

pools of water. When we shut off our lights, the pools were full of lantern fish, their faces glowing! A bare hand, in the water was soon covered by tiny red shrimp, scouring fingers and nails for a meal. The diving was very good. The visibility of 150 feet was superb. Marcus quietly questioned my dive buddy, found out what I liked to do, diving-wise (about anything), found out what kind of crackers I like to eat, chased all over the island until he found them (there's only three stores) and did everything he could to make me smile. Not an easy task. He was more of a host than a divemaster. His girlfriend from Switzerland was visiting and he invited us on a crew-only sunset cruise.

Lebens Diving Services, March 2005, Peter Donahue (donahueelectric@aol.com), Waltham, MA. Experience: Over 1000 dives. Vis: 20 to 50 Feet. Water: 67 to 67 F, choppy, no currents. Lebens Diving Service in Bremer Bay is a six-hour drive from Perth. We carried our own tanks and had them filled at his store in a water bath (dangerous at best) and found out we would be charged double if we returned with less than 30 bar in our own tanks! This was for "my protection" and was never adequately explained. I was afraid I was in for a long couple of days with a dictatorial dive master. Australia is a country where divers still dry dust caps with a blast of air from their tanks ... a dangerous and unsafe practice and bothersome to my ears. Craig took us in a Zodiac in search of leafy sea dragons — an exotic creature that only lives in this part of the world. Within five minutes, he pointed out two. A small school of weedy sea dragons was nearby. We

ended up going separate ways and each of us returned on their own to the boat. We dived our own profiles and did whatever we wanted. A fishing buddy spotted a blue whale but we never saw it. I was so cold that Craig rented me his new dry suit for \$10. The water was not as clear on the reefs he took us to. But there were many small animals. Diving was \$80 US for two single tank boat dives with weights. Air fills were \$6.50 and we brought our own weights. There was no food, but there was fresh water on the boat. We dived the marine trail which was interesting and Craig sent us on our own afternoon shore dives. We found leafy sea dragons, weedy sea dragons, and spent one dive in the harbor with a sea lion.

CHINA

Hong Kong

Ocean Sky Divers, Park Hotel, May 2005, Roger Gray, Annandale, VA.

Experience: 300+ dives. Vis: 6 to 15 feet. Water: 78 F, calm and flat. Had set up overnight live-aboard to Marine Park, 5-7 dives. It was canceled because of rain. No storms or wind. But they ran local dive, in the rain. I did a 2-tank dive with them. No soft coral, hard coral is in bad shape. Almost no fish at all, only a few crabs. Nothing to see. Don't go! I did tell them that it does not rain underwater.

INDONESIA

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