

sive, except beverages of any kind, including bottled water. I forgot to mention mojitos and beer are available on the boat at the end of the last dive. ([www.cuba.tc/CubaScuba\\_MariaLaGorda.html](http://www.cuba.tc/CubaScuba_MariaLaGorda.html))

### CURACAO

A short hop from Bonaire, Curacao's colorful, historic, cosmopolitan Dutch city of Willemstad offers plenty for the nondiver — good diving, international shopping for high-rollers, night life, hiking, an orchid-filled forest, beautiful rural villages and country homes, windsurfing, half-naked Europeans, and horseback riding. Excellent Indonesian restaurants offer all-you-can-eat rijstafels (rice tables). ... Marine Park, southeast of the public aquarium ("Seaquarium"), offers rough boat rides in exchange for the best wall dives on the island. There's outstanding beach diving from protected coves on the northwestern side of the island, which is usually calmest and is easily accessible by car. The windward side is almost always too rough to dive, but the diving's good if the wind shifts from its prevailing pattern.

**Caribbean Sea Sports, Marriott Beach Resort, May 2003, David Haupt** ([dbhaupt@yahoo.com](mailto:dbhaupt@yahoo.com)), **Louisville, KY.** Experience: 501-1,000 dives. Vis: 40 to 60 feet. Water: 81 F, choppy, surge. Marriott Beach Resort is five to 10 minutes west of downtown. It is very nice property with all the ameni-

ties. There is an on-site deli, three restaurants, exercise room, spa (massages, facials, etc.), pool w/ bar, and a nice beach. While I was diving, my wife took full advantage of the exercise room and had a couple of massages. Hotel staff was helpful & friendly. The dining on the island was a pleasant surprise. The places we tried ranged from very good to excellent. The on-site dive-op is Caribbean Sea Sports. The DMs are very personable. There were anywhere from five to 12 divers on the boat each day. Everyone jumps in, hangs on a line on the surface, then submerges as a group. The DM leads along the reef until someone reaches 1,500 psi. The group then turns and heads back. Once they saw me dive, I was afforded certain freedoms. I was always the first one in and the last one out! My shortest dive was 52 min. with a max. depth of 105 fsw. Their boat is a Pro 42 powered by twin 300 hp Jetstreams. With a max. capacity of 20 divers, it never felt crowded. The boat does not have a rinse tank, but a hose is available for rinsing. The dive shop has two large rinse tanks. Decent house reef. No E-6 processing. Room had 110 for charging batteries. ([www.caribseasports.com](http://www.caribseasports.com))

**Easy Divers, October 2002, Anne Warburton, Yorba Linda, CA.** Vis: 40 to 80 feet. Water: 80 to 82 F. Dives accrued: 150-160. Dive restrictions enforced: boat at 500 psi. Two other couples in place for a week, and the next three days many came in. Dive operation was good. We could dive our own computers all the time. Shore dive off the Habitat was the best of any — tons of eels, drums, (blue) parrots, and

others, hard and soft coral. Water a great temp. Supposed to really cool down by December. Food was decent with a good variety. Rooms clean, staff nice all the time. Island is suffering economically. Deserted homes and businesses in town. ([www.easydiverscuracao.com](http://www.easydiverscuracao.com))

**Easy Divers, Sunset Waters Beach Resort, January/February 2003, Larry and Kirsten Enzinger, MD.**

Experience: 700-1,000 dives. Water temp @78. Vis: 70-100+ ft. We were the only two divers for the first few days, so they had the boat at Habitat pick us up for diving, since they run that operation also. Habitat boats were nice, roomy, shaded area, small camera table and rinse bucket. Excellent dive staff. The second half of the trip we dove with the Easy Diver boat. Not as big as Habitat's, but we only had about 6-8 divers on the boat and there was plenty of space for more. Covered area, camera rinse bucket, but no table. Harry drove the boat and was the only crew member. He stayed with the boat and watched our bubbles. Many times he would bring the boat to us as we surfaced. No dive restrictions. We did drift dives sometimes, but never had any current. We did one dive for 1 hr 20 min and no problem. Harry was accommodating. Took us to the dive sites we wanted to go to. We alternated between the boat diving and shore diving. Shore reef is great. Good fish life and lots of coral. Did 12 dives on it and never got tired of it. Overall, the diving was great. Tons of small reef fish, good variety. Saw rays several times, 3 frogfish on one dive! No large fish seen or pelagics. Coral is in good shape, lots of hard and soft

