

# A hidden Honduras underwater paradise (Photos)

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A newly discovered healthy reef is drawing diver attention near Tela, Honduras to this underwater wonderland.

Avid divers span the globe searching for picturesque coral reefs filled with massive marine life that can be captured on film.

**The Coral Reef Alliance** (CORAL), an international organization working exclusively to save our coral reefs, **The Healthy Reefs Initiative** and local partners have recently discovered what can perhaps be called one of the healthiest reefs in the Caribbean.

Honduras, known to many travelers as a divers paradise, is home to this newly discovered reef. The site is near the coastal town of Tela, Honduras. This natural underwater wonderland might just be the second largest reef in the entire world.

Divers are in for a real treat when they feast their eyes on 69% live coral cover in addition to a large population of *Diadema* sea urchins and more than 800 critically endangered elk horn corals.

Because this reef is considered so extraordinary, the local municipal government recently declared it a marine protected area and **CORAL** is working with local officials, conservation groups and business owners to put in place additional protections.

This is all timed perfectly as Honduras is eager to celebrate **World Oceans Day** on June 8, 2013 and the area can boast their enchanting coral reef discovery as well as the seas of Honduras are "shark sanctuary". The nation is so excited to organize a series of activities that will begin on May 31, 2013 and will start in Roatan and expand to Tela this year.

This is what diving is all about!