

The Surface Times

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What Made Cozumel What It Is Today? by Michael Turner, AI

The first Maya settled in Cozumel 2,000 years ago. During the classic period 300-900 A.C. - a time when priests were at the top of the social hierarchy in the Maya world and life revolved around religious ceremonies – Cozumel became one of the most important sanctuaries in the Yucatan region. Cozumel derives its name from the Mayan words Cuzam (swallow) and Lumil (land of), which form the word Cuzamil (land of swallows). The Mayan word changed with time to the Spanish name of Cozumel. The Mayans believed the island to be a sacred shrine.



Religious pilgrimages were common to the island especially from women who were either pregnant or wanted to get pregnant. They pay homage to the goddess Ix Chel, the deity of the moon, pregnancy and childbirth. It was a tradition among the Maya People in general to make the trip at least once in their lifetime to the shrine of this goddess.

By 1200, in Middle America there existed an important long distance trade in which Cozumel was a key link. It was on this island where all kinds of merchandise arrived from faraway places. Goods were temporarily stored before being sent in canoes to other distribution points.

By 1518 the Spanish explorer Juan de Grijalva arrived on the coast of the island on Holy Cross Day (May 3rd), named this land as "Isla de la Santa Cruz" and proclaimed the land as property of the Doña Johanna and Don Carlos King of Spain. The Spanish arrived in Cozumel on May 06 making a peaceful stop on the island, received by the locals, exchanging gold and a variety of goods.



Juan de Grijalva ordered the chaplain Juan Díaz to offer a mass on the same place that the islanders had a temple therefore on May 6th the first catholic ceremony was held in México, at a location named by the Spanish like Saint John (currently named Las Casitas (little houses), where every year mass is still celebrated by the locals.



The visit was followed a year later by Hernán Cortés. Cozumel was the first site touched by the army of Hernán Cortés in what is now Mexican territory, becoming the starting point for the conquest of Mexico. It was on this island that the long, drawn out domination of the Yucatán started and was carried

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Training Specials

WBD Season Pass

Take any or all of the 38 PADI/DAN specialties offered at We B Divin' in a 12 month period. Crewpacks not included.

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Same gear package included. \$660

The Instructor as a Student

Paul Skinner, MSDT

When I was going through my early Scuba training, I never thought of my instructors as students. I admired their knowledge and skills, and truly appreciated that they would take the time to train me as a diver. I enjoyed what they did so much that I continued to take courses after my PADI Open Water instruction. And somewhere along that road, I became a dive master. I actively divemastered for about two years, marveling at the relaxed poise and seemingly unlimited knowledge of the instructors for which I divemastered. But I never really thought about becoming an instructor myself. And I never thought of them as students themselves. I never questioned when, where and how they learned their diving skills and knowledge.

Several years ago, I had the opportunity to become an instructor and I decided to give it a try. For me, it was a five month process. Because I had let my divemaster status lapse for several years, I had to redo all my dive master studies and skills. Once that was completed, I began my studies as an instructor. Much of it was repetitive as I had to repeat almost 100 % of what I did to regain my divemaster status, only I had to do it better! And then, there was the unique part which involved becoming an instructor of students and a part that dealt with being an independent businessman in the dive industry. I started in June and officially became an instructor in October. Naively, I thought the training was over.

Well, Paul, guess what. The training had only begun. Since becoming an instructor almost 3 years ago, I have been trained to teach almost 30 different PADI and DAN specialties. And I still have some more to do. This training is ongoing, usually behind the scenes, but it is sometimes visible to students.

Students will notice some of the instructors being trained on some of the dive trips. On a recent trip to Lake Travis I was working towards getting certified to teach the Dry Suit specialty while other students were doing their Deep Diver and Navigation Diver Specialties. I've also received instruction while on our trips to Cozumel and even on a few of our live aboard dive trips.

I learn a lot from working with the divemasters and other instructors in the We B Divin' family. I constantly draw from their skills and knowledge to im-

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What Made Cozumel What It Is Today?

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out. Between the arrival of Cortés in 1519 and the year 1524 when the conquest culminated, there were no large-scale confrontations between the Indians and the Spaniards on the island.

The Mayan ruler of Cozumel accepted their domination peacefully. The conqueror proceeded to destroy many of the Mayan temples. By the time, Cortés left Cozumel, the ancient civilization lie in ruins. At the same time, an outbreak of smallpox killed thousands.

