Scuba diving waiver

Participation in scuba diving

I voluntarily choose to participate, or give permission for the diver named in this form to participate, in scuba diving activities provided or organised by **[Dive Operator Name]**.

Scuba diving activities may include:

- Guided shore or boat dives, including drift, wall, wreck or night dives where offered
- Introductory try-dives and pool or confined-water sessions
- Training courses, refresher sessions and skills practice
- Boat travel to and from dive sites, and entering and leaving the water from a boat or shore
- Use of rented or personal scuba equipment and breathing gas supplied by the dive operator

I understand that participation is voluntary and that the diver may end a dive at any time by signalling their buddy or dive leader and making a safe ascent.

The dive operator may refuse, restrict or end participation, change a dive site or cancel a dive if it reasonably believes that a diver cannot dive safely, has failed to follow instructions or that conditions are unsuitable.

Bookings, deposits and fees remain subject to the dive operator’s cancellation and refund policies, including any policy for dives cancelled because of weather, sea conditions or fitness to dive.

Certification and diver eligibility

I confirm that the diver meets the dive operator’s minimum age and participation requirements.

I confirm that the certification level, number of logged dives and date of last dive given in this form are accurate. I will show my certification card and logbook, or other proof, if asked.

I will dive only within the limits of my training and experience, and will not take part in a dive that requires training or certification I do not hold, such as a deep, wreck, night or enriched-air dive.

If I have not dived recently, I agree that the dive operator may require a check dive or refresher before I take part in further dives.

If I am not certified, I understand that I may dive only as part of an introductory programme or training course, and only under the direct supervision of an instructor and within the limits they set.

Where I sign for a minor or another person who cannot legally provide their own consent, I confirm that I am their parent, legal guardian or otherwise legally authorised to provide consent on their behalf.

Medical fitness to dive

I agree to complete the dive operator's diving medical questionnaire truthfully before diving and to update it if my health changes.

I understand that if I answer yes to any question in the questionnaire, or if I have a condition that may affect my fitness to dive, I may not dive until a physician has assessed me and has signed a written statement that I am fit to dive. The dive operator may also ask for this at its discretion.

I understand that some conditions may stop a person from diving safely even when they feel well, including lung, heart, ear and sinus conditions, seizures, recent surgery and some medication.

I will not dive with a cold, congestion, ear or sinus problem, or any illness or injury that could stop me from equalising or from responding to an emergency.

I understand that the dive operator is not a medical provider and that accepting my questionnaire or a physician's statement is not a medical judgment about my fitness to dive.

Scuba diving risks

I understand that scuba diving involves breathing compressed gas underwater, in an environment where a person cannot simply stop and surface if something goes wrong.

Serious illness or injury may occur even when a dive is planned correctly and all limits and rules are followed, and symptoms may not appear until after the dive.

Possible risks include:

- Decompression illness, including decompression sickness and arterial gas embolism
- Lung over-expansion injury from breath-holding or rapid ascent
- Barotrauma of the ears, sinuses, lungs, teeth or mask area, including burst eardrum
- Nitrogen narcosis, which can impair judgment and awareness at depth
- Oxygen toxicity, particularly when using enriched-air mixtures, and contaminated breathing gas
- Running out of air or having a regulator free-flow or fail
- Equipment failure, entanglement or trapping in lines, nets, kelp or wrecks
- Panic, disorientation, loss of buoyancy control and uncontrolled ascent or descent
- Being separated from my buddy or the dive group
- Being carried away by currents or drifting away from the boat
- Being struck by a boat or its propeller at the surface
- Cuts, stings, bites and other injuries from coral and marine life
- Hypothermia, seasickness, dehydration and exhaustion
- Slips and falls on boats, ladders and rocky shore entries, and injury from heavy equipment

- Drowning or near drowning
- Serious injury, permanent disability or death

I understand that dive sites may be remote and that a recompression chamber, hospital or other emergency care may be hours away, by boat or otherwise.

I understand that the dive operator cannot eliminate every risk associated with scuba diving, and that a dive leader cannot watch every diver at every moment.

I voluntarily accept the ordinary and inherent risks of participation.

Dive planning, depth and computer limits

I agree to attend the dive briefing and to dive to the plan agreed for the site, including maximum depth, bottom time and turn pressure.

I agree to use a dive computer or other method that the dive operator accepts, and I understand how to read it.

I agree to:

- Stay within the no-decompression limits of my dive computer, and never make a planned decompression dive unless the dive operator has approved it and I hold the right training
- Stay within the maximum depth of my training, the dive plan and the gas I am breathing
- Follow the ascent rate shown by my computer or set in the briefing, and make the recommended safety stop
- Plan repeat dives within my computer’s limits, with adequate surface intervals and the deepest dive first where possible
- Avoid sharing one computer between divers, and avoid switching computers between dives
- Return to the surface with the reserve of breathing gas set in the briefing
- Tell a dive leader immediately if my computer shows a violation, a missed stop or an alarm

I understand that a dive computer is a mathematical model and does not guarantee that decompression illness will not occur. Fatigue, dehydration, cold, exertion and individual physiology can increase the risk.

