



OPEN WATER TRAINING @MUMBAI

The Open Water Course is the entry-level full certification course, and certifies you to dive up to 18m without professional supervision. It consists of 3 parts:

- Academic Training
- Confined Water Training
- 4 Open Water Dives

As part of our Open Water Training, you will be completing the Academic Training and Confined Water training @home in Mumbai. You can then complete the Open Water dives at a dive center of your choice, in the Andamans or anywhere in the world (this is not included in the program).

WHY GET CERTIFIED?

Diving is growing very fast these days, with most travel agents and operators offering diving if you book a package to the Andamans or other diving destination. This usually includes a Try Scuba / Intro to Scuba program. Most people really enjoy this program - however, what they don't realize is that becoming a certified diver ups the game to whole new level.

First of all, when you are a certified and trained diver, you are eligible to go dive "wilder" sites - not as tame and controlled as sites where the Intro to Scuba is conducted. Second, you can go a lot deeper if you want. Third, because you have the skills and training, you are better able to control your dive and have a better awareness of what is going on for a lot (for a lot of people including us, it is a lot more enjoyable when we know what we are doing not & why, as opposed to just following someone). The net outcome of this: not only is the entire program more thrilling, but you also see a lot more big stuff and cool action at greater depths and you have more fun/control when doing so.

Now don't get us wrong - the Try Scuba / Intro to Scuba is a great way to get introduced to the sport and experience the magic. But it is a first step - you are at the doorway, looking in. Once you get certified, you are inside - and believe us, it takes the experience to an entirely new level of "awesome".



WHY LEARN @HOME?

There are several benefits to completing the scuba training at home:

- You get a limited number of vacation days and spending 1-2 of them doing theory and pool-work may not be the best way for you to use those days
- If you are nervous, then it helps to have a longer period during which you can work on developing your skills, your comfort level in the water and even swimming skills
- If you aren't sure diving is for you, doing a pool session is a great way to test the waters, so to speak

There are also benefits to learning at a target location - continuity with the same instructor being the most important (although that varies significantly with how a dive center teaches), slight-to-moderate increase in overall costs and also, depending on the location (eg, in the Andamans), a relatively smaller jump from confined water to the open sea.

If you have any questions, please email us and we'll be happy to discuss which option is best for you.

PROGRAM DETAILS

STEP 1: PICK YOUR AGENCY

There are several internationally-recognized diving agencies who provide recognized certification programs. We offer certification with PADI or SSI, the two largest training agencies in the world

The differences are as follows:

PADI: You have to buy an online theory manual, which costs more, but you get access to it for the rest of your life; physical certification card; PADI courses are Rs 1700 more expensive

SSI: Course fees includes access to the theory online for 3 months (lifetime access is extra); electronic card which you can access via the SSI app on your smartphone (physical card is extra)

Both PADI and SSI are universally recognized worldwide - there is no dive center anywhere which doesn't accept any of these agencies (so you can take your SSI card and go dive with a PADI dive



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center, and vice versa) and they all recognize each other's certifications as well – so you can start with one agency and then switch to another. So that is not a reason to pick one or the other.

Ultimately, we feel this is a very minor decision. Both agencies teach pretty much the same set of skills - not surprising, as they are both members of an umbrella organization called “Recreational Scuba Training Council”, which sets the standards. The main difference lies in how they structure the material. In other words, while the 2 agencies may adopt a slightly different path to getting to the destination, the destination is the same in both cases. Diving is diving, and all divers need to know the same set of skills - and ultimately, it is the instructor who is responsible for making sure you learn these skills. A good instructor will get you there regardless of which agency you choose - a bad instructor will cut corners, regardless of which agency he is teaching.

Our general recommendation - if the PADI brand name, having a physical card or lifetime access to theory is important to you, choose PADI. Else choose SSI and save Rs 1700. If you cannot decide, toss a coin.

STEP 2: COMPLETE YOUR ACADEMICS VIA SELF-STUDY ONLINE

The large part of dive theory is completed as self-study, at your own pace and in the comfort of your own home, via online learning. Do note that this doesn't replace instructor interaction entirely - you will still be reviewing some of the theory, and we also have some additional theory that we will be teaching, which is over the minimum mandated by the agencies - this part of the “*Diveindia Teaching Methodology*” that we have developed over the past decade.

PADI:

Contact us for online access codes that let you complete the theory online at www.padi.com. Do note that there is a non-refundable Rs 5000 charge for this, which is then deducted from your overall course fees (so there is no net increase in price for you).

SSI:

Register yourself at www.divessi.com and select Dive India, store number 791197 as your affiliate dive center. Once you have registered, email us at mumbai@diveindia.com and we will unlock the Open Water course for you. Do note that there is a non-refundable Rs 3000 charge for this, which is then deducted from your overall course fees (so there is no net increase in price for you).

Most of the theory is actually fairly simple and easy to understand - do make notes of any areas that you are not sure about, and we will review them with you later.



STEP 3: COMPLETE THE CONFINED WATER TRAINING

After you are done with the theory (or even concurrently, actually), we will start with the confined water training. This is the portion where you actually learn the skills you need when you go diving - how to operate the equipment, buoyancy, safety and emergency drills. The agencies split these into 5 or 6 modules (depending on whether you do PADI or SSI), but the skills are pretty much similar.

We will aim to complete these skills over 2 sessions, - usually, the plan is do so over a single weekend (Saturday/Sunday), but if your schedule doesn't allow that, we can work out a different schedule - no problems. Please contact us to discuss.

