

Intro to SCUBA Diving: Exploring the Underwater World of Wonder

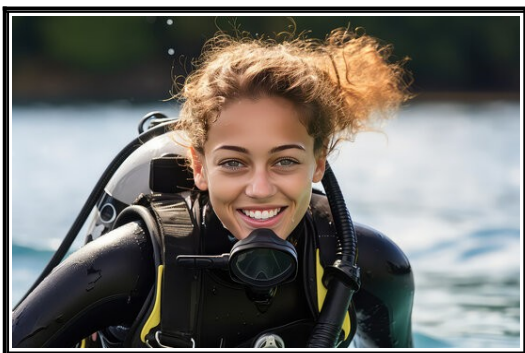
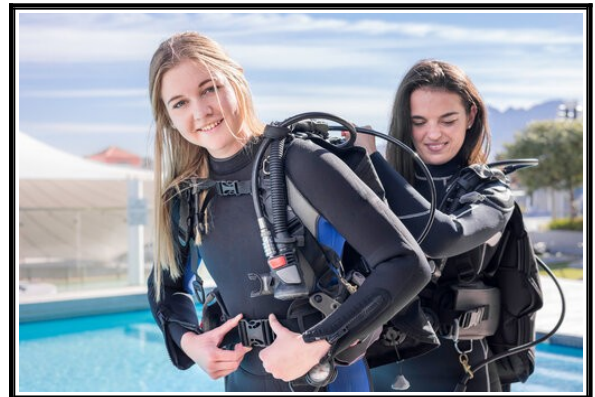
by Guide Fisher | January 24, 2017



The underwater world is full of spectacular beauty with strange and colorful creatures seemingly floating weightlessly in their habitat below the waves. However, this mysterious environment is unknown to the vast majority of humans and only those who have entered the SCUBA diving community get to experience even a glimpse of this world of enchantment and wonder.

Becoming a certified SCUBA diver will give you the knowledge and confidence to begin exploring an environment that most humans never even consider exists. SCUBA, an acronym for "Self Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus," divers are members of a special group that allows them to explore the amazing underwater wonderland, meet like-minded people and swap stories of their experiences.

Becoming a certified SCUBA diver is something on many people's bucket list, but most don't ever take the literal plunge. This is a shame as SCUBA certification can be achieved for just a few hundred dollars in as little as a weekend, though most people take about two weeks to complete their training. Once certified, you can begin exploring the world of undersea wonder of coral reefs and shipwrecks, swim with seals and dolphins and catch lobsters and spearfish for your dinner.



It is important to note that there are no local, national or international laws that require divers to be certified. However, no respectable dive shop will fill or rent air tanks to anyone who does not hold a valid SCUBA diver certification card. This is for safety reasons and the shops not wanting to incur a lawsuit if an untrained diver suffers injury or death.

This is a very real and valid concern. Anyone not properly trained in SCUBA diving and the use of the specialized breathing equipment places themselves at serious risk and SCUBA diving without proper training is analogous to trying to fly an airplane without instruction.



While there is no single governing body that oversees SCUBA training and certification programs, PADI and NAUI, the Professional Association of Diving Instructors and the National Association of Underwater Instructors, respectively, are the two most recognized and respected diving instruction organizations in the world. They are both recognized by the ISO, the International Standards Organization, as safe and comprehensive SCUBA diving training providers. Both organizations have chapters and affiliate instructors across the globe.

Now you have to decide if you want to get in on the fun and experience the awe, wonder and majesty of the world below the waves, or if you want to continue being the person who just keeps saying "*Someday I'll learn to SCUBA dive.*" There are NAUI and PADI instructors all around the world and the odds of there being a training facility near you are very high. So, what are you waiting for?