

operation run by SeaSport is good and the accommodations were first rate.

CHILE

Easter Island

Orca Diving, Bed and Breakfast, January 2005, Harvey Monroe (CheMono@aol.com), Santa Fe, NM.

Experience: 251-500 dives. Vis: 100 to 200 Feet. Water: 73 F, calm, no currents. The Undercurrent report was accurate and still up to date. Definitely off the beaten track. Mostly, South Americans, European and Japanese come to see the archeological features. We spent more time underwater than above. Pensions are a much better deal than the 2-3 hotels, expect to spend between \$40-\$80 per night for high season, the Xmas holidays. The climate is subtropical and can be cool at night or when it rains. The Rapa Nui-Polynesian Culture has been preserved to a great extent though the island is Chilean. They have several dance performances. The Orongo Village is a memorable spot on the side of a volcanic crater overlooking the ocean and the two small islands or Motus.

Orca Diving, the more professional of two island dive operations, is owned by ex-Cousteau diver. Has three capable dive leaders who tend to be overly protective of the recent arrivals. They loosened up after the 2nd day. Cladio, Christian and Jose-Luis are personable. The Motu Nui and Motu Iti are not to be missed. Shear pinnacles that rise out of the south ocean coast. We did several dives there to over 150 ft. Other spots not to be missed are the Dos Cuevas, the Giant Coral Head and Hang Roa

Reef. Fish life is not profuse but unique, colorful and interesting. This is the far South Pacific that is all hard corals and volcanic formations cool crystal clear water. Fish life was not plentiful but unique to the area with 30%-50% endemic to the region. The visibility was the best I've ever seen. With some spectacular coral encrusted rock walls and formations. The boats where small panga type boats usually taking out no more than eight divers. Isla de Pascua or Rapa Nui is off the beaten track, five hours from Santiago, but for those that want something different I would recommend it for the adventurous.

FIJI

For West Coasters, it takes as many hours to get to Fiji as it does to most islands in the Caribbean: 10 hours nonstop from L.A. Prices are comparable and you can tailor air packages to include New Zealand/Australia extensions at little extra cost. Fijians are polite, friendly, modest, and religious. Wetsuits are staples year-round; currents add coolness and in some places they are vigorous, so carry surface signaling devices (tubes, strobes). In September 2004, American Dan Grenier, the operator of Crystal Divers at Bamboo Reef Resort, took several divers to a distant reef and disappeared with another diver in heavy currents. The weather can be stormy June through September. Short, heavy showers are possible any afternoon year-round, especially around Beqa Lagoon. The year-round average temperature