

A Simple Guide To Dive Planning.

The following shows 6 areas that should be considered when planning and organising dives, whether for recreation or training.

1. WHY ?

What type of diving do you wish to do ?

1. A Training dive.
2. A Wreck dive.
3. A Scenic dive.
4. An Exploratory dive.

2. WHERE ?

You're organising the dive, so it's really up to you, but do try to take the following into account.

1. Is it suitable for the type of diving you wish to do ?
2. Are there any restrictive dive times ?
3. Is there easy access ?
4. Will the dive be suitable for all taking part ?
5. Is there a compressor near by ?
6. Will you need the use of a club RIB or hard boat ?
7. Can RIB's be launched and retrieved at high \ low tides.
8. Do you need charts for the area.

3. WHEN ?

Again it's your choice, but you have to try to be a little flexible.

1. Are there other dives on your date ? Check the notice board for dives Already planned.
2. If it's a sea dive, you'll have to check a set of tide tables for that area, for the best possible launch and dive times.
3. If your chosen dive site is a distance away, will accommodation be required ? Local Tourist Information Offices always have good B & B guides and ask around the Club, maybe others have been before.
4. If you need the club RIB's are they available ? Check in the Boat Officers diary.
5. Always try to be flexible when organising a dive. Don't give up when you encounter problems – work around them !

4. COST ?

The cost of dives vary, depending on the type of dive you wish to do. These might include the following -

1. Boat Hire.
2. Launch & Harbour fees.
3. Fuel – RIB & towing costs.
4. Accommodation.
5. Food.
6. Ferry crossings.
7. Charts of the area.

After you have costed your dive and divided it by the number of divers going, make sure you get a good deposit off everybody well in advance.

5.HOW ?

Most of the information you will need to plan and organise a dive can be found by looking in dive guides, dive magazines, tide tables, charts, and if the area has a local dive club give them a ring. But the best place to answer any questions or queries you may have is right here in your very own club ! We have years and years of diving experience under our own club, so just ask around.

Right, so now you have collected all the bits of information you need, what you need to do is present it to the Diving Officer who'll check over everything with you and make sure that everything is in order and most importantly of all - safe.

Once you have their ok, it's time to put up your Dive Notice, these can be found at the desk or in the compressor house – see attached for an example. Don't forget if you need to limit the number of divers who can go, have a reserve list so if anyone does drop out your not left short.

A few weeks before your dive date check your notice for response. Don't be disappointed if there are not very many names on your notice, it could just mean that people are busy on that date so ask around to see if a change of date would help.

6. WHO ?

Once you have collected enough names on your list, you need to select divers who are best qualified to do certain tasks i.e.

1. A dive Marshal – A responsible diver who will over see your diving arrangements.
2. Boat Handler \ Cox – 2 for each RIB.
3. Instructors – for training.
4. Oxy Administrator – for emergencies.
5. VHF Radio Operator – for reporting to the coast guard.
6. Somebody who is willing to tow.

All the people with these qualifications should be on the club notice board.

Ask your appointed Dive Marshal their opinion about your selections and any other queries you may have. When Budding pairs together, try to pair people with the same interests, qualifications, air consumption rate, but most importantly make sure that your divers are happy diving together and confident with their buddies abilities.

Lastly, make sure that everybody knows where they are going, have a map, time schedule, a list of mobile phone numbers and a lift if they need one. Also you could get a list of Emergency contact telephone numbers for everybody.

The days before your dive check the weather forecast – see attached, and if it looks bad don't be worried about calling your dive off. Nobody will moan because it's for their own good and you could always have a back up dive site in land or just prospone your dive for a week.

Remember if you have any problems don't be afraid to ask !!!!!

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AP \ CL.