

Phil Foster Park/Blue Heron Bridge Dive Plan



Directions:

Exit 57 near mile marker 75, North of West Palm Beach. Head East, cross over the bridge until you see Phil Foster Park.

Address of Phil Foster Park: 900 E. Blue Heron Boulevard, Riviera Beach, Florida 33404 Some **GPS** systems prefer: 900 E Blue Heron Blvd, West Palm Beach, FL 33404

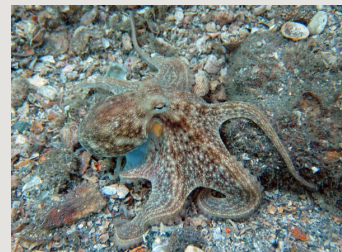
N 26° 46.997 W 080° 02.626

This is a shore dive. The parking is free and so is the dive!

Information Provided by:

www.ScubaLessonsInc.com

There is plenty of parking. Enter the water under the bridge via the small beach on the west side of the bark. Swim to the right and go back under the bridge from south to north. Continue past the bridge to the foundation of the old bridge. There are old concrete columns that lie just north of the old bridge foundation.



Great place for night diving or day diving FREE. It is teeming with tiny life so get out your macro lens! This place is famous for frog fish, sea horses, star fish, and lots of big eye travally! Mostly small life here but plenty of it.

CAUTION: Do not swim too far to the west into the boat channel. Don't go west of the fourth set of bridge columns.

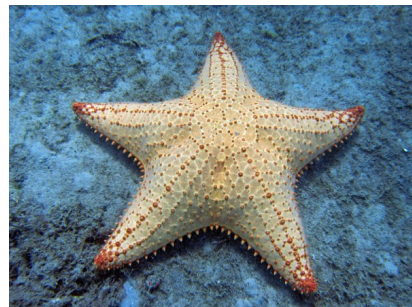
Be considerate to fisherman on the old bridge. There are **very strong currents except at Slack Tides**. **ONLY DIVE DURING SLACK TIDES!** Any local dive shop will be able to provide you with a slack tide map.

Depth Range: 6'-16'

Good video of the site: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dHSNaQ8gn8A&NR=1>

The entrance to the park is on the East side of the Blue Heron Boulevard Bridge about a quarter mile east of our store. There is plenty of parking. Enter the water under the bridge via the small beach on the west side of the bark.

Swim to the right and go back under the bridge from south to north. Continue past the bridge to



the foundation of the old bridge. There are old concrete columns that lie just north of the old bridge foundation.

The park has open-air freshwater showers, restrooms and pay phones.

Enjoy! This is a very fun place! More quality snorkeling can be found across the water at Peanut Island.



Water clarity varies greatly here. It's best to visit on an incoming tide. This is when clear ocean water comes in the nearby Lake Worth Inlet (aka "Palm Beach Inlet.") The entire area is flooded with clear blue water. It looks like the Caribbean! Plan to dive from about an hour before high tide until about an hour following. This is when the current is manageable. An outgoing tide forces brown

brackish water out of local canals. Visibility is poor during an outgoing tide. Here are some reviews:



08/28/2009 Bill Stohler (Avg: 3.86 Review) - After parking next to the bridge, gear up, grab your flag (required) and walk under the bridge towards the life guard stand. Don't enter in the area demarked by white buoys, and don't swim or submerge in this area. This was my first muck dive, and I'll have to admit, it was fun! Lots of cool critters. I'm not used to diving with folks carrying three stacking wet close-up lenses! Arrow crabs are everywhere, along with thousands of collector urchins. Colorful sea stars and occasional anemones spot the bottom. The Sea Robin and a spotted (snake?) eel were the highlights of the dive for me, as I didn't find the sea horses or striated frogfish. Great dive, but



heed the advice of diving 45-60 minutes prior to high tide, let the outgoing current pull you under the bridge, and then an hour or so later, let the incoming current pull you back to the beginning with diminishing visibility. Lots of junk here, including several small wrecks!

