

Grotta dei Gamberi

A gigantic submerged cave covered by a carpet of unicorn shrimps in an environment decorated by enchanting light plays.

This *dive site* is located on the southwestern coast of the island of *Ustica*, at “*Punta Galera*”. Here, a tongue of land that forms a rocky ridge divides the bay into two adjacent coves.

The *dive* starts with a descent in the shallow waters of the cove. Following the contours of the rocky ridge towards the open *sea*, we arrive at a submerged buoy; this is where the sloping reef of “*Punta Galera*” commences. From this point, we descend straight towards the base of the reef, reaching a depth of 40m, where on a sandy seabed the big mouth of the *cave* appears.

Inside the *cave*, we can admire the carpets of *unicorn shrimp* that are found on each and every of its rock formations, walls and ceilings. Other species we can encounter here are *lobsters*, various types of *crabs*, *conger eels* and a few brown *hakes* that enthusiastically satisfy their hunger with *shrimps*. Don't forget to take a minute to admire the astonishing play of lights and *emerald* colours presented at the mouth of the cave.

The exit of the *cave* is located between a collection of big boulders and a gorgeous arch facing the open sea. From here we start our ascend along the contours of the sloping reef of *Punta Galera*, where we can take some time admiring shoals of *seabream* and *blue runners* or explore the reef for *nudibranchs*, *sea stars*, *pencil sea urchins*, *octopuses*, cuttlefish, *moray eels*, *pipefish* and *lobsters*.

Characteristics of the dive Grotta dei Gamberi

Type: Cave

Certification Requirement: Tec40, PADI/DAN X Deep

Recommended Certification: Tec 40 Diver

Difficulty Level: High

Depth: 38-40m

Duration: 40-60 min

Typical encounters: unicorn shrimp, crab, lobster, conger eel, hake

Notes: Good visibility, possible weak current