

90 ft. Water: 78-82 degrees. Sunny, windy, humid, dry...90+. Surge strong, current at times. Dive your own profile. Boat just out of refit of interior, everything bright and shiny. Accommodations clean, adequate except camera areas. Crew can be rough on equip. Keep your carry-on in your hands until you reach your room! A mask was smashed between the dock and the boat. Vanessa and Jose would not let anyone lift a finger to do anything. The cook was one of the best I have tasted. They should replace the rest of the crew. The "Engineer" could not be bothered to keep the outboards running. They gave us a lot of trouble on the dive tender. (New motors were to be installed the following week, but I don't know if they were). Los Roques has maybe some of the best and varied diving in all the Caribbean. Being a national park the life is abundant to say the least. Other than sharks or dolphins most everything else, large and small is here to see. There are lots of morays, turtles, stingrays, spotted drums and midnight parrotfish. We saw a large smooth trunkfish and filefish (18-24"+). The best diving was a drift at Cayo Sal Mini wall after a 3'+ turtle in a good sized cave at 80', we came upon a "lake" of mature bar jacks of over 1000. In the tight school about 20' X 50'. Only 2.5 hrs out of Miami...I'll be back.

VIRGIN ISLANDS, BRITISH

Cuan Law, August 1999, Tina Schmidt (schmidtco@ad.com) Glencoe, IL. Vis: 20 to 60 feet.

Water: 78 degrees. Dive your own profile? No. Dive restrictions: depth limit, dive buddy. We always charter the entire boat. We have always been very satisfied. I think Tanya Wohner was an excellent chef who always accommodated everyone's taste. Especially her desserts were quite amazing. Kiwi our divemaster was funny and had tons of patience for all the pre-teens and teens we had aboard. (284-494-2490; Fax 284-494-5774; e-mail cuanlaw@surfbvi.com; website www.bvidiving.com)

Cuan Law, December 1999, Vlad Pilar, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Vis: 50-80 ft. Water: 78-80 degrees. Dive restrictions enforced: 130 ft. maximum depth; 500 psi return, 3 dives/day (including 1 night dive). Dive boat in excellent condition throughout. Cabins large, bunks/beds comfortable. Very good food with lots of variety; wine served with dinner; bar (well stocked) an honor system. Crew very knowledgeable and very friendly and helpful. The 105 ft. trimaran actually set sail on several occasions during trip. Diving well organized, mostly from large rubber inflatables. Each diver has own pack brought up by dive crew. You get in your gear, go down steps to inflatable, put on fins and are ready to go. Trips to dive sites are 5-10 minutes. Unfortunately diving in B.V.I. is not world class. Most sites are very similar. No large fish, no pelagics. Some sting rays and spotted eagle rays and numerous turtles. The wreck of the Rhone though billed as spectacular was quite disappointing. Overall a

pleasant experience for those who wish to have a dive holiday (3 dives/day including one night dive) coupled with sailing and being very well looked after by crew.

Cuan Law, April 2000, Don Evans, (devans@zianet.com) Las Cruces, NM.

Vis: to 50 ft. Water: 76 to 78 degrees, calm and flat. Dive restrictions: very few.

Cuan Law, March 2000, Jodie Neff, Sandy, UT. Vis: 50-80 ft. Incredible! The food was truly gourmet! It would have been better if dinner were served later, so we would not have to rush the night dive. Staff was wonderful, but aquatic life was not as abundant as in St. John last year.

Cuan Law, June 2000, Michael Stearns, Dropping Springs, TX. Vis: 40 to 70 ft. Water: 82 to 83 degrees, calm and flat, no currents. Restrictions: depth limits. The crew and accommodations were excellent. The food was unbelievable. Diving was easy; they took great care of all your equipment. You did nothing unless you wanted to. Very conscientious, very safety-minded. Divemasters were very knowledgeable. You were allowed to do your own thing, as long as you had a dive buddy. Nice relaxing vacation.

Cuan Law, August 2000, Juli Tracy and Dick Gamble (jwtracy@scubadiving.com) San Diego, CA. Vis: 30 to 70 Feet. Water: 81 to 85. No restrictions for my husband and me, because we had been several time before. For the new divers, the divemaster stayed with

them. For others, once they did the checkout dive, they were free to dive on their own. Relaxed dive boat, with only three dives a day, but there are many other activities from water skiing to Hobiecats and kayaks, sunning and snorkeling, just enjoying the sails from dive site to dive site, hiking and going on to the islands to shop or picnic on the beach. The captain was the owner, and he took us to dive sites that we had never been to in our 11 years of visiting the BVI. One and a half days we spent in a hurricane hole waiting for Debbie to pass, but he made a special effort to give us dives to make up for that day. Good trip despite the hurricane, and some nasty colds we caught on the boat.