

### ANTIGUA

Beautiful beaches and scenery, high-dollar hotels, and forgettable diving. If you find yourself here, avoid boats that take divers from the cruise ships, as they do only the close-in, shallow reefs.

**Jolly Divers, Jolly Harbour, September 2000, John Feeney, (eapatton@erols.com) Sperryville, VA.** Vis: 30-100 ft. Water: 80 F. Dives logged: 65. Dive restrictions: Start up at 1,000 psi. Antigua is not a prime dive destination — no wall diving. Some pretty corals, lots of spotted morays, trumpetfish. Saw a huge hog fish, several cuttle fish and nurse sharks. Boat holds 8-10 divers comfortably. They usually try to get 12+ aboard. GPS wasn't working for first day so the DM tried to position us by landmarks. He admitted later that he didn't know where we had been — but it was a good dive! Made 6 dives over three days. They dropped the anchor on a barrel sponge 4 times. Do you think they were aiming? Jolly Harbour is a beautiful resort — excellent services and amenities. Fine restaurants, sports bar, grocery store, bank branch, load of souvenir shops. Great beach, but the water is murky in the harbor area, so no snorkeling. (268-462-8305; e-mail: [divemaster@kokomocat.com](mailto:divemaster@kokomocat.com); website [www.jollydive.com](http://www.jollydive.com))

**Jolly Beach Resort, March 2001, Jim Baird (jimbaird@sympatico.ca) Toronto, ON.** Experience: 0-25 dives. Vis: 30 to 60 Feet. Water: 75 to 80 F. One instructor encouraged (as told by the victim) to descend though

she was having problems clearing. She ended up with a ruptured ear drum.

One of the poorest dive operations I have ever encountered. Jolly Beach Resort, on the other hand was excellent. (Ph: 268-462-0061; fax 268-562-2302; e-mail [info@jollybeachresort.com](mailto:info@jollybeachresort.com); website [www.jollybeachresort.com](http://www.jollybeachresort.com))

### ARUBA

Just off Venezuela's Caribbean coast, Aruba has not been a prime scuba-diving destination, but bring your gear since some operators will take you to some pretty decent diving. . . . Miles of white sand, glitzy casinos, and beaches cater to windsurfers. . . . For the best deals on lodging and air look into gamblers' packages. . . . There are several good boat dives, such as the wreck of the Antilla, a German freighter scuttled at the start of World War II. The South Wall, past San Nicholas near the southern tip of Aruba, is also good. . . . Aruba lies south of the hurricane belt. . .

**Mermaid Divers, Aruba Sonesta Resorts, June 2000, Stephen C. Cantelli, (scantelli@congressconstruction.com) Exeter, NH.** Vis: 60-75 ft. Water: 80-85 F. Dives logged: 40+. Dive restrictions: 90 ft. Antilla great dive for beginners or experts alike. Lots of penetration, octopus, great vis all at 56' of water. Mermaid is a great dive operator. Everyone dives their ability and it is not a cattle car operation. (Ph: (297) 835546 or (297) 837525; Fax 297-8-35546; mermaid@setarnet.aw; website [www.scubadivers-aruba.com](http://www.scubadivers-aruba.com))