

rough over there. Try to get them to take you to the Atlantic side, unless you want to dive the wrecks.

Aquanauts Adventures, True Blue Resort, March 2006, Gabriel I. Peñagaricano (guigo34@hotmail.com), Guaynabo, PR. Experience: 501-1000 dives. Vis: 60 to 80 Feet. Water: 78 to 86 F, calm. Outstanding group of professionals. The dives are all drift dives, mostly for the comfort of the divers. There was something for everyone: monster wrecks, healthy, large reefs (one drift dive was for 50 minutes and all uninterrupted over the same reef). I could see the miniature blenny which received a full page photograph in the recent edition of one of the diving magazines. It was on the wreck of the Shakem. The signature wreck, the Bianca C, is worth three or four dives to better appreciate it: the Andrea Doria of the Caribbean. The dive boats are in excellent condition and the staff could not be better qualified. Five dives over two days did not do justice to all there is to enjoy underwater.

Aquanauts Dive, True Blue Bay Resort, May 2006, Jamie Pollack (JamieLynn@IntElecSys.com), New York, NY. Experience: 501-1000 dives. Vis: 50 to 100 Feet. Water: 83 to 86 F, calm. With a nonstop flight leaving from New York I can arrive in Grenada in 5 hours' time. The boats from Aquanauts are big and have lots of space. Two divemasters, Bruce and Reese, were excellent at helping with gear and showing us all the great sites and critters underwater. The owners of the dive shop, Gerlinde and Peter, run a great and safe operation. We broke down on the way to dive the Bianca C. They came out in another boat right away and Peter and the Dive Masters were working to fix the engine. Soon we were

on our way. The dive shop is attached to the resort so it's easy for divers to get to. The resort offers breakfast with your room rate and it's pretty good. The food in general at True Blue was excellent but expensive. The service is quite slow and if you are trying to catch the afternoon dive and want to have lunch, well, let's just say you will have to eat and run. As far as the reefs go, Grenada has some excellent dives to offer. The reefs are in excellent condition, lots of fish and great wrecks. I even saw a seahorse! The people of Grenada are friendly and love to party. UW Photography Comments: Boats have large area for storing cameras and separate rinse bucket

HONDURAS

All dive resorts are in the bay islands: Roatan, Utila, Cayos Cochinos, all home to aggressive no-see-ums — some people have serious allergic reactions. Those without DEET may find their vacations ruined. The diving features nice walls, offshore seamounts, and excellent coral and gorgonians, although there are few large fish. Whale sharks are common near Utila roughly February through May and boats from Roatan are chasing them too. Some Roatan resorts have easy beach diving. The rainy season is October through February, and can disrupt the diving. Spanish is spoken on the mainland, English on the Bay Islands. Classic Central American jungles and Mayan ruins inland make great mainland trips. Malaria protection is advised.

Roatan

Anthony's Key Resort, July 2006, Henry Dusel, Glen Ellyn, IL. Experience: 150-200 dives. Vis: 80 to 100 feet. Water: 78 to 81 F, calm and flat. We brought our adult children and 5 grandchildren aged 7 to 13 for Dolphin School Kid Camp. Everyone was pleased. Our 13 year old made 2 dives to 40 feet with great supervision. My adult daughter's first dive trip was great.

Bananarama, December 2005, Jim Schoeneck, San Diego, CA. Experience: 101-250 dives. Vis: 20 to 30 Feet. Water: 79 F, choppy, currents. My group of 12 divers was on island for 1 day, coming off of a cruise ship. We had chartered one of the Bananarama boats. Since conditions seemed to be poor and I could not get him on the phone, I went off the ship in a pouring rain to meet owner Ron Smith to see if we would be diving that day, which I assumed we would not be. Ron said that we would be going out and that conditions in the water should be fine. I went back, got the group and we piled into vans to go to the shop for paperwork, weights and tanks. Everything went smoothly at the shop (nice open air facility steps from the beach). We then drove to the boat, loaded the gear and took off. As we reached the dive site, conditions looked OK, with 2-4 foot chop and some surface current. The first of our divers got in and had to pull themselves to the front of the boat to go down the anchor line. No line was in the water for divers that did not immediately get to the boat. One diver started to drift and could not swim back against the surface current. That diver's buddy released from the boat and drifted back to keep the pair together. Shortly after the 2 divers dropped under the water and tried to come back just off the reef

about 35 feet down. Current there was just as strong and the pair came up farther from the boat rather than closer. The crew did not handle the situation well. They were not willing to make the call to abort the dive, seemingly because they were concerned that Ron would be upset. I finally made the call to abort and the captain for that day told me he'd only been working there a few days and implored me to tell Ron that it was my decision to abort, not his. Keeping his job was more important than the safety of the divers. Our pair in the water were picked up by another boat and had a rough tow back to us, but finally arrived safe. We had the boat return to dock and drop us back at the ship. I contacted Ron and told him what happened. After pushing pretty hard, he finally agreed to give us a partial refund of 40%.

Bananarama, February 2006, Larry Polster (larrypolster@sbcglobal.net), Martinsville, IN. Experience: 251-500 dives. Vis: 60 to 100 Feet. Water: 77 to 79 F, choppy. We packed all the necessary meds like creams, ointments, bug spray (DEET), Band-Aids, etc. because it is difficult to find even in the few pharmacies. Rainy season dropped rain on us for 6 or 7 days, with 6 to 8 ft. seas, but it didn't stop the diving, only made it chilly during surface interval. Development is taking its toll on the reefs with constant slit from rain and run off, but diving most sites still good and the best value in the Caribbean. Try diving Barbareta and Morat walls on the East side of the island; they are hard to get to and therefore fewer divers. The walls are fantastic, as good as it gets with colorful sponges and corals. There is a noticeable lack of larger fish. We had an eagle ray on two of the dives. Several friends went on the shark dive arranged with another dive shop via

Bananarama. They said it was exciting, especially when the feeding frenzy started with the food delivered and they hung on a rope in strong current. After a second request, we had fresh water tub on board for cameras. The dive crew were helpful passing cameras to divers once in the water. After the dive master knew your dive experience, they would let you stop to take photos and request you stay with your buddy, but keep them in sight. They were good about slowing the pace if an eager photo hound waited for a particular shot. Friday evenings we all gathered around the shop to view pics on laptops and share adult beverages provided by the divers.

