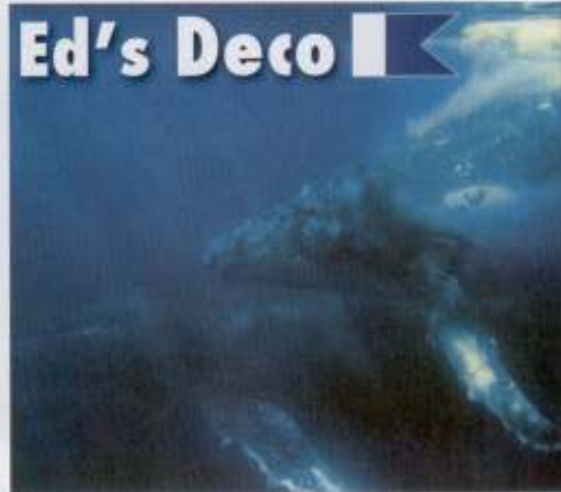


Ed's Deco



Taking my dive gear and jumping on a plane or in a car is part of my life, and after a number of years with *Divesstyle* it takes a lot to impress me. It is fair to say that I am spoiled. Yet earlier this year I experienced something underwater that will be definitely one of the highlights of my life and maybe an experience that will be difficult to beat.

I went to Zavora to do an article and had some of the most amazing dives of my life – it was surely one of the best trips that I had ever had on our coastline. Yet one dive stands out head and shoulders above the rest. We were diving on one of the reefs that is home to a Manta cleaning station, and after the dive, as we were finishing the safety stop and waiting for the boat to pick us up, I heard a noise behind me.

When I turned around there was three whales just 4m from me. I immediately put my mask on and looked underwater. There they were – two adult Humpback whales and their baby calf just floating in the water next to us. The whale that I presumed was the father dropped down and circled before coming up behind me. I could feel the thrust underwater of the tailfin as it went down. At that stage I felt very small in this vast ocean with these massive animals surrounding me.

Then it was time for the baby to come and say hello. The calf swam straight up to me and gave me the eyehall before going back to his


mother. He then swam up to me again for a second look – I got the feeling that he went to his mother to ask what the hell this thing was in his water. The second time, when the calf was not even 3m from me, his mother decided that that was close enough and swam between the baby and I. At that stage I had to start moving away from them and they disappeared into the blue waters.

As I lay in the water after this experience, I was recounting the events and trying to make sure that it had really happened. Had it all been a dream? Would people believe my story? Luckily I had my camera with me and took photographs the whole time. Looking back at the pictures I captured before I got back on the boat, I knew that it was not a dream, and as the old saying goes, a photograph doesn't lie.

May you have a fantastic holiday season and make your own memories in the water. Merry Christmas and Godspeed.

The Editor

Johan Boshoff

Dream it – Dive it – Live it 





that we wanted to do and were we wanted to go. We decided that first on our list would be the wreck of the Klipfontein.

Helium is, however, a scarce resource and at this stage too expensive to supply. Fortunately Mox came on board and graciously sponsored the gas required for our dives. They have proven to be a mainstay when it comes to supplying and sponsoring gasses, such as

oxygen and helium for diving. The dive centre also has a 9m semi-rigid inflatable boat that will take on the roughest seas, and because of its size, makes for easy kitting up of up to four divers as there is enough space available to get your trim set on your back and also to get your back-up cylinders clipped on. My initial feeling was one of skepticism as I have never done a tech dive from a boat.



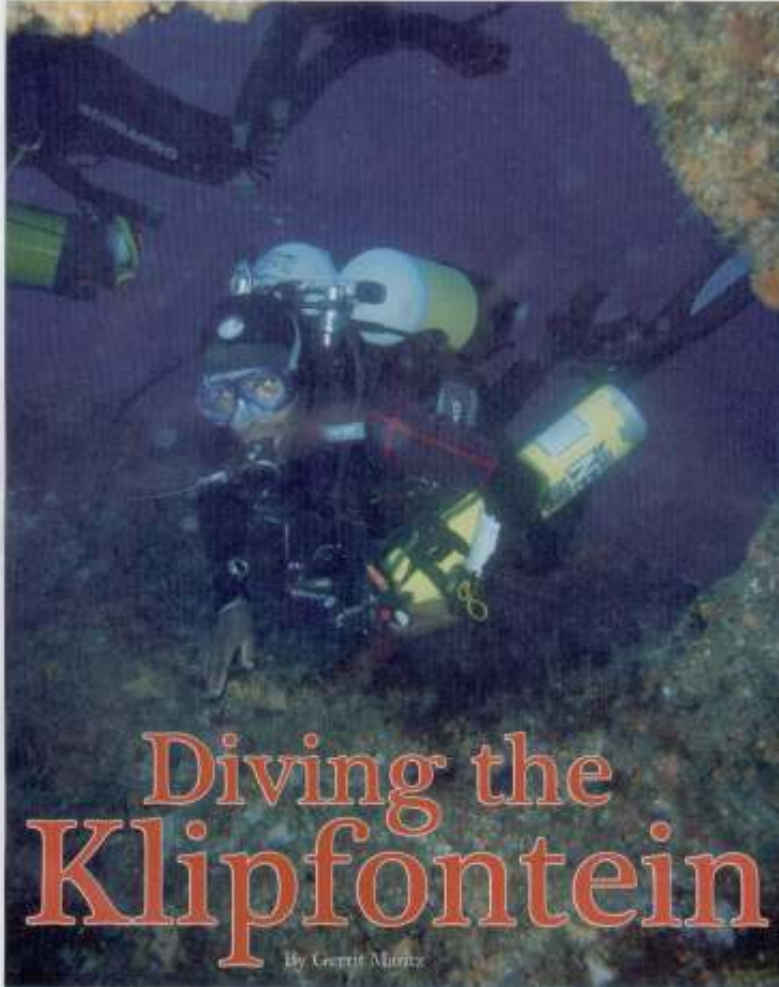
The thought of struggling with a twin set on your back and several more cylinders attached to your harness was not a good one, but after the helpful staff assisted us with kitting up it ended up being a rather pleasant experience.

