

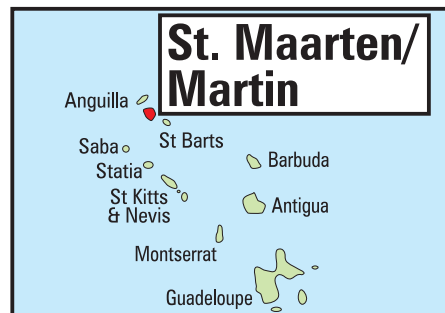
Sint Maarten and Saint Martin

Two countries, Sint Maarten (Dutch) and Saint Martin (French) share this small, but very active island which is barely seven miles in each direction. It will suit those who like to combine beautiful beaches with a lively social scene. The Dutch/French division makes for an interesting blend of cultures but no inconvenience—there are no border posts and you travel throughout the island freely.

The north side is French and the southern part is Dutch. There is a charming story, completely unsupported by historical fact, that the French and Dutch were too civilized to fight over the island and chose a competition instead. A Frenchman armed with a bottle of wine walked in one direction and a Dutchman equipped with a flask of gin took the other. Where they met became the boundary, and the French ended up with a bit more because the gin was stronger than the wine.

In 1939 after the collapse of the sugar market, an attempt was made to halt the island's decline by making the island completely duty free. The strategy worked and St. Maarten/Martin slowly became the Caribbean's number one vacation shopping mall.

Today it is growing like never before with almost a million visitors annually. Hotels are mushrooming, several cruise ships call each day, and there are over 250 restaurants and 500 duty-free shops, as well as over half a dozen casinos.



Philipsburg is a colourful lively port where shop-aholics can benefit from duty-free shopping.

St. Maarten

St. Maarten has two main centres of activity, Philipsburg and Simpson Bay, both are set around the water with many water front amenities, including dive stores.

Philipsburg

Philipsburg, the capital of the Dutch side, caters to more tourists than anywhere else on the island. It is not unusual to see five cruise ships at anchor in the bay. As a result, Philipsburg has the busiest commercial area with a multitude of shops, restaurants and activities spread along two streets.

Front Street has exotic and expensive stores. You will find endless shops selling everything from fine porcelain and jewellery to videos, cameras and televisions. Back Street is great for the bargain hunter, especially those looking for clothes. Philipsburg is a marine centre with a variety of day charter boats.

Simpson Bay

Simpson Bay is another active area, but while there is a shopping centre, it is better known for its variety of restaurants and bars. Continuing along the coast, the south east has many exceptional beaches and fine resorts with a pleasant holiday atmosphere.

St. Martin

Anse Marcel, one of St. Martin's exclusive bays.



There are several centres of activity around St. Martin's coast, generally located around deep bays where hotels command views across the Caribbean sea. With the exception of Orient Beach, each of the centres described below have dive facilities.

Baie Nettle is a narrow strip of land running along the north side of Simpson Bay and leading to Marigot, the capital of St. Martin. Many hotels line the bay and there are a number of shops and water sports operators.

Marigot has a long waterfront on one side and an enclosed marina on the other. It has the feeling of a picturesque and fashionable French Riviera seaport, bursting at the seams with fancy boutiques and restaurants.

Grand Case is built overlooking a long beach-fronted bay and the town is known as the gastronomic centre of St. Martin. A long street of gaily-painted houses follows the beach. It is packed with elegant restaurants serving first rate French cuisine. In the middle of town, a row of small local bars cluster together overlooking the bay. They serve good and very cheap barbecued spare ribs, fish, chicken, conch and lobster with plenty of beer to wash it down.

Anse Marcel is the most exclusive part of the island. You have to drive a mile along a tiny private road, which takes you over a steep hill, to this small, well-indented bay with a beach, two big hotels and Port Lonvilliers, an exclusive marina. All kinds of activities from horse riding to sports fishing and scuba diving are available and the port has its own small shopping centre. It would suit those who want a quiet and exclusive corner of the island and do not mind being far from the island's other centres of activities.

Anse Marcel

Orient Beach is the island's liveliest beach—a cheerful place with a carefree holiday atmosphere. The beach is lined with small, brightly painted restaurants and bars, shops selling gaily-colored T-shirts and various water sports facilities, including catamarans, sailboards and jetskis. Swimwear is optional.

Orient Beach

Oyster pond is an almost landlocked harbour on the east coast. The beautiful Dawn Beach is next door and the location is conveniently close to both Philipsburg and Orient beach. There are several hotels and restaurants in this area and water sports are available on the beach or out of the marina. A large bareboat fleet is based in the marina.

Oyster Pond

Language: English, French and Dutch
 Currency: Guilder St. Maarten, French Franc St. Martin, US dollar both.
 Population: 30,000 (Dutch 20,000/French 10,000)
 Telephone Code: (5995) St. Maarten, (0590) St. Martin

The joy of St. Maarten/Martin is in the choices it offers. You can spend a morning on a perfectly deserted beach, eat lunch in a French waterfront café, go shopping in the afternoon, and try to recoup your expenditure by playing the casinos at night.

Après Dive

The only golf course on the island is in the south west and owned by the Mullet Bay Resort. While primarily for their own customers, others can play if arrangements are made in advance.

Golf

Mullet Bay Resort: (5995) 42 801

Follow the quiet roads and trails in the central hills that surround Pic Paradis (1,400 feet), the highest point.

Hiking

An interesting trail follows the coast from Anse Marcel right round the northern part of the island to near Ilet Pinel. Pleasant walking can be found along the beaches and quieter roads of the southwestern part of the island.

Mountain bikes are available from Tri Sports who also organize group rides.

Tri Sports: (5995) 54 384

Horse Riding

You can horse ride in several locations, all are pleasant and most include beach rides.

Bayside Riding Club, Gallion Beach: (0590) 87 36 64

Caid and Isa, Anse Marcel: (0590) 87 45 70

OK Coral, Oyster Pond: (0590) 87 40 72

Tennis

Many of the large resorts have tennis courts and most allow others to play for a fee.

Le Privilege: (0590) 87 46 15

Port de Plaisance: (5995) 45 222

OMS St. Martin: (0590) 87 25 22

Water Sports

The centre of beach water sports is Orient Bay where you can rent everything from jet skis to racing catamarans and go paragliding or water skiing. Other beaches with rentals include Simpson Bay and Anse Marcel.

In Philipsburg you can race on a 12-metre yacht. Sport fishing and day charter boats leave daily from most of the marinas.

Bobby's Marina, Philipsburg: (5995) 22 366

Captain Oliver's, Oyster Pond: (0590) 87 33 47

Great Bay Marina, Philipsburg: (5995) 22 167

Port Lonvilliers, Anse Marcel: (0590) 87 31 94

Pelican Adventures, Simpson Bay: (5995) 42 640

Shopping

Whether you want to stock up on groceries or buy watches and perfumes, St. Maarten/Martin has it all—duty-free. For boutique shopping Marigot offers the most upmarket, pleasant and uncrowded shops; Philipsburg has a greater variety and is busier.

Nightlife

Late night people will find plenty to keep them going in St. Maarten/Martin from the casinos to the nightclubs.

Nightclubs you can find all over the island. In Simpson Bay try News Café or Capones Club, in Marigot visit L'Aventure, in Philipsburg jump up at The Green house and in Anse Marcel check out Le Privilege. In addition many of the resorts have their own entertainment or discos.

Gambling is only legal on the Dutch side, though there is plenty of choice.

Atlantis Casino: (5995) 54 600

Casino Rouge & Noir, Philipsburg: (5995) 22 952

Casino Great Bay, Philipsburg: (5995) 22 446

Pelican Casino, Simpson Bay: (5995) 42 503

Accommodation

St. Maarten/Martin offers an amazing number and variety of hotels—more than a hundred—from fancy resorts to small guest-houses.

Departments of Tourism St. Maarten: (5995) 22 337

Departments of Tourism St. Martin: (0590) 87 57 23

A large international airport is located near Simpson Bay in St. Maarten. Air France and KLM have daily flights from Europe and American carriers fly direct from US cities and via San Juan, Puerto Rico. It is a short drive from the airport to anywhere in St. Maarten or St. Martin.

