

ScillyDiving

ScillyDiving offers some of the finest diving in the UK - many say the world - with over 150 great dive sites already located and many new ones added each year. Most of our customers are drawn back time and again by the standard and variety of diving.

We offer dive charters on Morvoren from St. Martin's and from Moonshadow on St. Mary's. The islands are great places for families of divers also! Our long-established dive school on St. Martin's offers a wide variety of courses. Check us out!

Dive Charters

We provide most of the dive charters in the Isles of Scilly. Information about these is divided into:

Information about Scilly Diving in general

Charter features

Moonshadow charters, from St. Mary's

Morvoren charters, from St. Martin's

RIB Charters

Single dives

Scilly Diving

What makes Scilly Diving so special?

The Isles of Scilly offer some of the best scenic diving in the U.K. They consist of over 150 islands and rocky islets of which only 5 are inhabited. The islands cover about 10 miles by 6 miles and, as a general rule, have deep water (60m+) outside and shallow inside.

Diving around the islands is a mixture of reef and wrecks in usually excellent visibility, with sheltered opportunities in almost all wind directions. A variety of canyons, stepped reefs and sheer walls are home to a colourful variety of abundant marine life from Jewel Anemones to Fan Corals and Sponges.

A long history of shipwrecks in the islands has provided a wide variety of wreck diving ranging from the mid-1600's to more recent years, from wooden sailing ships to steel ships.

Reefs

The reefs range from areas of steep-sided canyons to sheer 50m walls or stepped reefs (where it is easy for all grades of diver to pick their depth).

Many of the reefs are in places where the tide can run strong, creating very rich areas of marine life. Walls of Jewel Anemones, Fan Corals, Ross Coral, Dead Man's Fingers, Plumose Anemones, Sponges and much more. All create a landscape that differs from reef to reef but is always full of colour and, in the usual good visibility, a sight not to be missed.

There is also the chance to dive with the Grey Seals: the chance to see these wild animals and at times play with them is a superb experience.

Wrecks

The Isles of Scilly has a long 'association' with shipwrecks. Many of these wrecks are of older wooden sailing ships; although the ship's structure has rotted long ago in most cases, there are still many artefacts to see including cannon balls, shot, anchors and the ships' fixtures and fittings. There are also many steel wrecks that have many identifiable areas, although the winter storms have caused some of the shallower ones to break up. A lot of the wrecks have growths of colourful marine life.

Please note that the modern wrecks were salvaged in the past and it is therefore very unlikely that you will find trophies!

Charter Features

Both Moonshadow and Morvoren are equipped with VHF, Sounder, Radar and DGPS. The vessels are licensed and the crew have MCA and local licenses. The skippers are both BSAC Advanced Instructors.

Safety / Back-up

Onboard equipment includes: O2 Admin, large first aid kit, mobile phone. A cooker to make hot drinks (supplied) between dives. Weights and a set of equipment for emergency loan are kept on board. Some equipment is for sale.

Departure times

The day's departure times are flexible and the skipper will decide these depending on when you can get the best dive, taking into account weather and tides. On a day we leave early it is often possible to drop the party on another island. Shelter can be found in the islands in most weathers. In the rare occurrence of such poor conditions that a good safe site is not available we will cancel the day's trip.

Dive briefings

We use over 150 top sites, all of which we have dived ourselves. This means we can brief, on arrival at site, on: depths, tides, where to go and what to see (in great detail on most wrecks), best direction for

marine life on reefs, and safety and advice about the dive, the conditions, and entry / exit from the water.

Air

Our compressors are triple filtered and use oils compatible with O2 cleaned cylinders. Nitrox is not available on the islands due to transport fees that would result in very high fill charges.

Other info (inc cost)

The hardboat bookings are usually for 6 days, Sunday to Friday. The prices quoted include charter for up to 12, or numbers agreed, for 2 dives a day, with hot drinks supplied between dives.

Prices for Morvoren charters:

£xx for 6 days, with air an additional £xx per cylinder (£xx per pony); second cylinders can be supplied for just the air fill costs.

Prices for Moonshadow charters:

£xx for 6 days, including all air costs; second cylinders are also available to those who need them.

St Martin`s (Morvoren)

Hard boat diving charters from St Martin's are offered by Tim Allsop on Morvoren, a powerful Offshore 105. This provides access to diving sites throughout the islands.

Dive Boat / Skipper

Tim Allsop is an experienced dive skipper and diving instructor. A BSAC Advanced Instructor and First Class Diver, he also has MCA and local licenses to operate Morvoren, a powerful Offshore 105, in these challenging and rewarding waters.

Dive Sites

The skipper has full knowledge of more than 150 Isles of Scilly sites - as a diver and as a skipper. A great many of these sites, already classics, were discovered by ScillyDiving and new diving gems are discovered every year. The detailed knowledge means that the skipper can be certain of selecting the best sites in the prevailing conditions, ensuring a high quality choice for the charter group. This experience of the reefs, wrecks, tides and sea states also means that the skipper can brief divers on ways to get the best possible dive.

