

problem. There are decent reading lamps over your pillow in the bunks. Try to get a center dive locker and hang your scuba/swim wear over the center dive lockers as water from the hot tub on the deck above will spill over to the deck below. Spacious camera table. E6 processing. Dedicated camera rinse tank.

Cayman Aggressor, July 2003, Craig & Ruth Campbell, Long Grove, IL.

Vis: 40-80 ft. Water: 83-85 F. Dives logged: Craig: 310, Ruth 270. Dive restrictions enforced: Do not exceed 110 ft, complete a safety stop on each dive @ 15 ft and return to the boat with about 500 psi. This was a typical *Aggressor* operation with excellent service and food, an extremely clean and well maintained boat and a knowledgeable and helpful crew who were always available if you needed or wanted them. The quality of the diving was in the good to very good range; however, we have been to the Caymans in 1993 and 1996 and were disappointed in the deterioration in both the health of the reefs & abundance of fish life on this trip.

Compared to our last trip to the Cayman Islands (Little Cayman-Bloody Bay Wall), there is serious degradation in the walls and the fish population is scarce. On previous trips the walls were vibrant with color: Large sponges, sea fans, hard & soft corals, now it appears that brown algae have taken over.

Previously on any dive there were many angel fish, triggerfish, file fish, large groupers, and other reef fish. Now there were a few if any. The tur-

tle population has significantly improved — they were seen on every dive. Dietary restrictions which were identified before the trip were not met/accommodated.

EASTERN CARIBBEAN

Caribbean Explorer II, July 2003, Jack A. Gullo Jr., New Windsor, MD.

Experience: 51-100 dives. Vis: 80 to 100 feet. Water: 82 to 85 F, calm. Great boat, clean accommodations, good shores and heads (private per state-room) friendly crew and great diving. Boat set up and routine great for diving. Food was plentiful and first class. An outstanding trip. Dedicated rinse tank, large table for camera only activities; knowledgeable staff.

(www.explorerventures.com/ne-carib/ne-carib.html)

Caribbean Explorer II, April 2003, Billy E. Haggerty Jr. CRNA (billy.haggerty@cox.net), Midland, TX.

Experience: 101-250 dives. Vis: 50 to 100 feet. Water: 82 to 84 F, choppy. This was the first live-aboard for me. Wonderful staff. Crew of eight took care of the divers. Up to 5 dives available per day, including the night dive. Nitrox \$150/ week. The food was incredible, with the chef handling all requests. Beef Wellington, pork tenderloin, smoked turkey, etc. The diving in St. Kitts is great because there are not that many divers. The coral is in great shape, and the marine life is curious of you. Great dive trip after the first day on board. All of us got sea sick at some point. Separate area for battery charging stations. Large table for u/w cam-

eras and video. Video station to view recording in dining parlor. At Statia you have to dive with a member of the marine park. The "coral police" as we called them. Not a problem though, they were friendly. The coral is pulsing with marine life. Very vibrant and healthy coral beds. Lots of rays, turtles, barracudas. Octopus on the night dive. Saba is predictable in seeing turtles and sharks. Lots of reef life on all dives. We dove there for two and a half days (10 dives) and were the only divers in the area. Fantastic!

HONDURAS

Bay Island Aggressor, November 2002, Scott Kramer (scottkca@earthlink.net), Los Angeles, CA.

Vis: 20-50 feet. Water: 80-82 F. Dives logged: 416. Dive restrictions enforced: 100 feet. The boat is in great shape and the crew (especially Leech, head cook) were what an experienced group is supposed to be. We had rain and poor visibility, so dives were sacrificed; we ended up on island tours that we had to pay for out of pocket. Mary's Place is now open for business, and he has returned to his prior glory. Small VCR/TV combos in room a nice touch. Go for the two large staterooms on the second level if you have a choice. TACA's service was a 7/10, a vast improvement over its past performance. The hot-tub was a definite plus. A full boat with 20 guests never seemed too crowded.

Bay Islands Aggressor, January 2003, Jim King (jimpat@sirisonline.com), Albia, IA. Experience: 501-1,000

dives. Vis: 30 to 100 feet. Water: 76 to 78 F, choppy, surge. This was at the last of the rainy season, which affected the visibility. Numerous species of fish, but disappointed that there were few larger fish. At only one site did I see grouper, snapper, etc., that were over 16 inches long. The crew and accommodations were excellent, as they have been on all the other 14 *Aggressor* trips I've been on. (www.aggressor.com/bia_home.html)

Bay Islands Aggressor, June 2003, Rickie Sterne/Chrisanda Button (rickandchris@alltel.net), Elkins, AR.

Experience: 101-250 dives. Vis: 40 to 80 feet. Water: 80 to 82 F, choppy, surge. The boat was nice, but the diving was disappointing. The *Bay Islands Aggressor* was refurbished last year, and the job must have been well done. We found conditions on the boat much better than those reported in the Chapbook two years ago. The boat was clean, and we saw only one insect all week. Since all 20 divers were Southerners, we were neither surprised nor outraged. The dive deck is spacious and well organized. Both air and Nitrox fills are done with tanks in place in the gear stations. Each diver has a covered locker under his gear station. There are two freshwater showers on the dive deck, and clean warm towels were offered us after each dive. The cabins are, of course, small but comfortable. Showers are full-sized with plenty of hot water, hair dryer in the cabin. Our bags were stored outside the cabins. Couples who could share the bottom bunk had more space than