

HONDURAS

Bay Islands Aggressor, August 2001,

J.J. Chudacoff, Redondo Beach,

CA. Vis: 30-80 ft. Water: 83-84 F.

Dive restrictions enforced: Computer, maximum 130'. Taca Airlines was the worst experience I have encountered in the forty years of flying commercial airlines. If Taca is the only way to get to your destination — go somewhere else. (Ph: 800-348-2628 or 985-385-2628; fax 985-384-0817; e-mail info@aggressor.com; website www.aggressor.com)

Bay Islands Aggressor, November 2001, Donald Hoft, Holliston, MA.

Logged; over 450. Rainy/cloudy. Water conditions variable by island; considerable current. Viz generally poor: 25-75 feet. Disappointing trip. Weather was poor and sites generally not exciting. Crew and food good. Boat and accommodations were just OK (poor) compared to other liveaboards I've been on. Several good sites with interesting, generally small Caribbean fish types, nothing very large. But far too many sites were poor.

Bay Islands Aggressor IV, April 2002, Barbara Bohan, Annapolis, MD.

Experience: 251-500 dives. Vis: 50 to 100 Feet. Water: 78 to 80 F, calm choppy. *Bay Islands Aggressor* has been modernized since December 01. New captain, Williard New Bern and his wife Niki have whipped this boat into shape. New Chef, Leetch, was trained at the French Culinary Inst. in New York and the meals were superb —lobster, steak, chicken

cordon bleu, cherry crepes, fresh-baked macaroons after a.m. dive, brownies and appetizers in the afternoon. Diving was great. Captain and divemaster in water on each dive if you wanted, otherwise you could dive your own profile. Took Nitrox course and others were doing advanced specialties. Level of diving experience very high. Made for a pleasant week. Captain tried to get us to every possible site for whale shark hunting. Reefs are in good shape. Not many pelagics, smaller fish plentiful. Captain was a great instructor and rest of staff helpful and interested in making it a great experience. Well-trained staff, lots of fun, great diving. Accommodations nice in the king suite.

Bay Islands Aggressor, May/June

2002, Richard E. Wilson

(aloha95@olg.com) Chesapeake

Beach, MD. Experience: 501-1000

dives. Vis: 40 to 80 Feet. Water: 83 to 84 F, calm no currents. They saw to it that we lacked for nothing. We've never experienced the all-around competence we found on this boat. All the dives were not spectacular, but some were. The Jado Trader wreck dive was superb, and the Coco Sea Mount ran a close second. Capt. Willard found us a 20-ft. whale shark with its attendant entourage of sea birds, bait fish, tuna and never to be forgotten a 6-ft. silky shark. We could get close enough to join this chaos! We all had a fair amount of experience, so they perhaps felt that they need not watch us too closely. On the other hand, they were always right

there when needed. And they seemed to enjoy the diving as much as we did. The quarters were the usual for liveaboards. Anyone who goes on any liveaboard expecting luxury will surely be disappointed. The food was excellent; this cook was a cut above the average.

SABA

***Caribbean Explorer*, October 2001, Raj (rpopli@home.com) Pleasanton, CA.** Experience: 51-100 dives. Vis: 40 to 100 Feet. Water: 78 to 82 F, calm. Good pre visit information package, got prompt replies to email queries, was met at the airport by prearranged taxi. Was the only solo diver. Divemasters will make sure they are available to buddy up with me. St. Maarten and neighboring islands are not the best dive sites, but in every other respect this was a memorable experience. Clean rooms with daily service. Hot water poured into your wetsuits, hot chocolate and hot towel after night dives. Food service was equally good. (Ph: 800-322-3577 or 903-887-8521; e-mail info@explorerventures.com; website www.caribexplorer.com/caribbean)

***Caribbean Explorer*, December 2001, Pat Aderman (pat_aderman@juno.com) Irving, TX.** Vis: 60-80 ft. Water: 80-82 F. Dives accrued: 125. Only five paying divers with seven crew. It made for a great trip. The crew was not only helpful and friendly, but made us feel as if we were their personal guests, not paying customers. While the boat has

a little age on it, it is still comfortable and well maintained. The food was always excellent including a traditional Christmas turkey carved by the Captain, Jean Francoise, JF for short. The upper deck has an ice chest full of cold beer for after the day's diving and a large selection of spirits. Due to weather conditions the schedule is never rigid. We dove off Saba and St. Kitts for six days. Diving was great. Dive depths varied with most from 30-100 feet. Divers log their own time and depths on a board on the dive deck. As long as you dive within the limits of your computer there is no restriction. There are plenty of turtles and other marine life. I took pictures of one turtle that must have weighed 350 pounds. The dive deck is laid out well with a large camera table. Tanks are always topped off and filled at each station without having to remove BCDs. Most diving is directly from the boat but a dinghy is available to retrieve anyone who gets too far from the boat. We also used it to do a drift dive close to shore called Nag's Head. A nice touch after night dives was the warm water the crew poured into our wet suits when we had dropped our gear. They also provided hot drinks. The crew arranged land tours on both islands with their regular taxi drivers. On St. Kitts the taxi had a VHF marine radio so it could communicate with the various boats. It's well worth spending an afternoon on each of the islands. I think I'll reread James Michener's "Caribbean" before I return.

***Caribbean Explorer*, April 2002, Bob Parks, Baton Rouge, LA.** Experience: