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Newsletter July 2007

As the summer is about to arrive it must be time for another Newsletter. There is a lot happening so ensure that you don't get left out by booking something now.

20 years party

The first date for your diary is the 17th November 2007. It will be Scuba Training Ltd's 20th Birthday. We are celebrating with various events centred around a party on the evening of Saturday 17th November. The venue is still to be finalised but will be in the West London area near public transport. It would be great if all our customers and students, past and present, could attend but as this would be several 10s of thousands of people we would need a very big venue. In order to get an idea of numbers I would like to get a list of people who might like to come or would like to be kept up to date with more details. Also, over the years we have lost touch with some of our past students so if you know any of them please pass on this information or send us their e-mail addresses. To keep updated on the party information you can just click here party@e-scuba.co.uk, or reply to this e-mail with party as the subject line

Updated Website

The website ,as I hope you have noticed, has been brought up to date with lots of nice photos, the latest trips information, everything you could wish to know about further courses, more marine biology and new galleries. There is now equipment information and special deals for buying gear.

Downloads

There is now a 'download' section on the website. We have put on this page a number of useful forms. There will also be the latest newsletter as well as some fantastic screen savers to download.

Photo Competition

As part of our 20 years celebration we will be running an underwater photographic competition. There will be a number of fantastic prizes on offer and we are not just looking for technically perfect pictures (because of course I would win all the prizes) but for pictures/snaps that illustrate diving. Send in your best photos digitally by e-mail photos@e-scuba.co.uk, or on a disc, jpeg format please. For the film/slide traditionalist amongst you please try and scan your entries. If you can't do this we can scan them for you but as this is a time consuming process we can only do this for pictures we think have a good chance of winning something. We will put finalist's pictures on to the website and set up a voting system. Winners will to be announced at the party.

2 for One Try Dives

To celebrate our 20th anniversary we are offering two try dives for the price of one so bring or send along some friends. The £20 for the try dive(s) will be deducted from the cost of an open water course if a booking is made within 2 weeks of the try dive.

Win Equipment and/or Holidays

If you are a qualified diver and send us new students who sign up for a course we will enter you in a prize draw with PADI where you can win dive equipment and holidays.

Farne Islands

We had a successful seal cuddling trip to the Farne Islands. The seals were playful and very photogenic. See the pictures in the Farne Islands section of our galleries. <http://www.e-scuba.co.uk/gallery/farnes/index.html>. Book now for next year to avoid disappointment.

New Red Sea Trip 7th - 14th September 2007

We have arranged a late summer trip to dive the warm waters of the Red Sea. The Red Sea is renowned for its warm, clear blue, waters and colourful hard and soft corals and for the amazing fish life. It is also famous for some spectacular wall dives and fabulous wrecks. (Check out the gallery on our website <http://www.e-scuba.co.uk/gallery/redsea/index.html>). This is a good time of year to go as the water is at its warmest, 27-28 degrees C, but the air temperature has cooled down a little from the mid-summer peak. The water should be at its clearest and the fish life prolific.

We are flying from Gatwick airport to Hurghada in Egypt on the morning of the 7th of September and returning on the evening of the 14th. We shall be staying on deluxe, platinum class, live-aboard boat, 'Supreme'. Built in 2006, this 38metre boat represents a new era in Red Sea live-aboards. The degree of comfort, spaciousness and range of facilities on board make this boat a Red Sea favourite.

The cost of the trip is £879. This includes the dive package, flights, government taxes, transfers, shared accommodation, and food. A non-refundable deposit of £100 is needed to secure a place. Ask for more details or check out our website. <http://www.e-scuba.co.uk/travel/redseaSept2007.html>

New Brothers trip 21st May 2008

After this years great trip we have booked for next year. This is definitely the best time of year to go. We saw grey reef sharks, white tip reef sharks, oceanic white tip sharks, thresher sharks, hammerhead sharks, manta rays and oceanic sun fish to name just a few. Check out the gallery on our website at <http://www.e-scuba.co.uk/gallery/brothersdaedalus07/index.html>

Next years trip will be the same as this year except that we will leave on the 21st May and return on the 28th (26th is a bank holiday). The price is subject to confirmation. See last years details at http://www.e-scuba.co.uk/travel/brothers_daedalus.html.

