



Tropical 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.

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 Open Water Diver with a minimum of 10 logged dives. You are also required to complete a minimum of 5 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?

At Aurora Expeditions, we are always looking for wild and adventurous destinations to explore. Hence the possibilities of what you may discover underwater on dives is endless. Here is a sample to stir your imagination.

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.

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.

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.



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
- In tropical regions, you are also able to hire short-sleeve/short-leg wetsuits

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.



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 contact our friendly team to complete 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. 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

AU: 1800 637 688 | NZ: 0800 447 042
reservations@auroraexpeditions.com.au
auroraexpeditions.com.au

United Kingdom and Europe

Freecall: 0808 189 2005
reservations@auroraexpeditions.co.uk
aexpeditions.co.uk

United States and Canada

Freecall: + 1 833 826 5828
reservations@aurora-expeditions.com
aurora-expeditions.com