

Sutta za' Lisa

A dive spot, known for its steep vertical reef wall facing the blue, where pelagic species frequently are encountered.

This *dive site* is situated in a cove in close proximity of the “*Grotta delle Cipree*”, on the south-western side of the island of *Ustica*. We start our *dive* with a descend on the shallow seabed of this cove. Following the contours of the coast, passing pinnacles of rock formations and strips of *posidonia* sea grass, we arrive at a large horizontal fissure in the *reef*. Swimming through this fissure we can admire the orange tints of the *sponges* and *corals*, accentuated by the play of lights of the sunbeams shining around the irregular formations of the rocks. It is also an interesting place to explore for *slipper lobsters*, *hermit crabs* and *dotted nudibranchs*.

The exit of the fissure brings us on the edge of this dramatic vertical *drop-off*, facing the blue of the open *sea*. *Orange corals*, *yellow cluster anemones* and *yellow gorgonians* colour this reef walls surface. Its crevices hide *sea stars*, *sea urchins* and *spider crabs* perfectly mimicked with environment as their carapaces are covered with plucks of algae. Clouds of *damselfish* decorate the blue waters, where an occasional *barracuda*, *amberjack* or *tuna* swims by.

The *reef wall* ends in a small bay; a valley reaching from 10m to 25m of depth that is covered with boulders. Exploring the seabed, we can find *nudibranchs* such as the *purple nudibranch* or the *pilgrim hermia*, while shoals of *seabream* accompany us in the water. On our return towards the dive boat, at a depth of 10m we find a tunnel shaped opening in the rocks of about 15m long. This cave is an interesting place to visit, looking for *groupers*, *slipper lobsters* and various other types of *crustaceans*.

Characteristics of the dive

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Type: Reef wall / Fissure / Cave

Certification Requirement: OWD

Recommended Certification: AOWD

Difficulty Level: Low – Medium

Depth: 10-30m

Duration: 50-60 min

Typical encounters: Slipper lobster, hermit crab, nudibranch, grouper, crab, amberjack, tuna, seabream

Notes: Good visibility, possible weak current