It is not difficult to summarise the type of diving you are likely to experience in St. Maarten/Martin. The diving is generally fairly shallow, typically 60 feet or less, and the sites are a mixture of artificial reefs made by wrecks, old coral reefs, and encrusted rocks. That is the simplistic view of St. Maarten/Martin diving.

Keen divers should consider St. Maarten/Martin as the centre of a diving area that includes Saba, Statia, Anguilla and St. Barts.

You can make a day trip to any of these islands for diving, and each offers its own special dive environment. Prices for a day trip start from as little as \$100 for 2 dives, including transport to and from the island (Saba and Statia prices start at \$150). On a day trip you can sample the diving and see some of the island's other assets: have a delightful French lunch in St. Barts, chill out on the astonishingly white sand of an Anguillan beach, hike up the mountain in Saba, hunt for slave beads in Statia. (See the chapter for each island for information on the diving and dive stores.)

St. Maarten/Martin's own diving is concentrated along the south coast, stretching seaward to St. Barts and around Tintamarre on the north east corner. There are a few dives along the west coast, but they tend to be shallow (30 feet or less) and operators use them for training dives and resort courses.

There are dive sites around Groupers and Ile Fourche, which some of the operators visit when conditions are calm. As these sites are nearer to St. Barts, we describe them in that chapter.

Not all of St. Maarten/Martin's reef sites are actually coral reefs. Many of the sites are rock formations encrusted with sponges, hydroids and coral. In the north, in particular, there are some interesting layered rock formations.

Proselyte Reef, in the south, was formed by lava flows. In other areas, old coral reefs can be seen below new growth of coral and sponges.

St. Maarten/Martin does not have impressive hard coral formations but it does have brightly coloured sponges and lots of bushy gorgonians. Old coral formations create labyrinthine terrain, so many sites comprise tunnels, overhangs and mazes around old coral heads.

Both the wrecks and the reefs attract barracuda. We saw small schools and large solitary individuals. Nurse sharks are also a common sight. Check under ledges and overhangs and

Getting There

The Diving

Marine Life

Flounders are a common sight on St. Maarten/Martin's reefs—that is when you have learned to differentiate them from their surroundings.



you may see a sleeping shark or two. Harder to spot are peacock flounders lying in the sand and doing a good job of blending in with their surroundings.

The sites we dived were all well endowed with fish. In particular, sergeant majors, blue tangs, surgeonfish, blue and brown chromis, trumpetfish, filefish, and trunkfish are permanent residents on all the sites.

Wrecks

Operators dive on 11 wreck sites. Some are there by design, others by accident, or more specifically by the hand of hurricanes *Luis* or *Bertha*.

Care needs to be exercised when diving some of the wrecks, as they are still moving and consequently breaking up. One wreck, the *Fuh Sheung*, has spun through 180 degrees in the last year and it would be very dangerous to attempt a penetration.

WRECKS CURRENTLY BEING DIVED

NAME	DATE	LENGTH	DEPTH	CONDITION	SITE
<i>Carib Cargo</i>	1996	140	55	Intact	23
<i>Gregory</i>	1993	120	55	Intact	29
<i>HVALP/Lucy's Barge</i>	1991	100	50	Broken	21
<i>Isabella</i>	1993	40	100	Pieces only	26
<i>Fuh Sheung</i>	1995	260	110	Intact	30
<i>H.M.S. Proselyte</i>	1801	133	50	Artefacts only	18
<i>La Renee</i>	1997	120	130	Intact/penetration	1
<i>Tieglund</i>	1993	85	70	Broken	22
Tug Boat (<i>Tintamarre</i>)	N/K	50	50	Intact/penetration	6
Tug Boat <i>Anny</i>	N/K	40	25	Intact	27
Sampson's Reef (3 yachts and a bridge!)	N/K	Various	60	Broken	28

The *Gregory* is a popular night dive location, as is site 28 comprising three yachts and a bridge. *La Renee* is dived only by the stores on the French side. At the time of writing some stores were avoiding the *Fuh Sheung* until it becomes more stable.

At the time of writing, a Marine Park was just taking form in St. Maarten. The WWF has assigned funds, a manager has been appointed and a boat ordered. Several of the sites have been buoyed and a system for charging park fees is being developed.

Do not make contact with the bottom (do not stand or kneel except on sand).
 Do not wear gloves, except to go up or down a mooring line.
 Do not handle marine animals.
 Do not feed the fish.
 Do not take anything (except recent garbage).
 Do not take or damage any coral, alive or dead.

For use from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. for a maximum of 2 hours.
 Maximum boat length 38 foot.
 (There are plans to install buoys for larger boats.)
 Only one dive boat per mooring or up to three inflatables.

You are allowed to dive independently in St. Maarten and St. Martin. There are no beach dives but there are a few sites that can be reached by a yacht's dinghy. Some of the sites have moorings. (See the dive site descriptions for more information.)

You should pay a fee for diving in the Dutch Marine Park, though at the time of writing it was not clear what the mechanics for collecting money from independent divers will be.

The recompression chamber in Saba is the preferred option by Dutch operators and the Guadeloupe chamber by French operators. Saba is the nearest chamber.

St. Maarten/Martin has a good safety record as a result of shallow dive sites and good diving practices by the operators.

Rules and Regulations and the Marine Park

Park Rules

Mooring Buoy Rules

Independent Diving






Safety



St Maarten/ St. Martin Dive Sites



NO.	SITE NAME	DEPTH IN FEET
1	<i>La Renee</i>	90-140
2	Sec de Grand Case	25 max.
3	Rocheur Creole	30 max.
4	Ilet Requin	25 max.
5	Basse Espagnol	15-50
6	Tug Boat (Tintamarre)	25-50
7	Tintamarre North	20-60
8	Le Cirque/Circus	20-60
9	Ile Pinel	30 max.
10	Molly B'Day	20-70
11	Pelican Rock	15-50
12	Hen and Chickens/Moonhole	30-75

NO.	SITE NAME	DEPTH IN FEET	
13	One Step Beyond	45-85	
14	Time Tunnels	40-60	
15	Fish Bowl	40-75	
16	Alleys and Cables	25-65	
17	Explorers Reef	30-45	
18	Proselyte Reef	15-45	
19	The Maze	20-50	
20	Horseshoe Reef	15-50	
21	HVALP/Lucy's Barge	20-50	
22	Tiegländ	20-60	
23	Carib Cargo	20-50	
24	Caybay Reef	15-30	
25	French Reef	12-25	
26	Isabella Reef	90-130	
27	Tug Boat Anny	25 max.	
28	Samson's Reef/The Bridge	25-60	
29	Gregory	25-50	
30	Fuh Sheung	70-110	

NO.	OPERATOR	LOCATION
ST. MAARTEN		
1	The Scuba Shop	Oyster Pond
2	Trade Winds	Philipsburg
3	Dive Safaris	Philipsburg
4	Caribbean Explorer	Philipsburg
5	Ocean Explorers	Simpson Bay
6	St. Maarten Dive Adventure	Simpson Bay
ST. MARTIN		
7	Sea Dolphin	Baie Nettle
8	Blue Ocean	Baie Nettle
9	Octoplus Dive Center	Grand Case
10	Scuba Fun	Anse Marcel
11	Funny Blue Bubble	Cul De Sac

Dive Operators



This refrigerated transporter was sunk deliberately in 1997. The ship sits upright on the sand with a buoy attached to the bow section.

The easiest way to explore *La Renee* is to enter through the foc'sle door. It is possible to exit by a ladder but it is very narrow and it is safer and easier to go back the way you came.

The stern of the boat has the deck equipment in place:

La Renee 1
90'-140'

winches and rope drums. The engines are also in place. To date there is very little growth on the boat.

2 Sec de Grand Case
25' max.

This shallow dive in the entrance to Grand Case Bay is suitable for training, novice divers and resort courses. Two mooring buoys are in place. The dive route is a figure of eight around two rocks, requiring about 45 minutes to circumnavigate.

Brain corals have grown over the rocks and have large areas of fire coral on top. Look out for moray eels, and sea fans make an attractive sight adorning the rocks.

