

# PADI OPEN WATER DIVER

## PADI OPEN WATER COURSES INCLUDE:

5 Nights Safari Tent Accommodation - upgrade to a cabin at a discounted rate, or add meal packages \*\*

4 Training Dives, PADI Digital Materials & Certification

🖌 Full Equipment

Contact

EXCLUDES: Park Entrance & KZN Fees - payable at entry

email bookings@coraldivers.co.za visit www.coraldivers.co.za



You've probably seen photos and videos about diving, but until you do it yourself, you can't really understand what it's like.

Nothing on earth matches the sensations you experience – the thrill of breathing underwater, the freedom of "weightlessness", and all the unique sights and sounds.

Based in the iSimangaliso Wetland Park, there is a vast array of unspoiled coral reefs populated with a huge diversity of marine life. Over a year you can also experience the Marine Big 5 that includes Humpback Whales, nesting Sea Turtles, and the Ragged-tooth Sharks that seasonally visit Sodwana.

The PADI Open Water Diver certification opens these doors for you and much more. This is a full entry certification that allows you to dive internationally.

Your holidays will never be the same!

## **COURSE INFORMATION**

#### The PADI Open Water Diver certification qualifies you to:

- $_{\ddot{\gamma}}$  Dive independently while applying the knowledge and skills you learn on the course, within the limits of your PADI training and diving experience.
- Ϋ Purchase air fills, scuba equipment and other diving-related services.
- <sup>Ŷ</sup> Plan, conduct and log open water dives up to 18m when accompanied by a buddy in conditions with which you are familiar.
- <sup>ÿ</sup> Continue your diver training with the PADI Advanced Diver and/ or the PADI Specialty courses.

# There is no better location for learning to Scuba Dive!

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#### **Course Structure**

The PADI Open Water Diver course consists of three sections and each plays an important role.

The Knowledge Development Section covers the dive principles and basic information you need to know to dive safely. Study the PADI Open Water manual and watch the video. Multiple choice quizzes and a final knowledge review section, tests what you have learnt. Your instructor will go through the knowledge section with you, filling in any gaps.

There are two final multiple choice exams, one for theory and one for the dive table (RDP), which assess that you learnt. Your PADI manual is digital and is accessed via the PADI App. Why not get a head start on your studies before you arrive? This could help reduce the length of the course, giving you more chances to dive after the course (you get free gear hire when doing dives straight after your course!) Ask our reservations office for further details on bookings@coraldivers.co.za.

\*\*For an additional cost, you can purchase a 'PADI Premium Product' for a fully interactional experience. With this, you can even take and pass the exam online... Ask us for more details.

Confined Water Dives are where the fun really begins! You will complete 5 Confined Water Sessions in our pool (heated in winter), during which you learn and practice diving skills under the direct supervision of your instructor. You will also need to do a 10 minute float and 200m swim.

Your 4 Open Water Dives complete your training as diver, by further developing your knowledge and dive skills. These 4 dives will be done on 2 Mile Reef (max 18m). After completing skills, you can finish the dive by experiencing the incredible marine life found in Sodwana Bay.



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

To qualify for the PADI Open Water Diver course, you must:

Be 10 years of age or older. Students under the age of 15 years will receive the PADI Junior Open Water certification (restrictions apply). Anyone aged under 18 years will require a parent/guardian to complete and sign some paperwork.

Complete the PADI Medical Statement and if you answer "yes" to any of the questions, you must acquire a clearance certificate for diving signed by a doctor stating that you are 'fit to dive'. The certificate must be valid within 12 months. The doctor signing the form cannot be the individual.

### INCLUDES

Free accommodation for 5 nights in a safari tent. Our safari tents are basic budget accommodation and you need to bring your own bedding. You may upgrade to a Standard Cabin or Ensuite Cabin if you prefer. \*Please enquire as to the surcharge for this. Full equipment hire is included in the course price, as well as the online PADI Open Water Diver e-manual and your PADI certification.

