

**Cozumel Diving
Post-Wilma Update & Special Offer**

WE SURVIVED!!!
Wilma can't stop us!



Dive Cozumel and the crew of the Yellow Rose appreciate the concerns of all those who send their kindest regards. We wanted to take the opportunity to post a general announcement and let everyone that all is well.

Hurricane Wilma

Wilma hovered over Cozumel for more than 50 hours generating winds of 150 mph and gusts of 190 mph with little reprieve during the eye. Needless to say, the damage seriously compromised the infrastructure of the island yet despite the severity of the hurricane and extent of the damage, we are cleaning up nicely.

Dive Cozumel / Yellow Rose Status

First, our crew is happily of sound mind and body (well, at least as sound as we were before!). Second, we are proud to report that the Yellow Rose sustained no damage during Wilma. We consider ourselves very fortunate, because more than half of the boats here sunk or suffered significant damage. Third, at our downtown facility, three panes of glass broke which have promptly been replaced, and we even have electricity!

Cozumel Hotels, Reefs and Recovery

Information regarding the hotels has been mixed and sometimes inaccurate, and we suggest that you verify any hearsay by calling direct and checking *official* hotel websites (compiled lists on the web show some unintentional inaccuracies). Most hotels report that they will open anywhere from mid-November to February and later of 2006. Most of the waterfront hotels lost their piers making it impossible to load/unload divers. Several other piers were damaged or destroyed. Aldora Pier, which services the Yellow Rose, is accessible but has damage. You should expect longer recovery for waterfront hotels; however, just as soon as power is restored downtown, many local hotels in town will open within one month.

Condition of the reefs~ a big question. So far and so soon after the hurricane, not so many people have dove yet, but the few that have report sand on the reef and some broken sponges and soft corals. After Emily, we saw some natural debris from the land too. The National Marine Park, to whom divers pay a daily fee to dive in Cozumel, is surveying the reef condition and together with the diving community here, is developing strategies for reef conservation going forward. In addition, Marine Park officials are recruiting volunteers to aid in the clean up of the reef after the hurricane. The Yellow Rose, tanks, time and crew volunteered to assist.

The fish are here, and so is the Gulf Stream. Over time and with our help, the strong currents here will gently sweep the reef clean.

How Can I Help?

The community efforts are amazing, and we are rapidly on our way to recovery. Many of you have asked what you can do to help. Certainly the local people are in need of donations such as clothing, bedding, children's toys and clothes, canned goods, etc., and if you are so inclined to carry items here, be assured they will go to good use.

For those of us in the dive and tourism industry, our greatest hope is that you'll return for a visit very soon. Operators suggest that you make your reservations early in the event that your first choice is not available as well as to assist us in logistically preparing for your arrival. We advise waiting to arrive until we have power all over downtown. Two weeks after Wilma, we are about 90% downtown. If you currently have reservations, please do not jump the gun and cancel immediately. Be in touch with us or someone for current, local updates. The Cozumel paradise that you love needs your support now more than ever. Dive Cozumel is offering a post Wilma dive special to make your next trip more attractive.

Imagine...

In the days prior to cruise ships and big all-inclusive hotel resorts, Cozumel was a quaint diver's paradise. Why not take advantage of an opportunity to experience the Cozumel of the past during this time of quiet restoration? Stay downtown close to your favorite restaurants, dive operators and the zocalo (town square). Have coffee and breakfast on the town square, and after a full day of diving, dine on authentic Mexican cuisine or fresh conch ceviche and shrimp cocktail at a local fishing family's restaurant. Finish your evening with a walk along the Malecon, a lively and colorful place to watch the beautiful sun set. Relive the old Caribbean feeling of the Cozumel of the past!



WILMA DIVE SPECIAL

In order to facilitate remediation and increase cash flow during the recovery period as well as better prepare for the upcoming season, we are offering a post-Wilma special on diving.

**RECEIVE A 20% DISCOUNT FOR PREPAID DIVING SERVICES
RESERVE BETWEEN NOW AND APRIL 30, 2006
PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED BY DEC 15, 2005**

Note to Dive Retailers: Please inquire~ Dive Cozumel may honor previously negotiated rates and provide services for those groups whose operators are not functional for the time required.