

March 12 - 19, 2011

Despite the wind, the sun was out in full force, giving us daily temperature of 85+.

The Dive Crew took their guests on a full navigation around the island. Going from the deep steep coral walls of the north side to the labyrinth of sand channels on the south and a stop or two in the west at the Utila Cayes. They were treated with sightings of invertebrates like reef squids, octopus and upside down jellyfish, large schools of Atlantic spade fish, black durgons, blue tangs and french grunts, and then some larger friends like tiger groupers, dog snappers, spotted eagle rays and nurse sharks.

From the shores of the resort guests enjoyed kayaking the tranquil lagoon, snorkeling the sea grass beds and taking advantage of the unlimited shore dives.

Thank-you to all the guests for coming and letting us share our little piece of paradise with you. The dive crew hopes you enjoyed it as much as we did, thanks again and see you soon.

LBR Crew

February 26 - March 4, 2011

The water is warming up and the whale sharks are in town!!! What an amazing week at LBR.

The water is never 'cold' here but for those running from the northern winters, you'll be happy to hear that we are up to 83 degrees and climbing. This change in water temperature co-insides with the annual southern movement of the whale sharks from Mexico, past Utila and onwards. All 4 of our boats were able to show our guests the gentle giants, more than once, and they were even able to get in the water with them. Pattie, a 'boat rider', who was happy to watch bubbles and never get in the water, jumped (literally) at the chance to have an unforgettable in-water encounter.

However, we can not let the whale sharks over shadow the other amazing finds on this weeks dives. Diver Masters, Andrew, Juju, Martin and Sheenah, introduced our guests to hawksbill turtles, spotted eagle rays, a nurse shark and all the little things that make the reef such a diverse ecosystem. They watched as Andrew feed speared lion fish to moray eels, queen trigger fish and a Nassau grouper, Juju enjoyed her first spinner dolphin encounter with guests and Martin took others down to the 100 ft long Halliburton Wreck that sits a 100 ft deep just outside of Utila's east harbour. Sheenah spent the week with a group of snorkelers, ranging from life long die hards to first timers. By the end of the week they were all well versed on the local fish species and even enjoyed a night snorkel, where they found large channel cleaning crabs and lobsters searching the dark bottoms for their next meal.

A special thanks to the Capital City Group for their energy!! And to all the guests this past week, thanks for making this week special for all of us, as well!!

Thanks again and hope to see you again soon,  
The LBR Dive Crew

February 19 - 26, 2011

Its hard to believe another amazing week of diving has come to an end. The great weather greeted the guests with temperatures in the high 80's and continued throughout the week.

The group from Micks Scuba, on the Show Time and Another Time, kept the dive staff (Captain's Wagner and Kerry and DM's Adam, Andrew and Sheenah) busy with eager divers, that took advantage of every opportunity to get in the water, including all drop-off dives available. Their energy and enthusiasm, above and below water, made for some great finds. They not only found turtles, seahorses, morays and lion fish under the sea but they also made friends with the horses up at the ranch when members of the group spent Friday afternoon placing bets on who's horse would get them back the fastest!!

And we can't forget about the Buczkowski Group, joined early on by Bart and Katie. They enjoyed diving and snorkeling by day and checking out all the hot spots in Utila by night. Captain's Chuck and Noah and DM's Juju and Martin took great care, making sure that they had dives suited for all levels of divers, including two trips to the Halliburton Wreck. Juju also became a personal guide, when she took them for dinner and the sunset at Babalu's, the Argentinian BBQ at Le Ceuva and the unique evening at Skid Row. Add the tuk-tuk races back along the beach and we couldn't ask for more smiles than they had on their faces.

All the staff had a great Friday evening with the guests at Tranquilla re-telling the stories of the week. We hope everyone had as much fun as we did, and we look forward to doing it again!!

Thank, LBR Dive Crew

February 5 - 11, 2011

A week full of Sunshine, Macro Diving and Lion Fish Hunting!!