Catering is not included, but can be provided on a dinner and breakfast basis if you wish to add this. Please note that our course price does not include the iSimangaliso Park Gate Entry fee, the daily KZN Wildlife fee, or the MPA permit for divers. Our Reservations staff can assist you with a quote covering these fees.

## **EXTRA OPTIONS**

Once you have completed your Open Water Diver course, you are eligible to continue directly on to your Advanced Diver course if you like. This will provide you with a varied skill set and increase your confidence as a diver. However, the course takes 3 days, so if you are looking for shorter alternatives, we recommend the PADI Specialty courses available.

#### Your best options are:

#### PADI Enriched Air Diver (Nitrox)

Once you have completed your Open Water Diver course, you can look at becoming Nitrox qualified with PADI's most popular specialty course. As you learn in the Open Water Diver course, nitrogen absorption is one of the things that limits our ability to explore underwater. Enriched Air Nitrox allows you to: ŸExtend your bottom time (how much time you can spend underwater)

ŸShorten surface intervals (time you wait between dives)

ŸDive deeper on repetitive dives (when doing more than one dive a day)

If you are planning on doing a Liveaboard Holiday, then this is definitely the specialty course for you! Duration is 1 day.

#### PADI Underwater Naturalist

This 1-day course is a great option for learning more about the underwater environment. If you are fascinated by what you'll see, then you'll love this course which includes 2 nights and 2 dives.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

#### Where is Coral Divers?

We are situated inside the iSimangaliso Wetland Park in northern KwaZulu-Natal. We are about a 4,5hr drive north of Durban and a 9hr drive from Johannesburg. Maps and directions are to be found on our website. Many GPS and Google Maps show that turning off the N2 towards Jozini, as the route to take. Please do not take this route, as it is heavily congested in Jozini and the road is in a bad state. The only road to take is the tarred road route via the town of Hluhluwe on the R22.

#### Do we get time off?

The first two days are pretty full, but you will have short breaks in between. The last 2 days are less busy.. Diving takes place in the morning, so you will have the afternoons off on the days you dive.

#### What is the accommodation like?

Your course includes FREE safari tent accommodation for 5 nights. You are most welcome to extend this, or upgrade to one of our cabins if you prefer. The rate for the upgrade is the difference in price between a tent and cabin depending on which season you book in. Extra nights are charged at the full room rate. Each tent has twin beds with mattresses, but you will need to either bring your own bedding or request bedding when booking. There is an electric light, but no plug points in the tent. NB: If you prefer not to take the offer of a free safari tent, the course price remains the same.

#### What is the restaurant menu like?

Diving can leave you with an appetite, so we are sure you will enjoy the varied menu available at our licensed restaurant. You can opt for our daily buffet if you would like to have dinner & breakfast included. \*\*Please advise us of any special dietary requirement before you arrive.

#### What shops are in the area?

There is a small Spar shop within the park (1km from Coral) where you can buy snacks and amenities. There is an ATM to draw money here too. Alternatively, Mbazwana (15km from Coral) has a large Spar & PEP. There is also a doctor and small pharmacy.

#### Can I use a 2x4 vehicle to get there?

Most cars make it to Sodwana easily (from a 4x4 to a Chevy Spark). However, please note that you are in a marine reserve with sandy roads inside the park, so avoid really low suspensions or very hard tyres.

#### How old must I be?

Anyone over the age of 10 years may do the course. The junior rating is for ages 10-14 and from 15 and up, the full PADI rating is given.

#### Do I need a medical?

We need to ensure that everyone will be safe when diving therefore you are required to fill in the Dive Medical form, truthfully selecting the answers to questions on your health. If your answer raises concerns, you will need to do the PADI medical check-up at your doctor. The doctor must sign and state that you are 'fit to scuba dive'. Please bring the signed medical with you.













