



SILVERTIP TIMES

Happy reading,
Team LSD

This year so far has been a fantastic treat for UK divers. Not only did we get to discover the delights of ice diving in the winter, but with near perfect weather all summer the diving conditions have been great. This photo sums up just how excited we've been to dive this year!



The Best of UK Diving

The Manacles, Cornwall by Emily Petley-Jones

Back in May I was fortunate enough to get to go on the Club LSD trip to Porthkerris in Cornwall. I had heard rumours about the excellent diving in Cornwall and am very pleased to report that it is indeed fantastic! During our stay there, between cups of tea and scones with clotted cream, we managed to complete several dives. My favourite location was *The Manacles*.

During the dives, I was well aware that the topography was formed from several high rocks sticking out from the bottom of the sea, yet, I found it almost impossible to actually see any rock underneath all the life that was down there. Thousands of Jewel Anemones cover the rocks like a patchwork of many different colours which almost got me singing that tune from Joseph (*"they were red and yellow and pink and green and purple and orange and ..."*).



We were also hoping to see some basking sharks, however, no one had told them that we were coming so they were on holiday whilst we were there, but we didn't let this dampen our spirits (and we made up for this on the Club LSD trip to the Isle of Man where we saw 3!)

Overall it was a fantastic trip, and I know that everyone who came along is very keen to get back there next year.

If you have been on a Club LSD trip this year and would like to share your thoughts and photos for the next newsletter, please e-mail club@londonschoolofdiving.co.uk.



Diving Holidays with LSD

MARSA ALAM 6TH – 13TH October 2010 £699*

Do Go Diving with Dugongs!

Marsa Alam offers some fantastic diving opportunities for divers of all abilities. This is the perfect place for people looking to complete their Open Water Certification, wanting further training, or just wanting to kick back and enjoy some beautiful dives!

This holiday promises to be relaxing, beautiful and highly enjoyable. Marsa Alam is one of those places which can still boast tranquility and relatively quiet yet spectacular dive sites. With all the Dugong and Dolphin, divers can have a real treat!



* £699 price Includes: Flights, Airport transfers, half board accommodation at the Marina Lodge based on 2 persons sharing a room, single supplement available. 10 boat dives are payable locally for £205. National Park entrance fees are 15 Euros per visit.

Open Water Completions on this holiday are free!

For more information please speak to a member of staff in the office, or check out what Matt has to say about Marsa Alam in the Destination Focus.

ZANZIBAR AND MAFIA ISLAND

10th – 21st January 2011 £1800*

Whale Sharks and Spice and all things nice!



LSD has teamed up with African Space to bring you this truly spectacular holiday!

Mafia Island offers some fantastic diving and African Space have developed a Whale Shark Safari so you can venture out to find the whale sharks which spend most of the year on the west coast of Mafia Island. The accommodation whilst on Mafia Island will be full board.

You will then get a sensory overload as you take in the delights that the Spice Island of Zanzibar has to offer. Diving on the East side of Zanzibar you will have a good chance of spotting dolphins in this idyllic paradise. The accommodation whilst on Zanzibar will be Bed and Breakfast.

This is a truly spectacular trip and is suitable for all divers!

£1800 price Includes: In country flights, Airport transfers, single supplement available, 12 dives, accommodation (B&B and Full Board)

*** International flights are not included – estimated £684.** Mafia Island National Park entrance fees are \$20 per day. Tanzania Safari Extension is available.



