

ence: 200 dives. Vis: 70 to 80 ft. Water: calm and flat. This was my 4th time at Sodwana Bay, which is always enjoyable. Excellent dive operation giving caring service and thorough briefings. Courses offered are good and inexpensive. I took Nitrox course. If while going to a dive site, you see dolphins, you can jump off and swim with them. The lodge serves very good food plus there is a bar downstairs by the pool. Lots of divemasters — constructive coaching is really appreciated.

SPAIN

Centro de Buceo Octopus, July 2005, David Schwab (schwabd@bunt.com). Experience: 251-500 dives. Vis: 15 to 25 Meters. Water: 22 to 28 Celsius, calm, no currents. Octopus Dive Centre is a small operation in Port de Soller, Mallorca; charming resort town, easy to reach from Europe. Owners Marc and Marilen take good care of their customers on two hard boats: Octopus I and III; dives at 10:00 and 16:00, night dives on request. Divemasters are very capable; safety and a good experience for the divers is important to them. Rental gear available, much of it new (Cressi), all in good shape. Twelve liter cylinders were filled to 200 bar or more. All guided lasted 55+ minutes. No corals to speak of (this is the Med!), but lots of rock formations and ocean grass. Sparse populations of large fish, some places there were lots of little fishies. Told there were mantas and eagle rays but saw none. Plenty of moray eels and barracudas. No wrecks, but one is dived occasionally in Palma. This area prob-

ably wouldn't get an experienced diver excited, but it is easy diving and a great spot for novices. Pleasant place to enjoy surface intervals; food is great (eat at the restaurant El Pirat). My accommodation was "okay" but there are better (4*) hotels available. Check info at www.octopus-mallorca.com; note info on their trips to the Maldives.

Canary Islands

Aqua Marina Dive Centre, Playa de las Americas, April 2005, David Schwab (schwabd@bunt.com). Experience: 251-500 dives. Vis: 10 to 20 Meters. Water: 18 to 19 Celsius, calm. Tenerife and its sister islands are the result of volcanic activity; except the critters, diving will remind you more of diving the quarry or lake back home. Lots of moray eels, sting rays and eagle rays. Barracuda, angel sharks, scorpion fish, and octopi also. It takes some looking in the right places to find these, but persistent divers with a good torch will be rewarded. Most dives are from a RIB; a couple of shore dives are a real challenge because of rocks and tides. Dives between 5 -- 45 metres. British owned/operated Aqua Marina Dive Centre (www.aqua-marina.com) is close to the beach, a short walk with equipment to load the RIB to sites nearby. Multilingual dive staff is first class: friendly, knowledgeable, professional and willing to ensure the customer has an enjoyable dive holiday. Good place for beginners: my companion took the PADI OW and AOW courses and is now an excited, certified diver. Rental kit is in good shape; plenty available. I would dive with Andy and Neil anytime. Tenerife is

clean and colorful. Food is good. Rent a car and take time to drive up to the volcano (although warm on the shore, it's cold on the mountain!). Condos readily available and local markets remain open late. Book early.

UNITED STATES

New York

Jeannie Z, 2004, Neal Schreiberman, Brooklyn, NY. Experience: 135 dives. Vis: 15 to 25 ft. Water: 65 to 70 F, choppy. Best dive boat in Brooklyn. Lots of lobsters and fish.

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(415) 444-5560 (fax)
www.divediscovery.com

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League City, TX
(800) 897-5553
(281) 557-0286

(281) 338-0004 (fax)
www.diving-adventures.com

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(800) 322-3577, Ext. 1
(903) 887.8521
www.explorerverventures.com

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(800) 327-6709
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www.madurodive.com

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