Coco View, December 2005, Ron Hyatt (rhscubadiver@aol.com), Arlington, TX. Experience: 501-1000 dives. Vis: 35 to 70 Feet. Water: 77 to 79 F, calm, choppy, currents. Return trip. Good boats, great dive masters/captains (Jesse/Rueben); both are knowledgeable/helpful and great attitudes. They can find the critters. One day, our boat had mechanical problems, but still got the dives in as we got towed to the site and our boat was up and running the next day. Diving is as challenging as you want it to be. The dive operations run smooth, from the equipment area/rinse tanks to the schedule the boats run. 24/7 diving; boat dives, drop off dives, shore diving and special shark/dolphin events. Great value. Rooms are basic, clean and A/C works; maid service efficient. The "no see ums" can be controlled with DEET. The new manager, Liz, will continue to improve the resort without losing its charm. The food continues to improve; you really look forward to dinner/lunch (buffet style) while breakfast is cooked to order. It's not really a place for small children as far as activities for them. You also meet

great people from all around the US and world; sitting around during meals or at the bar trading stories/experiences is a great time. Checking in/out is easy. They take care of your return boarding passes, etc.

CoCo View, January 2006, Tracy J. Weekley (tjweekley@hardrockexploration.com), Charleston, WV. Experience: 26-50 dives. Vis: 60 to 80 Feet. Water: calm. Food was OK, nothing outstanding, but I never went hungry. No communications of any kind when I was there; internet and all phone systems were down and had been for weeks. Diving was great.

CoCo View, February 2006, Bob Ewald (rewald@bellsouth.net), Louisville, KY. Experience: Over 1000 dives. Water: 77 to 79 F, choppy. CoCo View has an excellent dive operation, with spacious, comfortable boats, dive sites close by and a good house reef. The storage facilities for gear at the dock are good. The dive staff was top notch. Accommodations are comfortable, although not luxurious, and are well maintained. The food was good. The diving was easy, with no currents and the reefs only a short distance from the dock. Reefs appeared healthy and the walls dramatic. Surprising lack of fish life. We saw few grouper and did not see many grunts, jacks, or snapper. We did see a good number of sea horses, but the reefs had a fished-out look. This is a nice resort with a good dive operation. One of the best dive bargains anywhere. Great destination for a new or inexperienced diver, but the diving is somewhat dull for the more experienced.

CoCo View, January 2006, Mike and Elaine Jerome, Beloit, WI. Experience: 101-250 dives. Vis: 60 to 90 Feet. Water: 78 to 80 F, choppy. Food and

lodging were fine, diving great. Shore diving great and easy. We spent 2 weeks there. My wife had an ear problem and Liz, the woman running the resort, provided us with transportation to see the doctor at the chamber on island to have her ear checked. If you contribute to the chamber, there is no charge for doctor's exam. He gave her a prescription and we got it filled in town, and she was diving again in 3 days.

CoCoView, February 2006, Tim Butcher (tim.butcher@clarica.com), Marmora, ON. Experience: 501-1000 dives. Vis: 75 to 150 Feet. Water: 80 to 85 F, calm. Flew down from Toronto (direct flight). We were met at the airport by Nora from CoCoView. Nora was efficient and took great care of us. Well-organized operation. We stayed in a beach house with another couple . . . the perfect way to go. Lots of diving, unlimited shore and up to 4 boat dives a day. 24/7 diving. Checkout dive the first day, for weighting and orientation dive. Included a detailed briefing beforehand. Nitrox available at an extra cost. Boats were in good shape. All AL80 tanks.

CoCo View, April 2006, Mark A. Hicks (Zorrr2@aol.com), Schaumburg, IL. Experience: 501-1000 dives. Vis: 80 to 100 Feet. Water: 80 to 82 F, calm, choppy. Roatan has some nice diving to offer and the freedom you get while at Coco View to "dive your brains out" if you so wish is fantastic. We used "geezer gas" (Nitrox) and loved the ease of its availability! Their dive boats are nice as well, spacious and easy to move around, and their moon entrances are great when the boat's a rock-in and roll-in! Meals were always plentiful and varied. I have stayed in Bungalows both times, but I think I will try the Cabanas next time after seeing a room (Bungalow's

and Cabanas are over the water). All are clean and air conditioned. Five dives a day is easy to do (two morning and afternoon boat dives and a great night dive in there own front yard!) The Prince Albert (140 ft freighter) is sitting out there within easy shore reach. We did sign up for the shark dive . . . up close and personal with Sharky and his buddies. I recommend Continental (and make it the early morning flight; that way you can get your checkout dive done upon arrival at Coco View). UW Photography Comments: All boats had great camera tables and specific camera buckets. Crew were good at handling all cameras. Not too many large critters, but lots of macro to be found. The DMs are fantastic for finding the unfindable.

CoCo View, June 2006, Suzanne, Metairie, LA. Experience: 101-250 dives. Vis: 60 to 100 Feet. Water: 82 to 83 F, calm. The new management at CoCo View is a vast improvement. Although they were having trouble with the generators, we always had hot water at the end of the dive day. All accommodations are now air conditioned. They asked us to turn off the ACs as much as possible to avoid strain on the electricity. But the staff worked overtime to see that we were comfortable in the evenings. CoCo View now has wireless internet in the lounge area. The diving continues to be excellent. CoCo View is truly a scuba camp. Divers can go along the walls and experience the deep and then return to "play under the boat." Divemaster Jessie and boat captain Ruben were extremely helpful with gear handling. Jessie was great at finding small and interesting critters such as pipefish and seahorses. UW Photography Comments: Dive shop was helpful in getting a friend's new digital camera working properly. She developed a fog on her lens and they cleaned it and told

her how to prevent it in the future.

CoCo View, July 2006, Ron Coombs (rcoombs14@comcast.net), Wexford, PA. Experience: 51-100 dives. Vis: 70 to 100 Feet. Water: 84 to 85 F, calm. This is a well run, low-key resort, for more experienced divers and photographers. Two boat dives per day with 2 drop off dives at the reef in front of the resort. The longest boat trip to a dive site was 20 minutes. Divemasters are friendly and knowledgeable of the reefs and aquatic life. (Marcos and Gringo were terrific!) One night boat dive is scheduled on Wednesdays. Unlimited shore/night diving with good dock/dive staff that are friendly and knowledgeable. Many people in my group took the PADI Nitrox course. Rooms are nice, and are either near or over the water and air conditioned. (One TV in the clubhouse) Food/Bar/Clubhouse is all in one building. Food is buffet style and pretty good with reasonable variety. This resort is low key with only 60 or 70 guests. Night life was tame. The Zip line tour on the other side of the island was a fun trip. If your spouse/partner is not a diver, it will be a long week for them. With 20 dives in 5 days, it felt a bit like scuba camp. If you want to dive a lot, with good reefs and photo ops, this is a terrific place. UW Photography Comments: Dive boats have camera only tanks and manage that separate from mask tanks pretty well. One diver had a latch on his camera housing come undone when handing it up to the crew. That resulted in a flooded camera when it went into the tank on board the boat. Probably an unfortunate accident, but it may be better to have the crew hand your camera back to you to put in the tank after you climb aboard.

