

## SHELLY BEACH

**LOCATION:** Manly (NSW)

**DIVER RATING:** Open Water

**MAX DEPTH:** 12 Metres

**AVERAGE VIZ:** 8 Metres

**AVG DEPTH:** 10 Metres

**ACCESS VIA:** SHORE

### HOW TO FIND THE DIVE SITE

Entry from shore along the right side of the beach (facing the sea); you will be following the rocky wall on your right as you head out, and on your left as you head back.

### DIVE SITE DESCRIPTION

This site is very variable, and I have had great dives here, as well as days you feel you shouldn't have bothered. It is a West facing beach, so is generally protected when the Easterlies have blown out other sites. For this reason, and due to the relatively shallow site, it is often used by dive schools. Viz can vary from 3m, to 15m!

The best site is actually a lot further out than most people get to; your air consumption need not be fantastic, but shouldn't be poor either. Swim out following the rock wall to your right, until it turns Northwards and starts to peter out. Take a heading, and keep going following the remnants of the rock wall on the sea floor, and you should come to a kelp bed. Weedy seadragons are frequently found here, and the depth should not exceed 12m or so. On the way out and back, you will usually encounter several Eastern Blue Gropers hoping for a handout (don't!), as well as schools of Eastern Pomfred, Mados and often Pike; you should also see Red Morwongs, Goatfish in the sandy area, Flatheads and often Ludericks, Bannerfins and Old Wives. Looking under ledges, you'll find shrimps. If you are lucky, there is often a ball of juvenile Catfish around and a Lionfish has been hanging around the area. Port Jacksons and Giant Cuttlefish are common in season, although I haven't seen a Wobbegong for some time.

On your way back in, you might like to take a look at the old motorbike in the middle of the bay; the above dive should take about 50 minutes.

If your air consumption is good, keep going roughly the same heading, and in about 200m or so, you will come to several parallel reefs, with some interesting critters. Be aware that the return trip will take well over an hour even if you are quick.

### HAZARDS

Boat traffic, DMA: Lionfish

