

BRAZIL

Aguas Claras, Atlantis/Dolphin Hotel, October 2002, Martha & Jeff Hubbard (hubbard182@att.net), Glenmont, NY. Experience: Over 1,000 dives. Vis: 30 to 90 feet. Water: 78 to 80 F, choppy. There are three dive operators, Aguas Claras, Atlantis, and Noronha Divers. We dove with the first two. Atlantis has two spiffy fiberglass catamarans carrying up to 30 crowded divers and a smaller boat for up to 8 or so. Aguas Claras has old wooden boats that look like African Queen fitted for day diving, for up to 14 divers. Plenty of sun cover and we came to like the wooden boats. There was confusion about our diving reservations, so Aguas Claras sent English-speaking Andre to our hotel at 9 p.m. Sunday to review our C-cards and arrange for two tank morning dives Monday and the rest of the week. English-speaking and charming Claudia treated us like the experienced divers that we are. Most days' morning dive was just the four divers in our party. Afternoons we did two-tank dives with Atlantis. The cats are new but crowded: up to 3 groups of up to 10 divers. Since many divers are rookies — Brazilians on their first ocean dive trip — big groups and exiting fully geared leads to getting one's mask kicked off or 2nd stage ripped from the mouth occasionally. Dive guides usually had enough English to get by, not actually converse, and treated everyone like a beginner. The dives were of reasonable length but arbitrarily limited by the divemasters. The few Brazilian tourists who spoke

English were friendly and pleasant. All the locals were friendly, but few speak English. Brazil requires a visa and makes it difficult to get one. We used www.traveldocs.com and were delighted. We paid \$1,500/person for a week, hotel, breakfast, lunch and 3 dives a day (4th dive each day we paid on-island.) The Dolphin Hotel was simple but comfortable. Restaurants are not very good, with the exception of Miramar where Fernanda treated us like guests in her home. With US \$, eating out is cheap. Deal with the dive operations and hotel direct; no need for an agent. Island tours are cheap and fun. The scenery is magnificent, better than the diving. See lots of dolphins — just don't get near them in the water! Our guide (and indispensable translator) was Djanira (3619 1016), met us at the airport and helped with many things. When the airline TRIP seemed to abandon us because their (possibly only) plane broke, she pleaded/threatened on our behalf to get us on the only plane to the mainland. For the experienced North American diver, the distance and time to get there would be better spent in visiting Bonaire or Little Cayman. (www.aguasclaras-fn.com.br)

CANADA

Ontario

Trout Lake Diving, July 2002, Alan J. Maxwell (maxwell@velocity.net), Erie, PA. Vis: 20-30 ft. Water: 65-80 F. Dives accrued: 370. Dive restrictions enforced: No diving in mine shaft unless qualified cave. This is a lime-