

dive with. Dive briefings were thorough, and once the dive deck was open, you could dive at your own leisure. No pressure or having to go with a guide. Staff was available and willing to dive with you if your buddy wasn't interested in taking a dive with you. Boat was comfortable and stable. We didn't have to go ashore midweek as refueling protocols had changed. A great value. Would not do this itinerary again, however, as the scenery in Grand Cayman wasn't as spectacular as I had hoped. Little Cayman and Brac were much better. Photography facilities were fine, with separate rinse tanks and a crew that was accommodating. Was on a small trip (less than half full) so there was plenty of space. Electrical outlets would have been an issue for charging batteries with a larger complement of guests.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Turks and Caicos Aggressor II, March 2007, Bill Shepherd (Chorsejbs@aol.com), Satellite Beach, FL. Experience: Over 1000 dives. Vis: 30 to 50 Feet. Water: 78 to 80 F, choppy. The experience of a lifetime — snorkeling with whales — Humpback whales in this case, at the Silver Banks off the northern coast of the Dominican Republic. Not an experience for the beginner as tracking a mother and her calf for 1-2 hours in an often turbulent ocean prior to a 10- to 30-minute encounter isn't everyone's "cup of tea." But well worth the effort for one who loves the sea and all its creatures and is seeking the ultimate encounter. Captain Piers and the crew of the Turks and Caicos Aggressor II provide the consummate environment for such an adventure. knowledgeable and environmentally savvy, they edu-

cate you on the humpbacks and their station in the ocean and provide an opportunity to interact with them. The divemasters help get you into position to interact with the whales and ensure that you don't interfere with their actions. The boat is a top-of-the-line live-aboard with ample space in the cabins, good facilities for the photographer/videographer, good and plentiful meals, and dependable skiffs to get you to and from the whale encounters. Evenings were highlighted with slide shows and educational talks about the whales and their activities while in the Silver Banks area. UW Photography Comments: Large camera table on dive deck. Also sufficient charging stations to accommodate everyone's needs.

HONDURAS

Utila Aggressor, February 2007, Gary W Brown (gkbrown@vci.net), Benton, KY. Experience: 101-250 dives. Vis: 50 to 100 Feet. Water: 80 to 84 F, choppy. We just got back from a wonderful week of diving aboard the Utila Aggressor. The weather was warm and sunny and the seas were fairly calm. Only a couple of sites had any current and it was moderate. The dive operation is first rate, with great briefings and easy access to the water and equipment. Our room was large enough for two and well maintained every day by the staff. We had three great meals per day with lots of snacks and plenty of soft drinks available. The meals consist of soups, salads, main course, and dessert every evening. We were offered a night dive every night as well as four dives on most days. We were able to snorkel with a group of pilot whales one day and swam with dolphins another day. The reefs were in good condition with plenty of fish and small critters to view.