

to your dives, so he can explain the aspects of each site. Because of weather, we only dove the sites on the north end of the Island. In the past, we dove the sites on the East and the South. All sites are beautiful, and have their own character. We spent one dive within about 30 meters of the buoy pin, simply because we enjoy looking in crevices and cracks for all the small stuff that most divers swim by while covering real estate. Doug will accommodate your desires; simply ask so he knows what you want. The accommodations are clean and comfortable. I believe they have about 16 rooms, all close to the dive shop and restaurant. Sallie, the man-Friday, will help with anything you need; simply ask and he will do whatever possible. The restaurant is good, and the prices are extremely reasonable. They have a good menu, and served our needs for the week. Sally manages the restaurant, and will accommodate your desires for any special request they can provide. Doug and Sally are gracious hosts. UW Photography Comments: Make any arrangements you wish with the operator prior to beginning of dives. Doug will do whatever he can to accommodate your request.

Kosrae Nautilus Resort, May 2009, Gil Zeimer (gil@zeimer.com), San Rafael, CA. Experience: 51-100 dives. Vis: 80 to 120 Feet. Water: 90 to 92 F, calm. On this two-dive excursion in Kosrae, I saw more varieties of tropical fish -- like parrotfish, angel fish, saddle wrasses, pearl wrasses, spotted trunkfish, butterfly fish, Moorish idols, and Clark's anemonefish -- than I'd seen in two decades of diving in the tropics. The highlight of this dive was a small octopus I saw climbing over a coral head, seeking shelter with a stick of coral in one of its tentacles. As we watched, it camouflage itself. Doug Beitz, my Aussie divemaster and co-owner of the Kosrae Nautilus Resort, who has lived on this Micronesia island for 7.5 years said, "I

learned to dive here, became an instructor here, and choose to live here because this island offers more variety, great visibility, warm water, easy diving for all level, and extremely short boat rides to the sites." I brought my Sea and Sea film camera, while the divemaster had his digital camera. He was extremely accommodating to take photos of me above and below water, and shared his shots of flat worms, turtles, octopi, tropical fish, and the rainbow of 200+ indigenous corals.

Kosrae Nautilus Resort, June 2009, Martha and Jeff Hubbard (hubbard182@att.net), Glenmont, NY. Experience: Over 1000 dives. Vis: 40 to 100 Feet. Water: 84 to 86 F. This was our second visit to Kosrae Nautilus. The hosts are Doug and Sally Beitz, ex-pat Queenslanders who have perfected the art of making guests comfortable and happy. From the greeting at the airport (flight six hours late). Hot dinner brought to our room by Sally shortly after we checked in at 10 P.M.), through days of perfect dives and good meals, to a farewell back at the airport, we felt like family. Diving is from a 6-8 pax boat with good sun cover and plenty of room to move. No head or camera tank, but a dry forward cubby for cameras and gear. No nitrox, but no need for it. Most dives are on the fringing reef which, Kosrae being way east and south, never gets the big cyclones, and the corals have been undisturbed for centuries -- many of the pristine bommies are 25 feet wide and 15 feet tall. Visibility is excellent. Many operators try to avoid night dives. Doug's response? "Right. We'll leave at 5:30. Order dinner before, and I'll call the kitchen when we're back at the dock so they can have it ready to bring to your room." And what night dives. For only the third time in 1500 dives, we saw flashlight fish (Photoblepharon). Not only in caves, but swimming among the

coral for anyone with night-adapted vision (turn off your flashlight) to see. We saw many big (8'-12") apparently bobomedusae jellyfish out spawning one night. The Kosraean staff are friendly and cooperative, though not all proficient in English (though much better than we are in Kosraean). Salik and Salik, seemingly everywhere on land or sea, helped with dive gear, guided dives, and found stuff for us ... and Salik works the restaurant, too! After only a few days, we felt like visiting family. The rooms are spacious and well designed. Well air-conditioned (wusses that we are, we find this essential in Micronesia) and quiet. The pool is large and inviting. The diving is what most of Micronesia used to be like, though Kosraean coral shows the benefits of its favored geographic location. Nautilus is a lovely resort,, with hospitality and diving that will bring you (like us) back soon.

Sleeping Lady Divers, Kosrae Village Ecolodge and Dive Resort, May 2009, Gil Zeimer (gil@zeimer.com), San Rafael, CA. Experience: 51-100 dives. Vis: 80 to 80 Feet. Water: 90 to 92 F, calm. Kosrae Village Ecolodge and Dive Resort offers guests an ecotourism experience in traditional Kosraean thatched cottages. Katrina Adams told me, "I think Kosrae's coral is a bazillion times better than other Micronesia islands." To prove her point, we motored in a covered 15-meter catamaran boat a few minutes out of Utwe-Walung Marine Park on the island's southern side to Hiroshi Point at Buoy #15, then to Buoy #16, Boundaries. Hiroshi Point is another easy, shallow drift dive for any skill level. Close enough for shore dives during high tide and low surf, divers can view large coral heads estimated to be more than 2,000 years old. Again, the air and water temps were balmy at 29°C, with visibility ranging today from 20-25 meters. A handful of stinging jellyfish floated nearby, but was