

Cayman Brac May 10-14 2014 Brac Reef Beach Resort and Lunarfins

Saturday - This place is fabulous, isn't brand new, but looks it, and has a great staff. We are using the resort's free WiFi, so that makes up for no cell service. There's sand all about, or sidewalks to wherever you want to go; I've been told I don't need shoes for the restaurant ("you're in the Caribbean"), so I plan to be barefootin' all week except for booties to use inside the fins. The food is a class act, buffet style so I know we won't be losing any weight.



Sunday morning we had to dash thru a bit of rain for breakfast. Then still raining as we went to the dive shop, wish we had seen some of that in Houston. We measured the nitrox tanks we were going to use, and picked up some weights, by then the rain had stopped, and we all loaded onto the boat. Before leaving, Eric (from Sweden) gave us all the rules etc., then out we go. There was only one other staff member on the boat, Barb from Ontario. They took turns being the dive master or staying onboard.



Back to shore for lunch - well - Sunday dinner. Seems the locals all came to celebrate Mother's Day also, quite a crowd. And the meal was well worthy of the special day. One dish was labeled Cobb Salad, but there was hardly any lettuce, mostly the eggs, cheese, ham, etc. And another marked as Green Beans Almandine but the nuts looked like pecans. Fred and I had decided not to go on the afternoon dive.

Monday - Saw lots of beautiful sea fans about amongst all the other coral and sponges, mostly small fishes. Four of the divers apparently took the long swim and we had to go pick them up. Turns out they had reached the spot for the second dive.

This time we shucked our suits and booties at the "locker" where there are some rinse tanks. There are lots of hangers available, so very convenient. Lunch, relax, and suit up again. This dive was easy to stay with Barb the guide, mostly around a sunken overturned boat, but oh my - was it 5 or 6 rays we saw? Plus the two eagle rays passing the boat on our way out.



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Barb suggested the meet-n-greet before supper, rum punch, a contest for best boat crew, and a drawing for a free massage. All that happened was the rum punch plus awesome appetizers, didn't really need the supper. We did meet the managers Mick and Barbara and found out the hurricane Paloma in 2008 almost wiped them out, and everything we see is since 2010 repairs.

Tuesday - Today I felt better about just doing an afternoon dive, so sent Fred on his way, waved them off and came back to write or just relax. Walked about, took a few more pictures and read in a hammock. Lunch as usual, and then Fred stayed on shore while I headed out for the afternoon dive. Eric led us all around a few coral fingers and found a number of groupers following him. About halfway thru, we found out why. He reached in with his spear and pulled out a lionfish, offered it to a grouper which made short work of it, kind of inhaled it. That was so cool to watch. Another large grouper tried to show him where another was, but got in the way so the lionfish got away. At 5pm we moseyed down to the bar area for Bingo, and Fred won 3 times, the last was a free Pina Colada.



Wednesday - At breakfast we found out why Mike and Sandy didn't eat supper, they went to hospital for Sandy's skin bends. Turns out her earlier itchiness had developed into a rash with pain, and a couple hours with oxygen helped. So she's out for at least today. I decided to do the afternoon again, so Fred is off on the morning trip, hear tell it was the #356 Wreck. Back to the room, managed to screen capture from Mike's video a few good shots, and uploaded to the website. Now I'm going out to a hammock to read until noon or a couple swims in the pool to cool off. It's not as hot as I remember Honduras or Cozumel, but more than enough to appreciate AC. The steady breezes help I guess.



Fred came back saying he had trouble clearing on the second dive so only got to about 15 feet, had to quit. My turn in the afternoon, I stayed with Lou and her dive master for my buddies and glad I did so. Shortly after leaving a submerged barge, I felt my tank shift, reached back and discovered it was loose. I motioned to the dive master who came behind me and fixed the trouble. From then on, it was a good dive, saw lots of sergeant majors as promised by the name of the dive site, and a small flounder that landed on rocks and changed pattern to blend in.

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Thursday - We spent the morning relaxing, some in a couple hammocks by the beach, some as a swim in the refreshing pool, mostly napping. The afternoon trip out to the dive site was under the 5 minutes promised as it was just out in front of the resort. I stuck with Mike Peters, his white fins easy to find. Also I was taking a disposable camera (\$10) and hope I got a turtle and eel plus a few sponges and fans.

Activity for the night was crab races before supper, and a movie about 8, but seems no one stuck around for the movie. Crab race was fun, then while waiting for supper, we saw "LT", a tame night heron who enjoyed some bacon from Mike Peters, then followed him looking for more. Fred took some shrimp from the buffet to it, but once we finished supper, it was gone.



Friday - Packing day, Fred reports he still can't clear one of his ears. We took it easy, napping some and packing, but met the boat about 11:30 as Barbara had requested a group picture there. A few went sightseeing in the afternoon, and then we all met again at 6 for a BarBQ dinner, as usual, too much food. Then there was live music into the night. Most of the boat crews were there also.

Saturday - Travel home day. Breakfast once more, shorter table but only Marcia would be missing; her flight was at 8 I think. The rest of us met at the lobby until the van was ready at 10:30 to take us the short trip to the airport. Fred experienced ear pain with the changes in altitude, so a doctor's visit is in the plans. Fred and I were seated in the very back, next to a restroom. Halfway through the flight, we smelled something so strong, I thought it was from there, but turned out the stewardesses were cooking their lunch - broccoli and garlic they said. Whew, someone must have thrown several cloves in.

We got home about 9:00pm, and were promptly mugged by a couple of excited dogs. All in all, that was a fantastic trip: great bunch of friends, 5 star resort, excellent dive operation, and awesome scenes. We'll be back I am sure.

If you want to see more pictures, I have posted mine in Member Photos. Expecting other travelers to contribute soon.