By 1525 Francisco de Montejo made a request to the king of Spain to authorize the conquest and development of the Isla of Cozumel (Montejo was one of the captains that arrived with Cortez 9 years prior). Don Francisco de Montejo arrives on Cozumel September 29 of 1527 and gave the Christian name of San Miguel de Cozumel.

As the Spaniards became more familiar with the coast of the Gulf of Mexico, they realized they did not have to stop-over in Cozumel, excluding it as a port of call for Spanish ships. At the same time, as an immediate effect of the conquest, Mayan trade was nullified and the cult of the goddess Ix Chel suppressed.

The islanders, deprived of their principal economic activity, were forced to depend only on agriculture for their survival.

By the decree of the King of Spain on July 15 of 1583, Cozumel became directly dependent upon the Yucatan church. Between 1519 and 1570, the island's population dropped from 40,000 to 30. By 1700 it was uninhabited.

Although several pirates used Cozumel as a base of operations in the 17th century, including the notorious Henry Morgan and Jean Lafitte, the island was not resettled until 1848. England and Holland pirates came inside the land to capture Indians and Spaniards as slaves.



During the caste war, refugees fled to the island. The mestizos founded San Miguel on the west coast and the Mayans settled at El Cedral. From the mid-19th century to the beginning of the 20th, Cozumel's economy boomed and it become an important port again.



The depression (1930's) seriously affected the island economically; it bounced back during World War II putting Cozumel on the map. The U.S. built an air base for planes hunting U-boats in the mid-Atlantic and an airport was built.

Drawn by the clear waters, frogmen came to train and returned home with stories of magnificent underwater vistas. Jacques Cousteau's declarations in 1960 about the richness of the coral reef surrounding the island made underwater enthusiasts aware of Cozumel's existence.

By 1970, Cozumel's population had quickly grown to 10,000 and today the island boasts a population of more than 75,000 and is a Mecca for modern scuba divers.





Travel 2010 – 2011

Cozumel

May 27-30 \$972_{DVR} \$768_{NDVR}
 July 01-04 \$907_{DVR} \$832_{NDVR}

Ladies Only! Aug 05-08 \$896_{DVR} \$692_{NDVR}

All taxes / fees included, Hotel Cozumel, 3 days 2 Tank boat dives, transportation to / from hotel / airport, round trip airfare

Grand Cayman

May 28—June 01 \$699_{DVR}

All taxes/fees included, Compass Point Resort, 3 days 2 Tank boat dives, rental car for each four people, airfare not inc

Curacao

July 23-30 \$TBD_{DVR}

Habitat Resort, Unlimited beach diving 24 hrs per day

Truk

November 27 — December 04, 2011

\$3280 plus airfare, double occ
 Est airfare DFW to Tkk is \$1800
 (unless you have miles (-;)

1 night in a hotel in Chuk, est \$75



The Instructor as a Student

Paul Skinner, MSDT

prove my own skills and knowledge. For example, the last weekend in July this year I taught a Rescue Diver class. It was my first Rescue Class and I was mentored by an excellent instructor in our group, an IDC Staff Instructor by the name of Scott Williams. This was very visible to the students in the class. And it was important to me that he was there to guide me through this very important and rigorous class. And I'm sure the students benefitted from this process. I will be a much better Rescue Diver Instructor because of it.



But one of the greatest joys of being an instructor is the student contact – be it in the classroom, the pool or in the open water – and the learning that comes from it. Students constantly challenge the instructor, even if they aren't trying. They force the instructor to think constantly with their questions and their unique way of viewing different situations. And they constantly come up with novel ways of accomplishing things. I was recently doing the natural navigation portion of a Navigation Diver training dive, where the student has to swim 50 feet out and back, finding his starting point using natural references underwater and kick cycles (or time). It was mid morning on a very sunny, bright day with really good visibility for Clear Springs Scuba Park. He noticed his console making a shadow on his arm from the sun. So, on the way back, he just reversed the shadow on his arm and fol-

lowed his arm back. He was dead on. Yes, the sun and shadows are very natural aids, but I'd never heard of anyone using them in that fashion to navigate underwater.

But more than anything, it is the students that make instructors try to be the best instructors they can. The instructors I know want to do their absolute best to impart the skills of Scuba to their students. The instructors love diving and they want their students to enjoy diving as much as we do. Our mission is to make you a safe, competent diver in the hopes that once you experience Scuba, it becomes a part of your life. So as a group, we work very hard to become the best instructors we can. And to do that, we are very much students ourselves.