3 Rocheur Creole/Creole Rock
30' max.

The site is similar to Sec de Grand Case except it has more sand around the rocks. To fully tour the site takes about 50 minutes. The sheltered location of Rocheur Creole means that it can be dived in any weather.

4 Ilet Requin/Sec de Anse Marcel
25' max.

The weather needs to be fairly calm to visit this shallow site, as there are a number of small canyons and in strong winds the surge makes the site difficult to dive.

5 Basse Espagnol
15'-50'



A long, long time ago something very strange happened to the seabed north of St. Martin. The result is a multi-layered ridge, its back broken, forming canyons that expose the history of this piece of subaqueous architecture.

Basse Espagnol is an exposed site so is only dived in calm to moderate weather. Even so, there is always a lot of surge (dive stores only take divers who have good buoyancy control), giving the dive added fun as the scenery swings to and fro.

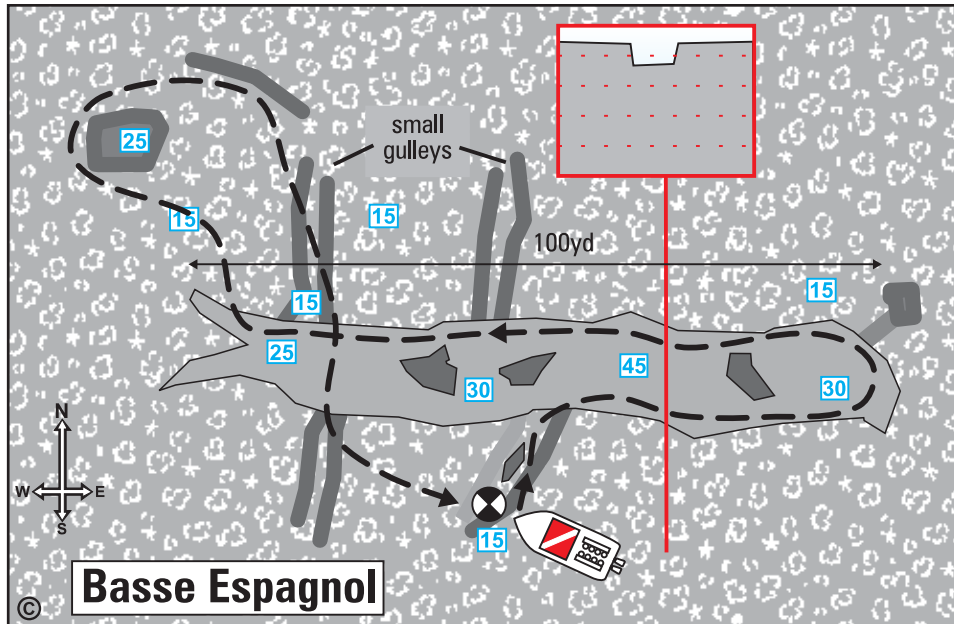
Dive Profile

We drop onto what looks like a man-made structure; it could easily be the outline of a wreck or perhaps a building that has collapsed into the sea. As we are a mile from land the latter does not seem likely. Nor is it a wreck. As we drop over the edge of the structure's flat top, we see the feature in cross section. The rock has more layers than a corporate management structure and each layer is clearly defined.

At some time in its life, the rock plateau has cracked, leaving a narrow canyon leading to a major fault in the structure. The main canyon is 10 to 20 feet across and 100 yards long.

We turn right and drop to the canyon's floor at 35 feet. Along the canyon's sides the rock's layers have eroded differentially, creating a stack of ledges. It is like looking into an office block in cross section, except the residents are fish not people.

Grunts, lizardfish, squirrelfish, sergeant majors, bluehead



wrasse, French angelfish, glasseye snappers, rock beauties and blackbar soldierfish pack the ledges. A great variety of invertebrates make up the numbers: lobsters, urchins, West Indian sea eggs all have their place in the corporate structure.

The wall decorations are provided by purple sponges, mat gorgonians and star coral. We feel like a party of VIPs being taken on a tour of the corporation's headquarters.

At the end of the canyon is a small tunnel. We pay our respects to some of the shyer species tucked inside, then head back down the canyon. The surge never disappears, even at the deepest part of the canyon. So, we swing and sway along the ledges at one moment nose-to-nose with the inhabitants, at the next hanging back taking a broader view.

Thanks to Octopus Dive Center.

The only wreck on the north of the island is Tintamarre's Tug Boat. It was sunk deliberately to become a dive site. The Tug is 50 feet long and 25 feet high and completely open, so it is easy to enter.

The site has been used for fish feeding so there is no shortage of fish, and the tug is full of sponges and coral. You will only spend 15 minutes on this small tug and, as the edge of the reef is only a hundred feet away, the dive is generally completed there.

Tug Boat 6
(Tintamarre)
25'-50'

**7 Tintamarre
North
20'-60'**

The north of Tintamarre has a gentle underwater seascape. Divers follow the gentle slope, admiring the delicate gorgonians quivering in the water movement. Nutrient-bearing currents feed the marine life, but the effects of northerly swells on this exposed coast limit growth.

**8 Le Cirque/Circus
20'-60'**

The weather has to be calm to dive this side of Tintamarre because the dive boat has to approach close to the rocks. Dive operators estimate that on average they can get out to the site once or twice a month. When conditions allow diving, the site offers some fascinating underwater features.

Canyons and caves punctuate a U-shaped feature running for 300 feet. One cave complex is a large hole with several exits. Another cave is part of three interconnecting caves. The first has a number of exits, the second is completely open on one side, and the third is narrow and again has a number of exits. The caves are fun to explore, an opinion shared by nurse sharks.

**9 Ile Pinel
30' max.**

Ile Pinel is a beginner's dive where the fish have become used to being fed. A 35-foot yacht adds interest to the site. It has been lying on the bottom for 4 years and is gradually becoming encrusted. Green morays and stingrays have found it to be secure living quarters.

**10 Molly B'Day
20'-70'**

Molly B'Day rock makes quite an impact above water, standing 100 feet above the surface. Underwater, the rock slopes down and is surrounded by big boulders like crumbs from the main structure. Healthy coral occupies the slope and the many crevices accommodate invertebrates: lobsters, tiny cleaner shrimps, urchins and crabs.

Being some distance offshore, the site attracts an array of marine life. Turtles and sharks in particular are often seen here. A Marine Park mooring buoy is on the site.

**11 Pelican Rock
15'-50'**

Pelican Rock is similar to Molly B'Day. Pelican is somewhat shallower than Molly B'Day but has similar reef life. Although two Marine Park buoys are in place, currents sometimes require that the dive be done as a drift.

Take a moment to check out the rock above water; it is covered in pelicans. When you see them diving in the water, it is a good indication that there are plenty of fish about.

The name of the site derives from three rocks: one large and two small, like a hen and two chicks. There are two parts to the reef and operators do it as two dives.

The site has several features that mark it out as a favourite site for many operators. As most of St. Maarten/Martin's sites have gentle slopes, a wall dropping to 70 feet is one feature that differentiates Hen and Chickens.

