

ful reef with thick forests of lime green sea fans and plentiful fish. I know Indo-Pacific and Caribbean fish; these guys were “not in the book.”

The boat captain, Emilio, and his co-owner speak English, Dutch, Spanish and German and gave a complete briefing to the Dutch and Spanish groups on board (and me!) in our familiar language. Serious double-tank divers on the boat. They buddied me with a Spanish-speaking fella whose goal on this dive was to find a specific variety of red and blue shrimp that lives at 25m). I tagged along, taking it all in, until we left the 16E (C) water with 30 bar on our pressure gauges. Basic hand signals and similar dive histories gave my “foreign” buddy and me a mutual comfort level regarding our safety and trust in each other. Divers share an international fellowship. (34-72-30-24-26; Fax 34-72-30-30-20)

BRAZIL

Bahia

Dive Brasil Adventures Excursion Club, Glenn D. Savage, Bridgeport, CT. Vis: 60-90 ft. Water: 78-90 degrees. 9 day trip. All gear was new and provided by the Club here, before departure. Safety signaling equipment part of the package. Customized case to hold two tanks and one carry-on containing regulators, light, computer, knife, tank valves etc. were used. 23 scheduled dives and two tanks at the hotel for shore diving across the street. Dives included those on two deep and intact upright wrecks and a half dozen

broken up wrecks in shallower waters. Other dives included a deep wall and shallow reefs. No shortage of fish! Saw batfish and flying fish. They served breakfast at hotel, lunch and liquids on dive boats and dinner at local restaurants ranged from beef to sushi. The locals were warm hearted and we made friendships. Alcoholic beverages and between meal liquids and snacks were not included in the excursion price, take an additional 100 dollars for one week’s consumption. (ATM machines are easily accessible and often in English and Portuguese). American Express Travelers a hassle to convert to cash. Ratio of women to men in this city of three million is approximately 12 to 1, but disproportionately high lesbian population reduces ratio to 9 to 1. Panhandlers abound in NYC, but the predominant beggars in Salvador are children. However sad these encounters were, if we had elected to go elsewhere and remained behind the walls of a resort facility, we would never have met the wonderful Brazilians we encountered.