

# Greenwichdiving – Member of the Association of Diving Schools of the Valencian Community / Maritime Authority

## WHAT IS AN "APPROVED DIVING CENTRE "

A certified dive center is a recognized and approved by the Valencian Maritime Authority when it meets all applicable laws and regulations. In Valencia, the Maritime Authority is the entity responsible for controlling, managing and developing all functions and services related to underwater activities.

For a Diving Centre to be recognized and approved, it must meet all of the requirements that involve multiple agencies, besides having facilities and equipment properly reviewed, controlled and maintained.

## Why NOT to choose an INSTRUCTOR or CENTER NOT AUTHORIZED TO HOLD COURSES AND DIVING

- *Because they do not offer any guarantee of learning, safety and reliability.*
- *Because they do not care what occurs after your diving course, they collect the money and once the course is completed, they won't remember you.*
- *Because many standard safety standards are breached and you have no guarantee the state of the equipment you use.*
- *If you encounter a problem you have nowhere to go or who to claim against.*
- *Because in case of an accident, you do not have the necessary security measures, such as radio, oxygen, etc, available.*
- *They have no or inadequate installations*
- *They need to outsource services and involve intermediaries and we know that this way the attention to the diver is not the same.*
- *There boat may not be properly equipped or hold the correct paperwork or have the professional authoriosed personal (captain) onboard*
- *To save costs you may only practice dives from the beach and only 1dive from the boat*

## BEFORE MAKING A DECISION ABOUT WHERE OR DO YOUR COURSE

### Ask yourself these questions:

- Are you willing to put your life at risk in the hands of a stranger for a few Euros?
- Would you do a parachute jump if the instructor did not offer sufficient guarantees?
- What guarantees offer a non approved diving center?
- What basis do you use to assess the price of a diving course?
- When you buy a car or anything else (do you just look at the price or at the price or performance,

security and guarantees?)

### **IN WHAT CONSISTS THE COURSE OF OPEN WATER DIVER (initiation)**

There are several organizations that offer diving courses in our Spain, (which organization is the best?)

R.S.T.C. is an association that encompasses different diving organizations, internationally recognized and certified, PADI, IDEA, SSI, all belong to the organizations being RSTC. All organizations will offer virtually the same standard and are internationally recognized. What really matters is where you learn to dive and professionalism of their instructors.

### **How much does a diving course**

• € 300 - € 400? Depends on what the centre offers. (A 5-star hotel does not cost the same as a 2- star Hotel correct ..... True)

• Would you pay the same for a sirloin steak as stewing meat?

### **The MINIMUM you SHOULD RECIEVE IN A diving course is:**

- A first practice in confined water (either in pool or on the beach).
- Four separate dives with four bottles (instead of four immersions with two bottles).
- Theory classes in which they explain all the difficulties and dangers of this activity.
- The degree of training that you will receive from Open Water Diver Course, certifies you to dive to a depth of 18 meters, you have to prepare to dive to that depth and be shown the risks that this entails with the necessary training.
- An instructor can only dive with a maximum of four students per instructor and group
- Always choose certified diving center that meets all the regulations and have the required insurance.
- Ensure that all instructors are in active training status.
- The course must be included diving insurance and an original study kit, no photocopies; all courses have their own textbook whatever their organization.
- Be sure to do at least three boat dives, this will train you to dive after your course, as in 90% of cases dives are made from a boat.
- Diving from boat also requires technique and if you do not learn that in your course you will not know how to do it when you no longer have your instructor with you.

## **WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW WHEN CHOOSING A DIVING CENTER**

- 1. In the Valencian Community only certified dive centers, can exercise the Open Water Diver Course.**
- 2. In the Valencian Community there is a trade association that checks that dive centers are approved, the ACBCV**
- 3. THE ACBCV (DIVING CENTERS ASSOCIATION OF VALENCIA) looks after the interests of everyone, users, professionals, government and the environment offering full support to anyone who requests it, in a matter of information or advice.**
- 4. Approved dive centers and associated ACBCV members addition to complying with all the rules, are controlled by the relevant authorities, have an internal control "department ethics" which guarantees even more quality to divers and is compliance with all regulations.**
- 5. For all these details a dive center is approved, guaranteed quality assurance, confidence and security and most importantly for you, your enjoyment.**