

dive trip and Coastal had no clue what to do. 3 crew members and the captain did not want to help at all, and when asked to hand a mask to a diver, looked annoyed. Divemaster said little current but there was 2-3 knot; half of 15 divers never got to the wreck. Ladder is fins off and made for difficult and dangerous exits. 4-foot swells, which is common here. Crew could not see where we were tied in on 400-ft. wreck or how wreck lies in sand. No mention of safety equipment on board. We had to ask for mask rinse bucket and no accommodations on board for cameras.

VENEZUELA

Los Roques is a short flight from Caracas, and is roughly parallel with Bonaire. Diving can be more edgy with the chance of seeing bigger schools. Los Frailes, the only town, is tiny and charming, and Spanish is spoken

Las Roques

Aquanauts, December 2004, Nancy Cheris (necjcc@ptd.net), Wellsville, PA. Experience: 101-250 dives. Vis: 60 to 100 Feet. Water: 77 to 78 F, calm, no currents. The service and fun we had diving Los Frailes was exceptional. We were met at port by the owner who transported our gear and us to a taxi. We rode about 90 minutes across the island to a beach. (Free sightseeing trip!) We all helped push the boat over the sandbar then proceeded across the bay (45 minutes) to the coral islands. Pearl oysters everywhere. Water was cool by Caribbean standards and clear. The

divemasters opened the shells and let us feed the fish. This was not a marine sanctuary so we could wear gloves and knives. On the way back, the divemasters opened oysters for anyone who wished to partake. Beer was served, too. We even found a small seed pearl in one of the oysters. One of the best dive trips of the vacation. Isla Margarita is a great place to dive with Aquanauts. The only drawback is the lack of restroom facilities on land. The reasonable price of \$85 included the taxi. Be sure to have cash or travelers checks and money for tips and t-shirts. Contact Aquanauts at aquanautsvenezuela@hotmail.com UW Photography Comments: Rinse buckets on board. Cameras handed to us after we entered the water.

VIRGIN ISLANDS, BRITISH

Patch reef diving on these closely grouped islands is easy, pleasant, and fairly similar despite which island you choose. The islands are small, friendly, and great getaways.

Cooper Island Beach Club, September 2004, Mark & Lynn Thorne. (thorne@mindspring.com), Raleigh, NC. Experience: 251-500 dives. Vis: 60 to 80 Feet. Water: 83 to 84 F, calm. Our second trip to Cooper Island. The hotel staff and the dive staff at Caribbean Sail provide excellent customer service. Cooper Island is a quaint, out of the way, destination; free from the usual tourist trappings. You're awakened every morning by a gentle breeze and the sound of tropical birds singing outside your room. Your room looks over