St Mary`s (Moonshadow)

Hard boat diving charters from St Mary's are offered by Jo Allsop on Moonshadow, a Lochin 33. This provides access to diving sites throughout the islands.

Dive Boat / Skipper

Jo Allsop, who took over Moonshadow from Jim Heslin, is a BSAC Advanced Diver and Advanced Instructor and has a full local licence. She has 7 years charter experience with extensive local knowledge of sites and conditions. Moonshadow has a very spacious deck with cylinder rack and extra built-in space at the stern and large inner cabin and with very easy stride entry and easy climb ladder exit. Onboard equipment includes VHF, sounder, radar, GPS, and O2 kit. There is also a flushable toilet on board. Tea and coffee are supplied.

Dive Sites

The skipper has full knowledge of more than 150 Isles of Scilly sites - as a diver and as a skipper. A great many of these sites, already classics, were discovered by ScillyDiving and new diving gems are discovered every year. The detailed knowledge means that the skipper can be certain of selecting the best sites in the prevailing conditions, ensuring a high quality choice for the charter group. This experience of the reefs, wrecks, tides and sea states also means that the skipper can brief divers on ways to get the best possible dive.

RIB Charters

We also run a licensed 6.3m / 115hp RIB, fully equipped, for smaller groups of up to 6. Trips can be arranged on a one dive daily basis or a 2 dives a day week's charter.

The RIB is staffed by a licensed boat Advanced Diver / Instructor with extensive knowledge of sites and conditions.

RIB Charter Details

A comprehensive brief will be given at all sites. On board safety equipment includes Oxygen Administration, first aid kit, VHF Radio, Sounder, GPS and O2. Hot drinks are supplied.

Because the trips are relatively short (all sites are within the islands) divers have little time to get cold, and shelter is easy to find between dives.

Single Dives

Single dives with equipment hire are available for qualified divers at £31.50 per dive. A minimum of 2 divers are required for a boat trip. The cost per dive including a dive guide / instructor is £36. Some reductions may be made depending on numbers and use of divers' own equipment.

Qualified divers will need to show evidence of training and medical fitness to dive.

BSAC Novice 1 and PADI Open Water Divers will not normally be taken on boat dives unless they have first satisfactorily completed a shore dive with us or have logbook showing experience in this country.

Dive School

BSAC Ocean Diver

As an accredited BSAC School, we offer the British Sub-Aqua Club Ocean Diver Course. This leads to an internationally-recognised qualification. The 5-day Course takes you from complete beginner to a safe and confident diver able to dive in open water up to 20m anywhere in the world.

The course involves 5 theory lessons to provide a base of understanding about equipment, safety and how the body reacts underwater.

Advanced booking is required.

Course Details

Diving during the first 2 days will be from the shore to familiarise with the equipment and to build on the skills required to venture into deeper water.

The open water training will take place off a boat and will usually require 2 dives per day. We try to vary the open water sites as much as possible to provide a variety of underwater scenery, and an opportunity to experience some of the excellent marine life that the islands have to offer.

On the last day we try to combine a dive on one of the many historical shipwrecks within the islands and a chance to swim with the playful seals that live close by.

Qualification / Cost

At the end of the Ocean Diver course you will receive a qualification pack which includes diving manual, qualification record book, logbook, BSAC 88 Decompression Tables and a study-linked video.

Prices including student and qualification pack: 1 person on course - £310; 2 people together - £300 each; 3 together - £290 each; 4 together £275 each.

Try SCUBA Diving

The Introduction to SCUBA Diving course includes on-shore training, with a qualified British Sub-Aqua Club diving instructor, before moving into shallow water off a sheltered beach. The dive will reach only 2 metres but a wide variety of colourful marine life can be seen in the clear waters.

No experience is needed, but a certain level of health is required. Minimum age for the diving course is 14. Time involved is approximately 3 hours. All equipment is supplied.

Please book in advance or early in your holiday to avoid disappointment.+telInfo+"

Price: 1 person £36; 2 or more £29.50 each. (4-6 £26.50 each; 7-8,

£24.50 each; 9-10, £23)

Snorkelling Safari

Have you ever wondered who lives in a mermaid's purse? Have you ever seen a sea mouse or a sea potato?

If you would like to explore the wonderful underwater world of St. Martin's then come on a snorkelling safari - a guided exploration of marine life from a sheltered bay. This is for beginners or the more experienced.

The trip is open to all and no experience is required. A qualified instructor and marine zoologist will be there to assist and guide you. The safari lasts for approximately 2 hours and all the equipment you need is supplied. Price £18.

Snorkelling with Seals

If the surface of the sea is as far as you wish to venture, try our snorkelling experience that may result in a close encounter with grey seals. Just to be close and see them swim gracefully under you is an experience not to be missed. The course is open to all and no experience is needed. A qualified instructor will be there to train and assist you. Under 14's can be considered if they are confident swimmers.

