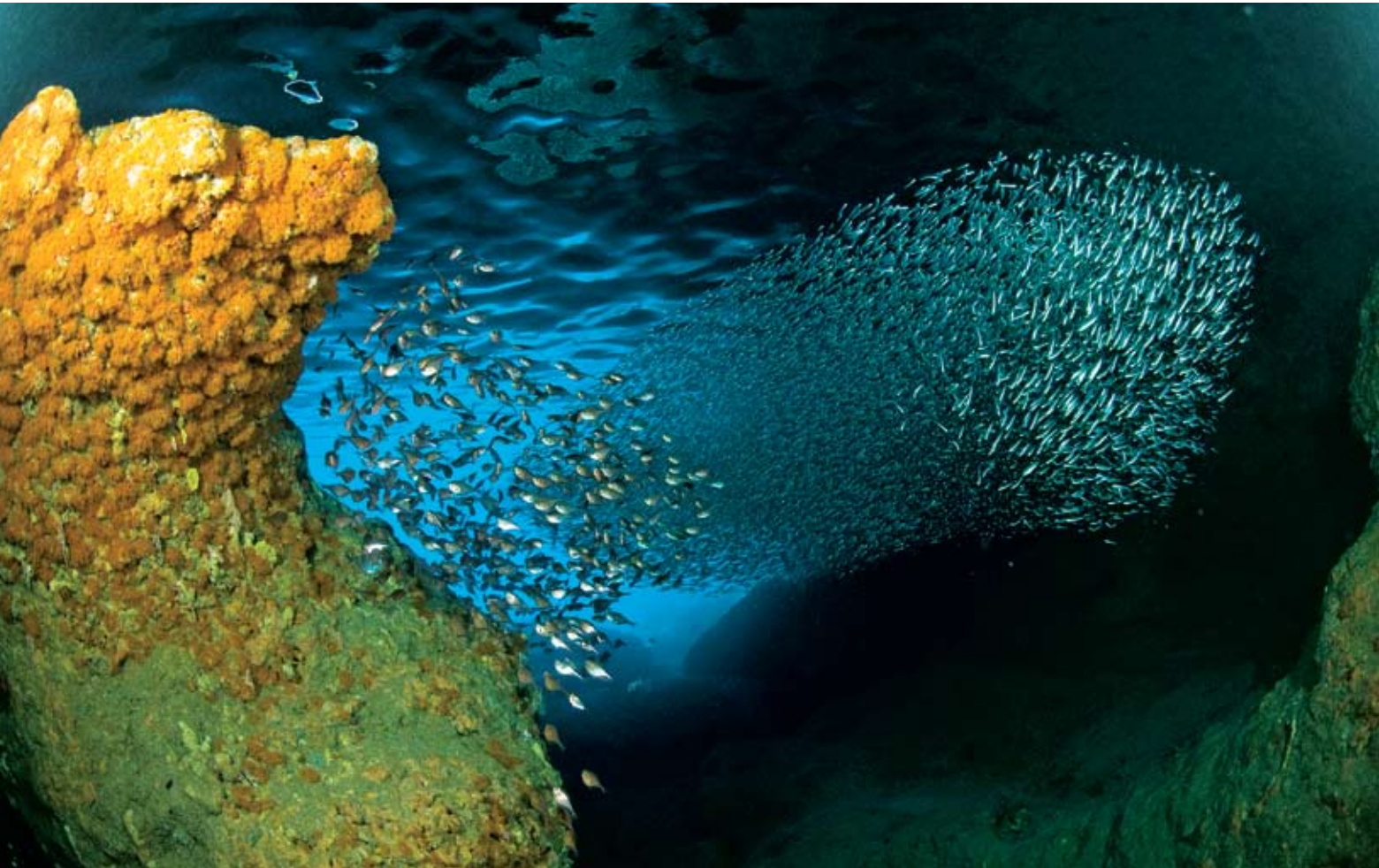


# World's Best Dives



## Simple Yet Mesmerizing

BLUE ROOM, CURAÇAO BY TY SAWYER

Along the northwest coast of Curaçao, the shoreline rises from the sea as a small, ragged cliff buttress topped with cactus. Through the years, the eroding ocean has undercut the land and small caverns have formed. From the outside, the Blue Room is barely noticeable — a small gap scarcely big enough to squeeze your head under, just above the surface of the water. If you were passing by on a boat, you'd easily miss it. But on the inside, the gap opens to an air-filled cavern effused with light so ethereal it feels alive. Inside the cavern, silversides swirl just below the surface like a tight bundle of confused mercury. At the back of the cavern, a rocky pinnacle rises

almost to the surface. A large school of copper-colored hatchet fish circles the rock encrusted with red- and orange-cup corals. Fin all the way to the back and look out. The effect is mesmerizing, as the small gap drops 20 feet to the seafloor, making the opening look huge. Inside, a surreal blue illumination wraps around you as silver, bright red and orange explode against the cerulean canvas. You'll want to stay forever.

**TO DIVE THE BLUE ROOM**, connect with Ocean Encounters West at [oceanencounterswest.com](http://oceanencounterswest.com) or visit [sportdiver.com/curacao](http://sportdiver.com/curacao) for more info.

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