The 'Like da Fish' group from Pennsylvania came full of energy and took full advantage of their surroundings. From 5am dawn dives to afternoon drop offs, they saw it all. Fred and his group also jumped in to help with the Lion Fish problem plaguing the Caribbean. We had Andrzej from Utila Center for Marine Ecology come and give a lecture, lead 2 lion fish hunts and then teach us how to clean and prepare the fish for fresh ceviche. I believe our total at the end of the week was well over 20 lion fish, RIP.

And we can't forget about our Beach House guests that took macro diving to the next level. John, Jenn, Jackie and Tom spent much of their time within view of the boat but found more things in these areas than could be listed. At the top, however, were the 3 sea horses in one day, a pair of scrawled file fish, wrasse blennis, an octopus and a scorpion fish. We loved your style!!

Add in the dolphins, lunch at the keys and the last day with a whale shark, and we can call this week a great success!!!

Thanks from the entire LBR Crew.

October 30, 2010

The busiest week of the rainy season was a full house. After canceling diving for Sunday the weather cleared up and flattened out into what was the best week since September!

Going Down Diving Jim and Kathy led the way with their crew of divers and chillers. These Pennsylvanians were all tranquila and had a great week with Wagner, Kerry, Mikey, and Adam. Captain Chuck and Utilian Saby headed up Kaare's crew and the others beating the other two boats to the dock every day--that is impressive!

Sightings included a slipper lobster, spotted sea hare, swimming crinoid actually swimming, and a classic feeding moray with his two grouper at his tail.

Thanks for a great week everyone!  
LBR Crew

October 23, 2010

The hurricane is upon us once again! If it is like the others it will bring a few days of sun hopefully. This week was mostly rainy with a few mornings of sunshine--just enough for a few people to burn.

The weather was a bit rough so there was limited time searching for whale sharks but there were a lot of other large creatures spotted including a couple of nurse sharks, green morays, spotted eagle rays, and a huge atlantic stingray with a remora that was at least a foot long.

Great team of divers including the Black Hills group from South Dakota. They did manage to dive Black Hills dive site one of the calmer mornings so we managed to keep them happy! Thanks to Scott for leading the way. And of course thanks to all the misfits on the Showtime for their sense of humor last week--see some of you again next year--same time, same place.

LBR Crew

October 16, 2010

Hurricane Paula came and left in a hurry. Once again the 2 days it was supposed to be over our heads we had clear skies and calm seas. Beautiful!

But we are in the Caribbean and we are in rainy season so we have another storm above. That has not deterred the divers however! The water is still a warm 83 degrees and the visibility is decent varying around the island from 30-90 feet depending on the site and the day.

Divemaster Mikey from Trinidad had a dive crew including returners Ron and Beth with friends Linda and Joe, Gabe and son Brandon visited with Cary, and snorkelers Pat and Joe hung with Divemaster Jenny. At the week's end the snorkelers won the "seeing the most contest"--everything was in the shallows this week!

Thanks to all for another great week at Laguna--see some of you next year!  
LBR Crew

October 9, 2010

This week was full of the tiny and the small. Divemaster Indira spotted a minuscule sea hare, a pipefish, a yellow headed jawfish with eggs!, a juvenile spotted drum, an intermediate french angelfish, and a cryptic tear drop crab or few on the night dive. Although the big guy was not spotted the minis made up for it. Thanks for a great week!  
LBR Crew

September 25, 2010

We experienced the good the bad and the ugly this week at Laguna! The good was the appearance of the famous Whale Shark. For many of the guests it was a first after many trips around the world. The ugly was the frogfish who was spotted by the patient divers opening his super-camouflaged mouth for a yawn.

The bad was the uncertainty of Hurricane Matthew in our vicinity. The week was cut a day short to get everyone off the island safely before the potential rains and winds. This was on Fred's birthday! Happy Birthday Fred--we did not get to celebrate here but we will in February when you come again! As it turns out the storm blew around us and did not affect us directly, however there was quite a bit of surge and damaged several docks on the South Shore.

