

GREATER ATLANTIC

England

Scapa Flow Charters, Ferry Inn, July 2002, Alan Thayer, Commerce Twp., MI. Experience: 26-50 dives. Vis: 30 to 40 Feet. Water: 49 to 51 F, choppy, no currents. Drysuit country and all wreck diving. World War I German High Seas fleet was scuttled here. Seven wrecks (three battleships, four light cruisers) left. Battleships all upside down and tough to see without serious penetration. Light cruisers all turned 90 degrees, so easy to dive and penetrate. Wrecks 90% intact. All but one wreck within sport limits. Due to cold, not much growth on wrecks. Overnight drysuit repair available. All diving is live boat, so take a DSMB and know how to use it. Shot line can be used for ascent, but if current blows you off, you'll need DSMB. Lost one dive in AM due to 3 meter seas. Flow stays pretty calm, even with high winds. Boats all former trawlers, so reentry is up a 6-8 foot ladder in full gear. Two women in our group had little trouble. Prices good. Stay in hotels or b&b's in Storminess, which are used to divers. Ferry Inn is my recommendation. This place is unknown to Americans, but a great site. No rinse tanks on board. No special area for cameras, though they are careful. (Ph: 01856-874761; e-mail john@scapaflow.com; website www.scapaflow.com)

United States

North Carolina

Sea Scan Dive Shop, August 2002, David Lemly, Virginia Beach, VA. Experience: 251-500 dives. Vis: 25 to 35 Feet. Water: 68 to 72 F, calm. Sea Scan was a good dive shop and boat (the Poppy) set up for small groups. Dive location was voted on by the divers. Allowed you to dive your own profile based on talking to dive masters and experience level. U-85 (sunken German sub) is a cool dive to do once. (Ph: 252-480-3467; e-mail flounder@beachaccess.com; website www.wreck-dive.com)

UNITED STATES INLAND

Missouri

Bonne Terre Mine

West End Diving, Ralph Naruszewicz, Elgin, IL Vis: 100+. Water: 58 F. Dives logged: 200+. Water temperature 58 degrees all year round, no thermocline. Mine is located 130 ft. below ground. 25 different trails. You can't do trail two unless you complete trail one, and so on. All trails are lead by tour leader and safety divers. No flashlights! Only safety divers and tour leaders use them to communicate between each other. The mine is lighted with 500,000 watts, the water is fresh and the visibility 100+ ft. every time! (Ph: 314-731-5003; e-mail westend@stlnet.com)