SANTA MARGHERITA, ITALY 6th -9th May 2011 £400*

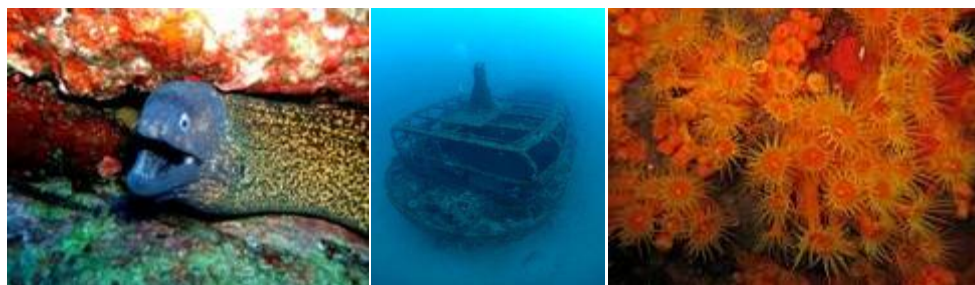


LSD are heading back to the magnificent Italian Riviera next spring for a chance to dive in the warm clear waters off Ligurian coast. With visibility around 25m and sea life including Red coral and Gorgonian sea fans along with Groupers, Sardines, Anthias and Eels this marine park is a must dive destination in the Med.

Located just 5km from Portofino, Santa Margherita is a great little town with an assortment of bars and cafes serving fantastic food and drink. This trip is ideal for those with little dive experience that are looking to develop their skills under the guidance of an LSD Instructor.

Included in the price are 6 boat dives, 3 nights B&B, free Nitrox, Airport transfers, marine park fee's, free Open water completion for LSD students. Price excludes flights

Full Open water course and holiday only **£650**

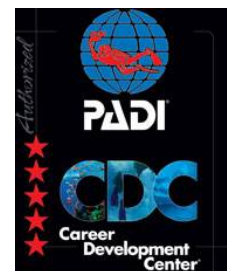


FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT THE WEBSITE: WWW.LONDONSCHOOLOFDIVING.CO.UK

LSD Upcoming Courses

Go PRO at the London School of Diving

You will not find a better place in the UK to do your Instructor training than with our Platinum rated Course Director of which there are only 60 worldwide and at a CDC rated centre, one of only 6 in the entire of the UK. Deciding on a centre to do your Instructor training is very important as you should expect extremely high standards and a great pass rate. Here at LSD we have an IDC crew second to none and invite you to become part of the team with a proud 100% pass rate.



Outside the IDC we run specialty training on a regular basis and also offer Staff Instructor Training as well as CDTC prep courses. We offer all candidates unlimited experience post courses as well as the chance to work here for us and with placements abroad. For more information on the IDC courses check out our IDC page below.

www.londonschoolofdiving.co.uk/padi-courses/instructor.asp

Upcoming IDC's @ LSD for 2010

September 25 to October 01 for the *Bristol IE* on 2/3 October
 November 06 to 12 for the *Whittlesey IE* on 13/14 November
 December 07 to 13 for the *Bristol IE* on 14/15 December

Make the next step and join the team

(Join our Course Director at the next IDC info night at LSD on 8th September 2010 @6:30pm)

LSD Course Calendar

	Sat 4th Sept	Sun 5th Sept	Sat 11th Sept	Sun 12th Sept	Tues 14th Sept	Sat 18th Sept	Sun 19th Sept	Sat 25th Sept	Sun 26th Sept	S london school of diving	
	September	Open Water Referral		Open Water Referral		Enriched Air 6.30pm	Open Water Referral		Open Water Referral		
	Open Water Completion		Open Water Completion		Open Water Completion		Open Water Completion				
	EFR		Rescue Practical		Dry Suit Speciality*		Equipment Speciality	Advanced Open Water*			
	Rescue Theory**				Deep Speciality		Navigation Speciality	SMB Speciality			
October	Sat 2nd Oct	Sun 3rd Oct	Sat 9th Oct	Sun 10th Oct	Tues 12th Oct	Sat 16th Oct	Sun 17th Oct	Sat 23rd Oct	Sun 24th Oct	Sat 30th Oct	Sun 31st Oct
	Open Water Referral		Open Water Referral		Enriched Air 6.30pm	Open Water Referral		Open Water Referral		Open Water Referral	
	Open Water Completion		Open Water Completion			Open Water Completion		Open Water Completion		Open Water Completion	
	EFR	O2 Provider Speciality	Rescue Practical			Dry Suit Speciality*	Coral Reef Conservation Speciality	Advanced Open Water*		PADI	
Rescue Theory**		Search and Recovery Speciality									
November	Sat 6th Nov	Sun 7th Nov	Sat 13th Nov	Sun 14th Nov	Tues 16th Nov	Sat 20th Nov	Sun 21st Nov	Sat 27th Nov	Sun 28th Nov	* Dry Suit orientation to be held the Tuesday evening before the course ** Course follows the EFR course	
	Open Water Referral		Open Water Referral		Enriched Air 6.30pm	Open Water Referral		Open Water Referral			
	Open Water Completion		Open Water Completion			Open Water Completion		Open Water Completion			
	EFR		Rescue Practical			Dry Suit Speciality*		Advanced Open Water*			
	Rescue Theory**										

[Navigation Diver Specialty](#)

Today we have satellite navigation systems in our cars, internet sites to provide us with maps and mobile phones to call people when we are lost. For many of us, the art of navigation is not necessary on land. Perhaps this is why, when faced with limited visibility or long distances to travel underwater, many new divers are concerned by the thought of getting lost underwater.

The PADI Underwater Navigator Specialty provides instruction in compass use, natural navigation and distance estimation techniques. It involves three dives covering these topics.

- Pre-requisite: Open Water Diver/ Junior Open Water Diver.
- Minimum age: 10
- Dives: 4 open water dives.
- Cost: £179
- Next date: 25th September

[Surface Marker Buoy Specialty](#)

This course gives you the knowledge and techniques required for the safe use of marker buoys and delayed surface marker buoys. You practice using a number of reels and launch methods both from negative and neutrally buoyant positions. These skills will prove vital when diving where currents can be strong and boat traffic is present.

- Pre-requisite: Open Water Diver/ Junior Open Water Diver.
- Minimum age: 12
- Dives: 2 open water dives.
- Cost: £99
- Next date: 26th September

[Oxygen Provider Specialty](#)

Want to be the person other divers want to dive with? Ever worried about what you should do if your buddy has a problem whilst diving? Then join us for the Oxygen provider course – probably the most fun you'll have whilst learning something serious!

Learn the valuable skills necessary to provide emergency oxygen to injured scuba divers. This course is a must for those diving in challenging UK waters or remote destinations and can be completed in a single evening.

- Pre-requisite: Open Water Diver/ Junior Open Water Diver.
- Minimum age: 12
- Dives: N/A
- Cost: £99
- Next date: 3rd October

[Equipment Specialty](#)

This course will help candidates familiarize themselves with the operation and maintenance of scuba diving equipment. Though not a repair technicians course this will enable you to problem solve and trouble shoot some of the more common problems that occur with modern scuba equipment. It is particularly valuable when working in remote locations or areas where logistical support is harder to reach.

- Pre-requisite: Open Water Diver/ Junior Open Water Diver.
- Minimum age: 10
- Dives: N/A
- Cost: £99
- Next date: 19th September

[Coral Reef Conservation](#)

This must have course is aimed at understanding how complex ecosystems such as coral reefs function, their global importance and the threats they face. This course is a must for those seeking to dive in warmer climes and can be taught in an afternoon or evening.

- Pre-requisite: None
- Minimum age: None
- Dives: N/A
- Cost: £45
- Next date: 17th October

For more information about these courses, please call 0208 995 0002

Here's a little something from our favourite Dive Store:

Ahoy!

Finally we've fought our way from behind the tills, and found time to send out some news. We've got super busy again over the summer, and business is good. Thanks to all our customers for your ongoing patience, and support. We will endeavour to continue giving you our best service!

So what's new, besides Steve quitting partying and becoming a vegan?

The **OC1 Limited Editions** have arrived at last. These black titanium versions of the OC1 computer from Oceanic come beautifully packaged and look amazing. Only 1000 units have been made, and each one has its number inscribed on the bracelet. If you're looking for a top end computer with transmitter you need to move fast as we only have four (or ever will have) left.



