

Not bad value for \$155US per day double including breakfast. However, to add 2 dives per day for 2 people puts the daily cost way up there relative to a live-aboard. (Ph: (+960) 443847 (Maldives); fax (+960) 442665; e-mail sales@unisurf.com; website www.unisurf.com)

Soleni Dive Centre, Soneva Fushi, March 2001, Erwin P. Staller (STALLER@VDOT.NET) Hauppauge, NY. Vis: 60-100 ft. Water: 84-87 F. Dives logged: 200+. The Soneva Fushi Resort has divers from Germany, France and Great Britain mostly. We didn't meet any other Americans. The Soleni Dive Centre is a great operation with divemasters from Australia as well as Switzerland. Thomas Walchli runs the Center and he tries to dive everyday and make each dive an interesting experience. His staff would do anything to help you. A cup of tea, a towel and a piece of fresh coconut would be waiting for you on your return. I have had major surgery and cannot lift my tank and equipment so they brought my equipment to me at the edge of the boat and I would roll in. Most divers enter with a giant step. On the return, they removed my equipment in the water so that I wouldn't have to carry it up the ladder. The dhonis are sturdy and well maintained. Most dives are 30 minutes or less from the resort and definitely worthwhile. In 13 dives, we never repeated a dive site. Palau's Blue Corner cannot compete with my dive at the Shark Nursery, with sharks, manta rays and dolphins. The soft

coral still exists on wall dives but little coral is seen on the shallow surfaces although they do show signs of coming back. (Ph: 00960 23 03 04/05; fax 00960 23 04 74; e-mail soleni@dhivehinet.net.mv; website www.soleni.com)

Vakarufalhi Resort, March 2001, Hellmuth and Ginette Kimberger, Austria. Vis: 150 ft. Water: 27 C. Dives logged: Hellmuth: 1,455 and Ginette: 632. Dive restrictions: 30 meters. Possibility of "over-booking." Alternative accommodations provided at another island (Rangoli Hilton). (Ph: (+960) 450004; fax (+960) 450007; e-mail info@vakarufalhi.ch; website vakarufalhi.com)

SEYCHELLES

Billed as 3000 miles from anywhere, this group of islands has been trying to promote itself to divers as THE place to see whale sharks, but this is unproved. From time to time live-aboards run to the out-island of Aldabra, which is reported to have excellent diving. . . . Island prices are high. . . .

THAILAND

Thailand is a bargain. . . . Whale shark season is usually from March through May, with Richelieu Rock providing an excellent chance of encounters. . . . Trips to the Burma Banks were stopped for political reasons, but this area has been reopened along with some other