



Welchman Hall Gully affords a tranquil respite for hundreds of species of indigenous, exotic plants and animals.

plants and animals. Previously these gul-
lies served as a natural boundary for the
numerous plantations. Today, visitors can
stroll through this cool, reclusive crevasse
lined along the half-mile path with stalac-
tites and stalagmites. Just remember to be
on a monkey alert for discarded falling fruit.

Seeking to escape monkey bombard-
ment (as the green monkeys were once
again obviously out to get us), we decided
to retreat to yet another underwater site.
Once beneath the near crystal-clear water
of Barbados, all senses turn toward the
vivid colors of tropicals as they zip by us
on an effortless drift dive. Fisherman's
reef, a second reef system bordering the
northwest coast of Barbados, offers all the

basic reef critters, including a reclusive
spotted sand eel but offers limited bottom
profile. This is why divers will be more
inclined to sign up for one of the many
striking wreck dives.

Two wrecks that are requested on a
regular basis are the *Pamir* and the *Friars
Craig*. The *Pamir* is the most northerly
wreck site visited by all levels of divers
on Barbados. Intentionally sunk adjacent
to a shallow reef system, this island
freighter now attracts numerous finfish.
On the other end of the island, just south
of old fort reef, lies the partially collapsed
wreck of the *Friar's Craig*. This interme-
diate-level wreck dive is alive with
marine life that zips in and out of the

many compartments of this Dutch-built
160-foot freighter. Fringed on the shore
by a 30-foot reef and on her starboard side
by deeper and more prolific 60-foot reef,
the wreck has no shortage of marine life.

These 20th century wrecks are a mod-
ern-day reminder of Barbados' maritime
history. With well over 500 wrecks pur-
portedly sunk around Barbados and 70
such wrecks known to have sunk between
1666 and 1872, Barbados is brimming in
ancient mariners' lore. The infamous Sam
Lord is said to have hung lanterns on
palm trees just inside a treacherous reef,
luring ships into a pseudo harbor only to
run them aground and later loot them.
These dramatic stories only solidify one's
belief of Barbados and its significance as
a mecca for maritime history. Today,
divers can easily share in this rich history
by immersing themselves in this island's
ongoing celebration of life. ▀

*Scuba Times wishes to thank The
Coral Reef Club, Mr. Haroon Degia, The
Dive Shop Ltd., Mr. Ralph Loch, Mr.
Peter Rothholz, Shades of Blue Dive Shop,
Barbados Dept. of Tourism, Mr. Hugh
Foster, Exploresub Barbados, Sandy
Beach Hotel, Blue Reef Water Sports.*

Dale Sanders is a STM frequent contributor.

INTRODUCING OUR EXPANDED FLEET OF FIRST CLASS LIVEBOARDS

The **World** is suddenly
a whole
lot more **interesting.**

Belize **NITROX**

Bay Islands

Turks & Caicos

Palau **NITROX in '97**

Red Sea **NITROX**

Papua New Guinea

Full Course
Sit-Down Dining



Choose from 7 State-of-the-art
Liveboard Cruisers



Spacious Rooms
with ensuite facilities



Top-Notch
Dive Services



Peter Hughes Diving
INC.

Setting the World Standard for Dive Adventure!

1-800-9DANCER 1-800-932-6237

6851 Yumuri Street / Suite 10 / Coral Gables / Florida 33146 / 305-669-9391 / Fax 305-669-9475

CHECK OUR INTERNET PAGE FOR PERIODIC SPECIALS

Internet: <http://www.peterhughes.com> e-mail: dancer@peterhughes.com

