



Art Pickering's
Provo Turtle Divers

Scuba Diving • Resort/Dive Packages • Instruction • Reservations
FAQ • Mailing List • Guest Comments • Providenciales • Home Page

OVER 30 YEARS IN THE TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS • CALL 800-833-1341



[<Back](#)

"Smiths Reef" - Great Snorkeling From Shore



Smiths Reef, a shallow patch reef on the north shore of Provo, is one of a few shore-diving options the island has to offer for those divers who just can't get enough! It is a fairly large, circular patch reef that makes for an interesting if circumnavigated at a nice slow pace. Lots of overhangs and crevices holding lobsters, spider crabs and all kind fish. It is the most easily accessed shore dive, and it is only a five minute car ride from Provo Turtle Divers where you can pick up a full line of rental gear, or just a few tanks and weights if that is all you need, as well as the details on how to get there!

Once on the beach you will notice a series of orange float balls which have been placed there to mark the beginning of the snorkel trail that enhances the already beautiful reef. This is a series of tiles that are attached to Reef Balls with descriptions of the fish, invertebrates and corals that are most commonly seen. Although the trail is only a few months old, the Reef Balls are already getting a nice covering of algae, and it won't be too long before they will become home to corals and sponges. Fish have already moved in.

The first balls are only in about 6 ft. of water. As you swim along you will hit the a small patch reef in 10 - 12 ft. At that point you are about 20 yards off shore. Here are some really nice finger and pencil coral formations full of juvenile corals. As you continue towards the main reef you come to gentle sand slope that drops down to the deepest part of the reef (around 22ft). Look carefully, there are often big southern stingrays buried in the sand. As you cross the sand 'road' towards the face of the reef, look both ways as you may have to give way to a squadron of eagle rays passing through. As many as 23 have been spotted at one time. There can be a fairly strong current in this area, so be careful. From the main head, go west (for those who actually know how to use a compass!!), or right (for those who don't!) for about 20yds until you see another large coral head. Hiding in there somewhere is a HUGE green moray, search for him carefully while, he's difficult to find. As you swim around this head you will see a large patch of turtle grass to the east. The

3 resident turtles which are often seen grazing in the grass beds. Eventually you'll end up back where you started deep sandy roadway.

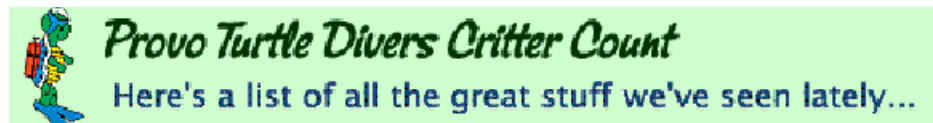
Smiths Reef is a great demonstration of the effects of tides. If you dive it on high slack the vis can be great, on an going tide the vis drops, and the current picks up. If the barrier reef is breaking, and the wind is high, the chances strong current are greater. Check in at the office to find out what the tides are doing. If you're not sure, it's always good idea to snorkel the area first to assess the conditions. It's much easier to walk back up the beach in snorkel than it is in full dive gear!!

[<Back](#)

[Main Dive Site Map](#)

[Dive Site Descriptions](#)

[Shark Hotel](#) - [The Crack](#) - [Smith's Reef](#) - [Football Field](#) - [Eagle Ray Pass](#) - [Hole in the Wall](#)



[Home](#) -- [Resort/Dive Packages](#) -- [Rates & Info](#) -- [Meet the Staff](#) -- [Specials](#) -- [Reservations](#)
[Photo of the Week](#) -- [Sight of the Month](#) -- [Featured Dive Site](#) -- [Dive Sites](#) -- [Dive Site Maps](#)
[Photo Gallery](#) -- [Critter Corner](#) -- [Dive Boats](#) -- [PADI Instruction](#) -- [Group Packages](#) -- [FAQ](#)
[About Provo](#) -- [Links](#) -- [Guest Comments](#) -- [Archives](#) -- [Scuba Mailing List](#) -- [Contest Winner](#)



Art Pickering's Provo Turtle Divers

Call Direct To The Island: 649-946-4232 Fax: 649-941-5296
 Open 7 days/week, 8am -5pm EST

Toll Free To Our US Booking Office: **800-833-1341**

e-mail direct to the island: ProvoTurtleDivers@Provo.net



Web Site Contents, Design, Construction and Hosting by [Provo.net](#)
 P.O. Box 41, Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Islands, B.W.I.
 A Gem of Golden Beaches Amidst a Turquoise Sea
 ©1997-2002 Provo Net Ltd. - All Rights Reserved

PROVO.net

Discover the Turks and Caicos Islands with Us..

SearchTCI.com