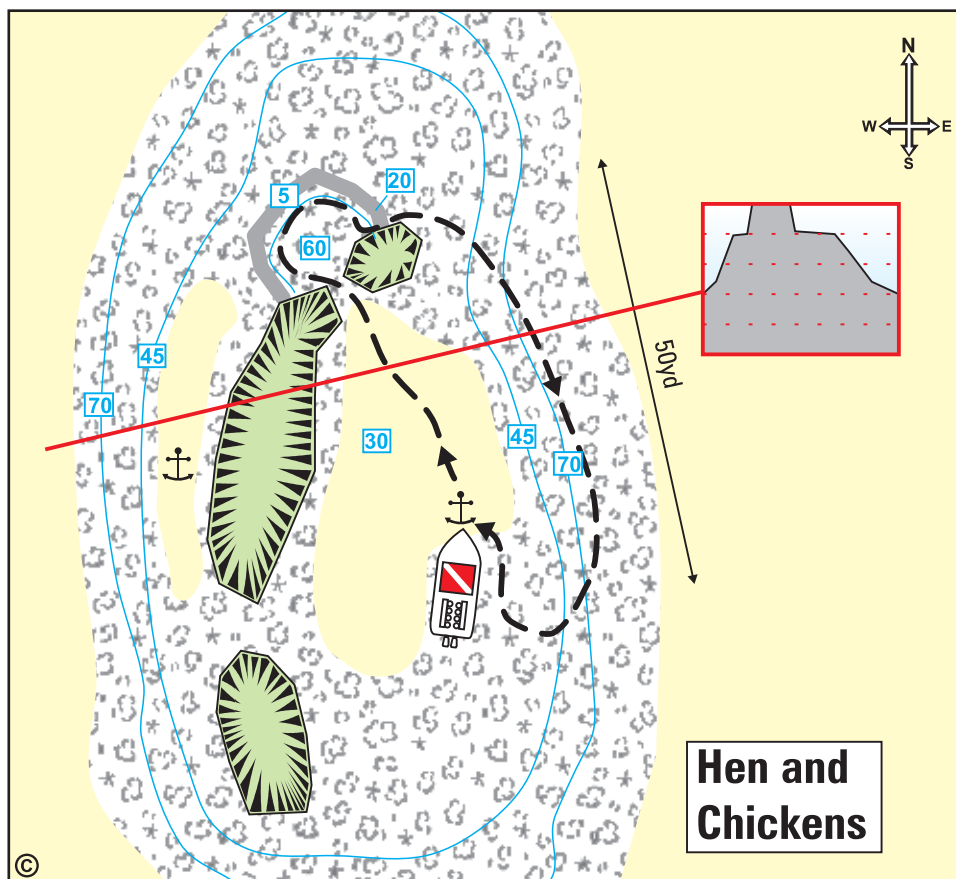
The top of the wall is a tableau vivant of elkhorn corals. Statuesque structures glow in the sunlight, as if they have an inner light. It would be easy to spend the whole dive admiring these creatures.

Other attractions draw the group on and we slip down the wall. Lovely plate corals give a frilly profile to the wall.

Sand awaiting us at the base of the wall is in sharp contrast to the bright colours of the wall's upholstery. The sand appears to be the base of a crater formed by some unknown geological activity.

Hen and Chickens/ Moonhole
30'-75'

Dive Profile



Heavy Breathers

After you have run the last 100 yards to the dive boat because you have seen it preparing to leave, you might feel 'out of breath' as your body demands more than its normal supply of oxygen. By fast, deep breathing a fit adult can increase oxygen intake to 20 times normal. Some insects can manage 100 times normal. But a fish can only increase its intake by two or three times.

Sea water poses two problems if you need oxygen for respiration. First, it contains only around 3 per cent as much oxygen as air. Second, water is about 800 times more dense than air so moving it across an oxygen-



This electric ray spends much of its time with one gill opening on the sand, so it has evolved spiracles behind its eyes that draw in water to allow it to breathe.

absorbing surface requires a great deal of energy.

A fish's gills are the equivalent of our lungs. Leaf-like folds in the gill filaments increase the surface area available to absorb oxygen. By various muscular contractions of the mouth, water is sucked in and over the gills while blood passing through the gills removes oxygen. With so little

oxygen available some species have also developed the ability to absorb oxygen through the skin.

When a fish is swimming, water passes naturally through the mouth but a stationary fish needs to pump air across the gills. That is why you will see moray eels apparently snapping at you; they are just breathing (actually they are also smelling you).

Some fish have particular problems breathing. Flatfish lie on the sand with one gill opening buried. At these times they use only the upper gill outlet, although the water can still pass over both sets of gill filaments. Rays also lie half buried and in their case the mouth is under the sand. They have developed special openings behind the eyes to allow them to take in water from the only part of their body left exposed.

Far from being a barren area, the sand is tiled with stingrays and flounders. These creatures have adapted to be able to interface with both water and sand and to make the most of both.

Around *Hen* rock are caves and ledges. Some of the undercuts have collapsed; some are still hanging on in there. The undercut area is quite large, perhaps 5 feet deep by 25 feet long. Under the ledge a porcupinefish peers myopically at us. Blackbar soldierfish and other nocturnals hang like ceiling mobiles, building their strength for a night of hunting and fishing.

We return round the east side of the rock along a gentle slope, allowing us to move gradually into shallower water. A

small ledge at 30 feet is fertile territory and we see spotted morays poking their heads from small holes.

Damselfish, surgeonfish and tangs scurry around tidying up the algae that grows on the coral while parrotfish excavate dead coral to extract algae. So industrious are these herbivores that it is surprising any algae survives.

Corals are not so hardy and without herbivorous fish the corals would not survive, as the algae would smother them and deprive them of light. And, what would the eels eat if it were not for vulnerable herbivorous fish sleeping on the reef at night when the eels are out hunting for supper?

Thankfully it all seems to have been worked out and we need do nothing more than enjoy this closed system community.

Ocean Explorers was the only store diving this site at the time of writing. They can only dive it when the weather is calm, but given any chance they head for the site. The cover is mainly sponge and gorgonians, although hard coral is growing well here too.

It is a large sprawling reef heavily populated by fish and invertebrates. A large mound with an undulating profile has a hole, like the centre of a doughnut, right through the rock.

One Step Beyond **13** 45'-85'



LeRoy French—Ocean Explorers

The keyhole is one of many attractions at One Step Beyond.

Around the hole's rim, red encrusting sponges are smeared like the painted lips of a large mouth. This and other swim-throughs are excellent for framing wide-angle photographs, especially as sleeping nurse sharks occasionally take up residence.

It is a site that attracts swarms of fish, especially angelfish which feast on the many sponges. It seems strange that these delicate looking fish are one of the few species able to digest the sharp spicules that give sponges their rigidity.

14 Time Tunnels
40'-60'

Canyons would be a more precise description of this site. Long channels between what are probably lava flows are undercut to make small caves. Lobsters and grunts lurk under the overhangs. You may be lucky and find a resting nurse shark.

15 Fish Bowl
40'-75'

A particularly strong concentration of fish inhabits this area, hence the name. It is not obvious why so many fish are drawn to the spot, though the coral and sponge growth is more intense and varied than is the norm for the area.

The site is close to Time Tunnels and shares a similar terrain, except it has fewer tunnels and canyons.

16 Alleys and Cables
25'-65'

Sometimes operators split the site into two. Cables has an old tug cable embedded into the reef. Alleys, as the name suggests, is a series of alleyways between large rocks. It is like wandering around a large city surrounded by tall buildings.

The rocks are enveloped in gaudy orange and yellow sponges as if someone has had a paint fight. The base of the rock is undercut so you will find the usual collection of stay-at-home types: blackbar soldierfish, grunts and maybe even a spotted drum.

17 Explorers Reef
30'-45'

Explorers Reef is a mound topped at 30 feet and running down to the sand at 45 feet. The sides are gently sloping and dressed in gorgonians and star corals. The Velcro-sticky arms of crinoids wave from cracks in the coral, giving the reef a golden hue. Invertebrates fare well on Explorers Reef and you will see anemones and urchins having arm waving competitions with the crinoids.

