About Diving (continued)

Contributed by Gunnar Last Updated Monday, 04 December 2006

How common are marine life attacks? Not common at all. Aquatic animals rarely attack humans.

Do I have to buy equipment? Most entry-level courses include rental dive equipment. You may already have your own snorkeling gear such as mask, snorkel, fins and wetsuit. If so, bring them. Less things to familiarize yourself with, more comfortable you'll be in water!

How do I prepare for a dive course? Buy a course manual at a nearby dive center. Open Water Diver Course Manual. Spend a couple of evenings at home to read the manual and answer questions. Knowledge Review. That way, the time you spend in a classroom will be minimal. You can spend more time to actually go diving, rather than studying in a classroom.

What do you do during the course? Open Water Diver Course

This is what you do during the course Knowledge Development Sessions

Knowledge Review Answer the Knowledge Review questions and turn them in. There are 5 chapters in the Open Water Diver Manual, and each chapter has a Knowledge Review.

Quizzes You will take 4 Quizzes to review what you've learned. The questions are similar to the Final Exam.

Final Exam Answer 50 multiple choice questions.

Water Skill Development Sessions

Confined Water Dives You will learn to master basic diving skills in shallow water.

Open Water Dives You will practice the same skills from the Confined Water Dives one more time in deeper water.

How do I sign up for a course?

Choose a location.

Where would you like to do your course? In your country or overseas? There are many dive places in the world such as Mediterranean, Red Sea, South East Asia, Caribbean, and Australia.

Choose time.

Check what time of the year is the best dive season in the area you plan to go. In some places it is not pleasant or safe to go diving during low seasons.

Choose a dive center.

Visit different dive centers. You'll often get the 'feel' for the place by being there in person. Check websites, if you don't have the possibility to walk into dive centers. Compare what they advertise. If they emphasize on small group instruction, you would normally expect maximum 4 to 6 people in a class. Small groups tend to be more relaxed. Large groups can be fun if you're fairly confident in learning diving. It's also a good way to meet people of same interest. It could nevertheless mean less attention from an instructor and less flexibility as it's not easy to hold up a whole group when someone needs more time.

Choose an instructor.

Ask the dive center about the instructors for your course. Are they patient? Are they experienced and empathetic, or new and enthusiastic? Could I meet them before I sign up? Could I have the same instructor stay on through the course? Could I request another instructor? Bring up any concerns or queries you have in mind.

....or write to us! Contact Us