

Aldora's Windward Adventures

One Island...Two Destinations

For many years, the island of Cozumel has been recognized as among the Western Hemisphere's best dive locations. It also has been a Mecca for cruise ship passengers, and just lots of tourists who have grown to love its people, beaches and culture. There is no wonder that it has been a favorite destination resort.

Over these years of growing popularity, virtually all activities have been on the western side of the island and that has been for good reason. The Western side is where the town center is, where the ferry lands passengers from the mainland, and where cruise ships can anchor or dock in normally placid waters. Also the dive sites made famous by Jacques Cousteau are located on the southwest side of Cozumel, and the normally smooth waters makes for easy diving, even for the novices.

For the east, or windward side where the open Caribbean first touches Cozumel, it has been the posture of the government owned electrical service, to prevent electrification thereby limiting development without having to infringe on the rights of property owners. Also, less than half of the windward side beaches are accessible by road, so for the most part the windward side has missed the development that has changed much of the Mayan Riviera.

For diving on the windward side it has long been known that there are some interesting dive sites, including Spanish wrecks to be explored. However the lack of facilities to support dive boats and the frequently rough seas, have prevented more than the occasional adventuring risk taker from enjoying the Caribbean side diving. The result has been that there are really two Cozumel's, one the bustling Westside and town, the other wild and remote but with little opportunity for enjoyment of its unique beauty.

Aldora Divers/Windward Adventures

In 2004 we at Aldora Divers formed a new entity, Windward Adventures and placed a dive boat on the east side. It was found that in spite of claims of local knowledge by many in Cozumel, no one we could find really knew much about the diving there so we had to do it ourselves. Using GPS, Sonar and other sophisticated navigational equipment we began charting and evaluating dive sites hoping to be able to provide safe yet exciting diving to the general public. Interrupted longer than we wanted by the storms of 2005, our search has found many locations that are unique and truly inspiring, even for us seasoned Cozumel Divers. Among the most interesting sites are the recently discovered wreck of a Spanish Galleon that had been buried in sand but was uncovered by Hurricane Wilma, and the micro atolls of Hanan Reef, which are unique in the entire world. The bottom line is that the diving on the east side is quite different than the pinnacled walls of the west. Perhaps the diving may be referred to as similar to Belize, or other world-class destinations that are different than traditional Cozumel dives, but interesting in their own right.

But finding dive sites turned out to be the easiest problem to solve. And developing infrastructure and procedures turned out to be much more of a problem. Finding methods to safely keep boats over night, support facilities, emergency response plans, and special procedures all had to be addressed and solutions found. It was not easy, and it was not inexpensive, but at this time Windward Adventures is offering east side dive excursions to the general dive public. Based at the only east side Hotel, Ventanas Al Mar, we have two boats dedicated to daily operation, and support facilities at Chen Rio and Hanan Beach. We are just now ready to show you the unique and completely unspoiled Cozumel. Come join us and explore...or just check out the Spanish Galleons!

For Details and Packages

<http://www.CozumelWindward.com>

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