CoCo View, August 2006, Sandy Oliver (sconsescuba@comcast.org),

Agawam, MA. Experience: 101-250 dives. Vis: 50 to 75 Feet. Water: 82 to 84 F, calm, choppy. The visibility was good for divers but down for snorkelers. The deeper you got, the visibility improved and would differ from early am to pm. Went on the shark feed dive with Waihuka dive center arranged by CoCo View, which was the best day of the trip. Actually safe and relaxing after the initial shock of all the reef sharks in one area. After 22 I stopped counting. Large grouper and a curious green moray swam in and out of our legs as the sharks were only an arm length away. No big fish but abundance of tropicals that were fairly large. Abundance of schooling fish, healthy barracuda and morays, parrot fish, drums, soldiers, eagle rays. A whale shark was spotted from one of the dive boats. Four dive boats, well maintained, leave from the dock at 8:30am and 2pm to different sites and then do drop off dives on return. CoCo View wall and Newmans' wall and the Prince Albert wreck are off the resort to dive anytime, day or night. The coral and sponges were brilliant with differing colors, which made photography picture-perfect. Staff were great both at CoCoView and Dockside. Food remained awesome the whole week. We had a bungalow over the water which was great until we lost power and electricity several times over the week. We also lost water to the rooms several times but recovered quickly. No phones, No TV and no bosses was great, if you are into that type of trip. I am. Used 80 cu. ft. steel tanks (Nitrox available), but lack of 63 tanks for some of us needs to be considered. If you did not have a dive partner, you tagged along with the group. The boats were not crowded and easy off and on with little effort. Took a photo course which was excellent. Large dry table for

cameras and dunking tanks both on the boats and off. Max help from crew to handle equipment.

Fantasy Island, September 2005, Pat Aderman (pat_aderman@juno.com), Irving, TX. Experience: 251-500 dives. Vis: 50 to 80 Feet. Water: 80 to 82 F, calm, no currents. I was there with the PADI Diving Society Singles group of 100+ divers. The dive operation was at maximum capacity. Occasional wait for tanks to be filled. They made every attempt to accommodate everyone. For diving from the pier they would shuttle tanks and divers by boat from the dive shop. Some people left their gear on the pier overnight without a problem. The dive shop would have fresh tanks waiting for dawn dives. All-inclusive resort. Buffets were served for every meal but the selection and quality of the food was first rate. Two evenings they served grilled lobster tails as well as crab and other seafood. They could have used a second person cooking eggs to lessen the wait. Rooms were not fancy but were clean, comfortable and cleaned daily. UW Photography Comments: Photo shop with E6 as well as digital processing.

Fantasy Island, January 2006, Ralph Asher (ScubaHedoII@comcast.net), Fort Collins, CO. Experience: 101-250 dives. Vis: 60 to 90 Feet. Water: 78 to 80 F, calm. Diving was just average. Mary's place was good. Calvin's Crack was good. Rest of the dives were not special and I resent that they use a boat dive to take you to the Prince Albert when it can be reached so easily from shore. They only took one trip to each of the two dives that were worthwhile. We did encounter a 6-foot moray eel that fed out of a container held by the dive leader while we could stroke it. The monkeys that allowed you to feed them

on the hotel deck were cute so long as you didn't hassle them. I laughed so hard when a woman pushed one that had reached into her purse and the little guy gave her such a shove back. It is a nice trip for beginners but not especially good for experienced divers where you do not have to follow the group and come up after 45 minutes.

Fantasy Island, February 2006, Steve Michalzik (smichalzik@austin.rr.com), Austin, TX. Experience: 51-100 dives. Vis: 50 to 65 Feet. Water: 68 to 78 F, choppy. Overall great trip! Reef fish a little sparse but great corals, sponges, walls and underwater diversity. Was impressed w/other divers' experiences and the smoothness of the dive operators. Dive your own profile to escape, just limit your bottom time to 50-55 min. to keep your divemaster happy.

Fantasy Island Dive Resort, April 2006, Brian Verbonac, Huntsville, Ontario. (verbonac@sympatico.ca), Experience: 101-250 dives. Vis: 75 to 150 Feet. Water: 80 to 85 F, choppy, surge. All dive boats have one captain and one dive master despite the number of divers on the boat. Our best day was four divers and our worst day we had a total of nineteen in the water . . . one divemaster . . . the group had a wide range of experience and the one divemaster was no match for that many in one group! We decided on a night dive . . . big mistake . . . fourteen divers and, again, one divemaster. The strobe on the divemasters tank was good for about twenty feet . . . eight divers got separated and ended up swimming close to a quarter mile back to the boat. We had the feeling that our divemaster was more concerned about his employment than the conduct of his divers. There is a no-glove rule on Roatan but

more than one diver wore gloves and nothing was said. We had one out-of-control photographer who insisted on attempting to get as close as possible to walls and coral. He lost buoyancy on several occasions which caused him to do major damage. Again, the divemaster was silent!

Fantasy Island Resort, May 2006, Dan Benson (dan@jsdive.com), Klamath Falls, OR. Experience: 501-1000 dives. Vis: 50 to 125 Feet. Water: 82 to 82 F, choppy, no currents. Rooms clean and nice. Electric outlets in rooms are only 2 pronged, and 2-3 prong adapters impossible to find. Free WiFi in lobby You have to ask around to find out when the dive orientation is. One worker told us it would be 3:00 p.m., another 3:30 p.m. and yet another 8:00 a.m. the following day! Nitrox is available for \$140/week which is three dives a day for 5 days. "32%" Nitrox is 30%-31%. Shore diving is pretty mediocre. Wall diving pretty incredible. Pretty strong wind/waves but other times said to be calm. West end of Roatan looked calm. 15 out of 16 people on our trip got ill (Gastroenteritis). Doctor on premises knew just what to do. Optional shark dive through Waihuka Diving Center (\$85) was the best shark dive I've done! Photo shop is spartan.

