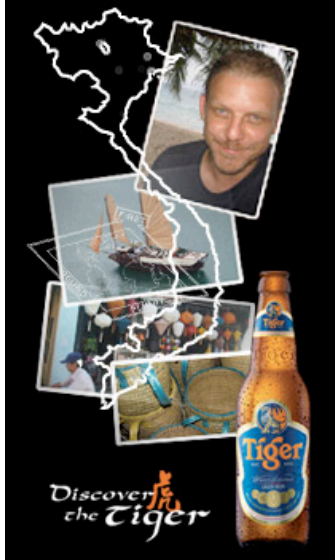


## VIETNAM:



« Day Sixteen & Seventeen - Ana Mandara Resort Day Nineteen - Nha Trang Sea Festival »

## Day Eighteen - Nemo!

June 29th, 2007 by ben



Nemo, Nemo, Nemo! I'm sorry to be predictable about this but... I saw Nemo! Just a little clown fish, bright orange, black and white, all alone on his anemone... all alone in a big bad beautiful world of brain coral, mushroom coral, highly populated, arched and suitably labyrinthine maze coral, lobed pore coral (perforated with seemingly masticating boring clams) swaying tube and whip coral... lots and lots and lots of colourful coral and... lots and lots and lots of colourful fish!

Okay, so I'm a bit worked up and broadcasting my love of Nemo may not be doing wonders for my reputation but I went diving today, off the coast of Nha Trang, on the shores of Hon Mun Island to be exact and man it was good. I've never dived before. I had actually assumed that on this trip with my intensive itinerary it would not be possible given I'd heard it required a three-day training program. I was pleasantly surprised to discover that Sailing Club Dives offers supervised dives, all legit, in which a dive master takes you down, swimming above you, regulating all your equipment, leaving you to just breath, kick, remain horizontal and watch it all go by.



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Two 40-minute dives: Two journeys into a world I have only known through television or film... Regulating the pressure in my suit, Richard a gregarious tanned lad from Holland, took me on an undulating course over coral mountains and down into coral valleys, with such precision that my eyes were frequently inches from the fabulously ornate slopes of coral that were simply teeming with the most amazing tropical fish communities.

The sky was blue, the sun was bright and visibility was perfect.



In all honesty it took me a while to acclimatise to the completely foreign environment. But remembering Richards advice that breathing out slowly helps you to relax I did so and 20 minutes or so into the first dive was thinking clearly and observing the world around me. I even noticed something that Richard had missed till I pointed - a highly camouflaged scorpion fish hovering on the surface of what I think was a bubbly honeycomb coral (I could be wrong).

What a day!

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