The course lasts approximately 3 hours. The price includes all equipment and the boat ride to the seals. Seal snorkelling is always popular so book in advance or early in your holiday to avoid disappointment.

Price: £29.50. Minimum of 2 for a trip. (4-6 £26.50 each; 7-8, £24.50 each; 9-10, £23).

Boat Handling

Join our experienced, fully qualified instructor for an exciting 2 hour introduction to power boating

This is an introduction to all the basics, from high speed control to low speed delicate manoeuvring and boat safety. The thoroughly enjoyable, fun-packed session is aimed to suit the complete beginner or those wishing to continue to RYA or BSAC Boat Handling qualifications.

Our 6.3m Rigid Hull Inflatable is fully equipped with 115hp engine and navigation and safety accessories. Life jackets are supplied.

No experience is required but you must be 12 or over.

Price: £21.

Skills Development

The Isles of Scilly Diving School offers standard and special courses such as Boat Handling, Practical Rescue Management, O2, Compressor Operation and Chart Work. Please provide prior notice of your requirements.

The Isles of Scilly

These unspoiled and relatively isolated islands have the most gentle climate in Britain, making the Scillies a haven for many types of flora and fauna. The Isles are often referred to as a sub-tropical paradise and have been named an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The islands' entire coastline, including many beautiful white beaches as well as rocky headlands and islets, has been given Heritage status. Each island has its own unique and rather special character.

Information about each of the islands from which ScillyDiving operates is given above.

Isles of Scilly in general

Accommodation

For charter groups on St. Martin`s we will send details of available accommodation (this is usually self-catering and two / three units will sleep 12). We can also recommend accommodation for those who are taking courses at the school and diving independently, and their families.

If you are staying on St Mary's we will give you some choices of accommodation for you to arrange.

Please note that nearly all island accommodation requires you to bring sheets, pillowcases and towels, but duvets are provided. Information about available accommodation can also be found in the [official Isles of Scilly site](#)

Travel

The Isles of Scilly Steamship Company's `Scillonian III` sails from Penzance to St Mary's throughout the summer months. Click [here](#) for timetable and booking information.

There are Skybus fixed-wing flights from Land's End, Newquay, Exeter and Bristol to St Mary's. Click [here](#) for timetable and booking information.

British International operates helicopter services from Penzance to St Mary's and Tresco. Click [here](#) for timetable and booking information.

Other information about travel arrangements is available within [Scillyonline](#)

Boating

Daily boat trips to other islands leave at about 10am and 2pm from St Mary's.

From St Martin's there are daily trips to other islands and visits to the Eastern Isles.

Evening trips for dinner or pubs can be arranged.

Click [here](#) for Isles of Scilly Travel information about the inter-island boats and launches. Click [here](#) for other information about St. Martin's Boating Services, including boats to support the Wednesday and Friday evening gig-racing, often stopping at another island after the race.

Sport

6-oared Gig Racing is a great spectator sport and races take place every Wednesday and Friday evening.

Tennis is available to visitors; all equipment is supplied on the St Martin's court.

Windsurfing, canoeing and sailing lessons can be arranged and groups can book for sailing trips on the [Pettifox](#), a licensed sailing from St Mary's.

St Martin`s

The third largest of the Isles of Scilly, St. Martin's is remarkably natural and unspoilt, with gorse-covered moorland, flower fields and sweeps of white, fine sand beaches. There is a prominent Day Mark on Chapel Down, built in 1683.

This is where the Isles of Scilly Dive School is located and from where Morvoren and RIB charters are provided.

Eating Out and In

The Seven Stones pub has a bar menu and serves food lunchtime and evenings. The upper range in eating out is catered for by St Martin's Hotel; the bar is also open to non-residents. If eating-in is required, the St Martin's Bakery will make fresh pies, pasties and pizzas, along with bread and a range of cakes. St Martin's has 2 shops for a good range of supplies.

Gifts

St Martin`s has two galleries, a gift shop, and a flowers-by-post service at Churchtown Farm (01720 422169).

St Mary`s

St. Mary's is the largest and most populated of the Isles of Scilly. Consequently it also has the most facilities for the holiday-maker, including divers' families.

ScillyDiving's Moonshadow Charters are operated from St. Mary's.

Eating Out and In

St Mary's has a Co-op and several other shops offering a wide range of foodstuffs. There are 3 pubs on St Mary's, all serving lunches and evening meals. There are also several restaurants to choose from. Locally caught fish can be bought on the islands.

Contact Us

[email Scilly Diving, St Mary's \(Moonshadow\) - Jo Allsop](mailto:jo@scillydiving.com)

[email Scilly Diving, St Martin's \(Morvoren\) - Tim Allsop](mailto:tim@scillydiving.com)

Telephone 01720 422848

Write to:

St Martin`s Diving Services

Highertown

St Martin`s

Isles of Scilly

TQ25 0QL