Last Spaces on Galapagos Trip 2008

Just a reminder for anybody 'hovering' that there is only a space or two left on the Galapagos and Peru trip 25th March –13th April (or 21st with Peru). Don't miss out on this fantastic, once in a life time trip. Ask for more details or see our website for details and gallery. <http://www.e-scuba.co.uk/travel/galapagos.html>

Last Spaces on Indonesia - Irian Jaya, Liveaboard Trip 19th October – 4th November 2007

Back to Indonesia again for some of the best diving in the world! This time to Irian Jaya This area is the place to be for discovering new species, the scientific community thinks this might be where coral reefs first evolved due to there being more species here than anywhere else. Not only have new and unusual marine species been discovered but as the head-hunters have had to find more p.c. employment the land has become easier to explore and there have been a number of well publicised terrestrial species discoveries.

After our very successful 2006 Ambon trip aboard Voyager II we decided to use it again. The Voyager, originally built to survive the rigors of the North Sea, is 150ft long and has been converted to a very high standard for comfortable, long-range diving safaris. The Voyager is a fully equipped luxury liveaboard with individually air-conditioned cabins and staterooms, spacious saloons, e-mail access, a reading library and sundecks. The cabins are cleaned twice a day; there is a turn down service at night.

The diving in this whole area is fantastic. The coral is largely unspoilt and grows in a profusion hard to find any where else. There are stunning walls covered in soft corals of various colours, large sponges, pelagics, the chance of seeing Mantas and wobegongs and of course all the little stuff too. Lots of nudibranchs, frogfish (smooth and hairy), seahorses (normal and pigmy), ghost pipefish, ambon scorpion fish, shrimps, crabs, and of course those undiscovered species waiting to be named by you! The scenery and wildlife above land is also spectacular.

See more details on our website: http://www.e-scuba.co.uk/travel/irian_jaya.html

UK trips list

We have our UK trips list. The list so far. We still have a couple of spaces on the Scapa Flow trip and due to demand have booked a second boat for Plymouth, 4places left. There may well be extra lake trips, subject to demand, weather etc.

Lake

9th / 10th June

30th June / 1st July

28th / 29th July

1st / 2nd September

22nd / 23rd Sept

13th /14th Oct

10th /11th Nov

Scapa Flow

4/11th August

Farne Islands

1st 2nd 3rd June

Poole

23rd/24th June

7/8th July

21/22 July

18/19th August

29/30th September

Plymouth

25/26/27th August

We have weekend dives throughout the summer as well as a few weekends over the winter. Locations include places like Poole, Plymouth, Weymouth, the Farne Islands, and Cornwall. For those of you who have not tried it, British diving can be great fun. The visibility is not as bad as you might think and can even be very good. The water temperature can go completely unnoticed in a thicker wet suit or a drysuit. There are many exciting dives around our coasts, with lots of wrecks and marine life.

Look at the website for some pictures.

Poole

Poole offers a good range of dive sites, from relatively shallow wrecks and reef to exciting fast drift dives and deeper wrecks. Being relatively close to London and with a variety of types of dive it makes an ideal location for both experienced and new divers. It is also an ideal place to do the advanced open water course, specialities or just to try UK diving.

The cost of boat diving in Poole is £50 per day for divers who do not require an instructor to dive with them. Trips to Poole are normally for two days although it may be possible to do just one.

Scapa Flow

Renowned for its wreck diving, Scapa is the final resting place of some of the German WWI fleet. Some of these spectacular wrecks are over 600ft long. There are 6 days of boat dining for £250.

(Accommodation and transport are at extra cost) The trip is mainly wreck diving and only suitable for experienced divers.

Plymouth, experienced divers only

Plymouth generally offers clearer waters, great wrecks and spectacular scenic dives such as Eddystone Rocks and Hand Deeps. These rock pinnacles are rich in marine life and are covered in jewel anemones and cup corals. The cost of a days diving is £50. (gear hire costs below). As one of the this trips is run over the August bank holiday it is important to book early so that accommodation can be arranged. B&B is around £25