

Chimney Point Dive Site Tour 12 July 2012 (By Kim Glenn and Pamela Martin – no rights reserved!)

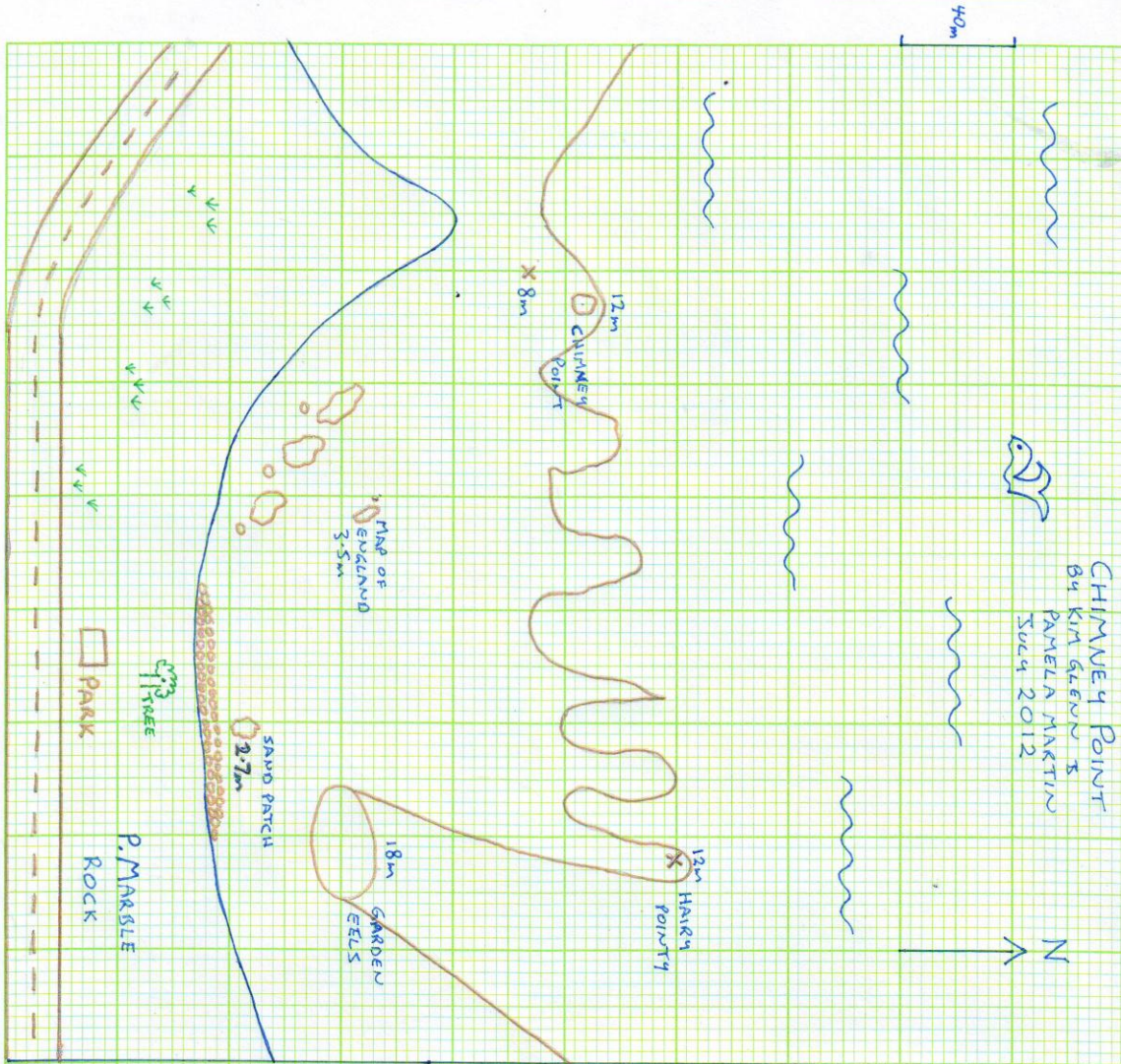
This dive site is about 47 Km from Dili to the east along the coast. Pass the well-known sites of K41, Behau Village, and Bob's Rock. The parking area is 50 meters to the west of the parking for the nearby site of Marble Rock. The parking is an easy turn off on an unmarked barely visible track right next to the road under a tree, with a very grassy knoll to the west (left) and easy view of a rocky beach below. There is a rocky "point" to the west along the shore.

The following is a nice navigation exercise using your compass and it also will give you a good general tour of the site. A "kick" is a "kick cycle" and without current should be about one meter, but we had current going west to east so the distances may be off.

1. Entry is about 10 meters (depending on tide) from a tree on beach closest to the water and at the center of beach. Enter there to a depth that allows you to put on your fins.
2. Proceed at about 50 degrees azimuth about 10 meters (this is snorkel depth) to a sandy patch at the top of a sandy valley, about 2.7 meters depth. Position is in the sandy patch nearest to the shore.
3. 310 degrees from there proceed 65 to 80 kicks along the edge of the rocky low water line remaining shallow at snorkel depth. Look for a coral patch remarkably like a "map of England" at about 3.5 meters depth.
4. Continue from this coral patch still 310 degrees 75-100 kick cycles (very rough estimate given the current) to 8 meters depth at the top of a fairly steep drop off. You will have moved gradually away from the rocky shallows of the shore. At the drop off there are pristine outcroppings of impressive stag horn corals. If you have snorkeled to here, this is a good point to descend on air.
5. Turn right to a 30 degree bearing along the top of the drop off and proceed a short distance 12-20 kicks to the top of the coral chimney at 12 meters depth. The bottom of the chimney is at about 18 meters depth. It is narrow and hard to penetrate without disturbing marine life on its walls. Best to enjoy seeing it from above, and then go over the wall to look at it from the bottom. The wall here descends vertically to below 40 meters depth.
6. From the top of the swim through turn right to 80 degrees to follow the top of the wall over some five crevasses and ridges about 75-100 kicks. Look for a prominent knob at 12 meters depth. The top of the knob has fern like soft coral waving in the current. A very steep slope, almost wall, is on the other (easterly) side and very steep slope to the left (northerly).
7. Turn right again to 200 degrees and follow the top of the ridge gradually ascending to shallows and returning to the starting point, the sandy patch at the top of the sandy valley now on your left side. Distance will be 125-165 kicks.
8. To reverse the circuit at a deeper depth, proceed from the sandy patch 50 degrees on your compass and descend the sandy floor of valley. About 30 kicks at 14 meters depth there is a colony of garden eels. Choose your depth (such as 18 meters) and follow the contour at that depth counter clockwise, looking for the coral chimney as a landmark. The bottom of the coral chimney is at 18 meters.

Name _____ Index No _____

Subject _____ Class _____ Date _____



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2 mm Square 20 cm x 24 cm 40s