If I break a limit, I may be asked not to dive again for a period set by the dive operator.

Buddy system and in-water rules

I agree to dive with an assigned buddy or in the group set by the dive operator, and I will not dive alone unless the dive operator has approved this and I hold suitable training.

I agree to:

- Complete a full pre-dive safety check with my buddy before every dive, including air on, weights, releases and alternate air source
- Stay close enough to my buddy to reach them and share air straight away
- Agree hand signals, gas checks and lost-buddy procedures before entering the water
- Follow the lost-buddy procedure in the briefing, and surface if we are separated and cannot quickly reunite
- Never hold my breath while breathing compressed gas, and breathe continuously during every ascent
- Equalise early and often, and stop or ascend slightly if I cannot clear my ears
- Monitor my gas supply often and signal early if I am running low, so that an out-of-air emergency does not develop
- Use my surface marker, whistle or other signalling device as instructed

I agree not to enter wrecks, caves or overhead environments, touch or collect marine life or artefacts, feed marine life, or leave the dive group unless the dive plan and the dive operator allow it.

The dive operator may remove any diver who ignores safety rules or behaves recklessly, without a refund where a serious breach has occurred.

Equipment

I agree to check all equipment before each dive, and to report any fault, leak or free-flow immediately.

I agree to use rented equipment only as shown and to look after it. I may be charged for damage beyond ordinary wear, and for equipment that is lost or not returned.

If I use my own equipment, I confirm that it is in good working order and has been serviced in line with the manufacturer’s recommendations. The dive operator may refuse to allow any equipment it considers unsafe.

I will weight myself correctly and carry out a buoyancy check where the dive operator requires it.

If I use enriched air or another mixed gas, I confirm that I hold suitable certification, that I will analyse the gas myself and record the result, and that I will set my computer to match.

I understand that a personal locator or surface marker may be required at some sites, and that failing to carry one can stop me from diving.

Dive site, boat and water conditions

I understand that visibility, currents, surge, temperature and sea state can change during a dive and may be different from those described in the briefing.

I understand that dives may involve drifting, thermoclines, overhangs, deep water, cold water, poor visibility and marine life that may be dangerous if disturbed.

On boat dives, I agree to:

- Follow crew instructions on boarding, moving around the boat, kitting up and entering the water
- Enter the water only when told that the area is clear
- Stay clear of the propeller and wait for instructions before approaching the boat
- Inflate my buoyancy device and deploy a surface marker when at the surface, and wait away from the ladder until it is clear
- Remain visible and stay together if I surface away from the boat

On shore dives, I understand that I must assess entries and exits, surf and tide with the dive leader, and that I may need to abort a dive if conditions change.

The dive operator or boat captain may decide to change or cancel a dive at any time, and I will follow that decision.

After the dive and flying after diving

I understand that symptoms of decompression illness can appear after a dive, sometimes hours later, and can include joint pain, numbness, unusual tiredness, dizziness, rash, breathing problems or confusion.

I will tell the dive operator immediately and seek urgent medical help if I have any such symptoms, even if they seem minor or go away. I will not attempt to treat them by going back underwater.

I agree not to fly or travel to altitude until I have completed the pre-flight surface interval recommended by my training, my dive computer or the dive operator, whichever is the longest.

I am responsible for planning my travel so that I can keep to that interval, and I understand that the dive operator may refuse dives that do not leave enough time before my flight.

I understand that strenuous exercise, dehydration, alcohol and hot baths or saunas straight after diving may be unsafe, and that I should avoid them.

I understand that I should consider holding insurance that covers scuba diving, including emergency evacuation and recompression treatment, and that I may be responsible for those costs.

Physical condition and health

I agree to inform the dive operator about any condition that may affect safe participation, including:

- A current injury or physical limitation
- Lung conditions, including asthma, a previous collapsed lung or chest surgery
- Heart, circulation or blood-pressure conditions
- Ear, sinus or balance problems, including a recent cold or congestion
- Epilepsy, seizures, fainting or loss of consciousness
- Diabetes
- Previous decompression illness or another diving injury
- Anxiety, panic attacks or claustrophobia
- Back or spinal problems, or difficulty carrying heavy equipment
- Recent surgery or medical treatment
- Pregnancy or possible pregnancy
- Medication that affects alertness, judgment or breathing, or a medication with warnings about pressure or diving
- A restriction recommended by a healthcare professional

I understand that staff are not medical professionals unless expressly stated otherwise.

I will stop and inform a staff member if I experience pain, dizziness, breathing difficulty, unusual weakness or another concerning symptom.

Alcohol, drugs and impairment

I will not participate while impaired by:

- Alcohol
- Recreational or illegal drugs
- Medication that affects judgment, coordination or alertness
- Fatigue, illness or another condition that makes participation unsafe

I understand that the dive operator may refuse or end participation if it reasonably believes that a diver is impaired.