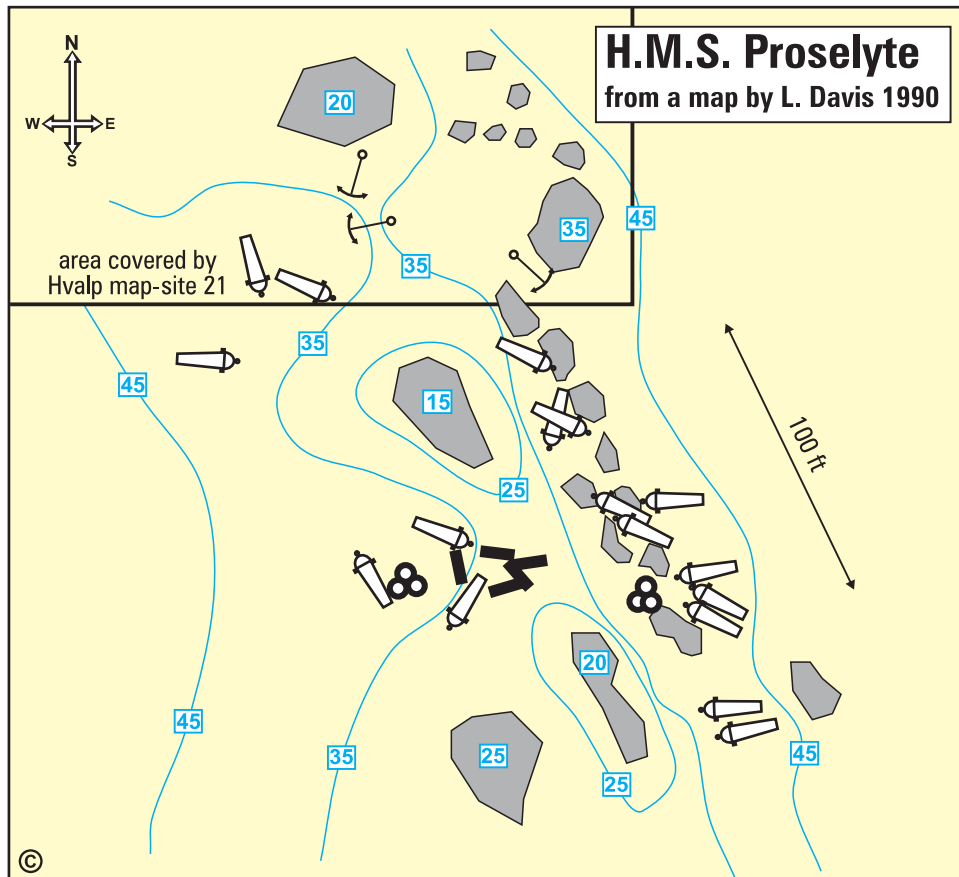
18 Proselyte Reef
15'-45'



Proselyte Reef comprises five ridges that are probably old lava flows. Several buoys enable dive stores to dive different parts of the reef on different occasions. The reef lies just outside Philipsburg.

The story of *H.M.S. Proselyte*, after which the site is named, is a sorry tale. The shoal that the ship hit was charted and the crew knew it was there. The 17-foot draft of the ship required the crew to pass around and not over the shoal, but failure to allow for the current caused the ship to founder. The British did not take kindly to losing this small, fast frigate and the commander, who was not on board at the time, was court martialled.

What is left of the ship lies scattered across the reef, indistinguishable at first glance from the surrounding reef. Look a little closer and you will see cannons and anchors standing proud of the coral.



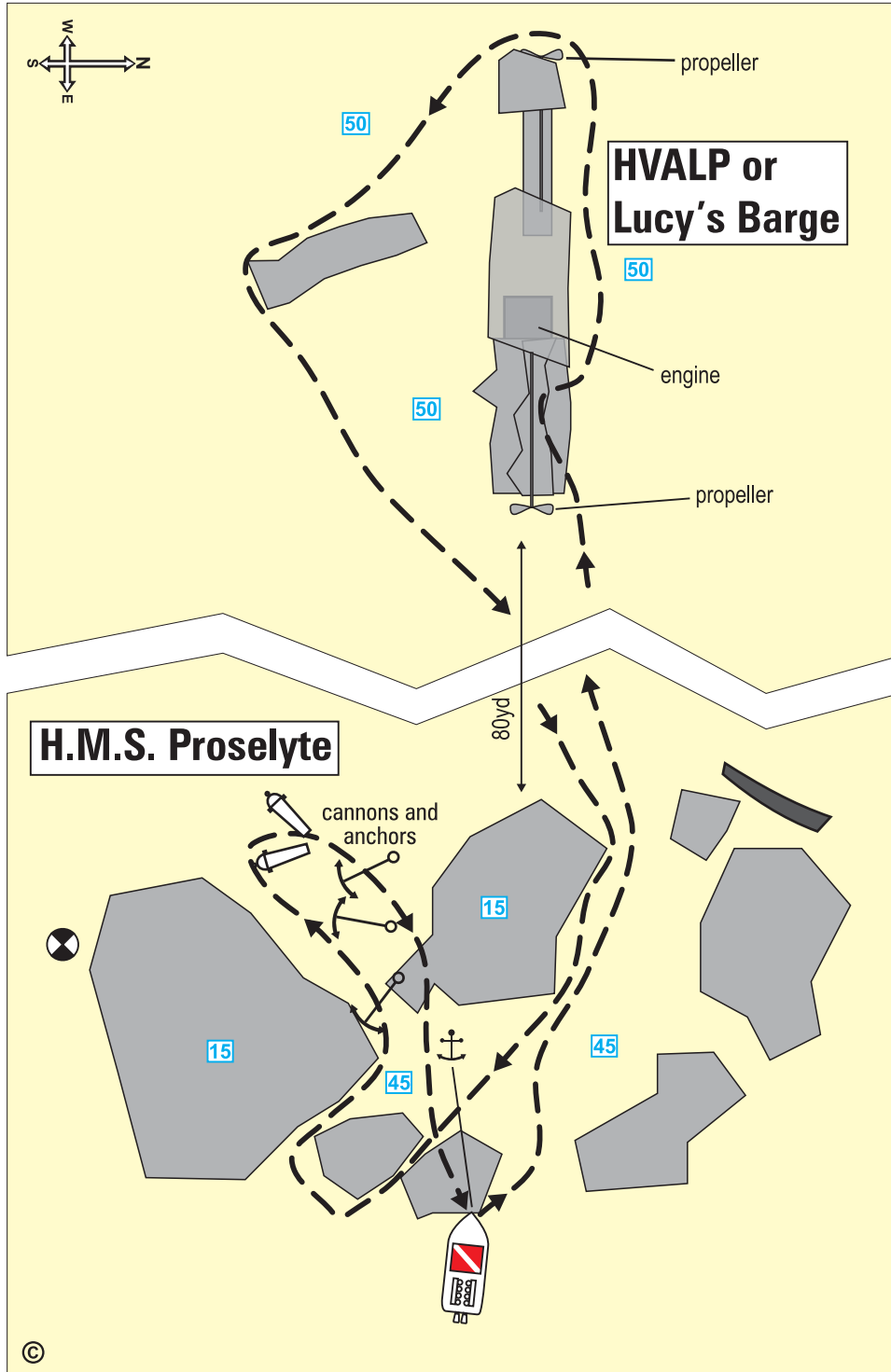
We drop to sand underneath the boat and shelter from the slight current behind a section of a ridge. The rocks are a riot of colour and deserve close inspection. In a bid to out do each other, encrusting sponges have painted the walls orange, ruby-red, pastel pink, with purple veins formed by rope sponges. Under the shaded overhanging sections orange cup corals make a noble attempt to compete for attention.

As we stare at the ridge, the mobile life reveals itself. Tiny arrow crabs creep on tiptoe across the coral as if trying not to leave footprints on fresh paint—perhaps they too cannot believe this colourful display is not painted afresh each morning.

We follow our leader through channels and around rocks. He points out parts of the *H.M.S. Proselyte* that we would not otherwise have seen. Cannons, in particular, have blended in entirely with their surroundings. Easier to find are the anchors; their shape is not so easily disguised, though they are just as encrusted as the cannons.

The area attracts fish, not least because of the cleaning stations eager for their next customer. A barracuda waits patiently, though

Dive Profile



we cannot help feel that the parrotfish being cleaned is looking a little intimidated. Perhaps he will skip the full wax polish today and make way for the barracuda.

Thanks to Chuck of Trade Winds Dive Center.

The sea was about as calm as it gets as we motored out to the Maze. One large reef system is divided into several sites as there is too much ground to cover on one dive. Each site has its own special features.

The Maze is an old reef. When you dive here you are looking at thousands of years of history. Millions of polyps have built these structures and though they are now mere skeletons of their former selves, they supply a substratum for new coral to grow.

Swimming along the paths between 12- to 15-foot coral heads, we estimate that about 30 per cent of the coral skeleton area has new coral growth. Boulder and elliptical star corals are the most common stony species and a dramatic patch of pillar coral catches our attention.

