

UNITED STATES - FRESHWATER

Lake Huron

Thunder Bay Divers, September 1999, Alan Thayer, Commerce MI. Vis: 15-25 feet. Water: 43-51 degrees, calm and flat. Dive your own profile. Dive restrictions: 130 feet. Great wreck diving. Capt. Slim runs a good day boat briefing done w/ sketches of wrecks, objects to look for. Has grill on board so you can make lunch on all day trips. Has well-equipped dive shop at marina. Crew very helpful. Drysuits recommended. Town of Alpena has plenty of inexpensive accommodations. (517-356-9336; 517-356-1894)

Thunder Bay Divers, June 2000, Tim Lee, Monroe, MI. Vis: 20 to 40 ft. Site: wreck of 500 ft. German freighter, Nordmeer. Ran aground Nov. 1916, in good shape but ice is starting to take its toll. Ship is being slowly torn apart. 2 tank all day charter. Went out of Alpena on 45 ft. tugs, Thunder Bay Divers that is due to be replaced by a 40 ft. coastal patrol boat. Let's hope so, took 2 hrs. to go 17 miles! Expensive. \$85, not including the tanks or weights they rent for \$10. If cold water gear is needed some is available but call in advance. There are more than 20 divable wrecks in Thunder Bay; to get more for your money do wrecks closer to dock. Larry is good captain and knows wrecks better than anyone. Dive your own profile. Season starts in late May to mid-September. Water is very cold; you cannot get by with anything short

of 7mm full hooded wetsuit and drysuit is recommended.

Missouri

Deep Earth Divers/West End Divers January 2000, Guy Johnson (siberia@netexpress.net) Coal Valley, IL. Vis: 75 to 150 Feet. Water: 58 F. Had to follow the leader and stay above 50 feet. No wandering off, no personal dive lights and no cameras. The billion-gallon underground lake, the Bonne Terre mine dive near St. Louis. The water is clear and tap water pure. No fish or plant life. There are various tours or paths to follow showing different areas of the old lead mine that they allowed to fill with water. After watching a video the dive begins with each diver showing their skills in mask clearing and buoyancy. Nine different tours but new divers must do #1 and #2 first. Several interesting swim throughs and various abandoned mining equipment made the trip worthwhile. The air and water temps are the same all year long so it's a great trip during the winter months. A SSI mine diver certification is available for \$50. This lets you advance to the next numbered tours otherwise you always start at #1. There's full sized locomotive at the bottom!

SPAIN

Llafranc, Costa Brava

Triton Diving, June 2000, Pat Bridges, Nashville, TN. Vis: 25 ft. Water: 61 degrees. Dive restrictions: no. Twice-daily boat trips to a delight-