

Grenada Trip Report – Phil Green  
(Nov 2006) Flamboyant Hotel & Dive Grenada

I decided to try somewhere different (not the Red Sea) at the end of last year, plumping for the Caribbean and the Spice Island of Grenada. Grenada is fairly small and until recently had been largely off the main Airline and Cruise routes. Grenada is now served by scheduled flight by BA, Virgin and XL, but is usually the 2<sup>nd</sup> second stop after the majority of folk leave the flights at Tobago or Antigua. I flew with BA for the 10 hour flight and used Air Miles to cover the flight (bargain). XL covers this route weekly and offer return prices as low as £169 (bargain).

I chose the Flamboyant Hotel and Dive Grenada as they offered a 'stay & dive' package for the week at \$460 (included single supplements and 5 dives), and added an additional 10 dive pack for \$310. A total price on \$770 (£400 ish). The Flamboyant and Dive Grenada are co-located at the end of Grand Anse Beach, Grand Anse is the largest beach and tourist area sweeping in a 4 mile long crescent for the capital St. George's to the South West tip of the island. Compared with many other Caribbean Island Grenada is very quiet and unspoilt by mass tourism and the big resort hotels.

Dive Grenada is run by British ex-pats. They took it over 4 years ago and were immediately wiped out by Hurricane damage. Having taken a while to rebuild they are now well established and run a very professional and welcoming outfit. Phil and his team did everything they could to tailor the dive schedule around the experience and wishes of the divers. As a lot of their customers are 'holiday divers' looking for a dive-a-day, they were very willing to come up with a schedule for the week that would cover all the main reef and wrecks, and dive a few places that they don't regularly dive. If you would like to read about the site visit: [www.divegrenada.com/](http://www.divegrenada.com/)

The jewel in the crown for Grenada diving is the wreck of the Bianca C, sometimes referred to as the 'Titanic of the Caribbean'. Bianca is a large Cruise Liner that sank following a fire in the harbour. She is a relatively deep dive (30m to the main deck) with all the deck structure now collapsed and fire damaged. Unfortunately Dive Grenada do not offer Nitrox and therefore dive times can be restrictive. Most of the other dives (wrecks and reefs) are in the 15-25m range and provide long leisurely dives.

The reefs around Grenada tend not to have the vertical walls and pinnacles associated with the Red Sea, but do have a vast array of sea life and undulated topologies. Despite the hurricanes of recent years the coral gardens (Hard and Soft) are perfuse and very healthy. The bigger inhabitants of the reefs included Southern Rays, North Atlantic Rays, Reef sharks, turtles and Morays. Creole Wrasse gather in huge shoals and seem to swim up and down, hence their nickname 'Purple Rain'. Visibility was between 15-30m and the water temperature 28-29c.

One of the joys of independent dive travel is the opportunity to dive with lots of different folk and on this trip I dived with Grenadians, Americans, Canadians, Brits, Italians, French, Dutch and Norwegians. I also had my first close encounter with a Bull Shark and had an entire dive swimming next to a huge Atlantic Ray.

Grenada is an excellent destination for diving and relaxing. A beautiful island, with friendly people, reasonable priced and great diving. Go there!