corals. Not as colorful as Bonaire, and not as many large fish, but has the abundance and variety. Sunset Waters is in a secluded part of the island, 2 hr from town. Shuttle runs several times per week to town, or you can hire Rudy to take you where you want to go. Car rentals available in town. We had the all inclusive package and never felt the need to go anywhere else. Resort has kayaks, miniature golf, tennis courts, volleyball, hiking trails, and a beautiful beach. Sunset watching was our favorite evening activity from the bar. Choo Choo will try to meet any requests for activities. The staff is friendly and accommodating. Service was excellent. Food was excellent and plenty of it. Lots of salads and fruits, dinners are 4 course meals. We were in room 117, which is large and has a balcony overlooking the water, and also the nude beach. The resort is clean and in good condition. Rooms have ceiling fans and a/c, phone, cable TV. The manager, Jim Hunter, is the best that we have ever met in 25 years of traveling. Jim makes himself available to all the guests and does his best to meet any requests. Sunset Waters is a hidden treasure. Note: learned since our trip that the dive shop is under new management. ([www.sunsetwaters.com](http://www.sunsetwaters.com))

**Easy Divers, Sunset Waters Beach Resort, March 2003, Roger Hunting, Franklin, VA.**

Experience: 501-1,000 dives. Vis: 70 to 80 feet. Water: 78 to 79 F, choppy, no currents. An excellent small resort, with a staff that is truly interested in making your stay the best possible. Jim Hunter, the resort manager, goes out of his way to

accommodate any special requests, and he seems to have all the staff thinking the same way. If you don't get what you want, just ask and the staff will make it happen. The accommodations and food were outstanding, along with the excellent service. Sunset Waters has one of the nicest beaches on the island with lots of activities for the non-divers and kids. Easy Divers was flexible in their dive schedule. The typical one-tank morning dive and one-tank afternoon dive was modified to two-tank morning or two-tank afternoon dives at the request of the majority of the divers. This left half a day free for other activities, such as shore diving, sightseeing, shopping, or just relaxing in the beach. One problem was that Easy Divers would have to shuffle boats back and forth to Habitat, since they also run the dive operation there. So we had to modify our schedule on a couple days or switch to another boat. But this was only a minor inconvenience. The dive staff at Easy Divers was competent, friendly, and knowledgeable of the dive sites. Tookie was our divemaster for the entire week, and he knew where to find all the good stuff, like frog fish and sea horses. Tookie has been diving Curacao waters for 25 years, so he has lots of stories to tell. The diving on the northwest end of the island is outstanding, so it puts Sunset Waters in an ideal location for the best diving with relatively short boat rides. The distance from town was not really a problem since we had a rental car for the week, so we had easy transportation. One trip into Williamstad convinced us that we had picked the right resort compared to

some of the alternatives close to or in town. On the northwest end there are several excellent shore dives, with short swims to the drop-off. The reef right in front of the Sunset Waters resort was a great shore dive and excellent night dive. Dive boats had large camera rinse tanks. Dive staff was helpful in handling equipment. No large stuff to photograph but excellent small critters, including frog fish, sea horses, octopus, eels, and lobster. Some of the swims on the shore dives made lugging bulky camera gear a little difficult, but still well worth the effort.

**Easy Divers, Habitat Curacao, June 2003, Mark Leiserowitz, Houston, TX.** Experience: 165 dives. Visibility: 40-100+ ft. Water: 80s. Diving is great. Two tank dives daily. Since resort was full we alternated morning and afternoon boat dives. Can dive anytime you want. Our group's original plan was to rent some vehicles and do shore dives around island. Once we saw terrific house reef we never rented any vehicles and dove house reef repeatedly when we weren't on boat dives. Divemasters did not point out much. Since most of the group were experienced, we found our own stuff. Bottom times max 1 hour. Poorly executed wreck dive on Superior Producer. They said no gloves but due to current everyone had to go down the buoy chain line which was encrusted. Most people got cut on the hands. Divemaster admitted afterward he had only dove wreck a few times. Current was not what had been in the morning and had changed radically. Otherwise all the dives were great. Hotel was good. The restaurant

leaves something to be desired due to slow service. Even the bartender admitted it was poor service. No complaints about food. Breakfast was excellent. Free shuttle to town. Due to wife being nondiver we went down there more than anyone. Hassle free environment. Not like merchants in Cozumel. If you want to buy something fine. If not that's fine also. Saw a local parade on Sunday when everyone told us not to go downtown as everything was closed. A highlight. Resort is isolated and not near anything. Couple of people rented cars so we were able to go buy snacks.

**Habitat Curacao, September 2002, William and Frances Ungerman (Elitecorps@aol.com), Santa Ana, CA.** Experience: 501-1,000 dives. Vis: 70 to 100 feet. Water: 82 to 86 F, calm, choppy, surge, currents, no currents. Great place about 30 minutes west of Hato airport. It sits by itself on a little peninsula. The house reef is as good a dive spot as most on the island. The facility is built on a cliff with the dive operation situated below. Lots of stairs to climb. Weather hot and oppressive, but the constantly blowing trade winds made it bearable. Shore diving 24 hours a day. Get your tanks and go with your rental vehicle. Not as easy and convenient as in Bonaire. Sites are further away and apart and the reef further. Access and entries are more difficult for the most part and some sites are fee-charging. The on-site Oceans bar and restaurant is a first class operation. The food is excellent, and the menu is large. Service is courteous and responsive — not much else around for miles if you don't

like it. Breakfast is included in most packages. The dive operation is okay. Easy Divers has three or four boats but they seem reluctant to use more than one no matter how many divers there are. On a couple of days we had 24 divers on a boat, and it was all you could do to shuffle around and moo. We wanted to dive the Superior Producer but got nothing but excuses about why they couldn't make the run East, until I requested they book us with an operation that would take us. Miracle: We went the next day. Divemaster Carlos was a real comedian and good man. Can't say as much about Christian and Angela, two facist-istic environmental guardians of sand bottoms, coral rubble, and rusting decking. Sites not to miss are Mushroom Forrest, the Superior Producer, and Seldom. All sites were good to excellent, and I have been to Bonaire and Curacao has the edge for quality of diving. Habitat has lockers (bring a small lock). Tank fills were at or a bit less than 3,000 psi. No gloves allowed, but this appears to be a house dictum, not a government fiat. No need to rent a car unless you want to shore dive, but then mandatory. Do so by using an Internet source like Cheap Tickets or Priceline to save money. Not much to see on this desert island except thorn bushes and goats along the roads. Willemstad is worth a day's excursion, and Habitat runs a shuttle in three times a day. The diving was as good as anything we've seen in the Caribbean. Habitat Curacao, on balance, is a meritorious property, and, all in all, the trip was wonderful. No particular accommodations for the photographer other than a small rinse bucket that overflowed

with cameras, strobes, and video gear.  
([www.habitatdiveresorts.com](http://www.habitatdiveresorts.com))

**Habitat Curacao, October 2002,**  
**Jerry and Amber Finley, St. Louis,**  
**MO.** Booked through Maduro Travel  
(great service). Special for two people  
for \$1,350/week. Oceanfront room  
with two queen beds, fridge, stove,  
cable TV, AC, unlimited shore diving,  
all breakfasts, one boat dive a day, air-  
port pick-up/drop-off, and the prerequi-  
site rum punch. The drive from the air-  
port is about 30 minutes. Security gate  
on the road to the resort. We got the  
end room. #100 overlooks the wonder-  
ful, blue, calm waters of the leeward  
side of the island. 100 yds. to eat and  
200 yds. past the beautiful pool to the  
dive area, but all your dive gear is  
stored on the dock anyway. Each room  
has a large patio with lounge chairs, a  
table, two chairs, and even a couch.  
You get a great breeze off the water.  
Orientation: they check out your card,  
tell you how their operation works,  
show you where the lockers are, when  
the boat leaves, and where to sign up,  
give you your weights, and you sign all  
the waivers stating you know that if  
you die it's your own fault. All tanks  
are beside the locker room. You grab  
one when you want. Even at 3 a.m. I  
made my first dive in almost three  
years. A solo dive. Every dive I made  
this week was solo. Even the many  
night dives. The Habitat Curacao reef,  
while not quite as good as the Bonaire  
house reef (or as close at 50 yds) is  
damn good. I am so happy with this  
wall that I don't get on the boat all  
week. I just choose a different depth or  
direction for each dive. After a week, I

still never covered even half the wall. I  
sleep late every morning. Get up. Eat a  
huge fat infested breakfast, lay out in  
the sun for an hour. Take a late morn-  
ing or noon dive session, then repeat at  
7:30 p.m., then eat a late dinner. There  
is a rope extending from the dock out  
and down to the bottom of the 100 ft  
wall. so you can always find your way  
back. The depth all the way to the wall  
is 15 feet to 20 feet, so after the dive  
the swim back is your safety stop.  
Water temp was a comfy 82. I  
switched back and forth between the  
Polartech and Darlexx all week, and I  
never felt a chill even after 1.5 hours  
under the waves. Viz is about 80 feet.  
Thick schools of fish. Coral is healthy  
and varied. Almost everyone has been  
here before. Great breakfast bar of eggs  
(scrambled and boiled), fruit, cereals,  
breads, croissants, sausage, and juices.  
We brought much of our own food,  
knowing we'd have a fridge, so I have  
no idea what was offered at lunch.  
Dinner is 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. Some  
busy nights they request that you make  
reservations, but we never did and had  
zero problems getting seated. No other  
restaurants within miles. The food is  
only fair. Better meals are \$25 to \$28  
per plate without your beverage. We  
ended up buying food and cooking our  
own dinners every other night to save  
some \$\$.

The staff and service were  
simply the best. We rarely waited more  
than 10 minutes for our food, and the  
waiters were right on top of refills, etc.  
The restaurant sits along the cliff over-  
looking the water. It's clean, attractive,  
all wood inside, open with a constant  
light breeze, and we eat by candlelight.  
I heard a few people say there were

things on their bill that they didn't order. Diving: On a scale from 1-10, about a 7.5. All small stuff. Saw many eels including the house moray, Chester. A green 4.5" beauty. Saw one turtle the whole week. Not a single seahorse. The divemasters know where they are and can take you right to them. Viz was a constant 80 to 85 feet. Night dives creepy when you are alone, but lots of activity. Crabs, shrimp, frogfish, flounder, etc. Water was calm every day. Habitat offers free shuttle service into town twice every day. The buildings are all different colors, with mostly Euro styling. You get into town from the main road by either a three-minute ferry ride or a bridge that swings back and forth over the harbor to let boats pass. Lots of shops. Inner city looks kind of like old Cuba. Lots of character. KFC and even a Denny's right there. Locals seem very friendly. Eighty percent of tourists are from Europe. There are no nude beaches on the island. We discovered a hidden beach while walking and here's how to get to it: At the end of the Habitat complex where room #100 is, there is a rock embankment about 3 feet high that forms the perimeter of the property. If you cross this wall, there is a vacant lot about 3/4-mile long that stretches along the shore. About a mile a way is a house alone on a hill. If you walk toward that house along the cliff, about 300 to 350 yds down you'll see a metal railing on your left that leads under trees to the shore. It's all grown over and rusty, but it takes you down to a secluded, enclosed beach with white sand, shells, and shade. We thought we had found our

own little piece of paradise until one day while we were stripping down, two local old women showed up for a lunch. No need for DEET, no bugs. Pics at [community.webshots.com/album/52965930XeqWMT](http://community.webshots.com/album/52965930XeqWMT)

**Habitat Curacao, September 2003, Phil Hampton, Orlando, FL.** Dives logged: 2,200. Vis: 50-70 ft. Water: 82 F. We took a group of 13 divers. The reefs in the area dived by the Habitat are covered with algae, with few exceptions. Lots of brown and light green algae. Reefs not near as healthy as Bonaire. Not the best shore diving in the Caribbean! Best shore diving is definitely Bonaire. The Bonaire "house" reefs of Flamingo Beach, Buddy's, Capt. Don's all surpass Curacao. The Habitat dive operation was cheerful and helpful, and the boats were good. The hotel restaurant had good, reasonably priced food. The hotel was clean and the beds were good. Lack of hot water and water pressure in the showers! My hottest shower was tepid!

**Lions Dive and Beach Resort, August 2002, L. Bushnell, Ventura, CA.** Vis: 50 to 75 feet. Water: 80 F. Dives accrued: >250. Restrictions enforced: depth limit varied (many divers and nitrox). Bob and Veronica were attentive divemasters. Sized up the experienced group, and tailored more challenging dives (high current drift dives). Superior Producer is a nice wreck dive. Hotel 13 overall nice. Rooms a little tired. Current is 220 with European plugs. No large pelagics but fairly healthy reefs. Did see several seahorses.

Always windy in the a.m. Ostrich farm is fun, exotic side trip in town.  
(<http://lionsdive.com>)

**Ocean Encounters, Lions Dive, October 2002, Leo Dioguardi (dioguardi@att.net), Apollo Beach, FL.**

Experience: 251-500 dives. Vis: 80 to 120 feet. Water: 79 to 82 F, choppy. Resort was comfortable but several of our group had problems with hot water and a/c. Food was ok but expensive, we often dined elsewhere. Downtown shopping was duty-free and worth the trip. Many locals warned us, however, about the crime rate. At night, it is not safe to walk near open beach areas and many places in town. Being the unwitting witness to drug smuggling and/or arrival of illegal Colombians is dangerous. We stuck with taxis and had no problems. Diving was similar to Bonaire with rich shallow (25 feet) plateaus dropping off to wall dives fairly close to shore. Viz was great and don't miss diving on the Superior Producer. We hit it on a low current day and you could see the entire wreck 100 ft below from the surface, excellent. The dive operation was well run with tag lines, drop tanks, etc., when the dive required it. Especially nice is that most dives were so close that your sit was on land at a nearby park, complete with refreshments. Nitrox was available with 1 day notice.

([www.oceanencounters.com](http://www.oceanencounters.com))

**Ocean Encounters, Lions Dive, October 2002, Patricia and Leo Dioguardi (dioguardi@worldnet.att.net), Apollo Beach, FL.**

Experience: 251-500 dives. Vis: 50 to

100 feet. Water: 80 to 83 F, choppy. Low current with great viz and prolific corals made for interesting dives. Most dives were 60 minutes, relaxing with low current. All followed the same profile of wall dive to 1,500 psi and return at 25 feet on the plateau. Crew of Bob, Remy, Richie, Rene, and Ronica were accommodating and helpful. The wreck of the Superior Producer was fantastic. We could see the entire wreck, 105 feet down, from the hang line. Food at Lions was of adequate quality but expensive and slow in coming. While downtown Willemstad was colorful, it was not the great shopping experience we expected. There is apparently a high level of traffic in drugs and illegal Colombians that make it dangerous to be on isolated beaches or nearby roads in the evening. Most folks warned us to take taxis after 8 p.m., even downtown.

**Ocean Encounters, Breezes, June 2003, Roger Bell, Smyrna, GA.** Vis: 80 to 120 feet. Water: 80 to 84 F.

Experience: 200+ dives. Breezes is a great place for divers and nondivers (i.e., kids). Many activities. Reasonable prices. Beautiful. 12-year-old son and 12-year-old step-daughter stay rent free. Ocean Encounters folks nice, friendly, and helpful. Son got certification and open water dives in. He had a positive experience (nine dives) and liked divemaster/instructor Raul a lot. Boat dive one out of six days. Rest good shore diving, but definitely second to Bonaire. For dedicated, pure diver types who don't need frills/activities/entertainment of an all-inclusive. Habitat Curacao has a better dive oper-

ation and is closer to more and better dive sites. ([www.breezescuracao.com](http://www.breezescuracao.com))

### **Seascape Dive, Sheraton, October 2002, Susan Sampson, Renton, WA.**

Experience: 101-250 dives. Vis: 100 to 150 feet. Water: 82 F, calm, no currents. The lee side of Curacao offers a reef no more than 100 feet from the shore, dropping off quickly into nearly a wall. The reef is healthy, with little evidence of bleaching, algae, or battering from hurricanes. The reef is decorated with a broad variety of corals and sponges and populated by mostly smaller fish: durgions, chromis, damsels, parrots, squirrels, rock hinds, gobies, and a few rock beauties and angels. We saw several hawksbill turtles, many trumpets, a school of hundreds of needlefish near the surface, more burr fish and balloon fish than we have seen in other Caribbean locations, large seahorses (five to six), urchins, and a school of squid, abundance of feather duster and Christmas tree worms in every color, and a variety of anemones. There is abundant fire coral. Seascape Diving at the Sheraton near Willemstad offered friendly service, a 30-foot boat with drinking water, shade, and a dive step at the stern. A divemaster was in the water, and the captain remained on board to offer a hand to divers returning to the boat. Rides to dive sites varied from 5 minutes to 45 minutes. Eight divers on board at the most (usually fewer, but we picked up a group from the Marriott when its boat had engine troubles). The divemaster offered close guidance and care to the divers boat who lacked experience but allowed the

