



Scuba Diving

Aurora Expeditions has been operating diving adventures in the polar regions for more than 20 years. In fact, we were the first expedition cruise operator in the world to offer this ultimate polar adventure.

When we explore non-polar destinations such as Costa Rica and Panama, Scotland, or perhaps Iceland, scuba diving in these places offers experienced divers an incredible glimpse of life beneath the waves. Regardless of the destination, our focus is to encounter remarkable wildlife and witness spectacular marine ecosystems, seen by a select group of adventurers that is guaranteed to stir your soul and offer unbeatable memories and stories to share and cherish.

'Getting out amongst it' is our philosophy, and that is exactly what we do. Weather permitting, you will dive while other expeditioners are doing their activities - kayaking, snorkelling, or exploring ashore. Aurora Expeditions is proud to have some of the world's best divemasters guide our dive adventures. Our guides have dived all over the world and in some of the remotest and most challenging locations. Our dive experts are skilled at finding the best opportunities to dive, while taking into account the ever-changing weather and sea conditions. We aim to offer you the best quality dive experience while maintaining the highest safety standards.

Required Experience

Our diving activity is not for beginners. You must be at least an Advanced Open Water Diver with a minimum of 30 logged dives. You are also required to complete a minimum of 6 of those dives in the last 12 months.

Before departure you must show an internationally accepted diving certificate, diver's log book and a current diving medical (no more than six months old) from your doctor confirming that you are in suitable physical health to participate in scuba diving.

The initial dive will be a 'check-out' dive so each diver can check and adjust their weights and equipment. Before each dive, there will be a briefing about the location, the weather, sea conditions and the procedure of the dive.

On the initial dive, you may encounter colorful coral obscured by curtains of fish. You may even swim alongside playful dolphins and curious seals, delight in colourful tropical marine life and marvel at spectacular underwater ecosystems.

Important note:

The main language used for our dive operation is English. For safety reasons, you must be proficient in English in order to participate in our scuba diving activity.

Diving Procedure

At Aurora Expeditions we like to explore remote and fascinating places that offer wonderful encounters with wildlife as well as superb scenery. However, travelling to remote destinations on a cruise expedition and offering adventure activities such as scuba diving means that safety is our highest priority. We always adhere to a philosophy of safety first.

There is no decompression chamber and only basic medical services on board. There is an onboard doctor to administer basic medical and first aid treatment, but Aurora Expeditions cannot accept risky ventures from any of our divers.

The dives will be conducted using a buddy system of two or three divers. If you are not travelling with a dive-buddy, don't worry we will pair you up with other divers on board. All divers are expected to have enough experience to read their compass, depth gauges and look out for each other in order to have a safe dive.

If our divemaster feels that you do not meet the necessary experience, they have the right to exclude you from participating in the dive program (this decision will be made for your own safety and for the safety of the other divers). Please note that if you have been suspended from diving due insufficient experience, you will not be entitled to a refund from Aurora Expeditions. All divers are required to follow the instructions of the divemaster and guides at all times. All participants are expected to fully understand and accept the risks involved in scuba diving and participate at their own choice.

What Can I Expect to See?

Diving in tropical destinations such as Costa Rica and Panama offers outstanding opportunities to see an incredible array of marine life. Caño Island Biological Reserve boasts some of the best diving spots in the country. The clear sea offers visibility for scuba diving between 10-30 metres / 30-100 feet. In addition to colourful coral gardens, you may find bull and nurse sharks, manta rays, dolphins, sea turtles, and the occasional humpback whale. As for fish, get ready to

see damselfish, parrotfish, butterflyfish, porcupine fish, goatfish, goby, and perhaps an octopus.

Experienced drysuit divers may know that Scotland offers some excellent diving opportunities. The UK has some fantastic diving in her seas, not least on the hundreds of wrecks including Scapa Flow in the Orkneys. The visibility at St. Kilda offers outstanding diving experiences.