#### **Diver Medical** | Participant Questionnaire

Recreational scuba diving and freediving requires good physical and mental health. There are a few medical conditions which can be hazardous while diving, listed below. Those who have, or are predisposed to, any of these conditions, should be evaluated by a physician. This Diver Medical Participant Questionnaire provides a basis to determine if you should seek out that evaluation. If you have any concerns about your diving fitness not represented on this form, consult with your physician before diving. If you are feeling ill, avoid diving. If you think you may have a contagious disease, protect yourself and others by not participating in dive training and/ or dive activities. References to "diving" on this form encompass both recreational scuba diving and freediving. This form is principally designed as an initial medical screen for new divers, but is also appropriate for divers taking continuing education. For your safety, and that of others who may dive with you, answer all questions honestly.

#### Directions

#### Complete this questionnaire as a prerequisite to a recreational scuba diving or freediving course.

Note to women: If you are pregnant, or attempting to become pregnant, do not dive.

1	I have had problems with my lungs, breathing, heart and/or blood affecting my normal physical or mental performance.		
			No 🗆
2	I am over 45 years of age.		
			No 🗆
3	I struggle to perform moderate exercise (for example, walk 1.6 kilometer/one mile in 14 minutes or swim 200 meters/yards without resting), OR I have been unable to participate in a normal physical activity due to fitness or health reasons within the past 12 months.	Yes □*	No 🗆
4	I have had problems with my eyes, ears, or nasal passages/sinuses.	Yes □ Go to box <b>C</b>	No 🗆
5	I have had surgery within the last 12 months, OR I have ongoing problems related to past surgery.	Yes □*	No 🗆
	I have lost consciousness, had migraine headaches, seizures, stroke, significant head injury, or suffer from persistent neurologic injury or disease.		No 🗆
6			
	I am currently undergoing treatment (or have required treatment within the last five years) for psychological problems, personality disorder, panic attacks, or an addiction to drugs or alcohol; or, I have been diagnosed with a learning or developmental disability.		No 🗆
7			
		Yes □ Go to	
8	I have had back problems, hernia, ulcers, or diabetes.		No 🗆
9		Yes □ Go to	
	I have had stomach or intestine problems, including recent diarrhea.		No 🗆
10	I am taking prescription medications (with the exception of birth control or anti-malarial drugs other than mefloquine (Lariam).	Yes □*	No 🗆

#### Participant Signature

If you answered NO to all 10 questions above, a medical evaluation is not required. Please read and agree to the participant statement below by signing and dating it.

Participant Statement: I have answered all questions honestly, and understand that I accept responsibility for any consequences resulting from any questions I may have answered inaccurately or for my failure to disclose any existing or past health conditions.

Participant Signature (or, if a minor, participant's parent/guardian signature required.

Date (dd/mm/yyyy)

Participant Name (Print)

Birthdate (dd/mm/yyyy)

Instructor Name (Print)

Facility Name (Print)

\* If you answered YES to questions 3, 5 or 10 above OR to any of the questions on page 2, please read and agree to the statement above by signing and dating it AND take all three pages of this form (Participant Questionnaire and the Physician's Evaluation Form) to your physician for a medical evaluation. Participation in a diving course requires your physician's approval.

(Print)

Date (dd/mm/yyyy)