Soon it was time for us to dive and the countdown started for us to do our backwards roll. On "go" we all hit the water and we began our descent to the bottom. Keeping an eye on my computer we soon reached 50m and Jon, the dive leader for the dive, tied his reel onto the stern of the wreck. We then began our exploration of the first part of the wreck. The visibility was not as we expected but still good enough to see the very large propeller of the Klipfontein and the upturned stern. The wreck has been there for a long time and has turned into a very good example of an artificial reef. Fish life abounds and we were given a surprise visit by some Mantas and a school of Barracuda towards the end of our stay at the bottom. There are also some

resident Brindle bass on the wreck, and don't be surprised if you run into one of them when you decide to penetrate the wreck. All too soon it was time to deploy our buoys and for us to start our ascent to the surface. I am sure it will be a spectacular sight if you are to dive the wreck when the visibility is really good and you are able to take in the massive size of the Klipfontein.

We were soon on the surface after our compulsory decompression stops and were helped out of the water and on board in no time. This for us was a great experience and one that will only stand us in good stead for future technical dives that will no doubt be undertaken in the sea, whether it be to drive a new wreck or just a deep blue dive to test our skills. Who knows, there might even be an opportunity to do a dive to triple digits... For more information, call +258-82-703-0750 (MOZ)/082-360-6009 (SA). Alternatively, email divezvota@gmail.com or visit www.mozdivers.com 





Diving the Klipfontein

By Geoff Minter

When we start out diving, our main ambition is to do our Open Water course, and usually most divers progress to the next level – an Advanced Diver qualification. When you decide like I did to go the whole nine yards and progress to the Technical level, you soon realise that opportunities to do proper tech diving are few and far between.

Sure, for technical divers there are places like Komati Springs and Wondergat, but how often can you dive these sites without getting, dare I say, bored? The other options are not always as easy to get to as these sites in South Africa. Chinoyi Caves in Zimbabwe is a great destination but endless planning is required and the sites in Namibia are two days drive away, although these dive sites are all worth diving if you do have the resources.

The other option is to go to a place we all love and where travelling is relatively easy – I am of course referring to Mozambique. You may be wondering what I'm on about, surely Mozambique does not have such sites? I was also pleasantly surprised.



Zavora and the Klipfontein

On a recent trip to Zavora (Inhambane Province), which is approximately 100km south of Inhambane itself, technical diving was on the cards. The trip was planned purely for technical diving, but due to the fact that there are so many unspoilt reefs, recreational diving was worked into the schedule too. Zavora is an as yet undiscovered diving destination and the main draw card for us was the wreck of the Klipfontein.

The Klipfontein is a 160m long Dutch passenger/cargo ship built in 1939 in Rotterdam. The Klipfontein started her career on the India-California route and was used as a Pacific Trooper from 1942. After being returned

to its owners in 1946 it was in service in an around Africa.

She sank on January 8, 1953 without the loss of any lives and lies six kilometres off-shore. There are many stories relating to her sinking - some say she sunk after having struck an "unidentified underwater object", presumably a German U-Boat, while another story is that she sunk during a race with a fellow German ship. Last but not least, many think that she sunk after hitting a submerged reef.

As she sank she keeled over and broke in half, coming to rest upside-down in two separate sections, on a bottom of 52m. Both sections of the wreck of the Klipfontein come up to a depth of 34m.

Whatever the reason, Zavora ended up having a

great wreck where you can do technical diving, and one that has formed a stunning deep-water artificial reef system that offers some amazing dive opportunities on both the fore and aft sections. Copper, coins and old wine bottles have also been found on and around the very large wreck.

Enough about the wreck and more on the amazing location that is Zavora. On arriving at Zavora after most of the day behind the wheel we were greeted by Jon Wright and Danny Russell. What a friendly bunch of people they are - they were very helpful and soon we had unpacked our vehicles and our kit and cylinders were placed in the secure store room for safe keeping until the morning. Thereafter we sat down to do

the all important dive planning for the next day and the three days that followed.

Jon and Danny were happy to have us and gave us a quick rundown of the facilities and dive sites. The dive centre is rigged for tech diving and they are the only IANTD dive centre in Mozambique. Jon is an accomplished technical diver and instructor with many years experience diving in Mozambique and Danny has also been leading dives and instructing in the country. They have the capability of mixing Nitrox by means of continuous blending or by partial pressure blending. Oxygen is brought in from South Africa, which is a costly exercise, but prices remain reasonable. They gave us free reign and we could determine