

can be rented for almost nothing from the base MWR facilities. They also have good map packets of the dozen of divable spots around the island. Diving is really fun, unsupervised, pack-your-gear-in-a-van-and-go-do-your-own-thing diving from shore. Coral reef surrounds entire island, swim to outer wall can be anywhere from 30 meters to 300 meters. Not much for big fish but hundreds small tropicals each dive, almost always see sea snakes, pretty good shell collecting opportunities. East/West side spots on island — usually one side is calm and divable.

Tokyo

Tokyo Scuba Club, July 2001, Ed Leiter (ehl@jax.org) Bar Harbor, ME. Experience: Over 1000 dives. Vis: 40 to 60 Feet. Water: 65 to 70 F, currents. I always wanted to dive the Izu peninsula (2-3 hours by train from Tokyo), but had never succeeded in hooking up with someone who could tell me how to do it (the PADI diving society was worthless in this regard). A colleague sent me the email of “Tokyo Scuba Club”, the personalized dive tour business of Patric Schwandt (patric@tokyoscuba.com). He took 3 divers out of Tokyo in his Subaru van on a Friday evening for the diving weekend. in Koina, a tiny fishing village near Izukyu Shimoda on the Izu Peninsula. Accommodations were in a simple (but very comfortable) Japanese ryokan (where the Japanese food was fantastic!). Since I arrived into Narita airport only on Saturday morning, Patric emailed this jet-lagged traveler exact instructions as to how to navigate Japanese trains and buses to get to

Koina. Patric rents tanks (2 dives/day) from a local dive shop and also organizes a clean, fast fishing boat to take divers to nearby Mikimoto Island. The 2 dive sites I saw had rocky bottom, and large quantities of fairly large Alcyonarian soft corals. Fish were not plentiful, but were interesting (had never seen many of them before). We saw eagle rays, large morays, and a tuna. The hotel was just across the street from the harbor where the fishing boat awaited you. However, things are at floor level in Ryokans, so they are not really conducive to spreading out lots of camera gear. **(Ph: +81-426-70-2769; fax +81-426-70-2768; e-mail info@tokyoscuba.com; website www.tokyoscuba.com)**

KIRIBATI (CHRISTMAS ISLAND)

Christmas Island is 1300 miles due south of Hawaii, about a 3-hour flight, but across the International Date Line. It's the world's largest coral atoll, 45 miles long and between 7 and 25 miles wide, although lagoons make up nearly 2/3 of that area. The island was named after the day in 1777 when Captain James Cook first happened upon it, but it remained uninhabited until the 1950s, when the British chose it as the site for their nuclear weapons development and induced a small Micronesian work force from the Gilbert Islands to relocate there. The British pulled out, leaving behind a few Micronesians and a great deal of debris. Today the island's 4400 residents are citizens of the Republic of Kiribati (pronounced cure-a-BOS).

Dive Kiribati, Captain Cook Hotel, July 2001, Dave Sayles, (dpsayles@cnsurety.com)
Caledonia, MI. Vis: 40-60 ft. Water: 80 F, calm and flat. Logged dives: 230. Dive restrictions: computer. Frontier Travel gave very good presentation on what to expect. Limited soft coral. Hard corals in excellent shape. On 2 separate occasions we spent an hour snorkeling with mantas. On several occasions the mantas were close enough to touch. Kim Anderson provided excellent assistance for his divers. Tank fills were always 3200-3300 Lb. Boat was stable. Most dives 50-80 ft. **(Ph: (800) 245-1950 or (412) 935-1577; fax (412) 935-5388; e-mail divekiribati@juno.com; website www.fun2do.com/divekiribati)**

MICRONESIA

Chuuk

This is the world's most diverse wreck diving on hundreds of Japanese ships sunk during a battle in WWII, with lionfish on the bridge, giant clams on the deck, and bottles of ink and erasers for students of the vanished Japanese Empire still visible in the hold. . . . Most wreck dives — other than on superstructure — are in the 80'+ range, but there's fine diving even without wreck penetration. . . . Expect calm water, occasional poor visibility, little or no current, and temperatures that can hit the high 80s. . . .

Truk Blue Lagoon Resort, January 2001, William R. Smythe, Scott's

Valley, CA. Vis: 50-100 ft. Water: 82 F. Dives logged: 500+. Dive restrictions: Suggested limits. The wrecks are still some of the greatest. The corals are fantastic day or night! We were with a group of gung-ho tech divers who pushed the limits. My wife and I are senior divers so we only went down on the shallower wrecks — 80 ft. max. We were more than satisfied. The dive crew was very accommodating in helping my wife — a novice diver. She saw more stuff than I did. The high point for her was a stone fish! The resort is locally owned and managed by Mason Fritz. It has just been redone. It was comfortable and adequate. The food was just average. They ran out of papaya 1/2 way through our stay — but had Washington State apples! Perhaps a bit pricey but the main town was on a par with the worst parts of Mogadishu, Somalia or Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania where I once worked. The town is dangerous day or night. Dive shop minimal — sells mostly tee-shirts. **(Ph: 800-367-5004 or 808-955-6221; fax 800-477-2329 or 808-955-7749; e-mail info@castleresorts.com or reservations@castleresorts.com; website www.castleresorts.com)**

Truk Blue Lagoon Resort, February 2001, Michael Mason Hammond, IN. Long flights on Continental in packed planes, from Chicago through Houston, Honolulu and overnighted on Guam. The flight from Guam had us arriving on Wed in time to check in to the Blue Lagoon Resort, eat a nice lunch and make a one tank afternoon dive on the Fujikawa Maru. The Blue Lagoon folks had a van for us and