

limitations dictated a quick, simple dive at nearest reef) was mediocre, lots of nice, healthy coral but not much marine life. Kenneth's boat at first glance looks like a homemade raft/pontoon but was actually very diver friendly — stable, room to walk around with full gear, and good overhead cover from the sun. Dive guide/boat diver both friendly and extremely helpful. We had booked two dives but only did one, they only charged us for one — 1st class approach to business! Truly a good, honest accommodating operation. (Ph: 869-465-2670)

Scuba Safaris, Four Seasons, Nevis, August 2002, Harold & Jan Bedoukian, Keeseville, NY. Dives logged: 300. Diving restrictions enforced: 80 ft. Scuba Safaris is a well-run dive operation. Ellis and his staff are polite and make your dives as interesting as possible, taking us to dive sites in both Nevis and St. Kitts. Every morning we were picked up on time at the Four Seasons dock. Fresh towels were provided after each dive. We were not expecting adrenaline charged diving. However, we were surprised. The marine life was abundant enough and the coral was in good condition. There were the usual: sea turtles, eels, rays, and schools of squid. On one dive we did see tarpon. The most interesting site was the wreck of the Christina. The ship went down 30 years ago. The boat was overloaded and capsized with a terrible loss of life. Depth was limited to 80 feet and was controlled by the choice of dive sites. It was impossible

to go deeper without a shovel. (Ph: 869-469-9518; e-mail scubanev@caribsurf.com; website http://www.nevis1.com/scuba_safaris.html)

ST. LUCIA

St. Lucia lies in the hurricane belt west of Barbados. Diving on this beautiful, heavily-forested island, with pretty reefs and tiny fish, is managed and controlled. . . . Anse Chastanet hotel is located near the Pitons on the southwestern part of island, where the better diving is, but it's rigidly controlled; there's not much worth seeing elsewhere underwater. . . . The year-round high is in the 80s days; night lows are in the 70s. Afternoon cloudbursts are common. . . .

Anse Chastanet, January 2002, William Boswell (wfboswell@marklang.com) Millersville, MD. Experience: 101-250 dives. Vis: 50 to 100 Feet. Water: 79 to 82 F, calm. Clearing immigration and customs in St. Lucia was no problem. The taxi driver was happy to stop and let us buy beer for the long ride to the resort. The resort is nice and the staff excellent. After orientation the first dive is a shore dive. Everyone at Scuba St. Lucia was very helpful and friendly. Nitrox is not available. The diving was great, mostly slow drift dives. There is a Marine Park fee. There are a lot of steps on this island! (Ph: 758-459-7000; e-mail ansechastanet@candw.lc; website www.ansechastanet.com)