

Riding Rock Inn, July 2001, Stan Campbell, (stancamp33@aol.com) Cincinnati, OH. Vis: 60-80 ft. Water: 80-82 F. Logged dives: 1000+ (diving for 45 years). Dive restrictions enforced: 130 ft. Dedicated dive resort, definitely no glitz but very adequate accommodations. Rooms are clean, comfortable with A/C, phone, refrig and TV. Bring bug repellent. No crime on the island. Food is good to excellent, served in comfortable surroundings. Daily conch chowder is out of this world. Wait staff is friendly and accommodating. Dive staff is competent, helpful and willing to assist when needed, such as spotting critters. No hassle diving your own profile to 130 ft limit. Very friendly attitude on board fast boats. Most dive sites less than 20 min trip. Standard day is two tanks in AM and one tank in PM. Boat crew takes care of everything. One night dive per week. No Nitrox. Every dive can be an excellent wall dive. Abundant small fish, but did not see very many large fish. Photo pro, Chris McLaughlin, provides daily E6 film processing and friendly, informal help to a/w photographers. Higher level of photo support and rentals are available for a fee. Great bang for the buck.

Riding Rock Inn, September 2001, Chuck Wohlust (gchas1@aol.com) Winter Park, FL. Vis: 100-120 ft. Water: 82-84 F. Dives logged: 217. Dive restrictions enforced: 130 ft. first dive, 70 ft. second dive, back 500 lbs. "If you have time to spare, fly Bahamas Air." We were a day late getting into San Salvador and missed

our flight back to Miami. The diving and relaxation were all we expected. Chris McLaughlin and the dive crew were wonderful. Despite the algae we saw plenty of coral and fish. Besides how can you beat wall diving. Food was good and plentiful and accommodations adequate. Crowds minimal; lots of room on the boat.

BARBADOS

Barbados is busy and crowded, with lots of fast traffic, big splashy resorts, and restaurants galore. . . . There's ordinary Caribbean diving with tropical fish, although big ones are rare, but it's fine for beginners or for a dive or two on a golf holiday. . . . You still can find century-old bottles in the harbor and the wreck of the *Stavronikita* is interesting, but jammed with tourist divers. . . . The average daily temperature is in the mid-80s year-round; there's considerable rain from June to January, and it's important to watch for hurricanes. . . .

Blue Reef, July 2001, Philip Hamilton (jeepster@scubadiving.com) Sugar Land, TX. Experience: 51-100 dives. Vis: 40 to 60 Feet. Water: 82 to 83 F, calm. John Moore runs an outstanding operation. We dove to the limits of our computers, and had an outstanding set of dives, considering the rainy weather and runoff making the water cloudy. Their shop is on the beach a few miles north of Bridgetown. He has an open boat which can hold six divers, and is knowledgeable about the area, both above and below the waterline. At Tropicana Reef the silty mess cleared

up below 40 feet or so, and once below the mess, we were able to see the bottom. We were tailed by a two foot long barracuda, found both pistol and Petersen cleaner shrimp, and John demonstrated how these will clean under your fingernails. Abundant balloonfish and puffers. Offshore from the research station where they tag turtles we came across number 144.

Greensleeves: a fringing reef. Balloonfish and puffers were abundant, along with big vase sponges, a spotted drum, a searobin, a turtle, and John pointed out a scorpionfish. Boat is too small for camera table — I rinsed and took care of the camera back at the shop, where there is a freshwater shower and rinse buckets. (Ph: (246) 422 3133; e-mail bluereef@sunbeach.net; website www.divebluereef.com)

Bubbles Galore, November 2000, John Collins, Brookfield, CT. Vis: 50-100 ft. Water: 80-82 F. Dives logged: 200. Restrictions: 130'. Not optimistic about future of corals! Much algae. No apparent concern by government. Small dive operator makes dive trips relaxed and fun. (Ph: 246-430-0354 or 800-513-5821; Fax: 246-436-8806)

The Dive Shop, Sandy Beach Island Resort, October 2000, Gail T. Barranda, Whitestone, NY. Vis: 50-70 ft. Water: 80-84 F. Dive restrictions: stay with the dive guide. Undiscovered diver's paradise. Few divers visit here. Fish aren't afraid to get really close to check you out. Great schools of small fish. Coral is pretty healthy. Topside there is always

something to do. Environment is lush. Perfect vacation destination for the diver/non-diver couple. Brian Harris at The Dive Shop (oldest dive operator on island) is outgoing, friendly and is good at pointing out the little things. They are a small operation but make sure you're comfortable. Only one other diver! (Ph: 888-898-3483 or 246-426-9947; Fax 246-426-2031)

West Side Scuba Centre, November 2000, Lloyd Harris, Emerald Isle, NC. Vis: 50-75 ft. Water: 82-84 F. Dives logged: 160. Dive restrictions: 100'. Dive operation was very professional, well organized and accommodating. They cater mostly to divers from the cruise ships and seem to be excited to have the three of us as repeat divers during our stay. At no extra cost they picked us up at our villa (5 miles away) and took us back later in the day after we shopped or ate. The diving was all drift with few large fish, but interesting small critters and coral. The highlight was the S.S. *Stavronikita* wreck. Barbados is not a place to go for a dive vacation, but if you are there, the diving is fun and interesting enough to occupy several days. Peter, the owner/manager will show you a great time. (Ph: 246-432-2558; e-mail peterg@sunbeach.net)

BELIZE

Inside the world's second-largest barrier reef, English-speaking Belize sports three major atolls—but not much in the way of beaches. . . . Most of the good diving is reachable from live-aboards or from resorts on the