The Power Station dive, Aqaba: a deep wall with the densest soft-coral cover on the Jordan side

Adjacent to the Aqaba thermal power plant, this site combines a steep reef wall with the warm-water outflow that grows the densest soft-coral cover anywhere in Jordan. Advanced or experienced Open Water; depth profile 18-30 m.

Anas Hu · May 5, 2026

The thermal power plant in southern Aqaba runs cooling water through the lagoon and back to sea — and the dive site directly adjacent has built up a soft-coral cover that's denser than anywhere else along the Jordan-side reef. The wall drops vertically from 5 m to 50+ m, with the recreational profile working at 18–30 m. Advanced certification is recommended; the depth profile is unforgiving and the visibility is sometimes reduced near the outflow channel. But the soft-coral kaleidoscope is the closest thing in Jordan to the legendary Egyptian Red Sea sites — and it's a 5-minute boat ride from the dive shop.

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1Why dive Power Station

Most Aqaba dive sites are reef-wall or wreck. Power Station combines a sheer reef wall with warm-water outflow from the adjacent thermal plant, and the warm-water-fed corals have grown thicker than the natural-flow sections. The site is genuinely worth the depth profile if you have the certification.

2Dive plan

- **Boat entry.** 5–10 minute RIB from the South Beach.
- **Descent.** Down the wall to 25–30 m.
- **Run the wall north.** 100–150 m at 25 m depth. The thickest soft-coral cover is in this stretch.
- **Ascent.** Climb the wall to 12–15 m for the back-leg, then safety stop on the mooring line.
- **Bottom time.** 25–30 minutes at depth depending on consumption.

> The thickest soft-coral cover anywhere in Jordan, fed by power-plant warm water.

3What you will see

- **Soft corals.** Dendronephthya cluster colonies — pink, red, white. Vivid when the current opens them.
- **Sea fans.** Large sea fans on the upper wall.
- **Lionfish.** Resident on the wall ledges.
- **Glassfish schools.** Sometimes filling small swim-throughs in the wall.
- **Pelagics (rare).** Eagle ray; whale shark in May–June.

> **For solo travellers**
>
> Most dive shops run Power Station as a 2-tank-day combination with the shallower Japanese Garden site for nitrogen offgassing.

4Practical tips

- **Certification.** Advanced Open Water minimum.
- **Gas.** Air or Nitrox 32% recommended.
- **Best season.** Year-round; visibility best in summer (May–October).
- **Hyperbaric chamber.** Princess Haya Aqaba (15 min by car).
- **Combine with.** Cedar Pride + Japanese Garden for a 2- or 3-tank day.

References

1. Wikipedia — Aqaba (Marine Reserve)

Verified by locals: TBD — this article will be reviewed by a PADI Aqaba dive instructor before final publication. Drafted from reader-diver experience and Aqaba dive community guides.