A Word from Our Sponsors



LIGHT & MOTION

Dive Lights

MODELS	SOLA 500D	SOLA 600D	SOLA 1200D
			
MSRP	\$379	\$579	\$679
Output Lum:	500 Spot	670 Flood 500 Spot	1200 Flood 500 Spot
Run Time: Min	High- 70 Med- 140 Low- 280	High-80 Med- 160 Low- 320	High- 70 Med- 140 Low- 280
System Weight	287 gr	287 gr	287 gr
Battery	2 Cell Li-Ion	2 Cell Li-ion	2 Cell Li-ion
Charger	1.5 Amp	1.5 Amp	1.5 Amp
Dimensions	57mm x 101mm	57mm x 101mm	57mm x 101mm



Photo Lights

MODELS	SOLA 500P	SOLA 600P
		
MSRP	\$379	\$579
Output Lum:	500 Flood	500 Flood 500 Red
Run Time: Min	High- 70 Med- 140 Low- 280	High-80 Med- 160 Low- 320
System Weight	283 gr	283 gr
Battery	2 Cell Li-Ion	2 Cell Li-ion
Charger	1.5 Amp	1.5 Amp
Dimensions	57mm x 101mm	57mm x 101mm

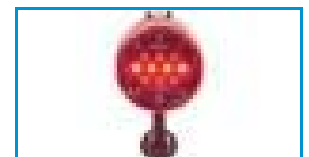
Solar 1200 Dive Light: We asked divers what they wanted in a dive light. They told us; spot & flood beams, small, lightweight, easy to use and easy to charge. Introducing the Sola 1200. Its the lightest, brightest and smallest dive light you have ever seen.

Three indicator lights behind the bezel report the power (high=3 lights, medium=2 lights, low = 1 light). Indexing back changes mode between spot and flood. Indexing forward increments the power levels.

Solar 600 Photo Lights: A ¼ the size and brighter almost any focus light on the market. The only focus light with built-in red for stealth mode and a clean even flood.

Sola Photo 600; its the lightest, brightest and one of the smallest focus lights available. The bank of red LEDs adds stealth for catching shy critters and fish.

1/2 the size of the competition producing more light than any focus light in its price range. Its wide flood doubles as a general video light for the new class of camera with video capability.



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The Surface Times

We B Divin' is your personal resource for scuba training (PADI), equipment sales, service, and travel.

We pride ourselves on individualized training, especially for people with water related anxieties. Our rental gear includes SeaQuest weight integrated BCD's (women's and men's), computers, and regulators for state of the art training and the ultimate in safety.

Remember, enjoyment and safety are enhanced by comfort and proper fit. We will personally fit you, whether your primary interest is diving or snorkeling.

We offer both group and individual travel opportunities. Both singles and couples are welcome. Singles may ask to room share or can choose the single supplement option. Everyone is welcome - divers, snorkelers, non-divers, shoppers, etc.

Think Outside the Bowl!

There is much to learn, many places to go and much to see.



Come learn with us, go places with us and see with us.

We're on the web!
www.we-b-divin.com

Divers Alert Network

DAN Travel Insurance

This is Dan's newest product. I am sure that I have not reviewed every Trip Cancellation and Interruption policy available out there on the market, but this one is very competitive in benefits as well as cost. Also, of course, when we use this

product we are supporting DAN which is always a plus.

Travel insurance is good for those who want to plan a trip but have pending concerns like the health of a loved one. It is very valuable when planning a BIG trip like Truk Lagoon. Many times trips like this must be planned far in the future

and we simply cannot know what life will put on our plate in the interim. So this type of insurance protects us from a total loss.

Check the details from our web site by clicking here

[DAN Dive Insurance](#)

Divers Alert Network

Membership

DAN is the only organization I am aware of that is actively pursuing medical dive research. They provide assistance to all divers (regardless of membership status) through 800 phone numbers and will accept collect calls from anywhere in the world. This alone is

worth our support with membership fees of \$35 per year. The included subscription to Alert Diver is just a bonus.

Dive Insurance

This is the best option for Medical Dive Accident Coverage that I have reviewed. There are three plans from \$25 to \$70 per year covering not only

medical coverage for a dive accident but extra transportation, extra accommodation, lost diving equipment and much more.

I cannot stress enough how valuable it is to have this coverage. Check the details from our web site by clicking here

[DAN Dive Insurance](#)