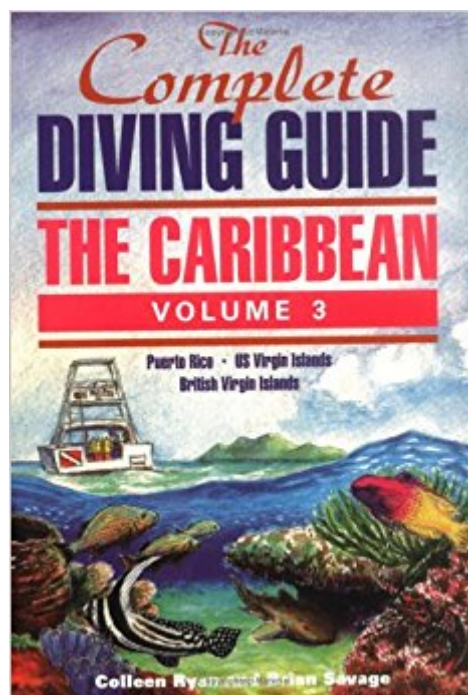




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The Complete Diving Guide: The Caribbean, Volume 3 (Puerto Rico/US Virgin Islands/British Virgin Islands)



Synopsis

A diving guide to Puerto Rico and the surrounding islands. It describes each island, the diving environment, and rules, regulations and safety information. There are site plans and maps, and fact panels about marine life.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"At last, the Eastern Caribbean has the dive guide it deserves. " Volume I covers the Caribbean Islands from Dominica to Tobago. The first book of its kind for the area, The Complete Diving Guide - The Caribbean Volume 1 by Colleen Ryan and Brian Savage is meticulously researched and packed with useful information. The book describes over 240 dive sites and covers 50 extensively, and includes full-color underwater site plans. All in all, the guide contains everything a diver needs to know to decide which island to dive and where to stay, which operators to dive with, which sites to visit, what to expect to see and even which camera lenses to use to capture on film what you actually see. " -- PADI Undersea Journal - First Quarter 1998

The Complete Diving Guide - The Caribbean (Volume 1) is exactly what it professes to be. Intended to be the first in a series, it looks at the southern islands of the Eastern Caribbean. Each chapter starts with a short island introduction followed by a very specific description of the dive sites, operators and hotels. The write-ups of the dive sites are full of interesting personal experiences. The rest of the chapter provides just the sort of information you need, such as which operators have english speaking dive guides and which recognise the depth limitations of BSAC rather than PADI. Throughout the book's 390 information-packed pages are numerous interesting side panels. One describes the ships that

sank in St. Pierre Harbour on Martinique when Mount Pelee erupted in 1902. The resulting dive sites sound so fascinating that I at once booked a trip to the island. Surely this is the acid test of a dive guide?" -- Diver Magazine, October 1998, Brendan O'Brien "This book on the area is a must for visitors and tour group leaders" -- PADI Undersea Journal - Second Quarter 1998

We are PADI dive instructors and combine our love of diving with sailing aboard our yacht Theta Volantis. We arrived in the Caribbean in 1994 anticipating a few years of sailing and diving the Eastern Caribbean Islands. We soon found that there were no detailed diving guides that would enable us to decide where we would find the type of diving we enjoy. We wanted to know which islands had good visibility and sheltered sites suitable for underwater photography; which had the steep walls and fast drifts that would give us exciting diving; which had good wrecks; which islands should we take our novice friends to; and where would we find sites we could dive independently from our yacht? Because we were able to sail from island to island on our yacht we were fortunate to be able to sample the diving everywhere. But we realised that someone planning a vacation would not have that opportunity and by then we had discovered how different the diving was on each of the islands and what a wide range of quality of service was offered by the dive operators. So, in the absence of a truly comprehensive and objective guide, we decided to write one. The Complete Diving Guide Series is the result of 5 years researching the diving in the Eastern Caribbean. We spent months on each island instead of the normal one or two week vacation that most people have, so we were able to study the diving and the operators in depth. We did some great diving and gained a real insight into the diving business in this region. In the course of our research we met many diving vacationers and often, in the absence of good information, they had not made the best choice of island (or even the best location on that island) for their particular diving needs. We have written the type of diving guide we wanted to be able buy and we hope that our readers can make better informed decisions about their choice of diving vacation in the Eastern Caribbean.

I am a dive instructor in the Virgin Islands. This book is a huge help to me when people want to go to a site I have yet to explore. The only negative that I can see is that some of the information regarding dive operations is rather dated in the book as well as on their web site. But then again businesses open/close/change hands so often down here I understand the problem.

The book is designed to offer a good list of places to scuba relying on the use of dive operators - it

lists many. Its use for a couple who just wish to go alone (in a buddy system, of course) is limited, since the locations are not exactly defined. The book also offers a lot of advice as to many facets of diving in these areas. In general, it is an excellent book with the caveat of not giving exact coordinates nor reference points by which to find the specific spots.

I have been meaning to review this book for some time as it is one of the most thumbed books on our book shelf. My wife and I run a charter yacht in the Virgin Islands and many of our guests are keen divers. We bought *The Complete Diving Guide* for our own use initially but it has since become part of the yacht's library as our guests find it so useful and enjoyable to read. (as our copy is getting rather worn I'm pleased to say that many of them buy their own copy after having seen ours). It is rare to find a book that is so comprehensive and which presents a vast amount of information in such a readable manner. In particular we find the island and dive site maps useful along with the descriptions of the dives and the underwater route maps. I can direct our guests at the type of dive that I think they would enjoy and they can read about it beforehand. They can also choose the dive store they would like to use. I'd thoroughly recommend it to anyone planning to do some diving in the Virgin Islands (it even covers the Spanish Virgin Islands).

I'd definitely give this guide full marks. It's without doubt the most comprehensive of the guides I looked at for the area I was travelling to (the Virgin Islands). It had everything we could have wanted to know and it definitely meant we did some better diving than we'd have done without it. We particularly liked that it gave us information about the British and US Virgin Islands and as they are less than 5 miles apart it's simple to dive both areas. They have some really different types of diving and we'd have missed out on a lot without the guide. We bought the book before we went but we took it along with us and used it all the time. One of the things we enjoyed reading was the descriptions of the dives and the sections about the marine life. We've been diving for over 10 years and I've learnt more from this book than I have in my previous years of diving.

Just bought the digital version of the PR Diving guide. I can tell right off this is a five star publication. Lots of extra information about the reefs. It seems the author likes what he does and wants to share. When we move locations I'll buy the next guide also.

This is one of the most thorough and up to date dive travel books I've ever read. We used a lot of the information on diving and related material on our recent trip to P.R. and found it very helpful and

accurate.

This book is very thorough on the coverage that I was looking for. I recommend this book. Actually, I couldn't find any other books that covered Puerto Rico.

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