

World's Best Dives



Pinnacle Attraction

SABA'S EYE OF THE NEEDLE BY BROOKE MORTON

SABA CLAIMS BRAGGING rights that few Caribbean destinations can match. Below this island outpost due south of St. Maarten, shark sightings can be followed by successful frogfish hunts. In places, underwater formations shoot up from the depths — much like Eye of the Needle, Saba's signature dive. It's a dramatic free fall into nothingness to reach this pinnacle that rises to within 85 feet of the surface.

During the drop, the anticipating mind thinks of only one thing: dorsal fins. There will likely be at least one — be it a white-tip, blacktip, reef or bull — staking out this massive exclamation point of reef swarming with barracuda, jacks and groupers.

Thread several looping passes around the pinnacle, swimming in close enough to observe the reef fish among this uninterrupted swath of color. Framed in blue, this spot exists as a

living tapestry of hues and textures thanks to its depth, deep enough to dodge hurricanes, anchors and other destructors.

Those who are economical with their air are rewarded with time on the neighboring plateau, which connects Eye of the Needle to three sister dives: Third Encounter, Twilight Zone and Outer Limits. Tucked among the folds of this plateau reef that extends beyond visibility's reach, find dozing nurse sharks and foraging hawksbill sea turtles. Although the trained eye might pick out a frogfish among the curls of sponges, it's far more tempting to simply pull back in order to marvel at the full scope of this towering monolith.

FOR MORE INFORMATION on Eye of the Needle, visit Sea Saba Advanced Scuba Dive Center at seasaba.com.

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