

new areas; check before departure. . . .

Phuket

Fantasea Divers, January 2001, Joe Gallagher, Fort Wayne, IN. Phuket is an hour's flight from Bangkok or Singapore, a flight that is very inexpensive when added on to an international ticket. Towels and a meal is provided along with local transportation to the boats from your hotel. There are many other dive operators in Phuket but they tend to be very crowded and not selective about dive sites nor too concerned with the safety of the divers. Fantasea's Dive Masters are well trained, confident and not too controlling. If they see that you are experienced they keep a watchful eye but let you enjoy the dive. Dive sites are varied but have much to offer. Beginner Divers normally go on one boat to a sheltered dive site off of Rachai Yai, an island an hours boat ride from Phuket. Rachai Yai has mild currents, elkhorn coral and abundant fish and if you are lucky an octopus or reef shark. More advanced divers go on a separate boat to Shark Point to dive with leopard sharks and to an Island, Koh Dok Mai to do a wall dive and swim with barracuda. At Rachai Noi I saw large mantas swimming in crystal clear water just below the surface above large rocks which are covered by giant sea fans. The coral life is abundant a 30-90 feet varying strong currents near the surface. I recommend a wet suit, the water is in the 80's but plankton is abundant and at times stings. The plankton attracts the fish life. I have dived with Whale

Sharks off of Shark Point. (Ph: (+66) 7628 1387; fax (+66) 7628 1389; e-mail info@fantasea.net; website www.fantasea.net)

H20 Sports, Laguna, November 2000, Steven Schwankert, Sheung Wan, Hong Kong. Vis: 30-50 ft. Water: 82 F. Dive restrictions: Relaxed, guided diving. Made two dives during the long weekend. Good service: pick-up/drop-off; two tanks; all equipment, fruit and unlimited soft drinks for US \$90. Viz wasn't great, but saw some octopus, two big puffers, lots of beautiful, soft corals. Not bad for land-based vacation w/ diving. (Ph: 76-270562; fax: 76-270563)

TURKEY

Aegean Pro Dive Centre, Bodrum August 2001, Charlotte and Bob Rubin (clrubin@aol.com) Brooklyn, NY. Vis: 20-30 ft. Water: 78 F, calm and flat. Logged dives: 100+. Dive restrictions: time, depth, air pressure. I would not go out of my way to go to Bodrum to dive. Bodrum, a beautiful, up-scale, resort on the Aegean, professional Aegean Pro Dive Center. (Ph: +90 (252) 316-0737; fax +90 (252) 313-1296; e-mail info@aegeanprodiver.com; website www.aegeanprodiver.com)

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Maku Diving, Holiday Beach Motel, January 2001. Peter Louwerse, Gibelhof, Switzerland. Dibbah is located in the Emirate of Fujairah, on the Gulf of Oman, at the border of the