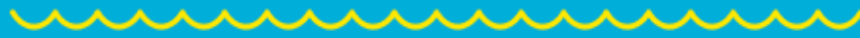


EL DORADO



Once a 157-foot luxury yacht, El Dorado has a storm-tossed past that led her to an unforgettable second life underwater. Hurricane Ivan swept her six miles into West Bay in 2004, and Hurricane Michael struck again in 2018, this time turning her into a roadside landmark with a painted holiday mural near the Hathaway Bridge. Rather than salvage her twice, the vessel was donated and sunk as an artificial reef on May 3, 2019, in 103 feet of water.

Though storms later collapsed much of her interior, El Dorado's angled bow and tilted wheelhouse create a dramatic profile and a striking dive. Today the wreck is alive with snapper, grunts, porgies, jacks, and schools of Atlantic spadefish, making it a favorite advanced dive for those drawn to bold structure, rich marine life, and a story shaped by Gulf storms.