### **Diver Medical** | Participant Questionnaire Continued

BOX A – I HAVE/HAVE HAD:				
Chest surgery, heart surgery, heart valve surgery, an implantable medical device (eg, stent, pacemaker, neurostimulator), pneumothorax, and/or chronic lung disease.	Yes □*	No 🗆		
Asthma, wheezing, severe allergies, hay fever or congested airways within the last 12 months that limits my physical activity/exercise.	Yes□*	No 🗆		
A problem or illness involving my heart such as: angina, chest pain on exertion, heart failure, immersion pulmonary edema, heart attack or stroke, OR am taking medication for any heart condition.				
Recurrent bronchitis and currently coughing within the past 12 months, OR have been diagnosed with emphysema.	Yes □*	No 🗆		
Symptoms affecting my lungs, breathing, heart and/or blood in the last 30 days that impair my physical or mental performance.	Yes□*	No 🗆		
BOX B – I AM OVER 45 YEARS OF AGE AND:				
I currently smoke or inhale nicotine by other means.	Yes □*	No 🗆		
I have a high cholesterol level.	Yes □*	No 🗆		
I have high blood pressure.	Yes □*	No 🗆		
I have had a close blood relative die suddenly or of cardiac disease or stroke before the age of 50, OR have a family history of heart disease before age 50 (including abnormal heart rhythms, coronary artery disease or cardiomyopathy).	Yes□*	No 🗆		
BOX C – I HAVE/HAVE HAD:				
Sinus surgery within the last 6 months.	Yes □*	No 🗆		
Ear disease or ear surgery, hearing loss, or problems with balance.	Yes□*	No 🗆		
Recurrent sinusitis within the past 12 months.	Yes □*	No 🗆		
Eye surgery within the past 3 months.	Yes □*	No 🗆		
BOX D – I HAVE/HAVE HAD:				
Head injury with loss of consciousness within the past 5 years.	Yes □*	No 🗆		
Persistent neurologic injury or disease.	Yes □*	No 🗆		
Recurring migraine headaches within the past 12 months, or take medications to prevent them.	Yes □*	No 🗆		
Blackouts or fainting (full/partial loss of consciousness) within the last 5 years.	Yes□*	No 🗆		
Epilepsy, seizures, or convulsions, OR take medications to prevent them.	Yes □*	No 🗆		
BOX E – I HAVE/HAVE HAD:				
Behavioral health, mental or psychological problems requiring medical/psychiatric treatment.	Yes □*	No 🗆		
Major depression, suicidal ideation, panic attacks, uncontrolled bipolar disorder requiring medication/psychiatric treatment.	Yes□*	No 🗆		
Been diagnosed with a mental health condition or a learning/developmental disorder that requires ongoing care or special accommodation.	Yes □*	No 🗆		
An addiction to drugs or alcohol requiring treatment within the last 5 years.	Yes □*	No 🗆		
BOX F – I HAVE/HAVE HAD:				
Recurrent back problems in the last 6 months that limit my everyday activity.	Yes□*	No 🗆		
Back or spinal surgery within the last 12 months.	Yes □*	No 🗆		
Diabetes, either drug or diet controlled, OR gestational diabetes within the last 12 months.	Yes □*	No 🗆		
An uncorrected hernia that limits my physical abilities.	Yes □*	No 🗆		
Active or untreated ulcers, problem wounds, or ulcer surgery within the last 6 months.	Yes□*	No 🗆		
BOX G – I HAVE HAD:				
Ostomy surgery and do not have medical clearance to swim or engage in physical activity.	Yes □*	No 🗆		
Dehydration requiring medical intervention within the last 7 days.	Yes □*	No 🗆		
Active or untreated stomach or intestinal ulcers or ulcer surgery within the last 6 months.	Yes□*	No 🗆		
Frequent heartburn, regurgitation, or gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD).	Yes □*	No 🗆		
Active or uncontrolled ulcerative colitis or Crohn's disease.	Yes □*	No 🗆		
Bariatric surgery within the last 12 months.	Yes □*	No 🗆		

### Diver Medical | Medical Examiner's Evaluation Form

Participant Name	Birthdate	
	(Print)	Date (dd/mm/yyyy)
	on requests your opinion of his/her medical suitability to par e visit <u>uhms.org</u> for medical guidance on medical conditio art of your evaluation.	
Evaluation Re	sult	
Approved – I find no	conditions that I consider incompatible with recreational scu	uba diving or freediving.
Not approved – I fin	d conditions that I consider incompatible with recreational s	scuba diving or freediving.
Signature of certifie	ed medical doctor or other legally certified medical provider	Date (dd/mm/yyyy)
Medical Examiner's Na	me	
	(Print)	
Clinical Degrees/Crede	ntials	
Clinic/Hospital		
Address		
Phone	Email	
	Physician/Clinic Stamp (optional)	
	Created by the <u>Diver Medical Screen Committee</u> in a following bodies:	ssociation with the
	The Undersea & Hyperbaric Medical Society	
	DAN (US) DAN Europe	
	Hyperbaric Medicine Division, University of Califo	rnia, San Diego