The variety of species in The Maze impresses us. Corallimorphs, feather hydroids, and mat zoanthids compete with rope and encrusting sponges. Trumpetfish, barracuda, black durgons, blue tangs and Queen angelfish give the reef a busy flourishing ambiance. Disorderly ranks of chromis buzz around us, while a moody looking porcupinefish hovers at a distance.

We have been following our dive leader's fins because the cryptic terrain makes no one route more obvious than another. Passageways wind around coral heads, through arches and over bridges. Sometimes we think we have doubled back, but then again...well, maybe.

As we make yet another change in direction we come across a nurse shark snuggled under a ledge. It is content to let us look, but must feel like a mannequin in a shop window by the time the whole group has trailed past.

Shallow water and a variety of routes through the complex terrain allow divers to enjoy an extended dive. We gradually work our way back to the boat after a long dive on The Maze.

Thanks to St. Maarten Dive Adventures.

The Maze **19**

20'-50'



Dive Profile

Horseshoe Reef is near Proselyte so has similar marine life. The reef slopes from 10 to 50 feet at approximately a 45-degree angle. A U-shaped ridge is undercut sufficiently to provide shelter for nurse sharks. In early summer as many as a dozen females take cover under the overhangs.

Horseshoe Reef **20**

15'-50'

**21 HVALP/
Lucy's Barge**
20'-50'



As the years and storm surges take their toll, there is less and less of Lucy's barge that is recognisable, but it is taking on the role of artificial reef with good grace.

Lucy owned the HVALP and planned to use it as an inter-island cargo ferry, specifically to move containers around. She (HVALP not Lucy) is now a wreck dive site.

HVALP sank in 1991 and has since been broken up by storm damage. The largest piece of wreckage is about 15 feet high and most of what you can see are the ribs of the boat. The propeller is still visible. When we dive her she has attracted a school of Bermuda chub and the many yellowtail snappers are permanent residents.

Thanks to Chuck of Trade Winds Dive Center.



LeRoy French—Ocean Explorers

22 Tiegland
20'-60'

The Tiegland is an old ship that was deliberately sunk to make a dive site. At first she sat on a ledge but then she rolled over and is now quite broken. The ridge is nearby so there is reef to explore when you have exhausted the wreckage.

23 Carib Cargo
20'-50'

Two Marine Park buoys mark this roll-on roll-off cargo ship in Little Bay. The ship's original name was *San Francisco* and it was changed to *Carib Cargo* in 1986. They say it is unlucky to change a ship's name but this ship's luck held until *Hurricane Luis* in 1995 caused severe damage and *Hurricane Bertha*, in 1996, finished it off.

The ship sits on sand and is a magnet for fish. Two decks can be explored and if you finish looking at the wreck before you are ready to ascend, check out the sand for stingrays and sand divers.

Caybay moves up and down operators frequently-visited sites list. Some say they no longer dive it, as it suffered hurricane damage. Others believe there is enough new growth to make it an interesting dive.

The reef is low-lying and is in a sheltered spot so it is a useful dive for the operators to have in their repertoire for novice divers or for when the weather is bad.

Caybay Reef 24 15'-30'

French Reef (sometimes called Frenchman's Reef) is used by the stores in Simpson Bay as a training site. Anyone with a macro lens on their underwater camera might also want to dive on French Reef. Plenty of fish and invertebrates inhabit the reef and with patience you should achieve some good shots.

French Reef 25 15'-25'

Isabella is one of St. Maarten/Martin's deeper dives. A small round reef is given added interest by the remains of the *Isabella*. Because the site is a little way offshore, larger fish roam by and we see species we have not found on other St. Maarten/Martin's reefs.

LeRoy anchors the boat in 100 feet and someone is always left onboard, as this is a deep anchorage with poor holding.

Isabella Reef 26 90'-130'



We are not expecting the thermocline that we find at 60 feet. It becomes noticeably cooler and we are glad to start swimming to warm up.

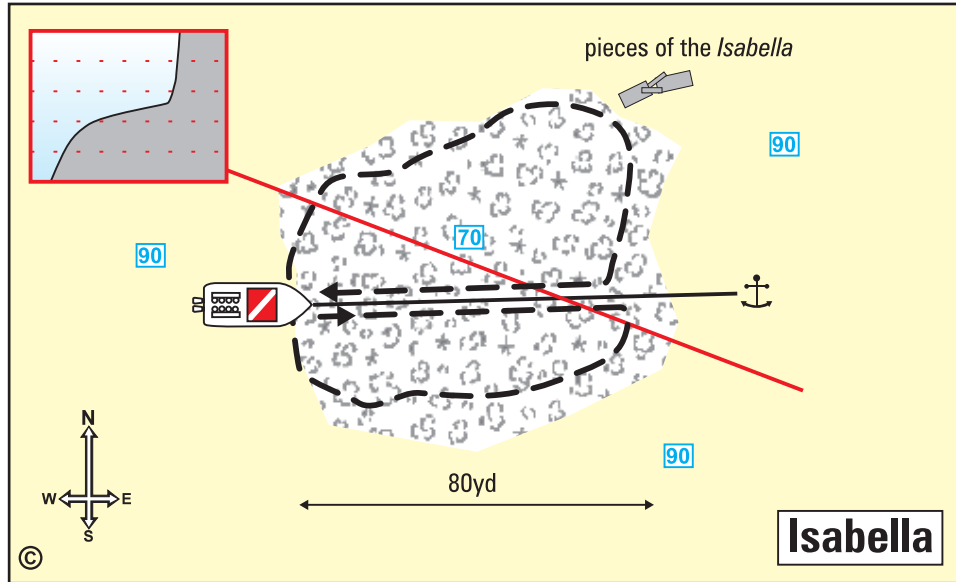
The reef is mainly flat and covered in a mixture of stony corals, gorgonians and sponges. Despite being flat the reef does not lack profile, as some of the barrel sponges are 5 feet tall. In the absence of deep overhangs, the barrel sponges provide daytime shelter for squirrel fish and glasseye snappers.

We swim toward the small wreck and discover a selection of

Dive Profile



Squirrelfish and glasseye snappers shelter in barrel sponges, when they are not huddled around the remnants of the Isabella.



half buried pieces. Although they afford no useful shelter, blackbar soldierfish huddle nearby, as if we will not notice how exposed they are. In the sand around the wreckage, garden eels poke up their heads nosily. On the main part of the reef are many more eels: goldentail and spotted morays.

A school of bar jacks hovers on the edge of the reef and below them on the sand are donkey dung sea cucumbers. The jacks understandably show no enthusiasm for making a meal of these slow moving echinoderms. Perhaps it is their appearance that is off putting or perhaps it is their unpleasant defence mechanisms. See our X-rated sidebar opposite for more information.

One of the interesting sights on Isabella Reef is soapfish tucked into crevice. These somnolent fish allow us to approach closely, confident that the soapy toxic mucus they excrete will protect them. They can sleep safely in the day in readiness for feeding at night. They eat small fish with a particular preference for cardinal fish.

Other reef fish we see are coney, butterflyfish, rock hinds, whitespotted filefish and a large Queen triggerfish.

This is not a site where you can make a multi-level dive and our computers soon indicate that we must ascend. As we make our safety stop on the anchor line the bar jacks glide by in tight formation.

Thanks to LeRoy and Dominique of Ocean Explorers.

Sea Cucumbers—Animal, Vegetable or just Dead?

Though they are called cucumbers, they are invertebrates not plants. And, though they often look as if they are dead, they simply have a body well adapted to their lifestyle.

Several species crawl around Caribbean reefs and all have names that describe their appearance, such as donkey dung, furry and three-rowed sea cucumbers. Yet there is no mistaking their close relationship; all are foot-long, slug-like, slow-moving creatures covered in nodules.

Nodules on the underside of the body are podia with suction discs, enabling the sea cucumber to move. It is not difficult to work out which end is which of a sea cucumber, as they leave a trail of sand casts behind. One scientific team calculated that a sea cucumber might process between 500 and 1,000 tons of sand in search of food per year. Some species prefer to filter food from the water with tentacles around their mouth.

