COCOS ISLAND

In December 1993, I accompanied Norbert Wu, a professional underwater photographer, on a trip to Cocos Island off South America, for seven days of diving.

This trip was on the [Okeanos Aggressor](), a comfortable live-aboard. This was my first major dive travel trip and I had a fabulous time!

Cocos Island is a flyspeck of an island, a beautiful flyspeck of an island, off the coast of South America north of the Galapagos and at the same latitude as Bogota, Colombia.

It is a national park of Costa Rica and renowned for its profusion of marine life, particularly schools of 8-10 foot scalloped hammerhead head sharks.

Among the larger animals, I saw 4-6 foot reef sharks, sea turtles, manta rays, large pelagic fish like wahoo, tuna and jacks, and much more.

Sharks were around constantly on dives, usually only a few feet away, and going about their business. It wasn't frightening since I wasn't spearfishing and divers don't look or sound like their usual food.

The scalloped hammerhead sharks really don't want you too close anyway.

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Here I am at Manuelita Island on the calm, shallow side. I functioned as a camera assistant; usually I lugged Norb's underwater camera gear. Sometimes I was a model.

The quantity of fish in schools was impressive. There just always seemed to be a lot of fish hanging around.
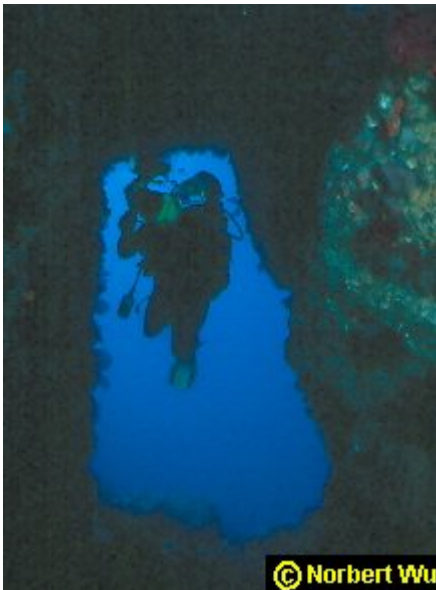

..... always lots and lots of fish hanging around.

This is me!

You can't tell but I'm swimming through an underwater arch, holding a light.

I love this shot because only I know I am there in the shot. This shot was perhaps the first in a string of appearances as an anonymous diver or person in various magazine or book photos shot by Norb and other photographers.

Image #COS19
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Viewed on 06-27-2001 by peterleo.
http://www.norbertwustock.com/

Here I am without that light switched on!

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Here I am underwater, hanging out holding one of Norb's cameras. Lots of camera toting, since he was shooting film and wanted to shoot more than one roll of film per dive (old school days of u/w photography!).

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