

Akumal, Mexico

Akumal is located on the Yucatan peninsula just a short 62 miles south of Cancun. This area of Mexico boasts the largest underground river system in the world, and there are several hundred miles of rivers below the surface. Scuba divers come from all over the world visit Akumal to experience the thrill of cenote diving. This river system consists of fresh water for the most part. These rivers were formed over the years when the ice was nothing more than a future disaster. Before the ice age the sea level was higher. The Yucatan was under water and consisted of a huge reef. As the water was captured in the ice, the ocean receded exposing the reefs to the elements above. The rain eroded the coral and formed this famed water system.

The waters of the Caribbean are some of the most spectacular of anywhere in the world. The warm waters are clear and often have 100+ feet visibility. Here are a few shots of the wonderful waters on Mexico.



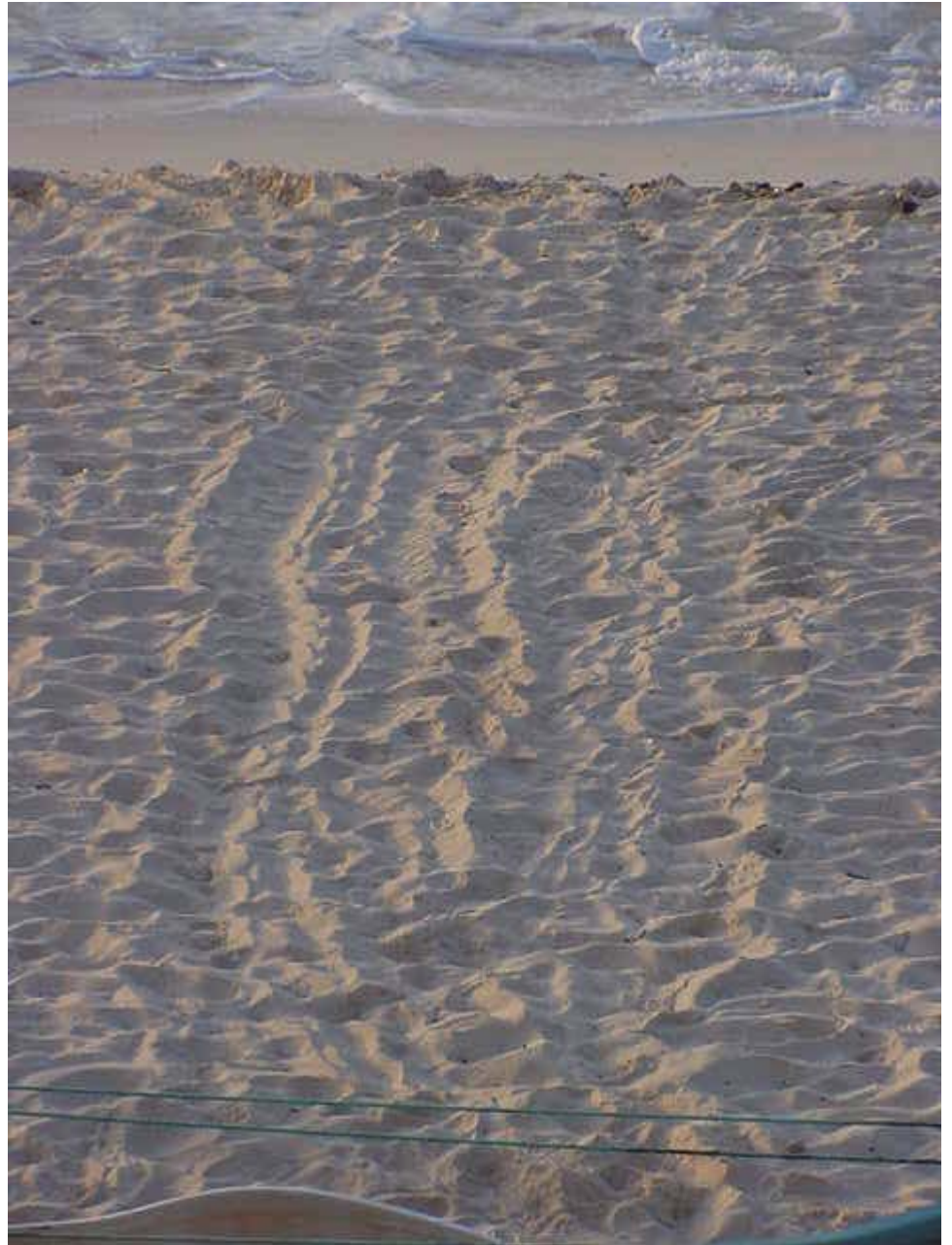






Akumal is a major nesting site for sea turtles. In fact, “akumal” means “...place of the turtle...”. Five of the 7 world species of sea turtle nest in the Akumal area. The sea turtles are a very shy animal, and they do not tend to nest where there is lights and human noise. The tourist development in Akumal has driven the sea turtle to new areas. Half Moon Bay (where my condo was) is home for the vast majority of nest sites. And, even in this area, there is a constant battle between sea turtle nesting and human leisure time. Diving in these waters gives ample opportunity to see these marvelous creatures very close up. On one dive I came across a turtle that was as curious about me as I was about her. We edged closer and closer until we were less than 3 feet apart. I was tempted to reach out and pet this glorious creature. But, I soon remembered that these are wild creatures, and deserve to be left to their domain.

These marks are what the breeding turtle leave as they labor to find a place to lay their eggs. It is amazing to see these magnificent creatures on show where they labor to move their bodies. In the sea they are as graceful as anything I have seen.





Here is a pix of the turtle tracks and the nests. The areas identified by the stakes are previous places where eggs were laid. The stakes identify the areas so humans do not disturb them.



Many biologists stayed at my condo. Each day they would carefully place the turtle eggs into a safe area for protection. This picture is one area that contained approximately 120 nests with approximately 20 eggs per nest. Less than 1% make it to adulthood.

I really love sunsets and sunrises. Here are a few of my favorite. I hope that you do, also!



















These are only a few of the many pix that I took. I hope that you enjoyed them.

Please visit my web site at www.LEWolfe.com if you want to see more pictures and some travel logs of my travels.