Fantasy Island, June 2006, Frank Evans (frankevans@charter.net), Rochester, MN. Experience: 101-250 dives. Vis: 50 to 75 Feet. Water: 84 to 90 F, calm, currents. Nice resort, well-maintained grounds, lots of animals to keep you entertained, especially the six monkeys. Very relaxing place . . . resort staff friendly, helpful. Scenic location with two beaches. Sand fleas a big downer — they bite and leave lots of little welts. DEET necessary. Our room was nice and air conditioner worked well.

Some others had substandard rooms in old wing. Buffet style food plentiful — pasta, burgers, fish, pork, beef, chicken, salads, fruit, breads — bonus is the home made ice cream. Pretty average dive resort food. Three of our group got the "Honduras Trots" (from the food?) Bacon way undercooked most mornings, but lots of fruit and good omelets. Dive operation is cattle boat deluxe. Six big boats holding over 25 divers each with one dive master. They had to borrow two more dive boats from another resort. Experienced divers thrown in with newbies! Enjoyed the diving if I could avoid the crowds. Fifty divers at Mary's Place (the signature dive?) was a miserable experience just trying to stay away from everyone. Great photo opportunities for coral and smaller reef creatures on every dive. Cute drum everywhere as well as seahorse and one super ugly toad fish. One sleeping shark, one eagle ray, and no turtles in 9 days of diving. Diving is easy . . . no current. Corals are rich, lovely, and colorful. Most dives done along classic walls . . . over wall for half the dive and back on the top. No bigger fish . . . all smaller colorful reef fish and morays on nearly every dive. Local fisherman are out daily and several of us removed fishing line from reefs. All dive sites are close to the resort so there are no long boat rides. Several are right out front. DM lets experience divers do their own profiles. Three boat dives a day (shore dive also possible). Airport is a test; be patient and they will finally get your bags and herd you onto the Fantasy Island bus. Resort is on an island so you are away from everything. They even have their own small zoo. Price is inexpensive compared with many other places. Kind of the Wal Mart of dive resorts! Quoted price does not include 12% tax and you are hit with another

\$33 a person departure tax when you fly home. If you can't adjust to overcrowded dive boats you might think twice about going. We had a good time, just rolled with the problems and the crowds (mostly real nice people).

Fantasy Island, June 2006, Gary Kolb (robertkolb@sbcglobal.net), Carson City, NV. Experience: 51-100 dives. Vis: 65 to 75 Feet. Water: 82 to 84 F, calm, choppy. Food and rooms were ok, service and diving were great, both Darren, our dive master, and Moses, boat captain, were great — made our trip a lot of fun. Most of the dives were on walls, with little current. Really liked Mary's Place, nice dive through, and Forty foot point.

Fantasy Island, July 2006, Craig M Smith, Aransas Pass, TX. Experience: 251-500 dives. Vis: 60 to 70 Feet. Water: 84 to 86 F, choppy. Fantasy Island is a well-maintained hotel with simple, but clean and adequate rooms, with working phones and television. The check in and out is simple and quick, and concierge services for side trips are good. The hotel has nighttime entertainment several nights (flame dancing, native songs, etc.). The beach is beautiful and spacious, with a nice swimmable lagoon. Food service was good, with variety, local foods, and good hours of operation. The grounds are well kept, with mischievous monkeys, peacocks, and watusas wandering around. The dive operation is excellent. The boats are roomy, well designed, O2 equipped, and most of the dive sites are 10 to 30 minutes away. The safety briefings are clear and to the point, and you can dive your own profile if you want. Nitrox is available. Our divemaster was good at pointing out critters we would have missed without his knowledge of the area. Night diving was good but not

spectacular. Shore diving is good, with a couple of entertaining house wrecks, and a respectable house reef.

Fantasy Island, September 2006, Theresa Aranda (t.aranda@charter.net), Long Beach, CA. Experience: 251-500 dives. Vis: 40 to 80 Feet. Water: 84 to 86 F, calm. Dive operation was well run, divemasters courteous and willing to find requested species. Boat staff helpful getting divers in and out of boats. Boat returned to dock after every dive, making it easy for my husband and me to take turns diving and watching the baby. Six large boats; took out 4 boats daily with 10-12 divers per boat with plenty of room. We traveled with our 9-month-old baby and the resort staff was fabulous with her, even buying her small presents. Rooms were comfortable and clean with air conditioning, requested crib was already in the room. Meals were served buffet style and the food was simple but adequate. Guests were thrilled with the pack of monkeys that could be fed by hand and would perch on your shoulder or head. Cattle call at airport for pickup and drop off. Diving was easy, with nice selection of soft corals, tropicals, and sponges. Great for beginner divers. Good value for \$650 — room, food, 3 dives per day, one night dive and airport transfers.

Inn of Last Resort, December 2005, Marc and Anne Bressman (mbressman116712@comcast.net), Cherry Hill, NJ. Experience: 251-500 dives. Vis: 50 to 75 Feet. Water: 78 F, choppy, surge. Owners are trying to sell resort, which led to poor management of dive operation. Our divemaster was good but overworked. Management of dive operation was nonexistent or poor in many areas, including permitting brand new divers to accompany experienced divers on a 100+ foot wreck dive,

ruining it for everyone.

Inn of Last Resort, May 2006, Leslie and Mike Bardelli (lbardelli@snet.net), New Milford, CT. Experience: 501-1000 dives. Vis: 75 to 100 Feet. Water: 82 to 83 F, calm. Easy diving, reefs teeming with life, photo opportunities, especially macro, everywhere and easy to get to. 7th yearly trip staying at the Inn of Last Resort. They have a slow immigration process and the Continental and Delta flights arrive back to back. The Inn of Last Resort is a small, all-inclusive dive resort in the Sandy Bay – West End Marine Park. The owners, Donna and Andy Arcaya, live at the resort and are involved with its day to day operation. The staff at ILR are always friendly and accommodating. If you need something, just let one of them know and they will do there best to help you out. The resort is composed of 4 buildings in a rectangle with tropical plantings in between. 3 of the buildings are guest rooms and one is the lodge that houses the restaurant and bar. The guest rooms are large, with a queen and 2 twin beds. Rooms are air conditioned with 2 ceiling fans. Bathrooms are small but functional with plenty of hot water. One wall is an open closet with 2 sections, each with an area to hang clothes and 4 deep shelves. The Delta flight allowed us to arrive early enough to get in the water before supper. ILR has a lagoon that is shallow (2 – 8 FT) and if full of life. As you reach the reef edge there is a white buoy that marks a shallow cut in the coral; inflate your BC, go through and you are on the reef. Here you can just head down and out and end up on the reef or head toward the boat mooring to Fish Den. My husband and I spend every evening sitting on the dock watching the sunsets. The meals at ILR are all sit-down. There is a board in the lodge where they post the fixed

menu — they are great at special dietary requests. Just let them know when you arrive if you have any special food issues. The food is good, with a healthful sized portion. You can always ask for seconds. ILR has 3 boats; all hold up to 20 divers; this trip we had 2 (private dive) to 20 divers, mostly 12 – 15. The boats are roomy with under bench storage and a flat area over the engine cover. They also have a dry box where they store towels. Each boat has 2 built in rinse tanks off the back, one designated for camera gear. Entry is giant stride with the boat captain helping you in and out of the water. The boats have 2 ladders on the back to get back on board. Gear is stored in the dive shop that is a stones throw from the boats. The DMs and Captains will take care of your gear after your first set up if that is your desire. The boats leave the dock for 3 single tank dive daily. The dives are guided, unless you want to stay under the shadow of the boat. The DM will brief the dive and give you max depth and generally dive time was 60 minutes, give or take. The only dive that they enforce a dive time is one of the deep wrecks; otherwise, they have you back under the boat by 45 – 50 minutes and then you can play. The sites are generally a short boat ride away, usually between 2 and 15 minutes. Occasionally, the ride might be up to 25 minutes. The dives for the day are posted in the lodge. We stayed for 2 weeks with 12 ½ days of diving, did 42 dives and clocked over 43 hours of bottom time. Typical tropicals, parrotfish, squirrelfish, blue tang, grouper, damselfish, butterflyfish. Scorpionfish, flounder, and sand divers. Blennies, gobies, slender filefish, lettuce and harlequin sea slugs, flat worms. Yellowheaded jawfish, corkscrew anemones with Pederson cleaner shrimp and snapping shrimp, giant anemones with

spotted cleaner shrimp, squat anemone shrimp and banded clinging crab. There are no facilities for film processing. Boat returns to dock after each dive so camera maintenance can be done in your room.

Inn of Last Resort, May 2006, Samuel Johnson (sbjmath1@aol.com), Greensboro, NC. Experience: 251-500 dives.

Vis: 30 to 70 Feet. Water: 78 to 80 F, choppy. I had a decent experience, but “decent” is less than one hopes for. The diving is, of course, the same diving as at the other resorts at that end of the island. I’ve been going to Roatan for 13 years and have patronized big resorts, small resorts, and live-aboards, and the diving, which is generally good, is much the same at all of them. Unfortunately, the dive briefings with the Inn of Last Resort were laughably inadequate, e.g., “It’s another wall dive. We’ll go down that way and come back.” Once in the water, the divemasters rarely if ever pointed out interesting fish, critters or sights. No restrictions on depth or air consumption were enforced, although a few divers were appropriately chided for not being able, at depth, to tell where their buddies were. A low point was reached when one divemaster gave us a tongue lashing because, once we were back under the boat, several pairs of dive buddies had dared to explore around the mooring site independently, rather than continuing to attach themselves like loyal members of the school to the divemaster’s fins. The boat captain, a strong, silent local man, stood out among the staff for at least being alert to diver’s needs and helping people with equipment. An example illustrating both the expertise and the courtesy of the head divemaster and manager of the dive operation consisted of his laughing at me and bragging on himself when I questioned

whether a certain kind of knot would hold under water, tied into a certain kind of plastic cord. When I came back from the dive and showed him the cord hanging loose and my equipment saved only because I was holding it in my hand, an apology was noticeable by its absence. (A zip-tie turned out to be the right solution.) The food was mediocre and boring, but by the time the wait staff finally brought it to your table, hunger generally made up for its tastelessness. The physical plant of the resort is pleasant and, being up on a hill, is generally open to breezes which kept Roatan’s usual bug problem at a minimum, although any Roatan visitor should still be well-supplied with DEET. The automated wake-up calls worked; the overhead light fixture did not. You win some; you lose some. The resort’s lagoon, which they advertise as available at any time for shore diving, is fairly rich in critter life as any Caribbean lagoon will be, but at its deepest it is perhaps 5 feet, and it is mostly 3 feet deep with eelgrass. There is no cut through the barrier reef and so no access to deep water. I spent an enjoyable night snorkel there following an octopus.

Inn of Last Resort, May 2006, Pat Sinclair (psincl5611@yahoo.com), Tampa, FL. Experience: 101-250 dives.

Vis: 20 to 80 Feet. Water: 78 to 82 F, choppy, no currents. ILR doesn’t supply many amenities in the rooms, no hair dryer, no TV and worst of all, no alarm clock. Bring a hair dryer and alarm clock for yourself. We discovered that the DM and boat crews would handle our gear for us both between dives and after diving was complete for the day. Juergen was our dive master. I understand he has only been with ILR for 2 weeks. Our boat was comprised of 14 divers to the one DM. We saw a good

sized hawksbill turtle on our first dive. 1st incident: 3rd dive of the 1st day, at El Aquario (78 feet max depth and 65 minutes) we managed to lose our DM. Apparently 2 divers got low on air and signaled Juergen that they needed to go to the boat. He, without telling anyone in the 12 left, took them to the boat and attempted to come back and find his group of 12. We, as a group, noticed we were missing a DM, decided to stick together and figure out where the boat was and return to it, which we did, we had an unhappy DM who thought we should have stayed put, which we would have done, had he told anyone in the 12 where he had gone and why. 2nd incident: The sun was in my eyes as I walked on the dock to the boat, my foot caught on something and I tripped and fell. The DM from the other boat told me that the cord stretching across the dock (at a height of 4 inches off the dock deck) to my dive boat's battery was a hazard that he had told the management was going to cause an accident and he was sorry that I had been hurt. Well, my knee was pretty whacked, but I figured it would eventually heal. Upon inspection, the camera looked to be ok, and so did the housing. I decided to take it on the dive, and it flooded. I spoke with the owner of ILR who had only "Oh, that is too bad that happened," "we will replace that cord on the dock with something longer," and "we have done that for 10 years and no one before has ever been hurt or lost equipment" to say. When leaving I got a reduction of \$250 from our bill for the camera, far less than it was worth, but better than nothing. The cord was replaced the same day of my fall, btw, with a longer one and the cord was not stretched out, 4 inches off the deck any more during my stay there. On almost every dive we did there were three or

more large black grouper or one or two large snappers hanging around like puppy dogs under the boat. We saw the occasional great barracuda, but we never saw any sharks or rays. There were lots of macro life (cleaner shrimp, secretary blennies, etc.) and tons of fish life. The turtles were wonderful to see and swim with as well. The reefs and walls on this end of the island, as well as the wrecks provided something for just about everyone dive-wise. We really loved most of the dives (Spooky Channel and Bear's Crack were not among those we liked!). The bottom times were great – we got nearly 20 hours in 18 dives — the dive master was not. The food was OK (single menu served at table – take it or leave it and some of it was just ok and none of it great) and the rooms were nice and well kept. It was great to have someone else handle your gear for you. The resort is up for sale! UW Photography Comments: Nothing on shore to help you - you can take equipment to your room. On boat, separate camera rinse tank, that divers tried always to use for masks. There is a TV which you can hook up to and view your digital shots, nothing available for the film shooters though.

Inn of Last Resort, August 2006, Jerry Van Zante (jvanz@webtv.net), Yukon, OK. Experience: 251-500 dives. Vis: 50 to 100 Feet. Water: 80 to 84 F, calm. Resort was well run with responsive owners on site as well as an excellent manager and staff. Food was good to good (soups were often excellent) and more than sufficient quantity. Tres Leches dessert was also outstanding. Resort is relatively close to West End for those interested in night life. A special shark dive is available at another location. Diving was mostly in the marine park area with its relatively more abundant critters.

Octopus Dive School, December 2005, Hugh Aaron (hearon@hrai.com), Mechanicsville, VA. Experience: 101-250 dives. Vis: 60 to 80 Feet. Water: 80 to 82 F, calm. My wife, 12 year old son and I were on the Carnival Valor. My wife and I have been diving for about 25 years. My son was certified this past summer. We had made arrangement (via email) before we left home to do a one tank boat dive in Roatan with the Octopus Dive School on the beach at Foster's in West Bay. We took a cab from the cruise ship (\$20/ person round trip). A "tour guide" apparently goes along on all cab rides. Our tour guide was Harry, a nice young man who stayed with us at Foster's the entire day. It may have been to make sure that we did not take another cab back to the pier (since, as is apparently the local custom, cruise ship passengers do not pay for cabs until the cab returns them to the pier). The staff at Octopus, Lars and Nuria, were really friendly and helpful. The dive boat picked us up on time at the pier on the beach at Foster's and dropped us off at another pier about five minutes away. There were three "resort course" divers. The dive master's first priority was the novice divers (as it should be), however, we also found him helpful. We left from the shore for a guided tour of the reef right off the West Bay beach. Our maximum depth was 39 feet. In addition to numerous fish and the health reef, we saw a small turtle and a large eagle ray. Octopus dive boat took us back to Foster's where Harry and the cab driver were waiting. They got us back to the cruise ship in plenty of time.

Paya Bay Resort, May 2006, Sherrie Barker Jefferson, OR. Experience: 51-100 dives. Vis: 60 to 80 Feet. Water: 83 F. We didn't see another dive boat during the week. The boat time to dive sites

was short. Surface intervals were on local docks. The dive sites were between Pollytilly and Camp Bay along a fringe reef just offshore on the north side of the island. We did scrap one day's diving when a storm passed, but otherwise did two morning dives beginning at 9 with the option of a third in the afternoon. The Resort has 8 rooms, a large dining room with deck, and two beaches. Food was plentiful and good. The staff was wonderful. Take a book or two to read in the evening.

Reef House Resort, January 2006, Jerri Moore, TX. Experience: 101-250 dives. Vis: 40 to 80 Feet. Water: 81 F, choppy. At the East end of the island, far from the crowds of West End (never saw another dive group the whole week), usually small groups 5-8 on boats, good fills and assistance as needed. Fantastic DM was able to spot a lot of unusual critters. He and the boat captain provide a good dive experience. Reef is in good shape (beautiful untrampled fans galore, abundant black coral, largest scrawled filefish and porcupine fish I've seen). Rooms were clean and comfortable, excellent maid service, management was accommodating. Weather was cold and rainy part of the trip, wouldn't go again in January! A couple with us had been there the year before at the same time and experienced rainy conditions the entire week. Oak Ridge residents have got to do something about all the trash in the water, it was a real turn-off. House reef entry was a little tricky to negotiate past the urchins, but saw a lot of fish and octopus on night dive. Meals were just ok, not filling although the servers were attentive. Just before we departed we had crab and it was very good. (We were glad we'd brought "snacks" from home.) Several of us lost weight this trip! Do the mangrove tour with one of

the local long boat owners, it was entertaining and informative. Quiet resort, secluded and security was good.

Reef House Resort, May 2006, Bruce Williams (hdg@bresnan.net), Durango, CO. Experience: 26-50 dives. Vis: 40 to 100 Feet. Water: 82 to 84 F, choppy, no currents. 10-12 miles east of the Coco View and Fantasy Island commotion and diver traffic. Roughly forty recognized dive sites along this stretch of coast; rarely saw another dive boat, except the one day we ventured to Mary's Place. Reef House is great! 12 rooms, low key, family style dining, sit and BS with the owners and staff, good food, TV and Internet phone access if you need it, no phones. 3 boat dives plus unlimited shore diving daily. Only one night dive a week; could have stood more. Wall dives are 20-200 yards off shore, first drop is to about 120' in most places. Great soft corals, good sponges, lots of little reef critters, not much reef fish traffic. Most dives are of a somewhat similar character. Windier than usual for May while we were there, which lowered viz somewhat.

Utila

Deep Blue Resort, March 2006, Martha, Glendale, CA. Experience: 26-50 dives. Water: 72 to 76 F, calm, choppy. Steve and Matt are excellent DIs and boat Captain, Swinn, was outstanding. DIs focused on your safety and diving enjoyment. Resort is new, so all buildings clean and fresh. Best rooms are on the third floor; my room was on the first floor and privacy was compromised with flimsy curtains too small for the window. There was only a cold water faucet in my room's bathroom sink yet the shower did have both hot and cold water. Food was a disappoint-

ment at best; only iceberg lettuce and shredded carrots most days and bonita tuna and chicken. Wish I had brought a 7mm suit for the deeper dives and night dive; I get cold easily. Diving: 5 stars. General atmosphere and food at resort 3 stars. Many Brits there and seemed as if they were given a lot more personal attention compared with us from the States.

Laguna Beach Resort, April 2006, Jeffrey R. Johnson, St. Charles, IL. (jrij60174@sbcglobal.net) Experience: 101-250 dives. Vis: 50 to 100 Feet. Water: 80 to 81 F, calm. We went for whale sharks but saw none. There were many disappointed people, some who had been there previous year and hadn't seen any that year either. Diving was good, not great. Didn't see much in the way of big stuff - no sharks, only a couple of turtles and eagle rays. Did see lots of green moray eels, some out and about. Highlight were seahorses — white, orange, and black. Our Divemaster, Annette, was excellent at finding the small stuff — flatworms, nudibranchs, shrimp, etc. Dive staff and boat captain were great. Resort was nice, great scenic location, staff and service were excellent. Accommodations were comfortable - air conditioning + ceiling fan, comfortable bed, hammocks and chairs on deck where we had beautiful sunsets. Food was buffet style, not gourmet but satisfactory. Big downside was the abundance of bugs - nothing seemed to work for us and others, similar to other trips we've taken to Central America. During Easter Week influx of natives returning for big family week stress island's utilities.

Laguna Beach Resort, May 2006, Irina Zeylikman, Lexington, MA. Experience: 251-500 dives. Vis: 40 to 70 Feet.

Water: 82 to 84 F, calm. None of our, and most of our co-travelers', luggage arrived to the island with us on Atlantic Air. Luciano, one of the managers of the resort, assured us that the luggage would be delivered next day (and it was), and it should not stop us from diving next morning. All of us were outfitted with almost brand new gear from the dive shop. No charge! The resort is run like a good oiled machine by Luciano and his wife Romina. Everything is clean, the food is good, kitchen staff does their best to accommodate people's allergies and food preferences. The managers seek comments from guests and listen to them. Diving: There are 3 dives a day, plus 2 night dives a week. The whale shark "hunt" is done either before the first dive of the day, or during the dive interval. We had one brief sighting. Only 8 people were allowed to be in the water with shark. Wagner, our boat captain, did his best to find more sharks for us, but the sharks did not cooperate. Beautiful reefs with a lot of small stuff, some lobsters, crabs, tons of angelfish, etc. Bring a lot of DEET as bugs are relentless.

Laguna Beach Resort, June 2006,
Barbara L. Petrecca (seagoddess62@verizon.net), Catonsville, MD. Experience: 251-500 dives. Vis: 60 to 100 Feet. Water: 78 to 82 F, calm, no currents. Treated like royalty. They try to take care of every need and want - all you have to do is ask. There is cell service there if you can handle the roaming charges. The food served buffet style is excellent (meals are included - drinks are not). They have an honor bar with reasonable prices but limited. If you want something particular, get it at the duty free shop before you get there. The rooms are roomy for two, clean and simple with lots of hot water. Remem-

ber sun screen and bug spray with DEET as the no-see-ums are terrible but preventable. The flight from Roatan is a small charter flight and people go first, luggage is sometimes left behind. And it is not a daily flight. My dive gear bag (along with others) did not arrive when I did. I was told it would not be sent for two days. Luckily, it had arrived, just picked up by another hotel and was found later that evening. Coral looks healthy and varied, lots of small fish and green morays everywhere.

Utila Dive Centre, The Mango Inn, March 2006, Bill Schlegel, Jefferson City, MO. 800 open circuit dives with 250 re-breather dives. Weather was 80 degrees daily with occasional showers and some days with strong breezes off the Caribbean that produced whitecaps and swells of several feet. Other days were almost calm. Water temp was also about 80 degrees. Visibility was up to 125 ft at times, 75 feet at the worst. No significant currents. Mango Inn is one of those unique, one of a kind places where at first impression you might feel you made a mistake. But you didn't! Lush, jungle grounds and an open air, tin roofed dining area with bar. Cooking is done in a large, wood fired stone and brick oven by some local ladies. The meals are wonderful and people come from all over the island to enjoy the food, especially the multiple varieties of pizza. Lorenzo, the restaurant manager (a Frenchman) produces a delicious standing menu along with wonderful daily specials. Most diving packages include breakfast and dinner. We usually had lunch at one of the restaurants near the dive operation. The rooms are clean, no bugs, air conditioners work, purified water dispensers in each room, satellite T.V., adequate storage, linen changes every day. Inexpensive and prompt personal laundry

service is available. Internet connections in the front office. The pool is nice with a wading pool and Jacuzzi like annex although not heated. The deep end is about 14 feet for dive training. The Mango is about ¼ mile from the dive operation. The walk is easy and allows one to enjoy the ambience of the town, which is something to behold. People were universally friendly and polite except for occasional teenagers on bicycles or motorbikes which need to slow down. There is an old truck that shuttles gear and divers back and forth to the dock driven by Hector, and he will take you other places for a buck or two. Dollars are accepted everywhere. Departure taxes need to be paid in cash, not plastic. We figured a total of about a dozen cars-trucks-vans on the island with hundreds of bicycles-golf carts-4 wheeler ATV's-motor bikes. Rentals of everything are available for island exploring. The diving operation was well run. One criticism was that although we selected them because they advertise themselves as a technical diving operation, and that's why the re-breather divers in our group decided to go there, there was a fair amount of confusion there the first day when it came time to set up re-breather equipment the first time. John, the dive shop manager was helpful and friendly and things were soon straightened out. They have a bar at the dive shop. Dive boats were serviceable. Ladders and tank racks are solid and well designed. DAN oxygen on board with small first aid kits, radios, fresh water and carefully done diver counts. Hang bottles always in the water. Shawn (Canadian) and Chico (USA) were our excellent dive-masters and Anthony, from an old island family, our captain. Yes, the whale sharks are around Utila and we saw them several times. The reefs were

healthy and bleaching was less than in other areas of the Caribbean that we've been to recently. I saw schools of jacks and silversides along with the usual reef fish. Our groups' impression was that counts of the middle to larger reef fish were down, due to subsistence fishing. On one memorable dive, alone and on my re-breather (no bubbles) I spotted a large school of Atlantic spadefish in the distance. Slowing down and barely moving, they stopped also, turned toward me and approached to within arms length. Eventually there were 50 fish eyes all around me, looking me up and down. Sea turtles are abundant. Saw sea horses. Occasional lobsters, cleaner shrimp and morays. There are some nice walls, especially in the north side of the island. The wreck of the Haliburton is just outside the harbor and sits at 100 feet on the sand. A reasonable wreck to dive, but not much for wreck divers. There is a recompression chamber on the island. Dr John Mc Vay D.O., an American trained doctor, runs a small clinic and supervises the chamber. He would greatly appreciate any medical supplies anyone can bring, even band aids!

Utila Dive Centre, Mango Inn, May 2006, Russ Battisto, Roseville, MN. (Russ_Battisto@Comcast.net) Experience: 501-1000 dives. Vis: 60 to 80 Feet. Water: 79 to 83 F, calm, no currents. Used Gene Dold at Aqua Dreams Travel. We took a puddle jumper from Roatan to Utila. We were met at the Utila airport (a small strip without any buildings) by Hector who got us and our luggage to the Mango Inn, which is beautiful, well run and has great food. Even the locals come by for the food (the wood fired pizza is great). They seem to have fresh fish every night from the locals, which makes sense as the fish life wasn't as abundant as a protected

park like Cozumel. We enjoyed dinner with a couple who run a vet clinic on the island. We stayed in one of the suites, not the typical room the backpackers go for, expensive by Utila standards but nice. The Mango Inn caters to all visitors and does it well. Utila Dive Centre is an easy 6-block walk from the hotel and Hector gets your dive equipment to UDC on the first day. Watch out for the rain storms overnight. They tend to take out the power for a short time. Regina (head DM for UDC) gave us orientation, checking us out for experience level. Utila is a backpacker's paradise where most come to stay cheap and learn to dive at Utila Dive Centre or one of the many other schools. Most specialize in advance, DM and Instructor courses. Once we "passed" their inspection we were free to do our thing. I had fun following Brian and Robin (both going for their instructor's shingle) along with the other students, checking out their routines. Met some wonderful people and correspond with them still. Nitrox is normally readily available but Nitrox became unavailable for two of our dive days out of the six. Jimmy (dive shop manager) refunded our Nitrox payment in full. The most interesting dive day we experienced was with some tech diver students and their instructor going for their deep dive. The equipment these divers had to put up with makes me wonder why anyone would want to do it. Simon and his students were diligent in their routines and followed a long checklist leading up to the actual dive. disciplined with an emphasis on safety. We saw them at one of their safety stops around 70ft. The diving is easy overall, little current and average vis. The coral is in good shape. The water was warm. I expected to see more fish life. Lots of little stuff to look at and take pictures of and great coral

structure but Utila lacks the big stuff. Second, we did hear about whale shark sightings but never got close enough to experience it ourselves.

Utila Lodge, December 2005, Dean Knudson (deanknudson@yahoo.com), Golden Valley, MN. Experience: 251-500 dives. Vis: 30 to 75 Feet. Water: 79 to 83 F, calm. The short and unpredictable flight from Roatan is a nuisance, both coming and going. There is a luggage weight restriction. The Utila airport is a platform with a tin roof. While waiting in the airport on Roatan it is possible to purchase inexpensive liquor and wine. Bottles of Cabernet from Chile are only three dollars. The accommodations are comfortable. The hot tub on the front deck is a nice touch. There is no pool. Room 2C has the best Internet connection, although there is supposed to be wireless internet throughout the resort. Our Skype connection worked fine for international telephone calls, using a laptop and a headset. The dive boat is large, but is on the slow side, cruising at 10 mph. There is no fresh water rinse on that boat. The cook is willing to pack a lunch for the entire group, to allow three dives instead of two on the morning trip. Request this, as the better dive sites are on the other side of the island, an hour away. The sand flies are vicious, bring plenty of DEET, and pray that you are not one of those individuals who reacts to the bites. Captain Willy is quite sharp, and found a whale shark for us on the fourth day. We had three close encounters with it. The dive guides are competent and friendly. The visibility was reduced during our trip, but the coral is healthy, and the structure on most of the sites was quite interesting. The entire area is significantly over-fished. There is a lot of small marine life, however. The entire island is a dirt

cheap place. Beers are \$.75 to \$1.00, and there are plenty of young Europeans, creating a lively bar scene. The two best bars are La Tranquilla and La Champa. The resort food is above average and plentiful. Meals are timed around the dive boat schedule. Honduras is a poor country. The average monthly family income is around \$110 on the island of Utila, and only \$80 on the mainland. A seven-day-old baby died of a fever, on the island, during the week we were there. There is little violent crime, but theft is something of a concern. The resort owner insists that the entire resort is secure, and we had no difficulties with our valuables. The sunset view from the Bay Islands College of Diving bar is excellent, and the drinks are substantially cheaper than in the main lodge bar that is only 60 feet away. There are only two roads on the island which are paved, totaling about 5 miles. Renting a bicycle and spending an afternoon riding around will allow you to see all of the island. The treehouse bar is worth a happy hour drink. Gunther, the sculptor, is an interesting character, and his shop is worth a visit. There are no large interesting wrecks, and if one does not encounter a whale shark the dive vacation becomes average to slightly above average. There are both malaria and dengue fever on the island, although they are both quite rare, and it is a good idea to use malaria prophylaxis, and to have the oral typhoid vaccine before departing. Captain Willy can attest that dengue fever is quite an experience. He apparently came close to dying from it. A Florida style condominium complex is apparently being planned for one of the main lagoons. The island will probably lose its charm in the next decade. The dive guides are concerned about the possibility that the mangrove swamps will be trained for

development. They fear the reefs will decline substantially without abundant healthy mangroves to filter the island water runoff.

Utila Dive Lodge, May 2006, Sherrie Barker, Jefferson, OR. Experience: 51-100 dives. Vis: 40 to 75 Feet. Water: 80 to 83 F. Basic lodging, good food, and terrific diving. The deck over the water was a great place to relax. Queen Ann's hermit crab races ended the week. The Sea Sprite, with Willy at the controls, was large enough to accommodate our group comfortably, even in rough water. Safety sausages were provided mid-week for all divers. Dive sites were plentiful, but with so many dive operations on the island, some were inaccessible. The island is small enough that you can get to all sites fairly easily. Rough water made some trips seem longer than they were. Stop by the Jade Seahorse and the Whale Shark Oceanic Research Institute while on the island.

JAMAICA

Jamaica Scuba Divers, December 2005, Jim Schoeneck (braves@san.rr.com), San Diego, CA. Experience: 101-250 dives. Vis: 50 to 70 Feet. Water: 78 F, calm, no currents. Group of 12 divers off a cruise ship. Christian, a friendly person and our primary contact, met us at the tourism office just off the cruise ship pier and we were quickly off to the resort to gear up and get to the boat. Diving was off pangas at Runaway Bay, about a 30 minute ride from the pier. Service at the resort was great. Staff took care of paperwork, secured necessary equipment and got the gear to the boats, making sure everyone was well cared for. A secure locker was available for valuables. Diving was comparable to other close in dives in