

of large seahorses. Most of the big fish are fished out; something about people wanting to eat. From Sunset you mostly dive the central portion of the west coast, although they were talking about a trip down to the more popular Scotts Head area the day we left. All in all, not exciting, but every dive was enjoyable.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

While few Americans visit, it's a popular and well-developed tourist destination for Europeans, with plenty of all-inclusive hotels on nice beaches. Diving is subpar.

Northern Coast Diving, Club Residential, November 2006, Conrad Kantor (scubabuba@hotmail.com), Westlake Village, CA. Experience: 501-1000 dives. Vis: 45 to 100 Feet. Water: 81 F, calm. Nice macro photo opportunities, crabs, eels, crinoids, barrel sponges etc.; a turtle. Some locations had plastic garbage, but not overwhelming. Large fish are in the restaurants. Dove from Sosua to Rio San Juan. 8 days with North Coast Diving, one of the best operations I have encountered. Briefing before you leave the dive shop, on the boat and radio calls to the dive shop after every dive. Safety conscious but free to do your own thing. They do all the work, you just roll in. Dive shop has every thing you need, showers, rinse tanks, repairs, etc. Locals are friendly, always singing, dancing to the merengue. I stayed at Club Residential. \$60 a night for a one bed apt with kitchen and living room 4 blocks from the beach. Pina coladas \$3.00 with a happy hour \$1.50 just as good as Cozumel where you pay \$7.00 Many Italians, Swiss come here to vacation so the restaurants are excellent. Outstanding dinners of fish. Best restaurant El Bat-

tey, moderately priced. Octopus, eels, crabs, drum fish, some of the largest barrel sponges I ever saw in the Caribbean. Most organized dive operation I have ever encountered. \$25 a dive. Local restaurants and accommodations reasonable. Locals are friendly and some of the most happy people I have met after diving for 21 years all over the Caribbean.

GRENADA

Hurricane Ivan wreaked havoc on Grenada in September 2004, but the infrastructure has been rebuilt. While diving is fine for beginners, some operators are trying to give more experienced divers a better ride. Grenada is the home of the most magnificent wreck dive in the Caribbean, the Bianca C, an Italian liner felled by fire decades ago.

Aquanauts Divers, True Blue Resort, July 2007, Norman Rainer, Richmond, VA. Experience: 1000+ dives. Vis: 40 to 80 feet. Water 84 F, calm. Departed from Baltimore BWI on Air Jamaica. Arrived in Grenada 6 hours later than scheduled because of unexplained departure delays in the originating flight out of Baltimore and connecting flight out of Jamaica. On the return trip, another unexplained departure delay caused a missed connection, resulting in an unanticipated overnight stay in Jamaica. True Blue rooms are in several buildings spaced horizontally and vertically on a large tract of land. My room required a climb of about 50 stairs up from the boat dock. After five days and ten tanks of diving, little worthwhile macro subject matter was seen. My wide angle shots had to be done at short distances because of low visibility. The dive boats were well