All in all it was a great week with lots of sightings and a fantastic group of people. We would like to say farewell to Divemaster Kate who has been working with the owner for nearly six years at Utila Watersports and Laguna Beach. Thanks for all of your hard work and sharing your vast experience with our divers--good luck in your new life!  
LBR Crew

September 18, 2010

Good things come in small packages. We had a great time with our small group of divers this week. Kerry and Sandy completed their 4th trip with us and we welcomed our friends from Montreal and initiated them into the Laguna family.

Divemaster Adam showed the divers the creature of the deep while Snorkelmaster Jenny checked out the tiptops of the reefs and found the same creatures! Sightings this week included hawksbill turtle, spinner dolphins, red-lipped blenny, orange sided gobies, and three seahorses.

Weather was great with occasional night rains--supposed to be hot and humid next week! Water temp is still in the mid 80's. See you soon!  
LBR Crew

August 28, 2010

Busy week with the Ocean Adventures group on Captain Wagner's boat and the four others who chilled with Captain Kerry! Plenty to see underwater as usual including fighting sailfin blennies, several large remoras on a humongous southern stingray, a teeny tiny pipe horse, and a few large mammals scooting by on some sweet DPV's! We are jealous.

Hope you all come back and see us again next year!  
LBR Crew

August 14, 2010

What a great group of guests at Laguna this week!. And rather international. Representatives from Beijing, Canada, and Israel (and of course the Americans) converged to form a common bond over diving.

This weeks highlights included swimming with dolphins, watching a frogfish go fishing, checking out undulating upside down jellyfish, 2 conch mating, and a yellow headed jawfish swishing eggs around in his mouth. Although the best was Gerald "leaning" against the ladder on the first day and taking a swim in the drink. This probably set the tone and brought everyone together for a great laugh!

Thanks to all and see some of you again next year!  
LBR Crew

July 30, 2010

Happy Birthday and Happy Anniversary to Steve and Katy! We not only went diving but found them a whale shark and some dolphins on their special day. (No we cannot do this for everyone!) Their daughter, Brook, was extra-spoiled as well since it was also her first dive ever in the ocean.

Joining them the following day was Mike who easily mixed with the family and although did not have the same whale shark luck, still had a great time. Meanwhile, Barbara held down the fort at the resort and made sure the pool was perfect every day! We expect to see all back at Laguna Beach within the next year! Thanks for a memorable week and see you soon--  
LBR Crew

July 24, 2010

Well a smaller group included family Philips and Cheryl and Diane (who completed her Divemaster on Utila this trip!) and Saar. Congrats also go out to Charlotte of the family for completing her Open Water course and finally assimilating into one of her in-laws favorite sports! Hope you love it as much as they do!

Sighting of the week included a torpedo ray, spoon-nosed eel, and a male yellow pikeblenny--don't know that one? Well come and check them out!

LBR Crew

July 10, 2010

Farewell to Paradise Island Divers from Charlotte, NC. Thanks to Nancy for bringing the group to Laguna this past week! This was a lively bunch who were on a true vacation. Diving was part of the relaxation but not all of it! We and the whale sharks were happy to meet everyone and hope you visit again next year!

There was one boat which housed our repeat guests and one of our previous managers Ms. Liz--great to see you again--even Waggy said so!

The list of sightings this week included a nurse shark, spotted eagle ray, and a black spotted sea goddess amongst our usual unusual critters--give us a shout if you have photos of any of these guys--thanks!

LBR Crew

July 3, 2010

Many returning guests this week made the resort feel like one big family! The Salva Vida Scuba Group, led by Kris and Mindy, checked out everything from scuba, to horseback riding, to white water rafting and ziplining on the mainland! The other boat also had returning resort manager Miss Liz and company, Jim and Joyce (2nd trip this year with 3rd booked for the next) and some newbies!

In-water whale shark encounters were had by both boats this week--thank goodness! Again the spinner dolphins were abundant as well. Other creature sighting included a cornetfish (rare for here), bridled burrfish, wrasse blenny, and a giant crinoid (shrimp included!).

The highlights also included the "dry dive" which seems to have been a great hit and was recommended to future groups--we will have to offer it and see how popular it becomes!

LBR Crew