The sessions will consist of a briefing, in-water review of previously learned skills (if applicable), teaching of new skills and then free practice. Here, we will be following the same "*Diveindia Training Methodology*" mentioned earlier, which is a distillation of a cumulative 40+ years of teaching experience of senior instructors, codified into a teaching philosophy and training methodology: this allows us to use the allocated time most efficiently, allowing the student divers to learn at a comfortable pace without feeling rushed for time and also maximizes skill retention.

Do note that the 2 sessions are tentative - sometimes, divers need more time. If so, additional sessions will be scheduled. In such cases, you may also be given some exercises to practice on your own between sessions.

Ultimately, the goal is to teach you the skills needed to become a safe and confident diver - that will take as much time as it takes. Cramming all that training into a fixed schedule is not how we work.

AFTER COMPLETING THIS PROGRAM

Once you have completed the Academic Development and the Confined Water Training, you are ready to go diving and earn your card. There are several options for this:

If you have a holiday planned, then we will give you a Referral Sheet (which documents your



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training). You can then take it to your chosen dive center (ideally, an SSI dive center if you are doing SSI, PADI dive center if you are doing PADI - while you can take an SSI referral to a PADI dive center or vice versa, this may require you to do a short theory and skills review before you go diving), and complete your 4 dives there over 2 days - and voila, you are a certified diver.

Alternatively, you can always complete the rest of your training with us here in the Andamans - we offer discounted packages for divers from our @Home programs.

Lastly, you can join us on an Outbound trip - we conduct 3-4 outbound diving trips a year for student divers who are looking to complete their Open Water course. We select diving destinations which provide excellent dive sites appropriate for your experience level, pick diving partners who offer a high quality of service, safety and professionalism, send one of our instructors to accompany you on the trip and generally develop a schedule that lets you get the best bang for the buck.

COURSE PRE-REQUISITES

The following is a list of pre-requisites needed in order to sign up for the program:

- Good physical health with no pre-existing medical conditions - if any pre-existing medical conditions exist, you will need to get a doctor's clearance first. Please contact us for a medical form
- Moderate fitness (ability to walk 20-30 min without fatigue)
- The ability to swim 200m (any style, no time limit)
- The ability to float/tread water for 10 min

LOGISTICS

The Intro to Scuba program is offered at Fr Agneli Swimming Pool, in Vashi, Navi Mumbai.

We offer the program only by prior appointment. Please visit www.diveindia.com/diveindia-mumbai/ for a calendar of dates when we are offering the program.

Please also contact us for a medical form if you have any pre-existing medical conditions - we will send you a questionnaire. If you answer "yes" to any of them, you will need to get a doctor's clearance before participating.



PRICE

SSI: Rs 12,500.

PADI: Rs 14,200

This includes gear rental, service tax, theory, certification fees, pool fees, etc. Not included is the cost of the Open Water dives, which will vary with the dive center selected. Payment in full is needed to schedule the course

CANCELLATION POLICY

Cancellation policy for diving-only bookings @Home (Delhi, Bangalore, Bombay, etc) is different and stricter than our Andamans policy (*unfortunately, we have had to adopt this because of people not coming prepared, not showing up or not providing accurate information about their swimming skills/medical conditions*):

- Rs 5000 is non-refundable immediately, as it is used to unlock your online learning, purchase certification credit, etc.
- The balance is non-refundable within 1 week of your training date - any changes after this point may incur a fee.
- No-shows without any notice = charged at Rs 5000. Our instructor's time is also valuable and if s/he spends the whole day preparing for the session, we will charge for it.
- Please complete your online theory before coming - if this is not done and we have to schedule another session just for theory, a fee will apply.
- Divers are responsible for discussing medical issues and swimming skills before booking or starting training. Please make sure you review the medical form (available on our website at http://diveindia.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Medical_Statement.pdf or email us for the form) beforehand. If any of the specified conditions in the form apply, you need to get medical clearance first - no exceptions. Showing up with a pre-existing medical condition but without a doctor's clearance may incur a Rs 5000 charge.



THE FINE PRINT

- Diving is a very safe sport, with a lower risk of injury than swimming, snorkeling or even cricket. However, low risk isn't the same as no risk and sometimes, accidents happen - just as they do in other aspects of your daily life. Signing the waiver and accepting the risk isn't a mere recital - you are committing to accepting the risk for participating in the sport.
- We want you to feel comfortable - diving should be fun, not something you are compelled to do. So if you are unable to complete the course, we are happy to refund the unused portion of your fees. Do note that once we convene a water session, that day will be billed in its entirety.
- We realize that sometimes, life happens. No worries - if you would like to re-schedule, we can work with you provided you let us know at least 24 hours prior. No shows without prior intimation will be charged at Rs 5000 - and a hangover is not an illness :).
- We want you to be safe. So please do not lie or hide medical conditions from us. Having a medical condition doesn't preclude you from diving - most of the times, it just requires you to take some precautions. Also, letting us know means we can take suitable precautions when conducting the program, thereby increasing your safety. On the flip side, if we find out that a participant has concealed medical conditions from us, the program will come to an immediate stop and no refunds whatsoever will be offered.
- Participants need to be in full possession of their mental faculties - so please save the beer for after the training!
- We are in the customer satisfaction business, not the legal business. We want you to have a good time diving with us (else what is the point?), and we are committed to providing a safe, professional and fun experience. Sometimes, things happen - people make mistakes, misunderstandings happen, etc. We will do our best to work with you to find a reasonable solution if anything doesn't go as planned - going the extra distance, if need be. However, we are professionals and we expect the problem-solving to be conducted in a calm and reasonable manner. We do not respond well to raised voices or aggressive conduct, be it verbal or physical. Please accept that we **want** to help you, and work with us in finding a solution without making things adversarial.