

Water: 78 to 80 F. Dives accrued: 150-160. Dive restrictions enforced: Swim with DM. Many, many fish: leopard shark, huge triggers, many and varied nudibranches, sting rays, clouded moray eel, schooling bannerfish, whiskered pipe fish, lion fish, raggy stonefish, black spotted porcupine fish, sweet lips, big fin reef squid, great anemones and coral. Could not dive without a DM in front of group and one in back. Finally told them we would not dive with them on third and last day if they didn't leave us alone, and they did. Water pretty silty. Dive boat a two-story and filled with maybe 40 people — a mess getting in the water. Lots and lots of sea life. (www.westcoastdivers.com, www.duangjit.com)

VIETNAM

Nha Trang

CoCo Divers, Vien Dong Hotel, April 2002, Anne Warburton, Yorba Linda, CA. Vis: 90 to 100 feet. Dives accrued: 150-160. Dive restrictions enforced: Go with DM. Boats were old but getting new ones as we left. Heard dynamiting of reefs in distance. Reefs were in poor condition at Hon Nun. Even saw several dead fish in water. Many nudibranchs, feather stars, starfish, yellow tube worms, needle shrimp, ghost crab, lion fish, polka dot groupers, sweet lips, drum bat fish. Coral in terrible shape. CoCo Divers said they were trying to educate people in Vietnam regarding not dynamiting. (www.cocodivecenter.com)

Indian Ocean & Red Sea Live-Aboards

INDONESIA

Baruna Adventurer, April 2002, Linda Dunn (deep66@earthlink.net), Riverside, CA. Vis: 40 to 100 feet. Water: 79-82 F. Dives logged: 230. Indonesia has great dive sites. Not many Americans — we were the only two — all other divers Asian. Crew on Baruna wonderful. Macro stuff fantastic. Saw a cuttlefish that was brighter than any neon sign. Bali is exotic and beautiful — topside attractions excel. (www.baruna.com)

Kararu Sea Safari, April 2003, William Deertz (wdeertz@centrin.net.id), Los Angeles, CA. Experience: 251-500 dives. Vis: 45 to 75 feet. Water: 78 to 81 F, calm. Very comfortable boat with ensuite facilities. Splurge and get the upper deck cabins. Nice to have the back deck area to chill out between dives and in the evening with a nice glass of wine. Food was very good. 7 day trip from Bali to Komodo and back to Bali. Diving between Bali until you get to Komodo wasn't as good as in the park. On 7 day trip only had 2.5 days in Komodo park. Tradeoff to flying to BIM or Labuanbajo and doing entire 7 day trip in Komodo park. Along Sumbawa several interesting sites with black volcanic sand. Coral/fish life generally in very good to excellent condition. Well worth the trip. Adequate camera/charging station in saloon. (www.kararu.com)