"Coral Paradise" discovered at the Volcanic Barren Island by the Infiniti Live-aboard

- Barren Island is a remote island in the Andaman Islands of the Indian Ocean
- It has the only active volcano in South Asia and surrounding waters offer beautiful diving

• Infiniti Live-aboard conducts scuba diving trips in the Andaman Islands – "a hope spot" for the world¹

<March 3rd, 2014>, Andaman Islands, India:

The Infiniti Live-aboard has discovered a beautiful "coral paradise" at Barren Island during a recent scuba diving trip. The waters here are crystal clear with 35m visibility, and gardens of lush, fast growing corals are seen with assorted soft & hard coral such as stag-horn coral, lettuce coral, tabletop coral, cauliflower coral, colorful sponges, etc.

A vibrant & multicolored coral garden is one of the most fascinating underwater sights. It also signifies a healthy ecosystem.

A coral reef, found in tropical & subtropical waters around the world, is like an underwater oasis featuring a great diversity of species. Coral reefs are beautiful vibrant underwater cities that provide habitat for almost all forms of life. Coral reefs can take thousands of years to form and have several different functions such as preventing sediments from damaging the shoreline, creating a healthier, protected coastline habitat; and sequestering carbon dioxide & thereby nurturing marine biodiversity.

Barren Island is a remote island in the Andaman Islands, with the only active volcano in South Asia. It is a 67 Nautical Miles journey into the open sea from Port Blair. The Infiniti is the only live-aboard in the area, and offers live-aboard scuba diving trips including to Barren Island. The surrounding waters around Barren are known to make unique & spectacular diving with superb visibility, unique underwater black sand landscape, lava topography, huge walls & drop offs, gorgonian fans and pelagics.

Sunil Bakshi, founder & CEO of the Infiniti Live-aboard said, "It was an awesome experience to go to the imposing Barren Island & find this incredible coral paradise with huge gorgonian fans, cabbage coral, hard & soft coral. Combined with the recent discovery of a Manta Bay where majestic Manta Rays are found dancing and playing, Barren Island is turning out to be an awesome world-class dive site."

The INFINITI is India's pioneering scuba diving "live-aboard" – a passenger vessel fully equipped for comfortable & luxurious onboard stay and sail around the sea. The Infiniti is a brand new liveaboard that sets new global benchmarks for design, engineering and onboard facilities. It takes passengers to the doorstep of the best dive spots in the Andaman Islands waters including remote islands such as Barren & Narcondam.

¹ Andaman Islands are named as new "hope spots" by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and oceanographer Sylvia Earle of Mission Blue.

A hope spot is an area of ocean that merits special protection because of its wildlife and significant underwater habitats and represent a real hope to restore the health of our imperilled ocean

The Infiniti features guest rooms with en-suite bathrooms, a kitchen, a diving platform, an indoor dining room and relaxation areas including a large sun deck, an indoor lounge & an outdoor lounge. The vessel has been built to IACS class and RINA certified to reflect its highest quality and standards.

Andaman Islands, off the coast of India, are emerging as the world's new favorite dive destination. It features several unique diving attractions including volcanic diving, frontier diving, bioluminescent night diving, etc. The Infiniti Live-aboard facilitates peaceful & exclusive diving here for enthusiasts of the underwater world.

For more information, visit

- <u>www.INFINITILiveAboard.com</u>
- facebook.com/InfinitiLiveAboard
- twitter: @InfinitiDiving

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