

**Caribbean Explorer, August 2002, Cheryl & Ray Stobaugh, Atkins, AR.** Vis: 30-80 ft. Water: 80-81 F. Dives logged: 230 each. Dive restrictions enforced: 120 or 130. We were very pleased. The crossings I had read about were not so bad. Anyone prone to sea sickness needs to take preventative for good measure. I have a bad problem with sea sickness and had read in an earlier *Chapbook* to request a lower birth which we did. The staff was great. Divers came first and they practiced and stressed safety throughout the week. We were free to dive on our own except at St. Kitts and a guide from St. Kitts must be on each dive. Saba charges \$1-3 extra for each dive. There was not much large stuff but an excellent location for macro. Saw octopus, turtle, one spotted eagle ray, squid, drum fish, top hats, nurse sharks. A couple of reef sharks and more. Food was plentiful. The first two evening meals were too salty but all other above expectations. BBQ on last night at sea. Day trip to St. Kitts nice. The weather was great all week. Visibility not go good but enjoyed anyway. First time to dive that part of the Caribbean. Myles and Nicole did an exceptional job as divemasters and good company on deck.

## ST. KITTS AND NEVIS

**Nautica Divers, Windjammer, December 2001, Don Henderson, Lockney, TX.** Dives Logged: #43-46. Vis: clear. Water: 82 F. Our Windjammer ship arrived hours late at Nevis late that morning, so our scheduled 9:30 a.m. dive tour went at 11:30, we

were encouraged to rush through it, and again — our afternoon schedule was ruined. The dive was great though, lead by Austin — the operator from nearby St. Kitts. Soaked in a thermal hot spring on the first dive, 100 hundred feet down on a healthy reef with fish swimming about! Having a dive buddy with a camera is like diving solo, as the other diver's attention will be on his camera rather than on my safety, until he wonders where the boat is? I got to show off my compass and navigating skills, taking him back right to it on the first dive, and pretty close on the second. He wondered if I had an underwater GPS; I guess he doesn't read enough to know that such don't work under water. I grabbed one of my frequent two hour naps — the only way to survive the parties and activities of the week, then caught a launch ashore for supper on the beach and more dancing. We didn't sail again until day-break, but we only traveled across the channel to St. Kitts. Two more great dives, one on a small wreck in 100 feet, another at 70 on a nice reef. While I enjoy the cruises, I am bothered by their ads and "live aboard" listings in dive magazines. While they always illustrate with a picture of a tall ship under full sail, potential passengers should prepare for the fact that skippers seem to seldom bother. Of the four I've cruised with, only one would actually sail; the rest will have three or four sheets put up for show, not even trimming for propulsion, then motor along and see how far they'll get by sun-up. This put us hours late arriving

at port one morning on my last trip, so a scheduled 9:30 a.m., dive tour went at 11:30, we were encouraged to rush through it, and our afternoon schedule was ruined. While a WJ divemaster always accompanied us on dives — perhaps for liability reasons — scuba is an incidental activity. (Ph: 800-327-2601 or 305-672-6453; e-mail [info@windjammer.com](mailto:info@windjammer.com); website [www.windjammer.com](http://www.windjammer.com))

### TURKS AND CAICOS

**Aggressor, December 2001, Michael Lewis, South Riding, VA.** Experience: 101-250 dives. Vis: 50 to 120 Feet. Water: 80 to 82 F, calm surge. Pleasant cruise but it did not live up to the standards we expected from the *Aggressor* Fleet. The cabins were good, with large drawer storage and a closet for hanging items. The steward (Lyndon) kept the rooms clean and towels replaced. He was pleasant and helpful with the guests. The salon was small and crowded for the 14 people on board and was not adaptable for use other than having meals. The food was a big problem. My wife has a deadly allergy to anything peanut (oil, butter, etc.) and we included that in our reservation form. We e-mailed the boat two weeks before our cruise to remind them and received a reply from Annette, who was the cook for our trip, saying that was easily handled. We searched out Annette when we got on the boat to introduce ourselves and remind her of the issue and she said it was no problem. Then two days into the trip, she served peanut butter/macadamia nut cookies

and did not say one word to us about them. Fortunately, we heard someone else comment on the peanut butter before my wife took a bite or we would have ended up heading to shore for a hospital (which would have seriously inconvenienced everyone on board — especially us)! Annette's comment was that she was too busy to keep track and my wife needed to "help" her remember. There was also a person on the boat that was lactose intolerant and another who was diabetic that needed constantly to remind her of their problems. One day when a guest went back to ask for some soup du jour at the end of a meal, he was told there was none left. However, more magically appeared when the crew came in to eat. Another guest asked that more juices, etc. so that we could stay hydrated but they never seemed to appear. The diving was very good, although not spectacular. The coral reefs seemed to be damaged at many sites but it did not appear to be from diver induced stress. There was a large variety of corals and sponges but not a large variety of fish. We did see reef sharks and barracuda at several sites and an occasional eagle ray. The walls were outstanding for formations but did not contain many small critters. The divemasters were friendly and would help on board the boat. They did a good job explaining the sites but they never led a dive. Most of the time, they were more interested in taking pictures or video than in finding critters for the guests. (Ph: 800-348-2628 or 985-385-2628; e-mail [info@aggressor.com](mailto:info@aggressor.com); website [www.aggressor.com](http://www.aggressor.com))