

The First Deep Exploration of the Gulf of Aqaba



Hawkes Ocean Technologies, in conjunction with the Royal Films Commission of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, is conducting an expedition, using the DeepFlight Super Falcon submersible, in the first exploration below diver depths of the Gulf of Aqaba.

WHAT: 5 day scientific survey of the Gulf of Aqaba to survey the Jordanian shoreline.

The Super Falcon will be flown to depths of 300 feet in water known for its clarity (100+ feet), coral reefs and colorful fish life. The scientific survey is followed by 10 days of VIP dives.

WHEN: April 16-20 2011

WHERE: Based out of Aqaba Jordan:

29° 31' 54" N, 35° 0' 20" E



BRIEF DETAILS

The Expedition: The expedition is being carried out by Hawkes Ocean Technologies, in partnership with the Royal Films Commission of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. The expedition will be in 2 parts: Scientific survey of Gulf of Aqaba below diver depths and VIP/public outreach dives

Gulf of Aqaba: The Gulf of Aqaba is a large Gulf of the Red Sea, located to the east of the Sinai Peninsula and to the west of the Arabian Peninsula. Israel, Egypt, Jordan and Saudi Arabia all have coastlines on the Gulf of Aqaba. A commitment to preserve and protect the region's fragile environment has resulted in cooperation between all its border nations.

The Gulf of Aqaba is one of the world's premier diving locations. The absence of stormy weather, along with the mild water currents contribute to clear waters. The area is especially rich in coral and other marine biodiversity. The Red Sea's unique marine ecosystem includes about 110 species of soft corals, 120 species of hard corals and countless varieties of brightly colored fish and other invertebrates. This, combined with the Gulf's depth and its isolation of sea currents, make it one of the most rewarding scuba diving and snorkeling spots in the world.



Gulf of Aqaba, Coral Reef

The Submersible: The expedition will be utilizing the DeepFlight Super Falcon #0001, the 4th generation winged submersible designed and built by Graham Hawkes. The submersible is unique in its capacity for underwater flight which enables the range and speed needed for cost effective ocean exploration.

Location: Aqaba is an historic port in Southern Jordan. The city has been inhabited since 4000 BC and historically profited from its strategic location at the juncture of trading routes between Asia, Africa, and Europe. Its more recent history harkens back to Laurence of Arabia and the founding of the modern Arabian Peninsula..

Personalities: The expedition will be led by renowned marine engineer/explorer, Graham Hawkes, best known for developing the DeepFlight series of winged submersibles. The scientific survey will be coordinated with leading members of Jordan's marine science community.

Lastly, there will be invited guests for VIP dives in the Gulf of Aqaba.