experienced divers to dive their own profiles with a request that they return to the boat within one hour. The dive shop offered a large, clean locker room with a rinse tank, clothes lines, shower, individual lockers, and access to tanks. Tanks were aluminum 80s, neat and clean looking, but bearing no marks to indicate internal inspection. Keys were issued to night divers to use the locker room. The dive shop offered a fairly small array of retail goods, more along the line of souvenirs than dive products. A restroom offered a changing area. The Sheraton offers an excellent night dive. The new dock makes for easy navigation and supports a host of creatures of the night. We saw octopus, lizard fish, scorpion fish, peacock flounder, orange ball anemone, and tube-dwelling anemones. The Resort: The Sheraton Hotel is a full service resort with tennis courts, fitness gym, spa, pools, restaurants, and chocolates on the pillow at night. Electricity is 110 volts, like American, but only 50 cycle, not the 60 we use. Willemstad offers historic Dutch architecture, gambling casinos, and cruise ship shopping. In the countryside, see wild flamingoes and herds of goats. ([www.seascapecuracao.com](http://www.seascapecuracao.com))

### **Seascape Dive, Hilton (formerly Sheraton), July 2003, Mike Frayn ([mfrayn@bigfoot.com](mailto:mfrayn@bigfoot.com)), Tampa, FL.**

Experience: 101-250 dives. Vis: 50 to 100 feet. Water: 78 to 81 F, choppy. The Hilton doesn't cater to divers but there was a dive operation on site. The hotel focused more on families and the amenities were nice. They had a private beach, two bars, a great pool and night-



ly entertainment. Lots of Dutch. About 1/3 of the women were topless on the beach. Pretty nice snorkeling for non-divers. Seascope had a 42 ft Newton boat with the usual set up. Some days there were only 4 divers on board. Other days they went down to Lion's Dive and picked up a bunch of divers. On those days they catered to Lion's Dive and ignored the Hilton customer's requests. Two of Lion's Dive's three boats were broken. They made us get to the shop an hour early and ride down to pick up the other divers. One day we had to ride back in a truck because they kept the boat at Lion's Dive for an afternoon trip. After a serious conversation with the manager of the shop and the general manager of the Hilton they started focusing on the Hilton customer's requests and convenience. Shore diving was excellent. You must rent a car if you want to shore dive or go into Willemstad for meals. Good night life and lots to do topside.

### **Sunset Divers, Sunset Waters Beach Resort, July 2003, Bill & Martha Chapman, Alexander City, AL.**

Experience: 51-100 dives. Vis: 80 to 100 feet. Water: 82 to 85 F, calm. Mike and Michele Day of Sunset Divers did an outstanding job. Their staff of Wade, Kristen, and Carlos are knowledgeable divemasters. Always ready to guide divers to best locations on reefs or to allow you to dive own profile. New boats and tanks. Short rides to dive sites. Fresh fruit, water, and iced tea on board each boat. Reefs in good shape. Saw spotted morays, lobster, scorpion fish, squid, turtles, parrotfish, seahorses, schooling chromis, barracuda, etc.

We were traveling in a group and had boat to ourselves. Mike scheduled boat departures to fit our schedule. Did two tanks each morning and one night dive. Especially enjoyed Mushroom Forest and Harry's Hole. Sloping walls allow divers to maximize bottom time over reefs. Sunset Waters Resort offers all-inclusive plan that was excellent. Facility is clean, offers great beach with shore diving, good food. Jim Hunter, general manager, did excellent job coordinating our schedule requirements, i.e., food service with dive boat departures, etc. Delta has weekly non-stop flight from Atlanta each Saturday. ([www.sunsetdiver.com](http://www.sunsetdiver.com))

## **DOMINICA**

Dominica is arguably the best all-around adventure vacation island in the Caribbean, with gorgeous reefs, plenty of tropicals (though few of eating size), lush rain forests, hiking, waterfalls, warm water springs, splendid fruits and vegetables (prepared by great local cooks), modest hotels — and it's inexpensive to boot. ... No beaches, even seaside hotels are affected by the nearly continuous cloud cover over the mountains, and there's not much happening beyond polite residents leading their lives. The airport doesn't handle large jets, and there's little tourism infrastructure. ... Expect daytime temperatures in the 80s and night lows around 68 in winter and 73 in summer, although a few minutes up the mountain and into the cloud forest can change