

VANUATU

The world's largest air-accessible wreck, the *President Coolidge*, a 640-foot ocean liner converted into a troop ship, is a beach dive on Espiritu Santo. It's mainly for advanced divers, starting at 70 feet and going down to 250. . . . Check with DAN about your evacuation insurance before going; you may not be covered due to the number of divers getting bent on this site. . . . Some diving is available from the capital city of Port-Vila, but it's not spectacular. . . . Little reef diving is offered so far. . . . Water temperatures in February hit the mid 80s and in September may drop as low as 70. . . . Don't miss the side trip to Tanna Island to visit the active volcano, dugongs, and Melanesian villagers living according to ancient customs. . . . Other side trips include the island of Pentecost in April to early June to see the land divers leap head-first from 70-foot towers with nothing but vines tied around their ankles. . . .

(maximum capacity 12). Captain has pioneered this northern area of reef, named half the sites. Saw only one other boat entire trip. Not a plush live-aboard but well laid out. I can't imagine a better dive trip. Captain is very knowledgeable, always picked a good dive site. Trip left and returned to Lockhart River. Included a charter flight from Cairns to connect with the boat. October-November best time of year to go. ((61 +7) 4058 1408 Fax (61 +7) 4058 1404; e-mail diveinfo@reefcruises.com.au; website www.reefcruises.com.au)

Spirit of Freedom, October 1999, Mike A. Johnson, Decatur, GA. Vis: 50-100 ft. Water: 78 degrees. Dive restrictions enforced: depth. Trip was two weeks. Eight days on boat out of Cairns to Coral Sea. Always take backup dive computer plus battery charger for light. Don't rely on airlines (Delta) to be on time. Need to be sure more layover time on way out. We had 3.5 hours still missed flight from LA to Sydney. Trip diving (after flight). Great Food — too much to eat — all great. Great sea life. Vis, weather, all perfect. (+6129-5526300; Fax +6129-5523328)

LIVE-ABOARDS

AUSTRALIA

Auriga Bay II, October 1999, Ed Salkeld, La Mesa, CA. Vis: 90-100 ft. Water: 81 degrees. Outstanding trip. Only seven divers and crew

Spoilsport, August 1999, Don Garrido (dgarrido@blast.net) Whitehouse Sta., NJ. Vis: 90-100 ft. Water: 72-75 degrees. (800-952-4319; e-mail usa@mikeball.com; website www.mikeball.com)

Spoilsport, October 1999, Bill Smythe, Scott's Valley, CA. Vis: 50 to 100 ft. Water: 78 to 82 degrees,