

Colombia,
the only risk
is wanting
to stay.



*San Andrés,
Providencia and
Santa Catalina*

A decorative graphic element consisting of a blue swirl that curves downwards and to the left. It is adorned with several white and blue circles of different sizes, resembling bubbles or underwater ornaments.



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and share the Passion, your only
risk will be wanting to stay!



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DIVING COLOMBIA

SAN ANDRES,

BY DANIELE FLORIO (AN ITALIAN IN LOVE WITH COLOMBIA).

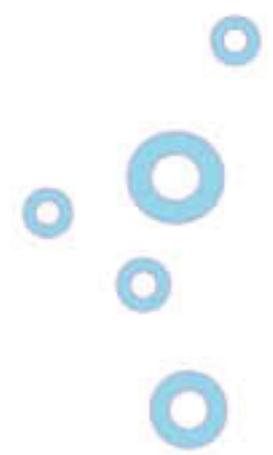
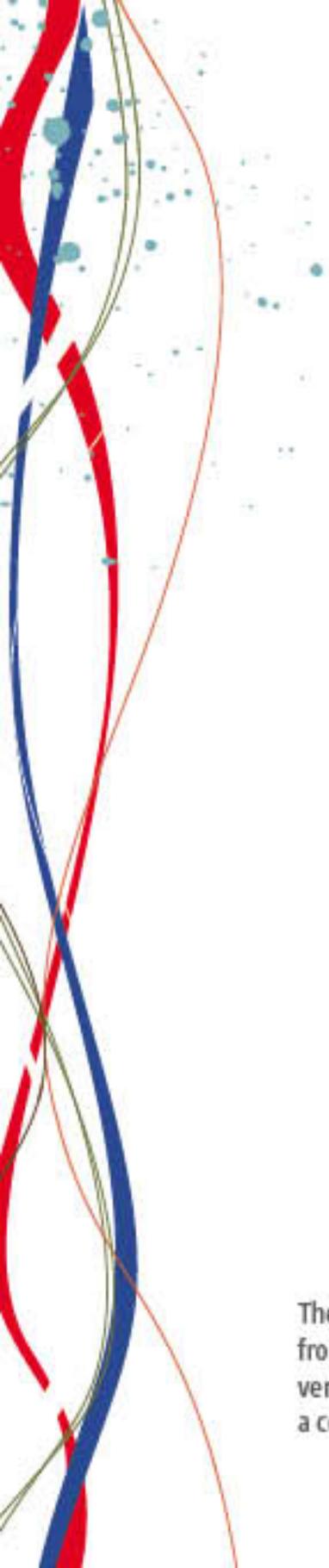
"When I arrived in San Andres, I thought I was going to live a dream for five days. Today I can say I have been living the dream for seven years. When you descend from the plane, you imagine a Caribbean beach, white sand, time at a standstill. What your imagination does not tell you is that the sea can have seven colors, that barracudas have blues eyes, and that the passion of the people is contagious. Before you know it, you fall in love with San Andres, with Colombia, with the idea of continuing to come, or, as in my case, of staying."







San Andres and Providencia are the northernmost islands of Colombia. Together with The Cays, they offer unequalled land and seascapes, the warm, clear sea of seven colors, and extensive coral reefs. At quite a distance from the shore and with only negligible exposure to pollution, they offer the best visibility for all kinds of diving.



The southwestern area of San Andres is one of the best diving spots and can be reached from the shore. The variety of coral is large, and reef fish are particularly abundant. A very special site, located on the southeastern part of the island, is the Blue Wall. Being a completely vertical wall that allows divers to experience the sensation of a free fall



El Acuario Hotel



Sunset in Providencia



The Island of Providencia, also known as Old Providence, is catalogued as an incomparable ecotouristic destination due to its uniquely beautiful land and seascapes. This unexplored island is graced by the typical flora, which can be admired while horse back riding to the rhythm of the Caribbean breeze. A visit to the neighboring Santa Catalina Island complements the trip to the Archipelago. Here the quiet is disturbed only by the trill of the birds and the noise made by the waves as they strike the rocks, among them, the famous Pirate Morgan's head.

The walls of the following diving sites are worth mentioning: El Bight, the Turtle's Head, Felipe's Place, Manta's City, and Tete's Place. They are not very deep, but the wealth and abundance of fish deserve to be highlighted.