Alcohol and drugs can impair judgment, increase dehydration and make decompression illness and nitrogen narcosis more dangerous. The dive operator may refuse to let anyone dive, even after a booking has been paid for, if it reasonably believes that they are under the influence or have been drinking heavily before a dive.

Personal belongings

I understand that clothing and personal belongings may become dirty, wet, damaged, lost or stolen.

I am responsible for protecting phones, jewellery, glasses, clothing and other personal property.

To the fullest extent permitted by applicable law, the dive operator is not responsible for ordinary loss or damage to personal belongings unless caused by liability that cannot legally be excluded.

Emergency assistance

If the diver becomes ill or injured, I authorise the dive operator and its staff to:

- Provide reasonable first aid
- Stop the diver from continuing
- Contact an emergency contact
- Contact emergency medical services
- Arrange transportation to an appropriate healthcare facility
- Share relevant information with emergency responders
- Take reasonable action to protect the diver’s immediate safety

I understand that the dive operator cannot guarantee that an emergency contact will be reached before assistance is provided.

I accept responsibility for medical, ambulance and treatment expenses unless applicable law or legally established liability requires otherwise.

Assumption of risk

I knowingly and voluntarily accept the ordinary and inherent risks associated with scuba diving.

I accept responsibility for injuries, losses or complications caused or materially contributed to by:

- Relevant information I concealed or provided inaccurately
- A false or incomplete medical questionnaire or certification details
- A health condition or limitation I failed to disclose
- My failure to follow the dive plan, briefing or staff instructions
- Diving beyond my training, certification or dive computer limits
- My failure to maintain contact with my buddy or monitor my gas supply
- Flying or travelling to altitude before completing the recommended surface interval
- My incorrect or unauthorised use of scuba equipment or breathing gas

- My reckless, unlawful or prohibited conduct
- My participation while impaired or medically unfit

Liability release

To the fullest extent permitted by applicable law, I release **[Dive Operator Name]** and its owners, directors, dive leaders, instructors, boat crew, dive centre staff, employees, contractors and representatives from claims arising solely from:

- Ordinary and inherent scuba diving risks knowingly accepted in this form, including decompression illness, barotrauma and nitrogen narcosis
- Relevant information I concealed or provided inaccurately, including in my medical questionnaire or certification details
- My failure to follow reasonable safety rules or instructions
- Diving beyond my training, certification or dive computer limits
- Incorrect or unauthorised use of scuba equipment or breathing gas
- My reckless, unlawful or prohibited conduct
- The conduct of another diver or water user where it was outside the dive operator’s reasonable control

This release does not exclude or limit liability that cannot legally be excluded or limited.

It does not apply to fraud, intentional misconduct, gross negligence, reckless conduct, breaches of mandatory safeguarding duties, violations of mandatory consumer rights or any other liability that applicable law prohibits the dive operator from waiving.

Privacy and recordkeeping

I understand that the dive operator may collect and retain information where reasonably necessary to:

- Register and identify divers
- Confirm consent and eligibility
- Manage bookings and activities
- Understand relevant health or support needs
- Maintain safety and incident records
- Respond to injuries, complaints or legal claims
- Meet insurance, safeguarding and legal obligations

Information will be handled according to the dive operator’s privacy notice and applicable data-protection laws.

Final declaration

By completing and signing this form, I confirm that:

- I have read and understood the entire waiver.
- The information provided is complete and accurate.
- I understand that scuba diving may cause serious injury or death.
- I understand and accept the ordinary and inherent risks.
- My certification level, experience and date of last dive are stated accurately.
- I have completed the medical questionnaire truthfully and obtained a physician’s sign-off where it was required.
- I will dive within my training and my dive computer’s limits.
- I will follow the buddy system, the dive plan and all staff instructions.
- I will not fly or travel to altitude before completing the recommended surface interval.
- I will report any symptom of decompression illness immediately and seek medical help.
- I will not dive while impaired or medically unfit.
- I authorise reasonable emergency assistance, including evacuation and recompression treatment, where necessary.
- I had an opportunity to ask questions before signing.
- Participation is voluntary.
- I understand that this form does not remove rights or protections that cannot legally be waived.

Diver completion

Contact details

First name *

Last name *

Phone

Email *

Certification level (select all that apply) *

- [ ] Not certified, taking an introductory dive or training course
- [ ] Entry-level open water certification
- [ ] Advanced open water certification
- [ ] Rescue diver certification
- [ ] Dive leader or instructor certification
- [ ] Enriched-air certification
- [ ] Other specialty certification

Certification agency and diver number (write “None” if not certified) *

Number of logged dives and date of last dive (write “None” if this is your first dive) *

Medical statement *

- ◯ I completed the dive operator’s diving medical questionnaire truthfully and answered no to every question
- ◯ I answered yes to one or more questions and hold a physician’s written approval to dive
- ◯ I answered yes to one or more questions and will not dive until I have a physician’s written approval

☐ I have read, understood and agree to the Scuba Diving Liability Waiver and Assumption of Risk above. I confirm that the information provided is accurate, that I am authorised to sign for the diver where applicable and that I voluntarily accept the risks of scuba diving. *

Signature *