



## **LUNDY SEAL ENCOUNTER DIVE TRIPS**

### **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

1. Do I need to be an experienced diver to dive with the Seals at Lundy?

The Lundy Seal dive sites are shallow and sheltered so our Lundy Seal encounter dive trips are suitable for all experience levels and make a great introductory dive if it is the first time that you have dived in UK waters. You just need a minimum of a PADI Open Water dive certification or equivalent

2. Do I need to do a pool refresher/check dive before my trip?

If you have evidence of 10 logged dives or less, we need to see evidence of a logged dive within the last 6 months or you need to do a minimum of a pool refresher.

If you have evidence of 20-40 logged dives, we need to see evidence of a logged dive within the last 12 months or you need to do a minimum of a pool refresher.

If you have 40+ logged dives please contact us to discuss any requirements before your trip and this will depend on the date of your last dive

3. I haven't dived for more than 2 years, do I need to re-train?

If it's been 2 years or more since your last dive, or maybe it's less than 2 years but you haven't dived since you qualified, PADI recommends that you undertake a more comprehensive refresher. We offer PADI Reactivate, which covers a full e-learning theory refresher plus tuition time with an Instructor to practice and hone your dive skills.

4. Are there any age restrictions on your Lundy Seal encounter dive trips?

Our trips are open to all aged 12+ and under 18s need to be accompanied by an adult. The adult can be a boat passenger/snorkeller and does not need to dive

5. I am a single diver, can I join a trip?

We welcome single divers on our Lundy Seal encounter dive trips. You can either buddy with one of the dive guides or with another diver that you meet on the boat.

6. Can I join your trips as a boat passenger/snorkeller?

Yes you are welcome to come along as a boat passenger/snorkeller. Please note that there is no snorkel guide, but there is safety watch from the boat and we will include snorkel equipment in your ticket price

7. Will I definitely see the Seals?

We have never been to the Lundy Seal encounter dive sites and not seen the Seals on at least one dive. However, Seals are wild animals and we let them come and find us so nothing can ever be guaranteed. They are naturally curious and very playful, so normally they hear us enter the water and can't wait to check us out and it is common to enjoy very close extended encounters with the Seals!

8. Where do the trips depart from?

Trips depart from and return to Ilfracombe Harbour

9. How long does the crossing to Lundy take?

This depends on the weather conditions and tide, but around 1 hour and 15 minutes

10. Is the crossing to Lundy likely to be rough?

We don't travel if the weather conditions are judged to be unsafe, but otherwise trips go in all weathers. The crossing can be rough and isn't recommended if you suffer badly with sea sickness

11. I am staying on Lundy Island, so can I join you for a dive trip?

If you are staying on Lundy Island, please let us know when you book your trip and we will make arrangements to collect you from/drop you back to Lundy Pier

12. Do you have to cancel trips due to bad weather?

Rain doesn't stop us from diving, but unsafe sea conditions do. We try wherever possible to give 48 hours notice in event of cancellation, but we are at the mercy of

the UK weather and sometimes conditions can change at the last moment, so very occasionally we have to cancel trips even as late as the morning of departure. Please remember we are as disappointed as you are when this happens, because we don't get to dive or get paid! You will be offered alternative dates and if none of these dates are suitable, then a full refund will be paid. If you are booking accommodation, it is worth mentioning that you are coming to dive at Lundy and checking the cancellation policy before you book.

13. Do you offer accommodation?

Yes we do, we run Epchris House, a highly-rated guest house based in Ilfracombe and our diving customers receive a 10% discount plus free cancellation if we need to cancel a trip due to unsafe weather (NB. applies to 1 night stays only). We offer early breakfasts for divers, plus a training pool and areas to rinse and dry your kit, equipment hire and air fills by arrangement. See [www.epchrisguesthouse.co.uk](http://www.epchrisguesthouse.co.uk) for more details and call Cath on 07833 020424 to book and enjoy our divers' discount

14. Will I get a refund if I need to cancel?

You will receive a full refund if you cancel 30 days prior to your trip departure date. If it's less than 30 days then we will refund you if we can sell your space. Most of our trips are oversubscribed, so it is more than likely that we will be able to sell your space. Please make sure that you have travel insurance in place, in case you need to cancel due to illness or Covid 19

15. What boats do you use?

Our trips are on-board Obsession II or Barbara B, Ilfracombe's premier dive boats, skippered by some of the most experienced boat handlers in North Devon. Both are super comfy catamarans, with plenty of space for 10 divers and undercover seating/seating in the wheelhouse for wetter crossings. There is space to securely tie-down tanks and stow kit, plus a dive lift to make exiting the water a breeze. There's an on-board toilet and hot drinks and chocolate bars are served in between dives

16. What are the departure and return times for trips?

9.30am boat load and back around 5.30pm, but please allow for winds and tides

17. How many dives do we do?

The trip includes 2 guided dives, with a maximum dive time of 60 minutes per dive and a 1 hour surface interval between dives

18. Is there food and drink available on the boat?

You will need to bring plenty of food and drinking water. Hot drinks and chocolate bars are served in between dives, but there is nothing else available on the boat. Diving is hungry work so bring more food than you think you will need, eat a good breakfast and eat plenty before and in between dives. This will make a massive difference to your body temperature whilst diving

19. Do you offer dry suits? Will I be cold underwater?

We offer our rental customers full 5mm wetsuits, plus a 5mm shorty and hood and gloves. We find this to be a good level of protection from end of May to mid-October. The Seal encounter dive sites are shallow and sheltered, so this helps with body warmth. Many divers find dry suits too hot in the summer months and we do not offer them for rental

20. What does your full equipment hire package include?

2 tanks, weights and belt, BCD, regs, 1 x full 5mm wetsuit, 1 x 5mm shorty, hood, gloves, boots, fins, mask

21. What size dive equipment do you offer for hire?

We offer dive equipment for hire in standard small, medium, large and extra large sizes. If you think you are of a non-standard size (xxs, xs or xxl, xxxl or have an unusual body shape) it is worth discussing this with us before you book your trip, so that we can make sure we have equipment that will fit you. We do have xs and xxl dive gear in limited quantities so this needs to be pre-booked

22. Do I have to dive with the guided group?

Our trip price includes dive guides, but if you wish to dive in your own buddy pair that's fine with us as long as you and your buddy are reasonably experienced divers, so please discuss with our dive supervisor on the day

23. What tanks do you offer for hire?

We use DIN tanks, so if you are using your own equipment and purely require tank hire, please check for compatibility or reserve 1 of our DIN to Yoke Adaptors if necessary