

**FORGOTTEN
TREASURE:
SLOVAKIA'S
OPAL MINES**

**TIPS TO LOSE
THE LEAD AND
ACHIEVE YOUR
PERFECT TRIM**

**WHAT IT'S LIKE
TO BE LOCKED
IN THE GRIP OF
CIGUATERA**

**DIVE WITH
DINOSAURS
IN EASTERN
TENNESSEE**

SCUBA

D I V I N G

SCUBALAB

**NEED A LIFT?
14 NEW
BCs TESTED**



WESTWORLD

**FROM ALASKA TO BAJA,
21 REASONS WEST IS BEST**

WESTWORLD 50M
JUNE 2018



JENNIFER IDOL is the first woman to dive all 50 states in the U.S., author of *An American Immersion*, and a PADI AmbassaDiver. She's also a member of the Ocean Artists Society.



MOREHEAD CITY, N.C.

Carolina charm greets wreck lovers near the Graveyard of the Atlantic

BY JENNIFER IDOL

Adventure on the North Carolina coast boasts activities for the whole family, from lounging on beaches to diving with wrecks and sharks. At the center of a coastal vacation destination — a five-hour drive from Charlotte — you're surrounded by tall trees, sweet tea and good ol' Southern hospitality.

IF YOU HAVE ONE DAY

If you've yet to dive the sunken fleet off North Carolina's coast — known as the Graveyard of the Atlantic — the *U-352* should be the first site on your list. The Nazi U-boat submarine — gunned down by a U.S. Coast Guard cutter during World War II in 1942 — was discovered by

George Purifoy, the late founder of Olympus Dive Center, in 1975 and sits at 110 feet. Though the entire submarine can be seen on one dive, it takes your breath away when it first appears from the descent line. Conditions vary greatly and depend on rainfall for how good the visibility will be, so operators determine which sites they'll visit in the morning. Celebrate your successful dives with local beers from the popular Fishtowne Brew House or head to Floyd's 1921 for Southern cuisine.

IF YOU HAVE TWO DAYS

Though the U-boat is a unique dive, sand tiger sharks can steal the show on some

NEED TO KNOW

When to Go Hurricane season runs from June through November, but summer is usually the best time for visibility.

Dive Conditions Wetsuits are sufficient during summer, but drysuits might be desirable in fall and winter, when the temperature drops to the lower end of North Carolina's range of 60 to 80°F.

Operators Dive-equipment rental and charters are available at Olympus Dive Center [olympusdiving.com] and Discovery Diving [discoverydiving.com].

Sand tiger sharks (*Carcharias taurus*) are well known for their mouthful of ragged teeth; sand tigers are often seen patrolling the Atlas.

of the area's other wrecks, such as *Spar Atlas*, *Caribsea* and *Aeolus*. Sharks frequent these wrecks, all of which are within recreational depths at 90 to 130 feet, but they can also be enjoyed as technical dives. Other fish, including barracuda, school around the wrecks as well. When you get back to land, get your seafood fix at Amos Mosquito's, where local catch is served on the bay near Atlantic Beach.

IF YOU HAVE THREE DAYS

If the weather cooperates, book a half-day charter to dive any of the wrecks you missed. The upside-down SS *Papoose* completes the U-boat tour; in 1942 it was torpedoed by *U-124*. Bring jon lines to make these intermediate-level dives easy on ascent. After diving, tour historic Cape Lookout, where you can enjoy the beach and climb Cape Lookout Lighthouse. Cape Lookout National Seashore is home to more than 250 birds and wild horses — and it's accessible by ferry from the mainland and other Outer Banks islands. Complete your culinary tour with fine dining at La Perla Restaurant in Beaufort.



LUREN FERRETTI; OPPOSITE: AMAR AND ISABELLE GUILLEN/SEAPICS.COM