

BRAZIL

Fernando De Noronha Islands

Atlantis Divers, Pousada Dos

Ventos, January 2001, Jean

Aleksandrowicz, Rio de Janeiro.

Vis: 5 to 50 Meters. Water: choppy.

Experience: 501-1000 dives. Good diving on the rough side of the island ("mar de fora") where you get good vis, but rough seas. Not assured you can do it always. As in Brazilian seas, very few corals, as is a marine park, fish unafraid. Lots of turtles (interesting area), barracudas, lobsters, morays, French angelfish nibbling at your mask, nurse sharks on almost every dive, some small sharks on shallow dives. Big jewfish, eagle and sting rays, octopus. good boats, very roomy, but are catamarans, which tend to rock a little more than v hulls. Got seasick divers when going to best dive spots. Dive is guided. Snorkeling from the beach (Sueste Beach) nice, is a turtle feeding patch, seen octopus, lobsters and a large barracuda in 2 meters water. Island very nice, friendly and easy. Beautiful scenes and beaches. Rental of a buggy a must. Many restaurants (Nascimento, Morena and Ecologico recommended), mostly seafood, but meat, pizza and sandwiches. No McDonald's. Hotel is the best in the island — just 5 bungalows with no luxury, but with your bathroom with warm water air conditioning, TV and telephone. Staff very friendly and accommodating. Simple houses that rent rooms. Check before booking at the island's website there is a link to the Pousadas Association that has

pictures of what you get. Prices: hotel US\$100/day w/breakfast, meal for 2 seafood w/wine \$40, buggy \$60/day. Dives \$55/ 2. tanks/mornings. Nitrox/ deep dive (60 m, wreck) available. Diving is just good but overall island is excellent. Rainy season April- August. They had processing at the dive shop, had no rinsing on boats, no special table either. Boat's roomy. (Ph: (011) 5581-619-1371 or +55(84) 206-8840/41/42; e-mail info@atlantisnoronha.com.br; website www.atlantisnoronha.com.br)

Atlantis Divers, June 2001, Miguel

Firpi (mfirpi@aol.com) Miami, FL.

Experience: 101-250 dives. Vis: 40 to 150 Feet. Water: 80 to 82 F, calm surge. This little island is a nature reserve 1.5 hr flight from Recife. Only 400 tourists are allowed at a time. Hotel accommodations are very basic. There is a new hotel, the Dolphin which appears good. You stay mostly at pousadas which are very basic bed and breakfast operations. The food is good but not fancy. There are beautiful, isolated beaches and great hikes. Atlantis divers know their stuff and really try to please. They do not even expect tips although I thought they deserved a big one. Their boats are new, very comfortable and well designed for divers. This is a volcanic island so the dives are very rocky but often spectacular. There is a large population of spinner dolphins(600+) which is awesome. They stay in the Bahis Golfinhos and are carefully protected. One cannot dive with them within the bay. We saw lots of baby spinners from the boat. There is also a dive spot close to shore between two

towering rocks which is a hang out for juvenile reef sharks, lots of them. We also say manta rays and many turtles. On the windward side of the island it is rough and there is a lot of surge but we experienced the most beautiful shallow dive ever. The island is pristine and small. This is not a place for creature comforts but it is a wonderful find. The diving is first class. www.atlantisnoronha.com.br, e-mail: info@atlantisnoronha.com.br

CANADA **Ontario**

Bottom Time Dive Charters, September 2001, Edward Noga (enoga@crain.com) **Akron, OH.**
Experience: 51-100 dives. Vis: 35 to 75 Feet. Water: 68 to 70 F, currents. Fast boat, moderate-to-fast current and terrific wrecks make diving with Bottom Time in the St. Lawrence River an excellent experience. Evan Calleia and Anick Cliche run a nice operation out of Brockville, Ontario, in the Thousand Islands region. There's a lot of history with these wrecks. We dived three times a day, with the first two on wrecks in the 100-foot-depth range. It's for experienced, river current certified divers: Hanging onto a wreck with the chug-chug of an enormous freighter going overhead is not for the novice. Some of the wrecks had incredible numbers of fish: walleyes, bass and panfish. We also did some drift diving and bottle searches, and got some nice keepsakes. Plenty of inexpensive accommodations. The scenery alone is worth it. (Ph: 888-406-3516; fax 613-340-9810; e-mail

dive@bottomtimecharters.com;
website www.bottomtimecharters.com)

Limestone Divers, August 2000, Greg Wischmeyer, Buchanan, MI.
Vis: 20-40 ft. Water: 50-60 F. Dives logged: several hundred. Booked trip ourselves — exchange rate would have saved us money. Planned extra day to explore old fort, etc. Great waterfront area in Kingston. (Ph: 800-286-3483 or 613-547-3483; e-mail ldc@adan.kingston.net; website <http://dive.kingston.net/limestone.htm>)

CAPE VERDE ISLANDS **Sal**

Belarizonte Hotel, December 2000, Marilyn Koukol, APO, AE. Many tourists, sandy beaches, and nice diving. Due to the winds and waves, I was only able to dive 5 different sites in 10 dives. The best was Chouclass. On one dive we saw eight nurse sharks — the largest was 8-10 feet and the smallest was a mere baby at 2 feet. I found many rays at Three Grottes and walls of yellow tubastrea cup coral. At Fruene we saw two turtles and eels seemed to be everywhere. The wreck of Santo Anto revealed the biggest puffer fish I'd ever seen and some interesting shaped sand dollars. There were walls of snappers at most dive sites that seemed to move like curtains on a stage. At one point my dive guide, Ricardo, was totally obscured by a school of silvery gray fish. We found scorpion fish, large parrot fish, lots of trumpet fish, and the goat fish were constantly scouring the sandy bottom. We did 2 dives a