

Huron Scuba, Diver's Den, Tobermory Princess Hotel, August 2006, Paul Selden, Portage, MI. Experience: 100-250 dives. Viz: 30 to 45 feet. Water: 78 to 45 F., light to no current, small waves. Great Lakes wreck diving doesn't get much better than this. Wrecks are located in Fathoms Five National Marine Park, home to more than 20 wrecks. Seven dives on wrecks in various states of preservation, over a sunny weekend. To shake down our gear, we dove the steam tugs Alice G., Robert K., John and Alex, and Bob Foote in a night dive, in Little Tub Harbor. Next day, dove the Forest City, Niagara II (steel), Philo Scoville, and Sweepstakes. On the last day, we took in the Arabia and James C. King. I consider the Forest City (hauntingly eerie — the wooden ribs rising upward toward shore in the sun beams reminded me of a scene a sci-fi movie), Niagara II (steel-hulled, 162 ft. long, deliberately sunk, well preserved), and the Arabia (wooden barque, v. intact, upright) to be "must-see" dives. Huron Scuba from Ann Arbor organized this well-run trip. Dave and Rachel Kaspar, owners of Huron Scuba, have a solid reputation for running things safely and on time. Dave is a veteran of many Tobermory trips, and oriented us to the history of each wreck we were going to dive on prior to the dives. He encouraged us to learn more, introducing us to wreck diving and exploration. We stayed at Tobermory Princess Hotel, which overlooks the busy harbor. They offer a drying room for diving gear. Dove with local boat and dive operator, Diver's Den. Boats were equipped with camera buckets and had helpful captain and crew. Non-divers will enjoy the beautiful scenery of the tip of the Bruce Peninsula, which sits between Georgian Bay and Lake Huron, walking on the

Bruce Trail, taking the glass-bottomed boat, and snorkeling. Tobermory is quaint, with a number of good eateries. This is dry suit territory, but a few dove in 7 mil wetsuits and didn't appear too cold. Many of the more interesting wrecks require a Deep certification, and an independent backup source of air. Waves can be high at times. This destination's popularity is focused on one small town, which means getting to restaurants before the crowd, and making dive plans and reservations early. Allow about ½ hour to register with the marine park and pay park entry fees prior to diving (while the park station in town is still open). The dive shops are small and in the rush to fill dozens of tanks between dives, may accidentally mix an unfilled tank into the batch of filled tanks, so check your fills before you leave shore. The weather here can change quickly. Don't miss the white-fish sandwiches!

SPAIN

Unisub, L'Estartit, July 2007/07, David Schwab (schwabd@bunt.com), APO, AE. Experience: 251-500 dives. Vis: 10 to 15 Meters. Water: 19 to 21 C, calm. Unisub provided good service; they were dependable, safe, on time, responsive to our needs. Dive boat "Triton" includes a patented ladder that makes getting on board with fins easy. Plenty of secured storage space for your gear; lots of room. Fifteen-liter cylinders available for those who want them; always filled to 200 bar. The operator had dive trips scheduled at two-hour intervals; out at 0900, back by 1100, etc. Selection of dive sites affected by the two-hour window, so we couldn't go far. Dive sites were either just off shore, or at Les Iles Medes, a protected reserve

(restrictions in effect on diving there). Good dive briefings, but there are no guides (unless you hire one; expensive), so novices and advanced divers with weak navigation skills beware! Chilly water in July; some wore dry suits, most wore 5 to 7 mm wet suits with hoods and gloves. Night dives available. Some reports of eagle rays, but I didn't see any. Lots of big groupers. Also reports of nudis and seahorses, but I looked without success. Octopi and moray eels in residence. We stayed in apartments (with kitchens) arranged by Unisub for about \$47 per person per night. Local markets and restaurants (recommend Chez Robert) nearby. This is a tourist area so expect to pay tourist prices. Mosquitoes. Easy access to La Costa Brava by air to Gerona, then car or bus to L'Estartit.

TURKEY

Mavi Diving, August 2007, Carol Cox (ccox@mchsi.com), Port St Joe, FL.

Experience: Over 1000 dives. Vis: 50 to 80 Feet. Water: 78 to 84 F, calm. 10-dive package with Mavi Diving in Kas, Turkey. This was a tidy little operation. They were good about answering our e-mail questions and made arrangements for the boat and our hotel. The headquarters is near the Med above some terraced restaurants. The first day we were transported with our gear by van down to the harbor (the rest of the week we made the 10-minute walk to the boat through the town center). Once on the boat, we were given a thorough briefing. The boat was kept neat, partly due to the good briefing. We were given a bin to store our gear under the seat. All shoes were placed in a box, and wetsuits were hung in the center of the boat, within easy reach of the seat.

Nitrox was available for an extra charge. There was no camera table, but we arrived during a slow week and were able to keep our cameras in extra bins under our seats. There were two fresh-water rinse hoses at the back of the boat, which also came in handy for rinsing our cameras. There were drinks for a reasonable charge, or you could bring your own. The boat had plenty of shade and an open sunny area on the roof. The dive staff kept spare parts on board and when my high pressure hose started leaking, I was able to replace it before the second dive. We left our gear on the boat all week. The deckhands washed it down at the end of the day. The diving was good but not great — typical for Turkey. The visibility was excellent in most locations. We did several modern wreck dives, and also saw ancient amphorae, storage pots, and anchors. There were some good wall dives and a lot of boulder areas interspersed with sand and grasses. We photographed a loggerhead turtle the first day, and saw several octopi throughout the week. Fish included lots of wrasses and damselfish, along with painted combers, a couple of different types of groupers, blennies, scorpionfish, and lizardfish. Nudibranchs, starfish, and anemones were numerous in some areas. At night we saw lots of shrimp, a large hermit crab carrying 3 large anemones on his shell, and a large moray that came entirely out of his hole. At one site we saw a 6-foot great white shark, made out of marble, but what a fun site it made for photos! At the end of each day, most divers met back at the dive shop and sat around a table under the olive trees. We could ring a bell and a waiter would appear from the restaurant below to take our order for drinks. It was a great time to meet people from all over the world (mostly Germany). The dive shop host-