



Scuba Zone “Mediterranean Sea” Training Package

Many people want to learn to Scuba dive, but don't want to spend valuable holiday time in classrooms studying, or in swimming pools practising skills.

The most common solution is the “**open water referral**”, where academics and pool training are conducted in London, and Scuba-Zone issue a PADI referral certificate allowing the student to complete the four open water dives required for certification as a PADI open water diver any PADI centre globally.

Alternatively, many people choose to spend a weekend completing their **open water dives in the UK**, enabling them to gain their certification before going on holiday.

We look to offer a “self contained referral” alternative that allows students to complete their academic and pool training in London, and then spend some sunny days in the med completing their open water.

We believe there are many benefits:

- ⇒ **Academics and pool training scheduled to suit you**
- ⇒ **Academics and pool training do not take valuable holiday time**
- ⇒ **Scuba Zone Instructors travel with you to complete your open water training giving greater continuity, familiarity and putting you more at ease**
- ⇒ **Open water training need not take valuable holiday time, in fact it can be just a long weekend (an extra holiday!) before your take your main break**
- ⇒ **Alternatively you can take a weeks training package and make this a very cost-effective additional holiday where you learn to dive**
- ⇒ **You gain not only “Open Water” but “Adventure Diver” or “Advanced Diver” certification, building your confidence and competence, while having fun**

First and foremost, this is FUN:

Virtually all of our staff have taken several personal med trips because it is a great diving location, close to home, where a good social life can be combined with diving. You will do some training, but you should regard this as a short holiday.

We believe this is one of the best ways to learn to dive:

There is value to the continuity of training afforded by taking the additional steps toward certification with the same team. Our Med packages give you the chance to really get the flavour of a diving holiday and experience diving “just for fun” on the the “adventure” dives, accompanied again by experienced instructors. You can try wreck dives, night dives, photography dives, etc., in some great diving locations. You will have the chance to make 8 to 12 dives in total, rather than the 4 dives required for “Open Water” certification.

We seek to make this really cost effective:

The package includes flights, transfers, accommodation, equipment and dives. An open water course costs £350, an adventure diver course £150, advanced £250. Our packages contains at least £500/£600 of training and certification, for an all-in cost from about £750!

We include all equipment:

....except mask, fins and snorkel, where we offer several discounted packages. If we are planning a night dive (typically we do) we also ask you to buy yourself a dive torch, whilst we provide a strobe, etc.

How do we do it at the price?

We really do not think you will find this quality of trip, including this level of training, at a better price, nor could you construct it yourself, cheaper. We do not aim to make money out of the trip/flights/accommodation, we are not a “travel agent”, we are a Dive centre. We get some bulk purchasing economies which help lower the price. We believe that by making this easy & cost effective we will sell “Open Water” courses that we might not sell otherwise, because we recognise that not everyone wants to learn in UK waters. By combining confined water training, open water training, adventure or advanced training, we effectively build in group/package discounts to the training prices.

- a) We believe that a good diving experience with Scuba-Zone will lead to repeat custom and an expanding “club base”
- b) we get to go on more diving trips to the med, more holidays for us!

We do not cut corners:

We don't economise on equipment – typically we will take all our own school equipment with us and this includes a dedicated dive computer per student.

We have a high instructor to student ratio, typically less than 75% of that permitted, and often one PADI pro per 3/4 students, about double the minimum requirement.

You will typically do more dives than are required for certification, and get hands on one-on-one tuition where appropriate. You will not be “processed” in a dive factory!

Safety

Scuba Diving has an excellent safety record, and we go the extra distance to give you confidence that you are in safe hands. We adhere to best practices regarding both diving itself and equipment used. We train using solely the PADI system, following the standards to the letter – there is no “corner cutting”. Scuba Zone and all training staff are certified by PADI, have “current teaching status” and are professionally insured. They are up to date with the latest training requirements, well versed in problem solving, rescue and first aid skills. It goes without saying that we conform to Health and Safety Executive (HSE) standards, (all pro's have current HSE medicals, we always dive properly equipped with surface support and with O₂ on site etc.) Our equipment is of high quality and regularly serviced. Remember, every student diving with Scuba-Zone will have a dedicated dive computer for the duration of any trip, (and will be taught how to use it!). On every open water dive our instructors carry surface marker buoys, audible signalling devices, strobe lights, redundant air supplies (pony bottles & regulators), etc.

What's involved in the UK part of the package?

You take home a PADI open water crewpack, and study at your leisure. This can involve watching an Open Water diver video, using the CD-ROM version of the crewpack, or reading through a manual. After each main section there is a "knowledge review" so you can test yourself on what you have learnt. At a convenient time, and when you feel ready, you visit the store for some one on one help with an instructor, to quickly check through the knowledge reviews and complete some multiple choice quizzes.

Additionally you will go through five "confined water" training modules at our heated pool in Baker Street. These can be completed over two evenings, or on a single day at the weekend (we conduct confined training every Monday evening, and every other Sunday). After this you are ready to undertake the open water training, are familiar with the PADI training system, your instructors, and the equipment you will use on your holiday. Don't hesitate to ask for our help if you need more flexible scheduling – we will always try to help.

Next Steps:

Ask in the store about the options that are available. We have Gozo (Malta), Menorca and Ibiza (Spain) scheduled at the moment. You can take home a crew pack and study at leisure – you can join a pool session any week you like. If you have queries or specific requirements, do ask us.

Certified Divers

If you are a diver who has friends, family, or children who want to learn to dive we can usually arrange diving either with the Scuba-Zone group or with local dive guides, so that you can join one of these trips and dive just for fun when we are conducting training. Don't forget, however, that our philosophy is that the training should be conducted in real diving environments, and be fun, so that many of the sites we dive on a Med training trip will also appeal to experienced divers as well as novices.

We are also happy, ratios and sites permitting, to provide further education experiences for experienced divers on these trips. If you want to do a night dive specialty, or EANX nitrox specialty dive, for example, we will try to accommodate this.

Ask in store for our Med training packages or for specific tailored solutions

Scuba-Zone: If it isn't fun we don't do it

