



Scuba St. Lucia

Anse Chastanet Reef

This reef starts just a few short steps across the warm volcanic sand from the dive center. The reef has three distinct areas:

Shallow: There is a plateau area with depths of 5-25 feet. This is the portion visited by our Introductory Scuba Students. The divers entering the water are greeted by a school of sergeant major fish. There are many brightly colored sponges and soft corals in this area, as well as large brain corals and boulder corals. Goat fish, parrot fish, chromis and wrasse are found all over the shallow reef.

Medium: The reef falls quickly away from 20 to 140 feet in a solid wall of mixed corals. Most of our dives are in the mid-range, at 50-60 feet, allowing divers to see the full range of the reef from the sparkling water surface to the deep reef. This portion of the reef is visited by many schooling fish, and is amongst the many different corals, crabs, lobsters, moray eels, and much more. Deep-water lace coral is also found at this dive.

Deep: In the deeper part of the reef, around 100 feet, other corals give way to plate coral, layer upon layer of delicate porcelain-like growths stacked one on top of each other. Well worth a visit.

Turtle Reef

This crescent-shaped reef to the north of Anse Chastanet Bay is a favourite with many of our divers. It drops quickly from a plateau area at around 40 feet to over 150 feet. From the spectacular pillar coral and barrel sponges in the shallows to the deeper soft corals and ledges, this reef has a lot to offer. The occasional turtle has been known to visit, but even if not in evidence, there will be plenty of other creatures to keep our divers happy.

Fairyland

A very short boat trip from the dive center is our beautiful location of Fairyland. This area on a major headland, is subject at times to very strong currents - this has the benefit of giving the site excellent visibility, and keeping the corals very clean so that it sparkles with the vibrant colors of many varieties of coral and sponges. The plateau area slopes gently from 40 to 60 feet; our dives are usually 50 feet and shallower on this site. Large boulders give plenty of nooks and crannies for fish to shelter in. All over the reef are large numbers of schooling fish, particularly chromis and creole wrasse. Turtles are occasionally seen on Fairyland.

Pinnacles

This is probably our most visually stunning dive site. Four spectacular seamounts rise dramatically from the depths to within a few feet of the surface. These are encrusted with a profusion of black and orange gorgonia, and this lacy network provides shelter for trumpet fish, filefish, and sometimes seahorses. Large fishes - grouper, jack, and snapper - can be spotted around the Pinnacles.

Superman's Flight

A fifteen-minute boat trip south from the dive center, across Soufriere Bay, brings our divers to the base of the spectacular Petit Piton Mountain. The cliff face here was used as a setting for the film Superman II - Superman can be seen flying down the cliff face above water, and our divers can fly along it below the surface. There are often strong currents on this site, which help to give it good visibility. The steep slope here is covered with beautiful soft corals, and there is a great profusion of fish life.

Piton Wall

Also at the base of the Petit Piton, this dramatic wall falls from the surface to many hundreds of feet below. Sea whips, gorgonia, delicate soft corals and lots of large featherduster worms make this a colourful location.

Coral Gardens

Further south is the Petit Piton's sister mountain, the Gros Piton. At the base of this is Coral Gardens, a steep slope with many different species of corals and large barrel sponges. The unusual sargassum triggerfish can be spotted in the deeper areas here, and occasionally a large school of barracuda take up residence. As with many of our dive sites, our divers must be careful to monitor their depths as the slope continues going down hundreds of feet.

Wreck of the Lesleen M

This wreck is located to the north of the dive center, and our dive boats take approximately 20 minutes to reach the site. The 165-foot freighter was sunk in October 1986 as part of a project by the Department of Fisheries to provide artificial reefs. It is covered in soft corals, sponges and hydroids, and provides an ideal habitat for many juvenile fishes such as Nassau groupers, queen and French angelfishes. The wreck sits on an even keel on the sand. It is 30 feet to the deck, and 65 feet at the deepest point.

Anse La Raye Wall

This is one of St. Lucias wall dives, rich in coral and marine life. The shallow areas display brightly coloured fire corals and there is a healthy network of soft corals, best appreciated framed by the sun as you look up towards the surface. Schools of wrasse linger here. The reef also attracts Jacks & Bermuda Chub. The intricate pattern of corals create a good shelter in which spotted drums find cover. This is an excellent example of the colourful reefs of St. Lucia and a good site for underwater photography. It is best dived at 50-60ft. Surface conditions can be rough so a quick decent is advisable.

Grand Caille

Patios for "Big Little Rock," Grand Caille has long been known as home for big fish. Unfortunately, few of these remain due to extensive fishing, but this is still a very dramatic dive site, with large boulders in the shallows, and a sheer wall below. The wall has many deep-water gorgonia and sea whips. Occasionally, a large barracuda will inspect the divers.

Trou Diable

The "Devil's hole" is a fascinating location. At 40 to 60 feet, we find a steep slope with large barrel sponges and well-developed coral heads, with schools of chromis and grunts in profusion. The shallower section at 20 to 30 feet, offers an intricate maze of channels around large boulders covered in a profusion of corals and sponges. A great spot for finding spotted moray eels and spotted drums.

Malgre Toute

Under the Petit Piton Mountain, Malgre Toute - "Despite Everything!" - is a steep slope with large rocky outcrops, encrusted in colorful sponges and a variety of corals. Between these are the large barrel sponges and bright yellow tube sponges - check inside these for crabs and basket stars.

Jalousie

Jalousie is at the base of the Gros Piton Mountain, close to Jalousie Bay. The mountain slope continues down underwater, and the diver will find lots of schooling fish, particularly Creole wrasse, bar jack and occasionally southern sennet. There is a great range of different corals and sponges and plenty of hiding places for moray eels, reef crabs, lobsters and other critters.