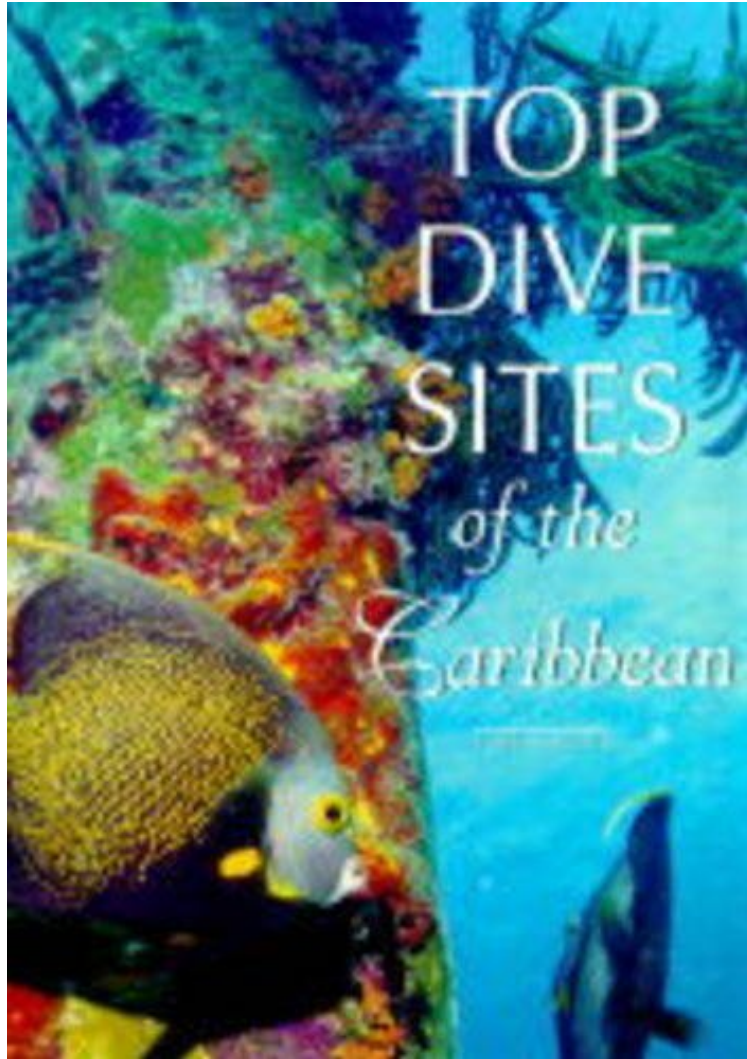


[Library ebook] Top Dive Sites of the Caribbean (Dive Sites of the World)

## Top Dive Sites of the Caribbean (Dive Sites of the World)

*Lawson Wood*

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**Lawson Wood : Top Dive Sites of the Caribbean (Dive Sites of the World)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Top Dive Sites of the Caribbean (Dive Sites of the World):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. One of Lawson Wood's best works. By Ned Middleton In studying (and occasionally reviewing) other works by this well established author and underwater photographer I have come to recognise his work as being amongst the best there is. In addition, he also has that rare quality of being a completely honest professional who knows his craft. Put another way; you may trust what he writes. It has to be said there are several books on scuba diving which claim to be the top or best dive sites of the world or perhaps the complete list of wrecks or sites in one particular region, country or sea - when they are nothing of the kind. I have, therefore, good

reason to distrust such all-encompassing titles. Of course, any personal selection claiming "the top site of wherever" will always be subjective and, although my list will always differ from others, I fully recognise that none are either right or wrong - it is simply a matter of personal choice and individual diving experience. The point I am trying to make is that the wrecks of France and Italy do not constitute all there is to be found in the Mediterranean! As I sat down to study this work, therefore, I fully expected to delete at least one star - somewhere along the way, because I felt the work could not possibly hold up to the expectations of such a title. How wrong I was!!! This is a hard-back coffee-table book larger than any other work I have seen from this author and it really was a joy to read. This was especially so when learning of those sites you either missed when you were there or have yet to visit but even more so when discovering something else about those you thought you knew. Commencing with the best possible reference source - a map of the Caribbean (where else?), the main content is divided into; General Introduction, Greater Antilles, Central America, Dutch Antilles, Windward Islands, Leeward Islands, Virgin Islands and the Gulf Islands. Right at the end we then find; Glossary of Reef Types, Tourist Boards, Index, Credits and Acknowledgements - which are particularly useful. I found the General Introduction to be most informative. It contains general pointers, golden rules and even some personal notes on buoyancy - spoken from the viewpoint of an photographer who does not wish to contact the reefs in any way, as opposed to putting over a basic lesson in scuba training which would have no place here. Moving on, with some excellent macro-photography often taking up a full 2 page spread, we commence with the dive sites of Puerto Rico where the best of the local sites are well described and illustrated. The same is then applied to the sites of Cuba, Cayman Islands, Mexico, Belize, Bay Islands, Bonaire, Curaao, Trinidad Tobago, St. Lucia, Antigua Barbuda, St. Eustatius Saba, St. Kitts Nevis, BVI, USVI, Turks Caicos Islands, Bahamas and finally, Bermuda. Yes, I know!, those latter destinations are not exactly inside the Caribbean but their inclusion adds something original to the work. Fully supported with simple maps of each island or island group and outstanding photography, the dive sites of each destination are well described and will leave the potential visitor under no illusions about what may be found there. In short, of all the so-called diving guides to the Caribbean, this is easily the best I have ever seen and I have been studying the subject for some 40 years! NM

This illustrated guide covers the Caribbean's top dive sites, from Bonaire and the Caymans to the Turks and Caicos and the Virgin Islands. Aimed at both the experienced and the amateur diver, sites have been chosen for their beauty and uniqueness, and the quality of their marine life. Each chapter opens with an introductory double-page spread complete with locator map and a panel containing information on getting there, climate and water temperatures, visibility and marine life, dive skills and permits required. The following spreads concentrate on the dive sites themselves and integrate informative text with superb photographs. The text describes both the above-water and underwater physical aspects of each region, the quality of the reefs, coral and marine life and the different types of dive experience.

About the Author Lawson Wood is an award-winning underwater photographer and author. Well respected in international diving circles, he is the founder of the first marine nature reserve in his native Scotland and is a founding member of the Marine Conservation Society. With over 30 years' experience in the world's oceans, Lawson has drawn on his extensive knowledge as an advanced diver and instructor to illustrate the allure of the Caribbean. He is the author of many diving-related books, and also contributed most of the photographs to this book.