

Whaler Dive Center, Shark Dive Center, Kelp and Coral (soon changed to Close Encounters), August 2000, Harry Cure (cure@onramp.net), Fort Worth, Texas. Vis: 25 to 45 Feet. Water: 62 to 71 F., choppy surge currents. Dive your own profile: yes. Dive restrictions: None, except request not to exceed no deco limits of computer. We dove at Allowa Shoals with the "raggletooth sharks" (we call them sand tigers) in great numbers. Close encounters with numerous sharks to 12 feet. Not much reef, but lots of large fish and rays. Whaler diver Center very professional operation. Dove with Great Whites in cage at Mossman Bay. Four Great Whites to 15 feet. Could reach out in and touch from cage? Visibility very poor to 15 feet. Boat old and musty, but Bob the Shark Dive Center operator very knowledgeable on shark behavior. Sodwana Reef is covered with rich colorful hard corals, only great barrier reef and Micronesia have better. Lots of marine life. South Africa diving is not for beginners. Current, strong surge, and colder than tropical conditions exist. Diving is from large "Avon" type boats that must go through heavy surf to get to dive sites, but for advanced divers worth the effort. (27 039-973-1562, 27 039-973-1563; Fax 27 039-973-1564)

INDIA

Bangoram Beach Resort, January 1999, June Reinisch (jmrr@idt.net) and Leonard A. Rosenblum, Brooklyn, NY. An atoll of the

Lakshadweep Islands in the Arabian Sea off the southwest coast of India. You get there by international carrier to Madras, New Delhi or Bombay then by an Indian domestic airline to the city of Cochin. The Casino Hotel of Cochin runs the resort and will make the arrangements to fly from Cochin to the main island of the Lakshadweeps and from there it is an hour boat ride to the resort. The atoll has only two islands, the larger one has only the hotel, the other is uninhabited. Food is either good Indian cuisine or fair continental food. The rooms are simple but clean with private bath. The diving is excellent. Most is done on the outer side of the atoll walls, which is one long reef. Large sharks lie every 15 feet along the sandy bottom. Morays of 6 feet or more are not unusual. A wide variety of fish are seen daily, as well as several species of ray. Water is crystal clear and warm. Visibility endless. Little or no fishing has ever been done and the only divers are from the resort. The rental equipment is good. The German dive master is excellent. Snorkeling in the lagoon is fun with a 7-foot moray living in a little wreck.

INDONESIA

Indonesia is a dive hot spot that unfortunately provides few choices. . . . While Bali's culture is fantastic (especially if you get away from the coast), the diving's not as spectacular as in other parts of Indonesia. . . . On Bali's east Coast the *Liberty* wreck at Tulamben is a favorite among fish