

to 150 Feet. Water: 80 to 82 F, calm, choppy, surge, currents. The Six Passengers was a short walk down the beach from our hotel. Most of the staff spoke little English, but enough to provide briefings. You drift dive, so you stay together and dive a similar profile. The staff don't believe in wasting air, and kept us down until the heaviest breather was down to only 10 bar! Their goal is to maximize bottom time, and see the biggest fish. We played with a school of dolphins on two of the five dives we went on in Rangiroa, and saw tons of sharks. Most of our diving was in and around Tiputa Pass; diving through the pass we were swept along with large schools of barracuda, butterflyfish, and mating pufferfish. We saw mantas at the surface on one dive. The coral was in much better shape than on Bora Bora. The boats are all zodiacs, and the ship tries to limit them to a captain and six passengers, though we had eight on one trip. You have to wade out to the boats with your gear, though the staff will carry dressed tanks out for the ladies. There is a dive operation affiliated with our hotel, but it was more expensive and geared toward resort divers. The Kia Ora was beautiful. We had a "deluxe beach bungalow with pool," which had its own infinity-edged pool, and a garden tub outside surrounded by a coral wall for privacy. The garden bungalows were smaller and a bit cramped, but nice. The overwater bungalows were a little small, but most of them were spread out and appeared to have more privacy than some resorts on Bora Bora where the overwater units were packed tightly together. The hotel made reservations for us at other restaurants, but charged us \$1 to do so, which was not explained in advance! For the lack of crowds, we liked Rangiroa more than Bora Bora.

GUAM

MDA Divers, Hilton, May 2006, Yvonne Lanelli, NM. Water: 82F. Large American military presence, tourist development (mostly Japanese), high rise resort hotels – Guam Hilton – designer shopping in mega-malls, bars, strip clubs, and movie houses. MDA Divers (rentals, sales, instruction, Nitrox, 3000 PSI, compact 80s, divemaster extra) is a professional operation. Viz less than 30 feet on our much anticipated dives to the wrecks of the WWII Tokai Maru, a Japanese freighter that sank in Guam's harbor on top of the SMS Cormorant, a German WWI ship, as well as to the wrecks of an American tanker sunk as a breakwater, Hap's Reef and Pete's Reef. As we showered on MDA-Guam's dive boat the Sea Chaser, we could only listen as the other 12 divers, American stationed on or working in Guam, talk about what could be seen on "good days."

Micronesia Divers Association, June 2006, Larry S. Klumb, Lithia, FL. Experience: Over 1000 dives. Vis: 75 to 100 Feet. Water: 80 to 82 F, calm. Took advantage of the MDA Divers Club (MDA) membership. For \$75 I received five boat dives and other ancillary goodies. Overall excellent, well run operation. Well stocked and professional ScubaPro dealer with a top-notch repair station. Boats were first rate, with competent, engaging staff. Diving was enjoyable, not much in the way of pelagic sea life, but lots of small marine life, turtles, and other interesting critters. You were on your own to dive your own profile, without being encumbered by a dive guide. Diving was easy and enjoyable. No time to do any shore diving, but everyone I spoke with raved about it.