Iceland is a relatively new destination for expedition cruising and although it is deservedly famous for its dramatic terrestrial landscape, many people may not know that Iceland offers excellent scuba diving opportunities for those with drysuit diving experience. Iceland is home to stunning landscapes, glaciers, mountains, lakes and waterfalls, as well as some of the world's best cold-water diving. Here you can dive between tectonic plates, visit the world's only hydrothermal vent shallow enough to see without a deep-sea submersible, experience hydrogen sulfide bubbles within a geothermal spring, and see a huge variety of marine life in the fjords and ocean.

Silfra fissure is arguably the most famous diving spot in all of Iceland. Situated within Pingvellir (or Thingvellir) National Park, Silfra fissure is a 45-minute drive northeast of Reykjavik. It's the only place in the world where you can dive between two tectonic plates — the North American and Eurasian plates — as they drift apart. Dives boast 100 m / 330 foot visibility year-round because Silfra forms the northern edge of Lake Thingvallavatn, filled with crystalline water supplied by the Langjokull glacier located 50 km / 31 miles to the north.

Booking allocation:

Each diving place is for one person only.

All divers are required to bring their own personal equipment, be adequately certified, have proof of recent dives, and provide evidence of medical clearance from a doctor.



Number of dives

We plan to dive up to twice per day (except for days at sea), but an exact number of dives cannot be given. It all depends on sea and weather conditions. Voyage itineraries are only a guideline and safety is always the priority. Since this is an expedition to a remote part of the world, unpredictable weather conditions, availability of anchorages, wind conditions, and other factors beyond our control will always dictate when it's safe to make a dive. Exclusive Zodiac cruising will be offered if the conditions for diving are not suitable.

What to Bring

Please contact your airline about their luggage restrictions and request a special sporting goods allowance for your dive equipment prior to departure. All excess baggage is at your own expense.

- Wetsuit or a drysuit suitable for the water conditions we will be diving in
- Hood, gloves and boots suitable for the water conditions we will be diving in
- Undergarments (only required for cold water conditions)
- Regulators: Primary regulator 1st and 2nd stages and alternate air source.
- Submersible pressure gauge (SPG)
- Depth and time-monitoring devices or a dive computer
- Compass

- Buoyancy control device (BCD) including low pressure power inflator.
- Cutting implement/knife
- Torch, small hand-held unit will be sufficient
- Mask, snorkel and fins
- Quick release weight system (weights will be provided on board).
- Surface marker buoy and a spool or reel
- Surface audible signaling device, whistle or/and air horn.

Equipment Provided Onboard

On board we have two compressors, steel cylinders and lead weights. Cylinders we provide are steel 12.2 litres by Faber, with dual outlet valve, yoke and DIN compatible filled to 220 bar. Lead weights are available in 0.5, 1, 3 and 4 kilograms (1, 2, 6.6 and 9 pounds).

We also have a limited number of hire equipment available onboard. For an additional charge you can hire a set consisting of:

- Full set of regulators
- Submersible pressure gauge (SPG) in a console with a dive computer and a compass
- Buoyancy control device (BCD), backplate and a wing style with continuous adjustable harness
- Fins

Please let us know in advance if you wish to hire any equipment.



Important note:

Please do not bring equipment that you are unfamiliar with and have not tested on a dive. It is a recommendation that you complete a few dives with all the equipment you will be using before coming on the trip.

This will also allow you to fine-tune your buoyancy and trim characteristics, and make a note of how much weight you will need when diving with all your equipment.

Scuba Diving

Expedition Cruising

We offer expedition cruises to remote regions, and for this reason we occasionally need to adjust our 'itineraries' to take advantage of favourable weather and sea conditions, which are hard to predict and can vary greatly from day to day. Our flexible approach means we can alter the itinerary to take advantage of wildlife sightings and other one-of-a-kind opportunities.

We cannot guarantee that all dives and shore landings will take place or that they will include all the events we've outlined in advance. Embracing the unexpected is part of the excitement of expedition-style travel. A flexible approach and a sense of humour will make the voyage more enjoyable for you and for your fellow expeditioners.