Not surprisingly sand goes in the mouth and out of the anus. Perhaps more unusual is the use of the anus to breathe. Water is drawn in through the anus and is forced over the respiratory trees and then exhaled through the same orifice as it was inhaled. The

respiratory trees also have a part to play in the creature's defensive armoury. Cuvierian tubes attached to the respiratory trees are pumped full of water and expelled, embroiling predators in a sticky mass of threads.

Expelling internal organs is common practice in sea cucumbers. Another defensive ploy is to eject the body organs—intestines, respiratory trees and gonads—which gives the predator something to feed on while the sea cucumber escapes and regenerates its missing parts.

Not a great deal is known about the reproductive process of sea cucumbers. But if the thought of two sea cucumbers copulating brings a smile to your face, sorry; we do know that sperm and eggs are released into the water where chance is left to determine whether they encounter a sperm or egg. The result is a free-swimming larva, which metamorphoses several times before becoming a bottom crawler like its parents. This dicey strategy obviously works as we see many sea cucumbers on Caribbean dive sites.



I may look like a dumb slug but you'll regret it if you hassle me.

At 40 feet *Anny* may be small but she attracts a wealth of marine life. The site is used for training and as a night dive because it is shallow. Also photographers like the tug because of the many fish that cluster around the hull.

There are almost always eels to capture on film. You need to check the visibility before planning a photography dive on *Anny* because she is in Simpson Bay and the water can be turbid at times.

Tug Boat *Anny* 27
Max 25'

**28 Samson's Reef/
The Bridge
25'-60'**

A heap of old pilings hardly recognisable as a bridge plus three sunken yachts provide a selection of features to occupy curious divers. Sand and sea grass beds, creating ideal habitat for sea stars, snake eels and stingrays, surround the bridge pilings.

With a bit of finning you can get around all of the yachts as they are between 50 and 75 yards from each other. One yacht is sitting upright and you can look through the portholes into what used to be someone's home. Sergeant majors lay their egg patches on the wreckage and defend them vigorously.

Photographers will enjoy this site. The yachts make good background for wide angle shots and the pilings, which have been down for 15 years or more, have enough encrustation to make it worth taking a macro lens.

By laying such bright purple egg clusters, female sergeant majors make hard work for the males who have to guard these very visible patches.



**29 Gregory
25'-50'**

The *Gregory* is a huge barge sunk deliberately as a dive site. The barge turned over as she sank, so lies upside down on the seabed. It is certainly worth looking underneath, as this is where the fish shelter.

The wreck does not have much growth and, as it is upside down, it does not occupy the whole dive time. You can finish the dive on the reef that the *Gregory* is parked on.

**30 Fuh Sheung
70'-110'**

There are some problems diving the *Fuh Sheung*. It is still moving and parts of the structure seem at risk of imminent collapse. In other respects, it is an easy dive. Its location is generally sheltered and there is rarely any current.

The ship, a Korean offshore fishing boat, lies on her port side and is currently intact. It is possible to penetrate but until it stabilises most operators have stopped doing so.

As you would expect from an island neatly divided in two, there is a cultural and practical difference between stores on each side of the divide. On the French side, the stores are controlled by the French Federation and are required to meet strict standards governing diving practices and safety procedures. Some stores also offer tuition with international agencies such as PADI.

On the Dutch side, there are no regulations governing dive operators except those that concern the boat. Captains have to be licensed and must take an oral test in St. Maarten in order to get their license. The stores are all members of international training agencies.

St. Maarten is a duty-free area and goods can move freely between St. Maarten and St. Martin. The dive equipment used by the operators is new or nearly new. Many sell their rental equipment each year and buy new, so good second hand gear is available for sale at around half the price of new.

The dive stores have many different styles and sizes of dive boats, though there were more stores using RIBs than we have encountered on other islands.

You will have no difficulty buying film or getting it processed on St. Maarten/Martin. Whereas you can get print film processed in one hour, slide film will take a little longer but you will not have any problem finding somewhere to have slides developed.

A few stores have underwater cameras to rent and a couple even rent underwater videos. Ocean Explorers is able to teach the PADI videography course.

Whether by accident or design, prices are very similar between operators. If you have your own equipment you will pay on average \$5 less per dive than if you use the store's gear.

Many of the operators come back to the store for the surface interval so the price of a single tank dive is only slightly more than half of a 2-tank package price.

Prices include equipment.

Single-tank	\$40-50	FF 250-300
2-tank	\$70-90	FF 400-550
5-tank package	\$165-200	FF 1,000-1,200
Open Water	\$350-420	FF 2,000-2,500
Referral	\$200-220	FF 1,200-1,350
Discover Scuba	\$45-120	FF 300-700
		FF=French Francs

Diving Facilities

Equipment

Photographic Equipment

Cost

Operators



St. Maarten Operators

Trade Winds Dive Center's boat just leaving the dock for Proselyte Reef.

Five land-based operators and one liveboard dive boat are based on the Dutch side and five operators are based on the French side. To some extent they share the same dive sites, as the dive boats can cut through Simpson Bay Lagoon to shorten the trip to each other's territory.

Trade Winds Dive Center **2**, owned and managed by Tom and Chuck, is at the end of the pier at Great Bay Marina.

One of Trade Winds Dive Center's assets is the proximity of dive sites. Their nearest site is less than 3 minutes from the store and the sites they dive—17 to 23—are all less than 10 minutes away. Tom and Chuck were responsible for finding the *Carib Cargo* after she broke adrift from her mooring and sank.



Tom and Chuck are firm believers in safe diving practices and act upon it. If you have not dived for a while, they will invite you to take a refresher dive in shallow water prior to making a regular dive. The warm up dive is free of charge. They give a very thorough briefing as the boat leaves the dock.

The 9 a.m. dive is for experienced divers only. Divers arriving on cruise ships have ample time to make the 11 a.m. or 1 p.m. dives. Night dives are arranged for Thursday evening.

The new store in Great Bay, Dive Safaris **3**, is based in Bobby's Marina. The store's manager Whitney Keough has been in the dive business in St. Maarten for a few years but has only recently taken over at Dive Safaris. The store is well positioned to supply diving to the cruise ships that arrive each day in Philipsburg.

Every other day Dive Safaris make a 2-tank dive in the morning; the alternate days are single-tank dives. Once a week, weather permitting, Dive Safaris go to Groupers and Roche Table (sites 1 and 2—St. Barts chapter).

Whenever possible someone is left on the boat while the

AD 1SCUBA SHOP

divers are in the water and on 2-tank dive days you will be welcomed back on board with some lively music, sodas and snacks. Dive Safaris' boat has the best music system we have seen on a dive boat and the dive team work enthusiastically to create a good atmosphere on board.

Only one other operator works out of St. Maarten/Martin and that is the *Caribbean Explorer* **4**, a liveaboard dive boat taking up to 16 divers. Although the boat picks up in Philipsburg, they do not do any diving in St. Maarten. Instead they head straight for Saba where they dive for 2 days before going on to St. Kitts and then back to Saba.

The diving is organised so that you can dive off the boat without needing to use a tender. Up to 5 dives a day are included in the price. The boat is equipped with a Nikonos V camera and the crew are able to do E6 slide processing on board.

Caribbean Explorer's crew of seven aim to please and will try to accommodate particular requests, though remember they have a schedule to keep and a boat full of divers to please. A 7-night cruise costs \$1,200 and includes diving. You can book a cabin or get a group together and take the whole boat.

To the west of Philipsburg, in Simpson Bay, is Ocean Explorers **5**. LeRoy French (who is American not French though his wife, Dominique, is French!) has been on St. Maarten and involved with diving on the island for more than 20 years. He has been diving for 40 years and if you have been diving for that long you are sure to have a few good stories to tell. Like the day in 1962 when he was attacked by a great white shark and was lucky to escape with his life. He had 360 stitches for three massive bites. It took him 2 years to get back in the water again—it would take most people two life times to muster the courage.

Both LeRoy and Dominique are keen photographers. LeRoy takes still photography and has had pictures published in National Geographic. Dominique uses video and has made a video of St. Maarten's diving. She teaches the PADI Videographer course.

Safety is an important consideration at Ocean Explorers. For example, there is always someone left on the boat when the divers are in the water. It is the boat minders job to help you don equipment and to take your gear from you when you return to the boat.

