

known as Cathedral where millions of Silversides gather in several deep cuts in the coral with Tarpon cruising underneath feeding at will. I spent 20 minutes with the Tarpon and my new fisheye lens trying to capture the action. The crew always dove with Hawaiian slings to hunt Lion Fish. The larger ones were brought back to the boat to make Lion Fish Seviche for Friday night's cocktail party.

Friday afternoon found us back at the Radisson dock to give the guests a chance to off-gas for those flying the next day and an opportunity to do some shore based excursions: Cave Tubing, Zip-lining in the Jungle, the Belize City Zoo or tour some Mayan ruins. The crew used the time to start re-provisioning. I was staring at more than 1400 pictures and was ready to spend some quality time ranking and sorting. My wife was quite happy to spend quality time with her pleasure reading.

The following morning, a resort staff member was prepositioned to whisk us off to another week in paradise as we stepped off the Aggressor at 8am. St George's Caye Resort is on the island of St George's Caye, which is about 7.5 miles due east of Belize City. When Belize was first settled, this island was the center of everything. It must have been a crowded place because the crescent shaped island is only a mile across at

its largest dimension. Although it is the width of the island, the property on which the resort sits is barely 200 yards wide. We stayed in one of 12 quaint Cabanas.

After an intense week of diving, we took some down time to actually enjoy paradise. The resort has Hobycats, ocean Kayaks, and, because the ocean right around the island is too shallow for swimming, a salt water swimming pool. Those wanting to go fishing can arrange some deep sea fishing on the resort's well equipped boats. I enjoyed adult beverages, processed pictures and spent some quality time reading on the cabana hammock swaying in the warm tropical breezes. The resort also offers low bandwidth Wi-Fi and our cell phones had minimal service available making texting, e-mail and Facebook possible. By Monday, I was ready to get back in the water.

The resort operates a number of boats including the well maintained 30 year old wooden dive boat "Nitroxed". She can handle up to 14 divers based on dive tank storage and seating but they will take it out for just two. Where the resort is located, there are no other competing resorts, so the reefs within a 20-30 minute boat ride are seldom visited by anyone other than resort guests. They are all in great shape and you will definitely see Grouper and lots of Morays.



Octopus attacking the GoPro Camera. Nikon D80, Ikelite Housing, DS125/160 Strobes. Nikon AF Micro Nikkor 60mm 1:2.8D, 1/125 sec, F/18

Unfortunately, the Lion Fish are free to wreak havoc as the resort is the only one hunting here. It's an understatement to say we saw lots of large adults. One of the resort special offers is a Lion Fish safari. The resort has the gear and you can try your hand at spearing Lion Fish. I put the camera down for the last two dives and bagged 10 or so. It was great fun and a radical departure from shutter snapping. The resort Dive Master took care of rendering them "harmless" before bagging them. The resort staff enjoyed several meals of freshly caught Lion Fish while we were there. Those fish we didn't bring

back we fed to the Grouper, Morays, Queen Trigger Fish and Yellow Tailed Snapper that followed us looking for a hand-out. This provided some interesting feeding shots.

The highlight of week two was a dive with a pod of 14 Dolphins. The site is known to be frequented by Dolphins and we were not disappointed. Unfortunately, they didn't tell me that Dolphins were the goal and I was armed with my macro lens. It was the most fascinating and frustrating 50 minutes I've spent underwater in eight years of diving with a camera. To make it worse, it was a late afternoon dive, so a low



*Green Moray at a cleaning Station.
Nikon D80, Ikelite Housing,
DS125/160 Strobes. Nikon AF Micro
Nikkor 60mm 1:2.8D, 1/125 sec, F/22*

realized as we switched from tropical to late fall attire in Atlanta, I was putting on shoes for the first time in two weeks.

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sun angle and less than spectacular visibility conspired to wash out the contrast the camera needed for auto-focus. I only got five shots and they required some major Photoshop work to be of any use. We decided to try the site again the next day, this time armed with my fish-eye; unfortunately the Dolphins didn't show.

The food at the resort was outstanding and the much more laid back atmosphere made for a very relaxing week. 15 dives later, I had another 1000 pictures to add to the two week total. The resort staff helped us get everything washed and dried off so we could pack up and made sure we got to the airport in plenty of time for our trip home. I

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