Don't worry, kayaking is not very difficult, and as soon as you learn the basics you will be ready to paddle off on your own to explore and enjoy wildlife and beautiful scenery. It's fun, good for your health and gives you great encounters with nature.



Photo: Ørjan Sandnes

Great starting point

Gulen Dive Resort is a great starting point for kayaking trips, with numerous routes right at the doorstep.



Photo: Havsportveka/Oceanordic

Fun for everyone

Anyone can learn how to handle a kayak. This is a great outdoors activity for kids and adults alike, and with the help of an instructor (should you need one) you'll be off in no time. We have sturdy, lightweight kayaks that are suited for use in the ocean.



The King Olav statue

At Skjerjehamn the famous statue of King Olav V by artist Knut Steen is standing tall, greeting seafarers coming north or south.



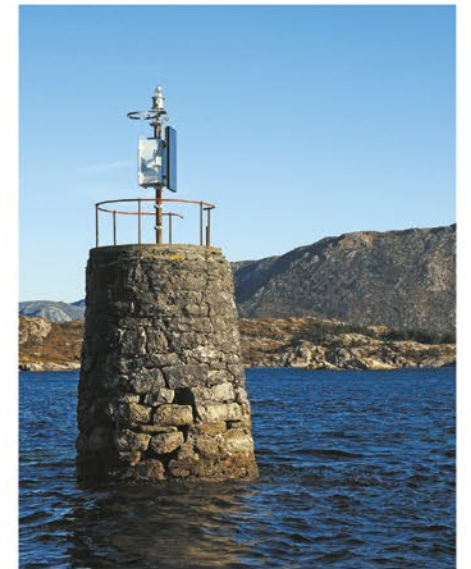
Authentic coastal communities

Small, idyllic settlements are found all along the coastline. Here people live make a living from what nature has to offer. Fishing boats, salmon farms and picturesque houses at the shoreline attract attention as you pass by.



Picturesque scenery

If you join one of our RIB safaris or set out on your own in a kayak, the almost endless sounds and straits among the 1.500 islands outside Gulen Dive Resort offers a lot to explore. Breathtaking scenery and natural beauty, as well as picturesque houses.



Maritime culture

Norwegians have always been a seafaring people, which is evident in the culture along the coast and in the fjords.

Gulating

The owners of Gulen Dive Resort, Ørjan and Monica, got married at Gulating in 2009.



Stone monument

Just 20 minutes from Gulen Dive Resort you can experience the spectacular stone monument at Gulating. The huge stones resemble swords, standing several meters tall. The area also offers a beautiful walk.

Viking heritage

Over a thousand years ago, the Viking kings of Norway used to meet at Gulating, a stone's throw from Gulen Dive Resort, to settle matters regarding law and order, trade and property.

At Gulating they laid down the law which is the basis of the modern democracies of Scandinavia.

Visiting this local heritage site is a must when you stay at Gulen Dive Resort.

The spectacular stone monument at the site is especially beautiful in the evening sun. Remember to bring your camera!



The oldest cross?

This thousand year old stone cross is a national heritage, and certainly one of the oldest stone crosses in the world.



Viking wedding

Getting married at Gulating is very popular. This image is from the wedding of the owners of Gulen Dive Resort, Ørjan Sandnes and Monica Bakkeli, which took place in September 2009 with both their families present – and dressed like vikings.

Early winter mornings may offer spectacular views.



Download a free story
about diving in Gulen!



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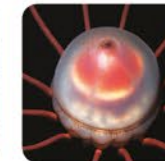


Want to read more?

Over the years, several stories about Gulen Dive Resort have been published in various dive magazines around the world – in many different languages.

We have put together links to some of the stories on our website. Here you can read more about diving in Gulen in general, the nudibranchs, periphylla and of course the wrecks.

If you want to know more about Gulen Dive Resort and what we have to offer, this is a very good place to start. You're of course also welcome to get in touch with us any time!



www.gulendiveresort.com/stories

GULEN

Dykkesenter

-Luft fylling -Dykketurer
-Skole -Utleie -Butikk

www.gulen-dykkesenter.com





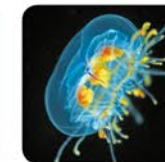
Photo: Ørjan Sandnes

About this book

This book is meant as an inspiration to divers and underwater photographers around the world to come and discover the magic underwater realm of Gulen Dive Resort in Norway.

Great diving is found many places. Very few offer the variety both in terms of marine life, WWII wrecks and underwater habitats as Gulen does.

The images in this book were photographed by Christian Skauge, unless otherwise indicated. He is also did the layout and wrote the text, and is responsible for any mistakes therein.



www.scubapixel.com

A great, big thanks to Ørjan and Monica, the owners of Gulen Dive Resort, without whom this book would never have been made. Thank you also to their dive center manager Guido Schmitz for his patience and help along the way. Dive safely!

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www.divegulen.com