

Sea, Little Cayman, Yap, Palau, Galapagos Islands.

VIRGIN ISLANDS, BRITISH

Cuan Law, February 2001, Victor Bary (vbary@yahoo.com) Cranford, NJ. Vis: 40-70 ft. Water: 78-82 F. logged dives: 100+. Recommended maximum times, no site was deeper than 85'. Sunny, windy. 105 ft. trimaran, designed by owner Duncan Muirhead, offered spacious rooms (each with own bath) a very large lounge and bar area, and a spacious, shaded after-deck. Each dive was preceded by a thorough briefing with map of dive site around Tortola, Virgin Gorda, Salt Island, etc. It had stormed the week before our trip, which accounted for the surge and somewhat diminished visibility. Thoroughly professional and dedicated crew out to assure that you have an unforgettable experience. It offers a nice blend of diving, sailing, and socializing in pleasant and relaxed surroundings. Each day included 2-3 dives, a night mooring, as well as some opportunities to kayak, water ski and sail a hobie cat. It also attracts the kind of guests you'll enjoy spending a week with. (Ph: 284-494-2490; fax 284-494-5774; e-mail cuanlaw@surfbvi.com; website www.cuanlaw.com)

Cuan Law, May/June 2001, Terry Gee, El Paso, TX. Experience: Over 1000 dives. Vis: 30 to 100 Feet. Water: 83 to 85 F, calm. Spent two weeks aboard the Cuan Law. Have done three previous charters. I charter the entire boat and was pleased to find the same exceptional standard of

service and care still exists. First week in the northern leeward, St. Maarten, St. Bart's, Saba and up to Sombrero and back to St. Maarten. The second week was St. Maarten, Saba, Sombrero and then in to the BVI's for the last two days. Saba is very good diving but Sombrero is even better. The dives elsewhere are pretty and excellent for novice to intermediate divers. Excellent opportunities for great macro photography. Skip St. Maarten. The customs there is an ordeal with rude obnoxious individuals who seem bent on spoiling everyone's vacation. Photography: No special tables but the crew most accommodating providing fresh water rinse tubs limited to cameras only, below deck facilities that they would make available if needed.

Cuan Law, May and July, 2001, Juli Tracy or Dick Gamble (jwtracy@scubadiving.com), San Diego, CA. Experience: 251-500 dives. Vis: 30 to 80 Feet. Water: 83 to 95 F, calm. Did trips in May (8-day trip from St. Martin up through Saba to Sombrero Rock, then back to St. Martin) and July (the usual 6-day trip in the British Virgin Islands). Accommodations are spacious and each cabin has a private head. All the cabins are about equal in size, and the lounge is like a private living room — comfortable and homey. The food is very good and served on the deck (unless it's raining!) at large tables, family style for dinner, and buffet style for lunch and breakfast. The crew is friendly

and helpful. Diving is either from the boat (the nicer option) or from dinghies, and the divemasters scout the sites. When using the dinghies, if one site has too much current or too little visibility, it is possible to just go to another site nearby, usually. Diving on the 8 day trip was unusually good — sites at the Rock are not dived by other boats, and the sheer rock walls offer excellent dives. The itinerary is not set, even on the British Virgin Islands weeks, but flexible according to weather and sea conditions, so every time the dives are different, making repeat trips a treat. In the British Virgin Islands dives are not deep and USUALLY easy — little or no current and easy navigation. There is always a divemaster who leads the group, or will go with a diver, if desired, but divers are also free to go off on their own after the divemaster is assured that they are competent to do so. No photo tables or charging stations, but can use outlets in the rooms and tables in the lounge. Provided extra rinse tanks for all the cameras passengers had.

Tortola

Underwater Safaris, December 2000, Sharon Watson, Great Falls, VA. 2 week sailing charter (Moorings) and rented tanks/weights from Underwater Safaris for the first week and then returned them. I discussed meeting them at one of the sites the following week. The evening before our planned dive on the Rhone I arranged by phone with them to bring the tanks and equipment and meet us at the site. We woke up early to sail to the site. They did not bring the promised equipment or paperwork and we had to go 5 minutes to the next island to pick up the equipment. In a sailboat it is not 5 minutes and would have required releasing the mooring, sailing/motoring, mooring at the other island, taking the dinghy over and back to get the equipment, returning and re-mooring (if possible) on a busy dive site, and then doing the same to take the equipment back. We declined, and sadly our Australian friends missed The Rhone. (Ph: (340)774-1350; fax (340)777- 8733; e-mail uws@diveusvi.com; website www.diveusvi.com)