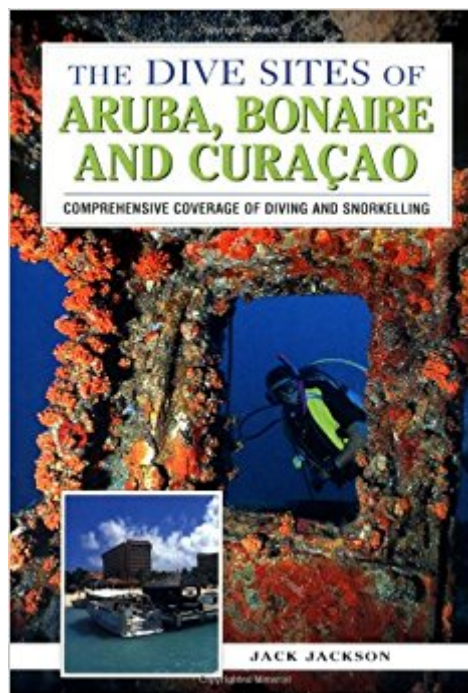




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The Dive Sites Of Aruba, Bonaire, And Curacao : Comprehensive Coverage Of Diving And Snorkeling



Synopsis

Beneath the sparkling waters of the southern Caribbean lies a coral-reef paradise teeming with a spectacular variety of marine life. This practical yet stunningly photographed guide offers extensive coverage of all the area's diving and snorkeling sites. Divers won't have to look any further for user-friendly maps, travel and hotel information, and advice on safe diving.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Jack Jackson is an award-winning photographer and author of *The Dive Sites of the Philippines* and *The Dive Sites of Malaysia and Singapore*.

Only for scuba and very dated

Outdated. The dive site numbers in the book don't match up with the actual sites.

Book is in great condition.

The Dive Sites of the ABC Islands was an informative guide that provided a useful map with some interesting history regarding Bonaire, and the information regarding the diveability of the sites was most appreciated by our newest member who received his Open Water Certification while we were

there. However, some entries appeared dated, whereas various dive locations were no longer accessible, the water clarity ratings appeared overstated (at least for 03 - 11 February 2007 and the Restaurant listings provided little useful information, whereby we relied more heavily on input from the locals. However, as there were no other more current guides available, I'd say this one was worth the money spent. I would recommend a separate identification guide for the fish, coral, anemones, and sponges you'll find, as you'll likely be left wondering what some of strange and unusual sights were that you encountered!

This is okay for snorkeling sites. Not so good for diving.

I ordered this book because I was planning a professional assignment to the ABC islands and had many questions to ask. Having previously reviewed other titles in this series with somewhat mixed results I had some idea of what to expect. In addition to learning about the various Dive Sites, the information I require is; Something about the people - a potted history of the country and an insight into their language and customs etc, plus a few lines about shopping, how to get there, airlines, excess baggage, airport tax, tourist boards, hotels, time difference, local transport, currency, electricity, language, photography, diving facilities, safari boats, available equipment, what to bring, what to wear - and so forth. Thankfully, most of these questions (though not all) are answered with additional information on diving for the disabled and Nitrox. Furthermore, this is a destination with no direct flights from the UK - so the detailed variables of how I might get there were particularly valuable. "The Dive Sites of Aruba, Bonaire and Curaçao" is paperback measuring 9 1/2 in x 6 1/2 in containing over 170 pages. Commencing with a two-page explanation of the legends and symbols used throughout the book, we then have chapters on; An overall Introduction to the country, Travel, Diving and Snorkelling in general, Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, the Marine Environment, Underwater Photography & Video and Health & Safety for Divers. The first map is across pages 10 and 11 and shows the islands (there are actually 5 altogether), in relation to each other and the Caribbean. That and the first 3 chapters are a very good start. Now we get down to the diving found off each of the 3 main (and two smaller) islands and this is where the book could so easily be improved. Altogether, there are brief details on 180 dive sites but each chapter commences with "Site No 1" whereas it would be far more useful had they been numbered consecutively from beginning to end. For each of the islands/island groups, only one map is required in order to demonstrate the approximate position of all the dive sites. Whilst this is used to good effect as far as Aruba is concerned, Bonaire and Curaçao are

separated into 3 and 4 artificial divisions respectively. When studying the diving detail, it is always the little things which reveal the amount of research undertaken by any author. For many years Aruba has claimed that their shipwreck "Antilla" is "The largest shipwreck in the Caribbean." Whilst I can't fault any Tourist Board or local Diving Facility for making such a claim, the Author really should have done his homework. I know of at least 2 Cruise Liners found elsewhere in the Caribbean (Grenada and Mustique) that are easily 200 feet longer than this particular shipwreck and, for me, the diving detail in this book is, therefore, suspect. My final criticism is reserved for the blatant advertising for "Captain Don's Habitat." This amounts to several photographic captions where no name even needed to be mentioned and a double-page eulogy about this particular diver. I fully appreciate how the Author's diving had to be sponsored by somebody, but subsequent reference to that sponsor should be limited to the acknowledgements page and, perhaps, the occasional plug in one or two (and no more) photographs. If the Author wishes to write a testimonial to Captain Don Stewart (I am well aware of his contribution to the local Diving scene.) - fine by me, but its inclusion here gives the impression of this book being limited to the Diving provided by this particular facility - and nobody else. And that is the wrong impression to give. Having said all that, almost all the information you are likely to want is here. That - coupled with a good cross-section of high-calibre photographs throughout, make this the best diving guide to the ABC Islands I have yet to see. With a few improvements here and a few deletions there, this book could so easily have obtained a 5 star rating. NM

The book has lots of information on the islands themselves and explains all reef and some wreck dives. However 95% of the dive sites are rated as 4 stars and the remaining 5% are rated 3 stars, so you can't tell which ones are the best dives.

This book contains a nice overview of the islands. There are many quality photos of the dive sites.

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