



The Diving Club

Experience Boat Dives: Guide for Divers

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Location

The dives are conducted using RIBs from Fathom and Blues in Portland.

<http://www.fathomandblues.co.uk/index.html>

Don't forget!

Your **certification cards** may be requested - have them with you.

It is VERY unlikely that weather will prevent a dive as we stay within the harbour area, but if you have any doubts please call the dive leader the night before the dive to check that it is still on. Phone numbers and arrival times should have been supplied by the organiser.

Dive Date: ____ / ____ / _____ First Dive (Time): ____ : ____ hrs

Leader's Mobile number: _____

Your Responsibilities

Have Fun! We want the day to be fun as well as give you some valuable experience and encouragement towards your diving career. But there are some important things we need you to remember:

Always take heed of your training and follow your own judgment. You are responsible as a qualified diver for your own safety. The dive leader is there to help and offer the benefit of his/her experience but is not responsible for your safety. **This is YOUR dive and at YOUR discretion.**

Do not exceed your level of qualification. E.g. Depth, overhead environments and no decompression times.

Equipment and Air

You are responsible for providing all of your own kit. If you don't have your own equipment, we suggest you hire it before you go. There is a dive shop on site that could bail you out if you need to purchase anything at the last minute but it's best not to rely on this. **Divestyle** (<http://www.divestyle.co.uk/>) can do full kit hire if required before you go and offers the club discounts on purchases. It's worth making a check-list (see below) so you don't have to worry about forgetting anything as you load up the night before.

You'll only need one cylinder as you will be able to get a re-fill at the site between dives, should you need to. **Make sure your cylinder is full on arrival** for the first dive as it can be quite busy and fills can take a while.

It is highly recommended that you take a delayed surface marker buoy with you and use the opportunity to practice using it (if you haven't already). The nature of the sites should not require a DSMB, but it always pays to have one and it is ALWAYS recommended for UK sea diving. Most operators insist on at least one DSMB per buddy pair.

Consider taking a torch if you have one. It may help you to see what's in dark corners or just make it easier for your buddy to see you if the viz isn't so good!

Finally, it's always worth taking a warm hat for between dives and, if diving in a semi-dry, some warm clothing, just in case!

What to Expect

Above water

As this is a RIB dive, you will travel out fully kitted up and ready to dive. Get there in plenty of time to be ready - the times given are boat times - not arriving times! Expect a rolling entry off the side of the RIB. Getting back in will require that you undo and pass up your weight belt (hold the correct end!), then your BCD/Cylinder before climbing in.

You will be taken to a dive site in or around Portland harbour.

Typically we would expect 4 divers plus a dive leader and assistant to be on the boat.

Below water

Visibility can vary greatly due to local conditions around the time of the dive. Expect something in the region of 3m - 4m and you won't be disappointed!

The dives will be in relatively shallow water and no more than 18m. A lot of the locations are at 7 - 12m. The dive plan will be discussed between you and the dive leader before the dive.

Temperature will depend on the season. Make sure your exposure suit/under suit is suitable for the conditions – please ask if you aren't sure.

Let the dive leader know if there is something you want to practice, see or do on the dive or anything you are unsure of.

A Note about your Dive Leader

Is Not

There as your instructor (but may be one)
Being paid
There to provide equipment you forgot

Is

An experienced diver and club member
Willing to help and answer questions
Able to pass on experience of UK diving
Familiar with rescue skills but doesn't want to use them!

General Advice

We want you to get the most out of the day. Ask questions - and question answers!

Remember that the dive leaders experience and practices may differ from what you have been taught (different agency, advanced training, etc.). Their experience and qualifications may lead them to use techniques or equipment setups not taught on you OW or AOW courses. If they do, ask them about it, why they do it and how they learnt the technique.

Always remember to be your own judge. Consider what is right for you and your level of experience and... **enjoy the day**

Sample Check List

Dry Suit + Under suit / Semi-Dry
Weights
BCD
Cylinder(s)
Regs
Mask
Snorkel
Hood
Gloves
Fins
Coat

Dive Computer / Tables,
SMB and Reel
Certification Cards
Wooly Hat
Torch
Knife
Log Book
Contact Numbers
Directions
Food and Drink