



Blue Kingdom



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Rabigh

Sha'ab Almutarbeg (SS Despina Wreck)

Top Dive Time

45-60 Min

Distance

KM From

Skills

Beginners Advanced Snorkellers Free Diving

Built in 1907 for the purpose of cargo transport, the SS Despina was a Greek steamer carrying coal from Calcutta to Port Said when it met its fateful end in 1952. An explosion occurred somewhere in the ship, which started a fire and caused the ship to run aground in the Red Sea, about 20NM off the coast of Rabigh. Now sitting along the Sha'ab Almutarbeg reef, the SS Despina is more than just a shipwreck; it's a must-see for divers with a penchant for both history and marine exploration. That's because the SS Despina has become a living, breathing ecosystem.

Having spent more than half a century steeped in water, the ship has been absorbed by its surrounding environment and has become an artificial reef, providing shelter and sanctuary to a variety of marine life. Swimming alongside them, divers will find red snappers, sweetlips, grouper fish and even stingrays. Most unique, however, is the sergeant major fish, which can be found in large shoals around the ship. Having made the SS Despina its home, the ship is full of this colourful creature's eggs. Characterised by its distinctive colouration, with a dark blue-black body and yellow or white stripes running horizontally along its sides, these herbivoro



Coordinates
22°33'22"N
38°55'7"E

Entry
-
-

Exit
-
-

Coast Guard

994

Ambulance

997