

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

day at Sechnea Sea (a French dive operation). We would gear up at the shop, trudge across the sandy beach, crash through the surf, then belly flop into the small Zodiac type boat. (I always had a terrible time getting into the boat resembling a beached whale.) After three days, the guide discovered it would be helpful to assist with carrying my camera. But it seemed if you couldn't tote your own gear — well too bad. We were usually diving in current and surge and at times the visibility was not the best. The Belarizonte Hotel was fine, but I think the Morbeza was a bit better and much more convenient for diving. There were many places to eat in Santa Laria. My favorite was Americas Café. The tuna fillet was excellent. The hotel restaurants also had good food, but for higher prices. The operator of the dive shop gave a Christmas party and invited divers. The grilled fish was super.

Santiago

Blue Adventure, Baia Verde, December 2000, Marilyn Kuokol, APO AE. I went with Peter Greims German operation called Blue Adventure out of Tarrafal. It was the same routine to get on the boat here as in Sal — only we walked the beach a good 300 meters — always fun in full scuba gear! I saw one tailless ray, one cuttlefish, and one 8 ft. nurse shark. There were not as many schools of fish or rays or sharks. And the only turtles I saw were in the hotel pool in six inches of slimy green water. (Talk about wanting to free the turtles!) They have a gorgeous wall that drops down over 100 feet. There were several huge serra (almost like tuna) that decided to be our

buddies for the dive. Baia Verde is on a beach hotel near a river. Arrive during daylight since you wonder where in the world the little boy is going with your luggage in the dark! The bungalows are adequate and clean — not plush. There's only one knob for the shower — and at times usually after a dive when I'm all salty and sandy no water at all. It's a step above camping out! Troupe of monkeys in the evenings careen from porch to rooftop to tree and then down the leaky water faucet. They are adept at stealing bananas at breakfast. The guide was very nice, but did not find any creatures for us and on one dive did not even get off the boat at all. Could have been more customer friendly. (Ph: +49 6241 925965; fax +49 1805 05255 999611; e-mail kontakt@blueadventure.net; website www.blueadventure.net)

FRANCE

Destination Plongee/N/A, Port St. Jean, Hyeres, France, June 2001, Howard Chalmers (hchalmers@mindspring.com)
Suwanee, GA. Experience: 51-100 dives. Vis: 40 to 50 Feet. Water: 55 to 60 F, choppy. Considering I don't speak French, I was concerned about diving here (dive briefings, etc.). The staff made me comfortable, pairing me with a divemaster that spoke some English. The only problems I had were limited time to try on rental equipment and metric conversions (kg of lead, depth gauge in meters, spg in bar). Great dive. The boat contained a couple of groups doing checkout dives so the site was geared toward intro divers, but they had no problem with my buddy and me