



## **LEARNING TO DIVE – THE OPEN WATER COURSE**

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

It takes 4 days and the typical schedule is as follows:

- Day 1 – Theory [can also be done at home via online self-study]
- Day 2 – Shallow water training
- Day 3 – 2 open water dives
- Day 4 – 2 open water dives

On days 2-4, you will also have additional theory sessions with an instructor. Also, water skills and initial dives (days 2 and 3) can be mixed and matched, depending on the instructor's judgment. If you are crunched for time, you can split up the theory sessions of day 1 and do them concurrently with the shallow water training.

The course duration is indicative. It may take longer – we run our courses based on you, the student and not to an arbitrary timeline. So if you need more time, the course will take longer. If you take less time, then we give you additional dives instead (why penalize you for learning faster?). Our goal is to not just certify you as a diver, but qualify you as one.

You can do the certification with PADI or SSI – these are the two leading training agencies in the world

The differences are as follows:

PADI: 4 days course and you must buy the manual (which costs more)

SSI: 4 days course but you get access to the content online for 3 months, and

you get an electronic card (so a lower price for the course and instant certification proof with nothing extra to carry/lose) - a physical card or life-time access to the online content are optional extras, if you want

Both (PADI & SSI) are very highly regarded courses and any of them will make you a competent diver. Each of them is 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 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.

Ultimately, the choice of agency has very little bearing on your diving afterwards – the quality of your instructor is far, far more important thing. And this is where we take justifiable pride in the experience, ability and dedication of our instructors.

We also offer a "Learn to Dive Pkg" which consists of:

- 6 nights accommodation

- SSI Open Water certification (PADI for Rs 1700 extra)

- 1 day / 2 dives after certification

- All transfers - airport to airport on a private ferry

If going ala carte: a 4 night stay is recommended (3 nights is doable but no guarantees), and a 5n stay is better.

Pre-requisites for this course:

- Good physical health with no pre-existing medical conditions

- 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

## **START YOUR COURSE AT HOME**

If you are short on time, or dont want to spend 5-6 hours doing theory while here, you can complete the theory online:

**PADI:**

Sign up for the course online:

<http://www.padi.com/elearning-scuba-registration/>

There is a fee for e-learning with PADI which you pay directly to them. However, you get a discount on the course with us provided you select us, DIVEIndia, S-36190, as your affiliate dive center when you sign up.

Once you complete the theory, you get a certificate of completion - please print this and bring it with you.

### **SSI:**

Sign up for the course online:

[http://www.divessi.com/online\\_training](http://www.divessi.com/online_training)

Please select "Dive India" (store number 791197) as your affiliate dive center. You can dip your feet in for free - the first 3 sections require no commitment on your part. However, to complete the rest, we need to register you with SSI - there is a non-refundable fee for this, which is then deducted from your course fee, so there is no extra charge for you.

Please email us at [info@diveindia.com](mailto:info@diveindia.com) when you are ready to proceed with this.

In fact, even if you are not short on time, this is a highly recommended option. When you come here after having done the basic theory at home (and the basic theory is very, very simple indeed!), the instructor is then free to add and build upon it, getting into more depth and also linking it a little better to what you are doing.

### **NEXT STEPS**

Most people who complete the Open Water course with us also go on to do the Advanced Open Water (or even a Specialty Pak) course right afterwards. There are a bunch of reasons for this:

- 1/ You get to dive up to 30m and visit the highlight sites of the Andamans – these are the sites with all the big fish action
- 2/ You get 5 more dives (6 for NAUI) with an instructor and so continue to build your skills and imprint what you started to learn in the Open Water course
- 3/ You leave the course a much better diver, and retain your skills for a lot longer

Because we feel there is tremendous value to students doing an Advanced course soon after basic certification, we discount it substantially (to the point that it is cheaper than just doing 5 dives!).

You don't have to decide immediately – do the Open Water course, see how you feel and then choose. You get the package price regardless.

The Advanced course is a practical course (so no classroom time), and consists of 5 dives: Deep and Navigation (and in some cases, Night) are mandatory, and for the rest, you have a bunch of options: photography, wreck, perfect buoyancy, underwater naturalist, etc. The course takes 2-3 days

If you are doing the Learn to Dive package, you have the option of taking the Advanced Add-On: this is 2 nights additional stay as well as the Advanced course.

### **OTHER OPTIONS – IF YOU HAVE LESS TIME**

#### 1.5 - 2 days

If time is short, you can do the PADI or SSI Scuba Diver course. This is half of an Open Water course and lets you get an intro to diving and also have your experience count towards full certification.

This is a 2 day program and consists of some theory, 1-2 sessions (three modules) of shallow water training and 2 open water dives.

At the end of this, you get a certification card, which lets you dive up to 12m under professional supervision. You can upgrade this to full Open Water at any time, anywhere in the world

#### 1/2 day

If you only have even less time or don't know how to swim, you can do the Intro to Scuba program. This consists of a half-day trip and includes a guided dive on a reef with an instructor.