Please note that Aurora Expeditions will not provide reimbursement or refund due to changes to the itinerary as a result of weather and ice conditions.

When changing the itinerary, we can assure you that the captain, expedition leader and divemaster will do their utmost to provide an alternative program, along the same lines as the originally planned cruise itinerary.

How to Book

If you are an advanced diver, have the required experience and would like to partake in our scuba diving activity on your voyage, please complete and return a scuba Diving Activity Form. Our divemaster will review your form for suitability and experience before approving your diving spot.

Group Size

We limit our diving groups to a maximum of 6 divers in cold water destinations and 8 divers in warm water destinations. While you are in the water your guide will be on board the Zodiac keeping a close eye on the group, ready to provide assistance and to give you advice and tips on how to maximise your experience on each of your dives.

Age Requirements

You should be 14 years of age or more to participate in our scuba diving programs. Please note the minimum age required to complete most Junior Advanced Open Water Diver courses is 12 years.



For more information please contact your travel agent, or Aurora Expeditions on:

Australia and New Zealand

Freecall: 1800 637 688
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email info@auroraexpeditions.com.au
or visit auroraexpeditions.com.au

United Kingdom and Europe

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email info@auroraexpeditions.co.uk
or visit auroraexpeditions.co.uk

United States and Canada

Freecall: 1 800 826 8150
email info@aurora-expeditions.com
or visit aurora-expeditions.com



Scuba Diving

Please complete this activity form and return with your expedition booking form.
All questions are required to be answered in full if you wish to confirm your scuba diving place.

Note: To ensure you have a safe and enjoyable scuba diving experience we recommend you are a diver of an advanced level. We aim to have maximum two diving outings each day, however the weather will dictate our daily excursions and will greatly influence what we can and can't do.

If your experience with drysuits is limited, we'd encourage you to call us to discuss your suitability. If you do not have all the pre-requisites required at the time of booking, there's often ample time to gain the required experience before you depart for your voyage. We would encourage you to conduct as many drysuit dives as possible prior to your trip. Please ensure you have fully read and understand the information contained in this flyer before completing this form. Contact our expedition dive experts if you have any questions.

On the initial check out dive, your guide will assess the following skills: your general dive knowledge, knowledge of your equipment including how to put on your drysuit, and your ability to safely perform cold water drysuit dives. If you demonstrate insufficient knowledge or experience in any of the skills mentioned, the guide reserves the right to restrict your participation in more challenging conditions or remove you from the scuba diving activity all together.

Passenger details

Expedition Name: Expedition Date:
Surname: Given Names:
Date of Birth: Gender identity:
Nationality:
Address:
Country: City: State:
Email address: Phone Number:

I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTOOD THE TERMS & CONDITIONS

Signature : Date:

Signature of parent/guardian if under 18:

Scuba diving experience

Your highest level of certification:

Certification date: Certification agency:

Notes:

Have you been cold water diving before? (water temperature less than 10°C/50°F)

No Yes

If yes, how many dives have you done?

When was last time you dived in cold water less than 10°C/50°F:

Where was the last time you have dived in cold water less than 10°C/50°F:

Notes:



Scuba Diving

Please complete this activity form and return with your expedition booking form.
All questions are required to be answered in full if you wish to confirm your scuba diving place.

Drysuit diving certification

Certification name:

Certification date:

Certification agency:

Notes:

Scuba diving experience

How many dives have you done:

How many of those in a drysuit:

How many dives have you done in the last 12 months:

How many dives in the last 12 months in a drysuit:

When was last time you dived:

Where was the last time you dived:

Notes:

Current diving medical (must be within six months of the departure date)

Please provide details no later than 90 days prior to departure.

Date of the latest diving medical examination:

Name of the physician:

Contact details for the physician

Phone number:

Email:

Address: Number/Street:

Suburb

State:

Postcode:

Country:

Dive insurance: Please provide details no later than 90 days prior to departure

Name of the insurance company:

Name/type of the insurance policy:

Policy number:

Dates of the validity of the policy:

Notes: