

needs for me to certify my daughter, including the use of their pool for a quick refresher of skills. They took us on a short ride to fish-rich reefs. I never saw so many scorpionfish in a week of diving, and we only dived with Tank Ha for 2 days. We also saw huge turtles and barracuda. Didn't see pelagics, but that was fine with my new-diver daughter. The cenote trip with Kenny was incredible. Groups were limited to 4 people. The halocline and the cave formations have got to be seen. After our dives, my daughter thought her purse was stolen from the cubbies at Tank Ha. The staff helped us look everywhere. Luckily, she had left it in a dining room at the Barcelo resort, and it was returned to the front desk with only the money missing.

MONTSERRAT

Seawolf Diving, Vue Pointe Hotel, June 2006, Brant Shenkarow (brantravels@yahoo.com), San Anselmo, CA. Experience: Over 1000 dives. Vis: 50 to 125 Feet. Water: 81 to 82 F, calm, no currents. This is a "new" dive destination. The old dive sites are gone, buried in ash. The north end of the island is the "new" Montserrat — new dive sites are being discovered and named weekly. There are relatively few divers visiting the island . . . most days I was the only visiting diver. The vis and light of the shallow sites are excellent for photography, as are the abundant and healthy corals, sponges, and animal life. The island is interesting topside as well. Recent volcanic activity has placed, as of June 2006, 60% of the area in an "exclusion zone," though it's not difficult to find a born-and-bred Montserratian to be your guide through the devastation. Walking

through the old capitol, Plymouth, is eerie and fascinating . . . bring your camera and a few varied lenses. The island is quiet, not for the party-going Caribbean tourist. The people are pleasant and helpful. There really aren't many good restaurants or hotels, since the island is just getting started again. The Vue Pointe is a 40-year classic, the oldest hotel and restaurant on the island, surviving the volcano's eruption in the mid 90s. Do not miss their Wednesday night BBQ. Fish are shy, not used to seeing divers, so good close-ups are difficult. I used my 12-24 and 17-35 mm lens exclusively after my failed 60 mm first dive. Good visibility and good ambient light. Since most dives are within 60 foot depth, 90 minute dives are not uncommon.

NICARAGUA

Little Corn Island

Dive Little Corn Island, Casa Iguana, December 2005, Terry Anderson, College Station, TX. Vis: 40-80 feet. Water: 84 F. 400+ dives all over the world. According to the 2004 Chapbook Little Corn is like the Caribbean in the 1950s, and in far as hotels, crowds, casinos, cruise ships, and discos, that it true—and that is wonderful. You fly into Managua and stay overnight. (Granada and Masaya are nice colonial towns if you want to see more of Nicaragua.) Cathy at Casa Iguana will help you set up flights from Managua to Corn Island, get your electronic ticket, and then get you on the 40 minute boat ride to Little Corn. The boat landing is in front of Dive Little Corn and the friendly DMs will help you stow your gear for the next day's dives before they get you on the path to Casa Iguana. The