



Whitetip along the plateau



## Peelack Channel

Peelack, another of my many favorites, is a fine mix of both a wall dive and a drift over a sandy plateau dotted with lively coral heads. The top of the wall starts at 60ft / 18m and plunges to about 120ft / 40m. Towards the channel entrance the sandy terrace becomes a “flat bottom” drift amongst the isolated coral heads. Schooling barracudas, sharks, stingrays and turtles frequent this area due to the nutrient-rich water flow from the inner lagoon. Red and black snappers and napoleon wrasses are also seen gathering around these bommies.

## The Highlights

This dive is best done on an in-coming tide as the visibility will often exceed 150ft / 50m. During the drift along the outer wall, look out over the deep plateau for whitetip and grey reef sharks cruising the sea floor, and leopard sharks have been spotted (no pun intended) at the base of the wall. On one memorable dive, I was fortunate enough to witness hundreds of grey reef sharks moving steadily in formation over the seabed. The dive typically ends just inside the channel entrance. When ascending, watch for the humphead parrotfishes on the south side of the channel.

### ~Fast Facts~

**Where:** Northeast

**Type:** Dramatic wall and deep sand plateau dotted with coral heads

**Depth:** 60-100ft / 18-30m

**Current:** Mild to strong

**Dive Style:** Drift

**In Brief:** This wall dive turns into a sandy bottom drift with lots of sea life and great photo ops.



Resting Stingray