These are the species you can encounter while diving in this paradise:

- **Angelfish** (Pomacanthidae) in the following varieties: tricolor, queen, French, and gray.
- **Butterfly fish** in the four-eyed, banded varieties, spotted, and long snout varieties.
- **The damselfish** (Pomacentridae) are represented by more than five species, among them the common damsel, the giant damsel, and the sergeant major.
- **Blue surgeons** are the most frequently observed species of the Acanthuridae family.
- Concerning the richness of species, **the parrotfish** (Scaridae) stands out with the rainbow parrotfish, the papagayo fish, and the blue parrot fish, among many others.
- **Silver fish**, generally pelagic and carnivorous, are represented by several species of mackerel, tarpon, swordfish, barracuda, and shad.
- **The cat or nurse shark**, and less frequently, the reef and lemon sharks, among others.



Angel Fish



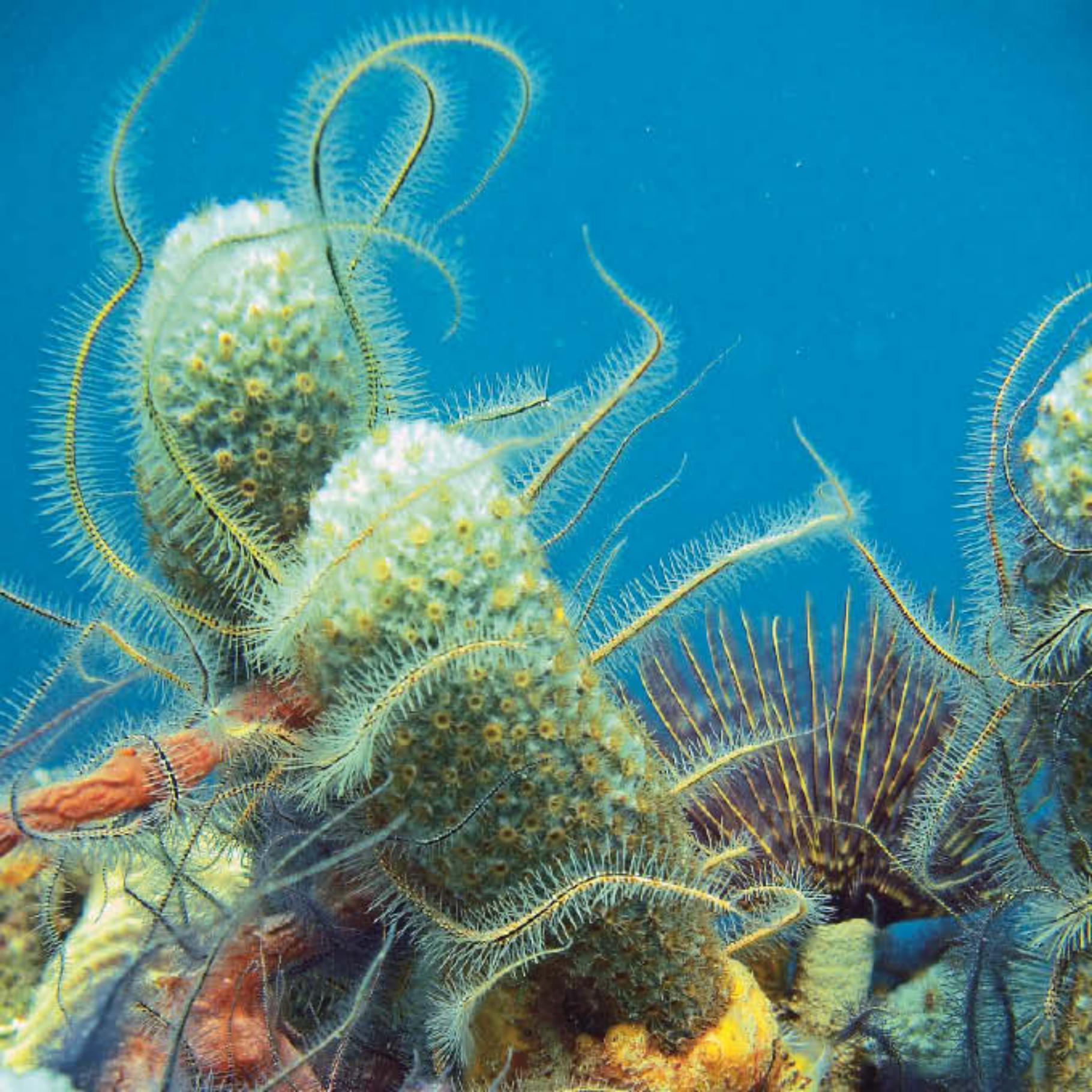
Butterfly Fish



Damselfish



Cat Shark



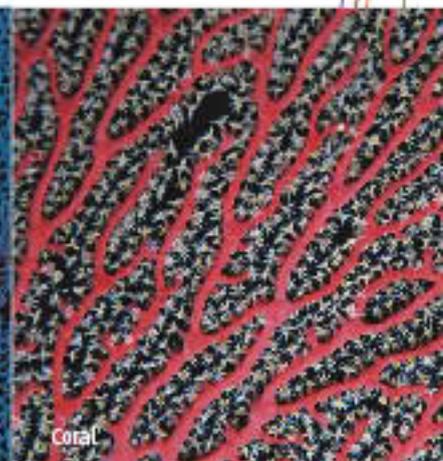
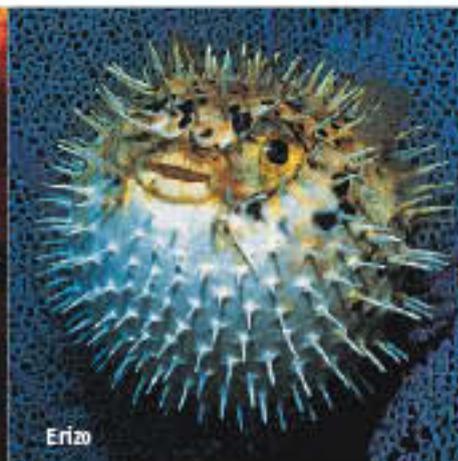
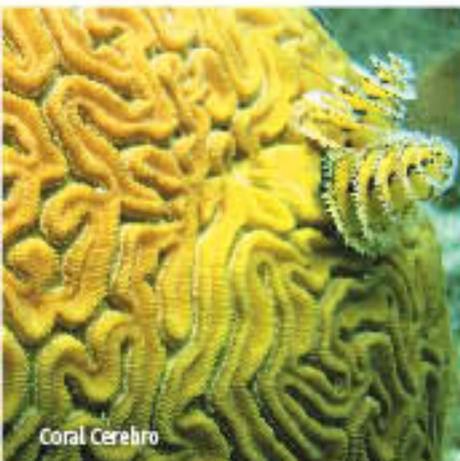
The sea also charms divers with endless invertebrates, among them:

- Sponges, or Poriferans, in many forms: barrel sponge, elephant ear sponge, and chimney sponge.
- Coral, the main building block of reefs, presents a number of species in varied sizes, shapes, and colors. The genus *Acropora* has the greatest representation with species of branching corals like the moose horn and the deer horn. The massive reefs are inhabited mainly by the brain star coral (*Diploria*) and the star mountain (*Montastrea*) corals. The lettuce, fire, finger, and mustard corals are easy to watch, as well as several varieties of soft coral moving with the waves or stretching in the direction of the current.
- Crustaceans are represented by a wealth of species, among them the spider crab or centolla, the thorny lobster, and the cleaner shrimp.
- The most representative species of the phylum *Equinodermata* are: the water lilies, which adhere to the edges of coral colonies; the sea hedgehogs and the brittle stars, which adhere to barrel sponges. Also, the sea cucumbers and the basket stars, which display their splendor at night.

It is also possible to observe and enjoy two other ecosystems: mangroves and seagrass beds.

The red mangrove, especially its roots, is a substrate for sponges, algae, and clams. Miniature versions of large fish like barracudas, groupers, and snappers are easy to spot.

The juvenile members of many species of fish can be observed in the meadows, as well as the occasional predator in search of its unsuspecting food.





PROVINCIA SANTA CRUZ



SAN ANDRÉS



Courtesy of:
 Agenda del Mar - www.agendadelmar.com
 Diving Planetet - www.divingplanet.org

GENERAL INFORMATION:

- The average temperature is between 24 and 28 °Celsius.
- Visibility is between 30 and 60 meters almost all year.
- Recommended suit: 3 mm
- Types of diving: shore, boat, and sailboat (the latter requires living on board)

DIVING CENTERS

San Andres

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