

The restaurant was being renovated during our stay and we dined a “5 star” prices under an outdoor tent on the sand. Breakfasts, at least, were great.

## GUAM

The island of Guam is the main layover point for divers headed for the Micronesian destinations of Palau, Truk, the Marshall Islands, and others. The diving is several notches below those final destinations, but it is the Pacific, and if you end up there with time on your hands, there is diving available.

### **Professional Sport Divers, August 2000, Jim N. Parkhill, McAllen, TX.**

Vis: 70-100 ft. Water: 84-86 degrees. Dive restrictions: none. professional in every respect. Comfortable, diver friendly boats. Knowledgeable DM's. Most dive sites are close in. Shark Pit a unique site with acres of jettisoned World War II material and towering 75 foot boulders. Hap's Reef teems with reef fish and small critters. (+671 565-3488; Fax 671 565-3633)

## HAWAII

Hawaiian guides on the big island have developed great skill in finding the unique: Spanish dancers, rare juveniles, and lionfish. Kailua-Kona is filled with trendy shops to extract dollars from tourists in tacky hula shirts. . . . The major bill is the fishing industry, with dead marlin and sailfish as scenery du jour in the harbor. The diving is

mostly lava flow dives with relatively low coral cover. Sea turtles belly-up to boats of snorkelers to be fed lettuce, dogfood, or “turtle chow”. . . . There's excellent access to good shore diving at City of Refuge and at Puako at the northern end of the bicycle route for the Iron Man competition; still, the right guides provide fish fanciers a great experience. . . . Kauai has special trips available only in the summer, but Maui's diving isn't much; take day boats to the backside of Molokini or Lanai. Development in Honolulu has burned out most Oahu diving. . . . There's limited fish diversity here compared to further west in the Indo-Pacific. Some reefs are barren due to commercial collection for aquariums. There are few soft corals and dull hard corals, but colorful, plentiful, and unusual fish make the diving interesting. . . . Expect clear water, visibility that's usually better than the Caribbean—around 100 feet, and air temperatures in the low 80s. Water temperatures range from 73 in January and February to 80 in August and September . . . . From December through February, squalls can last several days; otherwise the climate's pleasant and unoppressive year-round. . . . There are plenty of condos available everywhere (many with cars, which you'll need since the dive boats are not berthed at hotels); ask your dive shop to find