

Bonaire 2020

Overview of Harbour Village on Bonaire (<https://www.harbourvillage.com>). This was our second time to Bonaire and first time staying at Harbour Village. In 2018 we twice purchased “day passes” so truly enjoyed Harbor Village. The fish right off the beach are amazing and the restaurant is very good.

Fish identifications are done using three guides by Paul Humann and Ned DeLoach titled “Reef Fish”, “Reef Creatures” and “Reef Coral”. The “Fish” book is only fish; the “Creatures” book includes many genera including arthropods, cephalopods, mollusks, worms, sponges, jellyfish and more. The “Coral” book includes many types of corals, algae and sea plants. Sometimes confirmation includes searching the hypothesized fish in Google images or writing friends. The fish, algae and land animals are identified with a high confidence but the sponges and corals are to a lesser degree of confidence. Often algae imbed themselves in sponges, making them green or purple when the base color is brown, for example. Fish sizes are, of course, estimates.

Identification corrections are welcome!

About the Photography: Bob used a “GoPro 4 Black” and Sharon used a RICOH WG4 underwater camera. Both are excellent cameras. The Ricoh does not have the fisheye distortion, so longer distance shots are better. Often the color balance is more uniform for the Ricoh as well. The GoPro has the pole for reaching under shelves. I set it to a 1-second time lapse, so when I dive down, I hit “go” and just let it shoot. Then I use “preview” in my computer to select the good shots. Most of the land pictures used an iPhone 8S.

Most pictures are then shoved through Photoshop where “Auto Levels” removes constant background colors and some (few) needed “Shadows/Highlights” adjustments if in dark shadow of a cave or coral. I never use color balance or Hue/Saturation alterations. The pictures were then loaded into iPhoto for rotation and cropping. The iPhoto “Export/Web page” function was used to build the index sets for the webpage. The controlling “buttons” in the website are simply hand written in HTML pointing to the iPhoto built sets.

Night Snorkeling: With our cameras, videos are much better than stills in night snorkeling because the camera has trouble dealing with the contrasts of light and dark for the high resolution for stills but the lower res video manages it better. I then got stills from screen grabs of the videos.

Reefs Visited:

Most of the snorkeling was done at Harbour Village, there were three boat excursions on the Harbour Village diving boat. We snorkeled:

Harbour Village Beach: South by the restaurant is an amazing mass of fish when it is clear. Among the rocks are surprises like eels, lionfish and much more. The center of the beach has large piles of rocks that are nurseries. The shallows are full of blennies, burr fishes and porcupine fish. The north end had two octopuses, a spotted drum and much more.

South Klein Bonaire: The soft corals were very healthy, but few fish when we were there.

Ibo's Reef Klein Bonaire: The swim to the reef was very long (100+ yards) but the reef was lush and full of fish of every variety. Amazing.

OI' Blue (Tolo) reef: Very healthy, easy access and very many fish and turtles.