

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