



# Utila Diving



Utila, the smallest of the Bay Islands, offers a wide variety of easily accessible dive sites with varying underwater terrains. Sitting at the edge of the largest barrier reef in the Western Hemisphere, Utila's waters are teeming with colorful marine life. Utila has over 100 charted dive sites that include seamounts, shallow fringing reefs and plunging walls that circumnavigate the Cayman Trench.

The shallow fissures with sandy bottoms and beautiful purple coral gardens just off Utopia's shores will tantalize shore divers. Utopia truly has a world-class reef at its doorstep. Divers can expect to see Hawksbill turtles, Eagle Rays, Angel Fish, Spotted Drum, several types of Parrot Fish, Nudi Branch, lobster, octopus and more. The coral are

mature and healthy in this area including Pillar, Elkhorn, Staghorn, Barrel and varieties of soft corals.

Utila's crystal blue waters host over 90% of marine inhabitants found in the Caribbean, including schools of Blue Tang, Southern Sennets, Toad Fish, Bearded Fireworms, Arrow Crabs and scores of other brilliantly colored Tropical fish. Everything from a myriad of juvenile reef residents to the larger Whale Shark, Manta Rays, Goliath Grouper, Nurse Shark, and Moray Eels can be sighted.

The North side of Utila is best known for its volcanic rock drop-offs, which are considered deep dives. The upper edge of the wall begins anywhere from 55-85 feet, with each dive site having its own personality and marine growth. Inshore from the drop-offs, excellent medium to shallow coral reefs can be found with diving depths ranging from 20-55 feet which allows both novice and expert divers to enjoy the sites. Utila's waters also house three wreck sites in varying sizes and depths. With water temperatures averaging 80 degrees or warmer, gentle currents and 100 feet of underwater visibility, Utila will be a dive destination you will never forget.

