

# The Nature Island, June 2010

# Dominica, BWI

Youngest island of the Caribbean. The largest of the British Windward Islands. *Nature Island of the Caribbean*, above and below. This is Dominica, one of the most pristine islands of the world. And that's our destination, June 5-12, 2010.

Dominica is wild. From sea level to just under 5000 feet, there are 12 major waterfalls, 350 rivers, and rugged terrain that erosion has not yet touched. This is an island that offers all the underwater excitement that a fervent diver will want, but also offers stunning countryside for those who seek it. Plus, an excellent chance to view migrating whales – seven species are regularly seen off Dominica.

Diving is just one of the many activities on Dominica, so the reefs are still virtually untouched, the corals fresh, and the walls pristine. The area is known for its excellent wall diving, its many invertebrates, and its crystal clear water. The sand is black – a startling contrast to the brightly-colored sponges and tropical fish. We will do two morning boat dives each day, with unlimited shore diving.

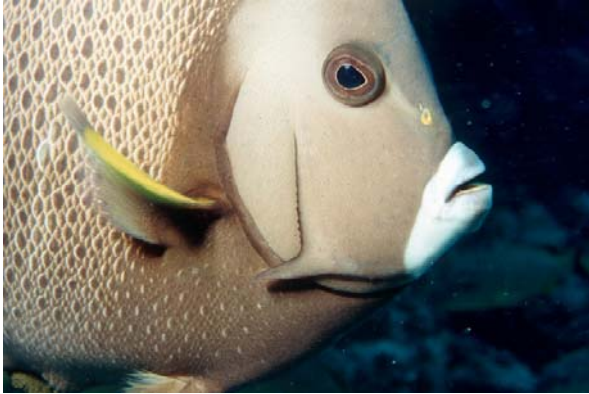
You don't have to be a photographer to enjoy this island, but many of us are going for just that purpose. One dive gives us beautiful clear water, steep walls, and sponges large enough to hide in. For the next dive, we concentrate on the smaller things – porcelain crabs, sea horses, and nudibranchs. If you're not taking pictures, prepare to smile a lot.



You will dive the **Pinnacle at Scott's Head**, a drowned mountain peak just south of the island. **Dangleben's Reef**, with sheer walls, plus small pinnacles and valleys. At **La Bim** the wall begins at 20 foot depths, and disappears into the depths below. Along the way, you can admire the black coral and the huge sponges, populated by myriads of sea critters. You pick your depth. And finally, experience the strangest while at **Champaign**, where the ocean vents permeate the water with millions of warm bubbles.

Most of our shore diving will be right out the back door from the hotel. Walk down to the pier, pick up a tank on the way, and walk out into the warm water.

With diving this superb, it may be hard to remember there is so much to do on this island. If you love the outdoors, fantasize about the rugged beauty of nature, your days will be jam-packed. Try an easy walk on a well-cleared path, to take pictures of a beautiful waterfall. For the hikers, cross moss-covered trails along winding streams, to swim in the pools of Victoria Falls. Or for the truly adventurous, there are 11 mountains offering daily challenges, including Boiling Lake, the world's largest volcanically heated lake.



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The most popular topside diversion is the whale-watching tour. Although nothing is guaranteed, they boast an 80-90% success rate in finding whales. Most sightings are of Sperm Whales, Spinner and Spotted Dolphins, and Pilot Whales. Tours are an extra cost, but well worth the price!

Between diving and other excursions, our home will be Castle Comfort Dive Lodge. [www.castlecomfortdivelodge.com](http://www.castlecomfortdivelodge.com)

This quaint 15-room inn is comfortable and clean, with air conditioning and ceiling fans. Breakfasts are included with the price – dinners at the resort are taken family-style with the other guests of the resort. Or we can walk to town – it's a comfortable walk away. We'll decide whether to dive at the resort, or take the walk to town to sample some of the restaurants there.

Price for the week is \$999, which includes accommodations all week (double occupancy), breakfasts, free use of sea kayaks, two morning boat dives daily (5 days), unlimited shore diving, tanks and weights.

Not included are flights to the island, lunches and dinners, departure taxes, dive equipment (except tanks and weights), drinks, souvenirs, and personal items. Any additional tours, including the Whale & Dolphin Safari, will be extra.

We can offer a FREE PADI Digital Photography Course during the week, and will be offering advice and discussion on correcting and enhancing pictures with Photoshop.

Wow! What an adventure. Bragging rights for 2010 begin now. To register, call Cheryl at Blue Water Adventures: 888-266-2209, extension 101. \$200 deposit should be made right now. You can also talk to Cheryl about setting up your flights.



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