

getting in the water first and being on our own. (Ph: 33-0494 38 35 85; fax 33-0 94 38 30 72)

GREECE

Aquatic World, Agia Efima, July 2001, Bob Lamberton (rdlamber@artsci.wustl.edu) **St. Louis, MO.** Vis: 80-100 ft. Water: 68 to 79 F, calm no currents. Experience: 251-500 dives. We try to get in a few dives each summer in Greece, where work takes us. The only dive operation on Cephallonia is Aquatic World (www.aquatic.gr) and were very pleased. Most of the diveable waters of Greece are off limits to divers for the protection of antiquities on the seabed, but Kyriakos and Mike have some fine sites, rich in fish by Mediterranean standards, legal, and only ten minutes from the dock in their two well-maintained RIBs. This is the only place I've seen Med parrotfish (*Sparisoma cretense*). As at other Greek sites, summer water temps are comfortable near the surface, but below the thermocline (40 ft in this instance) the temp plunges to 70 or less and most of us want more than 3 mm of neoprene. Excellent vis and a very professional dive operation. (Ph: 003 0674 62006; e-mail info@aquatic.gr; website www.aquatic.gr)

MEDITERRANEAN

Medes Islands

Calypso Diving, Miramar Beach Hotel, July 2001, Michael McCroskey, Houston, TX. The Medes Islands are reportedly the only national marine park in the Mediterra-

nean. A search at Google (using L'Estartit) will produce a wealth of information. It is some 70 km North of Barcelona on the Costa Brava and worth the trip. The diving is not Caribbean, but surprisingly good. We went to Barcelona on business and decided to try the Mediterranean. We discovered a small group of islands, recently protected that are recovering rapidly. The water is fairly cold (70 F), so a full wet suit is advisable, but the schools of fish, hardy coral species, and other life made it well worth the effort. We had a group of four divers and dove with Calypso Diving (email calypso@grn.es). Peter and Jacquelyn were great hosts and ran a good operation. Two of us used their gear and found it to be quality equipment in good repair. Their tanks were all steel with both normal k-valves and DIN valves. Both 12 liter and 15 liter tanks were available. The boat was converted from a small harbor tug, but served well for the 15-20 minute ride. Prices for gear and diving were reasonable. Miramar Hotel on the beach was quite adequate, but lacked some conveniences (like A/C and soap). It was clean, reasonably priced, and perfectly located for both diving and surface activities. <http://interhotel.com/spain/en/hoteles/4890.html>) (Calypso Ph/fax: +34 972 751488; e-mail calypso@grn.es; website <http://www.grn.es/calypso/>)

PORTUGAL

Azores

Aquarius Diver, Team Acores, Terceira, August 2000, Marilyn

Koukol, APO, AE, Portugal. Vis: 30-80 ft. Water: 60-70 F. Dives logged: 1,075. Dive restrictions: No decompression dives. I am living on Terceira Island in the Azores. We see string rays on every dive. I saw 20-40 at a cavern in Split Rock. I usually shore dive — less than 3 minutes from my house. When I boat dive, I go with Paulo Santos who operates Aquarius Diver (aquarius.diver@mail.telepac.pt) out of Angra do Heroismo or Herb Hodgeman (www.TeamAzores.com). (Dives are \$15) There are usually barracuda, tuna, octopus, and wrasse. Coral is limited to tubastrea in the caves. It's a beautiful island! (Ph: 292-672-686; e-mail aquaacores@aquaacores.com)

Madeira

Diving Center Baleia, Village Hotel, April 2001, Marilyn Koukol. Vis: 10-20 ft. Water: 65-70 F, choppy. Dives logged: 1,087. Don't go to Madeira for diving if it is not the summer season! They were not taking boats out to the Marine preserve or the harbor wrecks. Shore dives were the only option. I did 2 — that was two too many. The first dive was past Canical. We found some small octopus and anemone with shrimp. It was just myself and the guide — so I didn't mind paying \$30 even though I had my own gear. The next dive was right outside the Crowne Plaza Resort in Funchal. I was one of 4 divers. The guide stayed with the young couple since it was their first ocean dive, and one could not equalize. So, my buddy and I swam around waiting for awhile — then went along the rocks for a shallow dive. He was through the tank of air in 30 minutes. So, I paid \$25 to

blow bubbles at sea urchins and wrasse and used less than half a tank of air. The Island of Madeira is gorgeous — lots of canyons, waterfalls, and Levadaas — walks along the aqueduct. It has lots of flowers, vegetation, and trees. (Madeira means "wood" in Portuguese.) Many older Europeans vacation here. (I felt very young!) It also has unique thatched roof houses. The hotel was well designed with Portuguese tile and the pool was surrounded by plants and flowers. Diving might be different from a boat — but it was definitely not worth cleaning the gear for the shore dives. (Ph: 00351-291-967435 or 00351-291-965751; fax 00351-291-967435; e-mail baleia@mail.telepac.pt)

SWEDEN

Aqua Land, Kärningön, Sweden, July 2001, Christopher Leahy (chris@gothambuilders.com)
Colonia, NJ. Experience: 501-1000 dives. Vis: 40 to 60 Feet. Water: 55 to 60 F, calm choppy. Basically we looked at rocks and seaweed in the North Sea. Some fish. Nice people. One dive was enough. Bring a din adapter or din type regulator if you want to use your equipment. Prices were reasonable, but the diving was dull. (Ph: +46 31 19 43 42; fax +47 31 25 60 95; e-mail info@aqualand.se)

UNITED STATES INLAND

Michigan

Isle Royale

Superior Diver, August 2000, A. Thayer, Commerce, MI. Vis: 30-50 ft. Water: 37-42 F. Dive restrictions: 140', no deco diving. Some of the best