It is Ocean Explorers' goal to make their guests feel at home, and to that end they create a friendly, clubby atmosphere. They are full of ideas about where you can eat, nice beaches to visit and anything else you might want to know. It is not surprising to find that they have a lot of repeat business.

Just across the other side of Simpson Bay in the Pelican Resort complex is Aquamania Watersports. Part of this operation is St. Maarten Dive Adventures **6**.

St. Maarten Dive Adventures have a varied schedule with

AD 2-OCEAN EXPLORER

AD 3 -ST MAARTEN DIVE ADVENTURE

single-tank dives every other day and 2-tank dives on alternate days. They do a lot of discover scuba courses and run pool sessions at 11 a.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, followed by a shallow dive at 2 p.m. Night diving is on Thursday.

St. Maarten Dive Adventures cover the dive sites 12 to 29, making the decision as to which site to visit based on weather and sea conditions each morning.

In addition to diving trips, Aquamania offer jet skis, parasailing, powerboat rental, a day sailing to Anguilla on the catamaran *Lambada*, and trips to Saba on the *Edge*. St. Maarten Dive Adventures is a busy well-managed store that makes the logistics of a dive trip look simple.

Finally, in Oyster Pond, which straddles the French and Dutch sides, is Scuba Shop **1**, a retail and rental operation. In the past, they have also offered boat dives but various hurricanes conspired to destroy local hotels and roads so both the source of business and the means of reaching the store were drastically reduced.

A large bareboat fleet operates out of Oyster Pond and Peter, the owner of the store, rents equipment and offers advice to those who want to dive independently off their yacht. You can rent everything you need including aluminium tanks. Daily rental of a full set of equipment including a tank is around \$20. If you have your own equipment and just need a tank and weights you will pay \$45 per week.

Scuba Shop carries a good range of equipment for sale and the quality of rental gear is as good as it gets. Dacor, Mares, Genesis and Sherwood are the main brands Peter carries. He also sells second hand equipment. Scuba Shop is a factory authorised repair and service centre for Sherwood Dacor and Mares.

From December 1998, Scuba Shop will also be operating in Palapa Marina, Simpson Bay, as part of a joint venture with Dive Safaris to offer a full service dive centre.

Peter is extremely helpful and well informed. He is happy to impart his local knowledge to divers setting off on their yacht to sample diving as they cruise.

Baie Nettle has a continuous row of hotels and two dive stores attend to the needs of divers in the area. Blue Ocean **8** is the oldest and largest of these stores. Established in 1972, Blue Ocean was bought by Laura, its current owner, in 1995. Laura runs the operation from the store where she takes bookings for the dive boat and for training courses, as well as booking a range of other watersports and land based activities.

By keeping their dive boats in Simpson Bay Lagoon, Blue Ocean can access dive sites on either the French or Dutch side with equal ease. As a general rule, the morning dive is on the south side or occasionally Tintamarre in the north, and the

St. Martin Operators

afternoon dive is to the shallow sites on the north west. There is always someone left on the boat while the divers are in the water. Your equipment is put together for you on the boat.

Packages are available with three local hotels: the Beach Plaza Hotel, Nettle Bay Beach Club and Royal Beach Hotel. A 7-night/10-dive package for two people in a 4-star hotel will cost around \$1,200 excluding food.

Blue Ocean offers a weekly trip to St. Barts to dive for \$100, which includes 2 dives. This is a well-organised store able to cater for all your accommodation and entertainment needs.

Sea Dolphin **7** is an independent store in the grounds of Le Flambuoyant. The dive store is a charming building surrounded by palm trees right on the beach and adjacent to the dive boat dock. Le Flambuoyant is a 4-star hotel and has a mixture of American and French guests. The hotel offers accommodation and dive packages.

Sea Dolphin has a charming building in the grounds of Le Flambuoyant.



Although the store has been open for 3 years, recent investment has raised the quality and range of facilities. Both an underwater camera and video are available for rent. In addition to diving, Sea Dolphin has a variety of water sports on offer: kayaks, windsurfers, jet skis, water skiing, and parasailing.

From time to time a store operates from one of the other hotels in Baie Nettle but at the time of writing we could not contact any other operators with a permanent base.

At the northern end of St. Martin are three beautiful bays, each with its own dive store: Grand Case, Anse Marcel and French Cul-de Sac. Octoplus **9** is Grand Case's store. Octoplus is a small friendly operation run by Jean-Michel and his wife Cecile.

Although the store has operated in Grand Case since 1993, Jean-Michel has owned Octoplus only since 1997. Generally, they offer single-tank dives but will make 2-tank dives with advance notice. A Boston Whaler is used for the dives in Grand Case Bay,



Octopus Dive Center use their powerful RIB to reach the sites around Tintamarre.

whereas a large powerful rib is used for sites farther afield.

If you would like to make a video of your diving experiences Octopus have a video with lights for rent. A Sea & Sea still camera will suit the less ambitious. Those who have energy left over might want to try water skiing or scurf boarding, which Octopus offer in the bay. They are open every day, but close on Sunday afternoon.

Octopus can arrange for you to dive in Anguilla. They have an arrangement with Anguillian Divers (see Anguilla chapter) who will send their dive boat to collect you from Grand Case for a day diving in Anguilla.

The next bay round is Anse Marcel. Several luxury hotels and apartments surround the small marina where Fun Scuba **10** is based. Antoine Mignot, a partner in the business, believes he offers a safe and professional service. All dives are led, someone remains in the boat at all times and the store carries insurance that covers helicopter evacuation.

Fun Scuba has a regular dive schedule that alternates single-tank and 2-tank dives and includes a night dive on Friday. On Wednesday they organise a full day trip to St. Barts, though it is weather dependent.

Other water sports are available within the same shopping complex as Fun Scuba though they are managed separately.

On the opposite side of the island is French Cul-de-Sac where a new store has recently opened. Funny Blue Bubble **11** is on the premises of Little Key Beach Hotel. The hotel was refurbished and reopened in 1997 at the same time as Funny Blue Bubble. A double room costs from \$150 to \$250 per day depending upon time of year and type of room.

Gilles and Stephane own and run the store. Some but not the majority of Funny Blue Bubbles' divers are from the hotel. Other hotels in French Cul-de Sac and nearby Orient Beach

hotels make up the balance of divers. Funny Blue Bubble will collect you from the hotel if you do not have transportation.

Funny Blue Bubbles diving range is from *La Renee* (site 1) to Groupers (site 2—St. Barts' chapter). They do a lot of diving at Tintamarre, which is only a 10-minute boat ride.

**Contact
Information
St. Maarten**

1 The Scuba Shop Peter Frye Tel: (599-5) 70823
Fax: (0590) 78 48 01
e-mail: scubashop@megatropic.com

2 Trade Winds Tom Burnett Tel: (599-5) 23910
e-mail: twdc@sintmaarten.net

3 Dive Safaris Whitney Keough Tel: (599-5) 73436
Fax: (599-5) 26024
e-mail: keough@sintmaarten.net

4 Caribbean Explorer Sarah Moody Tel: (800) 322 3577
Fax: (903) 887 8526
e-mail: sarah@caribexplorer.com

5 Ocean Explorers Dominique French Tel: (599-5) 45252
Fax: (599-5) 44357
e-mail: divesm@megatropic.com

6 St. Maarten Dive Adventure Debby Lind Tel: (599-5) 42640
Fax: (599-5) 42476
e-mail: gsteyn@sintmaarten.net

St. Martin

7 Sea Dolphin Thierry Girard Tel: (0590) 87 60 72
Fax: (0590) 87 60 73
e-mail: seadol@yahoo.com

8 Blue Ocean Laura Marc Tel: (0590) 87 89 73
Fax: (0590) 87 26 36

9 Octopus Dive Center Jean-Michel Tel: (0590) 87 20 62
Fax: (0590) 87 20 63
e-mail: octoplus@powerantilles.com

10 Scuba Fun Antoine Mignot Tel: (0590) 87 36 13
Fax: (0590) 87 36 52
e-mail: contact@scubafun.com

11 Funny Blue Bubble Stephane Fougere Tel: (0590) 29 55 29
Fax: (0590) 87 02 01