08/27/2009 Jay and Tara (Avg: 4.67 Review) - What a GREAT easy dive. My wife and I had a long weekend, and planned a few boat dives in the area. The ocean was blown out, and our dive boat canceled. We heard about Blue

Heron Bridge, and did a quick check of when slack tide was that day. Make sure

you dive this spot at slack tide, or you won't be coming in where you entered ;-)
Some of the locals gave us the 411 of where to head. There are 2 small boat wrecks directly south of where you enter about 75 feet apart. There was a abundance of life here, and we were in less than 20 feet of water. Next we swam Northwest toward the bridge. We spotted a beautiful Spotted Eagle Ray. Here is a link to some video I took. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ViZ7743sbAc> The viz was 30-40 feet. Considering the seas were blown out, we were pleasantly surprised. All in all a wonderful, easy dive.



07/21/2009 Ken from Florida (Avg: 3.33 Review) - Just to back everyone up, they have said it all, this is a great shore dive, I use it all the time just to get in the water during the week or if I don't have

the time or money to do a deep dive. There is lots of life here. It's a great place to practice skills like navigation. I have done an hour and 40 min before vis got too bad from the current.

12/30/2008 Anonymous (Avg: 3.81 Review) - This site can be dived year round. Enter the water 20-40 minutes prior to high tide (you're diving at the slack high tide period). I dove the west span and the fishing pier on 12/29/08 with a 3MM wet suit and was comfortable. Many critters such as bat fish, sea robins, flying gurnards, horseshoe crabs, sharp tailed eels, arrow crabs, scorpion fish, drums, parrotfish, trigger fish, spade fish, grunts, other tropicals, octopus, large sea stars (starfish), fire worms etc. etc. Sea floor is mucky, so be careful not to kick up sand which will limit vis for your dive buddy. Scope out the fisherman before entering the water, you don't want to get hooked and, depending on the number of people fishing, you might want to avoid the fishing pier. There are a couple of dive shops nearby for air fills or rental of equipment (I tend to use Force-E which



is located west of Phil Foster Park, on Blue Heron Blvd.) Facilities are good with restrooms and outdoor showers. If fish are not being cleaned, you can use the hose at the cleaning station on the west side of the park to clean your gear. But give the fisherman (and woman) first dibs on the cleaning station. I just 'discovered' this dive site two months ago and have dove it 6 times. It is a nice change from boat/reef diving.

08/21/2008 Mike Walsh (Avg: 3.28 Review) - Dive during low current only on slack tide. Always something new. Very nice shore dive.

10/24/2007 Anonymous (Avg: 4.53 Review) - Great dive site for both beginners and advanced divers. I saw huge schools of barracuda, angelfish, parrotfish, lots of lobsters, and two huge sting rays. There are endless amounts of small creatures on the bottom, so take your time as you cruise along.

08/23/2007 Anonymous (Avg: 3.78 Review) - Lots of life. We've seen octopuses every time we go. Tons of reef fish, eels, lobster.

08/12/2007 Mike Walsh (Avg: 4.01 Review) - Try it, and you will enjoy it! On I 95 take exit # 76 and go east. Go over the Intercoastal Bridge and you will see a park on the left. Go into park and bear left. Parking is free! Park near the bridge & small beach. Diving can only be done at slack tide! There will be no current at this time. Have fun and be safe. Please have fun, be safe and don't damage the coral as it is coming back!

05/26/2007 J. Hasley (Avg: 3.34 Review) - Dive the site beginning one hour before slack tide up to one hour after slack tide and visibility is crystal clear. Once the tides are moving, visibility quickly goes to near zero. For a shallow dive there is an impressive collection of life including stone crabs, lobster (occasionally one or two of legal size), snook, snapper, sheephead, octopus, sharp tooth eels, and a number of tropicals. All of these can be seen regularly and on just one dive. Night diving couldn't be easier and is better than day diving. You can park on the street right next to the stairs to access the beach. It's a short walk down a clean, firm sand beach to the water.

10/27/2003 Don the Seadog (Avg: 3.71 Review) - Dove many times; always lots of life; easy currents and usually good vis; great dive for all levels of divers.

09/20/2003 Anonymous (Avg: 2.84 Review) - Probably the best beach dive in Florida!

Slack Tide Chart Link

<http://www.tides.info/?command=view&location=Palm%20Beach%2C%20Lake%20Worth%2C%20Florida>

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