With the ever increasing demand for smaller, lighter, more compact kit we've put together the ultimate travel package. The Zuma package is made up of Aqualung's amazing **Zuma BCD** (

<http://www.mikesdivestore.com/1756/Aqualung-Zuma-Lightweight-Travel-BCD.html>) in short it's less than 2kg, yet still contains good back

support, sure lock integrated weights, and plenty of style!! This package comes with the acclaimed Apeks Flight Regulator setup. The Flight is a super compact regulator designed with the jet setter in mind. What sets the Flight apart though is that it doesn't forfeit performance. Altogether we think this is the ultimate travel package out there (flights to Galapagos not included!).

Speaking of high quality products, **Zeagle** bcd/wings are back on our shelves at long last. Distribution in the UK is now sorted, and models from the Ranger Ltd tech jacket down to super light weight escape bcd/wing are in the store now. The Zeagle has landed, and there reputation and quality speaks for itself.

Last but not least we need to give a big mention to the fantastic new photography book by Maria Munn. We all knew the quality of underwater compacts has gone through the roof, but how many of us are really getting the most out of them. 'Underwater Photography for compact camera' users' covers all bases. Beautifully presented, thorough, and motivating, this book (using everyday compacts) will change a happy snap, into a beautiful image. We've got ten signed copies by Maria herself, hot off the press, so get in quick!

All you need to do now is get down the store, or get on the web. We're also trying to push the customer feedback right now, so don't be shy about filling in the review emails (dive magazine offer great prizes) as we endeavour to improve our service (just don't slag me off please!).

Happy diving!

www.mikesdivestore.co.uk

Destination focus: Marsa Alam

The Red Sea with a difference.....

by Matt Barnes

With destinations such as Sharm el sheikh and Dahab acting as the main tourist hubs in Egypt for many years, Marsa Alam is often overlooked. Yet this southern reef system has arguably some of the best diving the Red sea has to offer.

Marsa Alam, which translates as "open bay", is a fantastic destination for those new to the sport, and its sheltered tranquil waters are home to a huge array of fish species. A previous sceptic, I had led nearly 40 group holidays out to Red and thought there was little to improve upon yet was pleasantly surprised with what the Southern Red sea had to offer on my visit in 2008. In October this year London School of Diving will be heading out to the sun once more. Staying at the Marina Lodge in Port Ghalib you are literally meters away from dive boats which can transport you to some of the famous reefs and atolls that are usually only accessible by liveaboard.



Day boats itineraries from Port Ghalib include the amazing Elphinstone reef whose twin pinnacles and nutrient rich waters attract one of the Red sea's most elusive sharks, the Oceanic White tip. Close by Shaab Samadai or Dolphin house reef as it's often called is a protected national park where the limited number of visiting divers allows a resident pod of spinner dolphins to stay close by.

On the main coast is the world famous Marsa Abu Dabab dive site where at first glance there seems little but sea grass on offer but a closer look shows that this vulnerable and rare ecosystem provides great feeding opportunities for Dennis the resident dugong and his partner. The bay is also home to some of the largest green turtles I have ever seen and nervous Guitar sharks play with your mind and a photographer's patience as they move to and fro on the limit of visibility.

This trip is a must for anyone thinking they have seen all there is to see in Egypt from Northern itineraries or for those looking for a 'learn to dive' holiday with a difference!

And finally...



Congratulations for Colin and Vicky for tying the knot!

Our very own Course Director and Centre manager has gone and got himself hitched to the wonderful Vicky. They certainly had a fantastic day, and the team at LSD are very happy for them.

Welcome back Matt!

Matt left us about a year ago to go gallivanting around Scotland, but the lure of LSD was too great and now he is happily settling in amongst the wetsuits and regulator taking care of Dive Ops. For those of you thinking about going on the Santa Margherita or Marsa Alam trips, Matt is the man to speak to!



And BIG CONGRATULATIONS to our newest Instructors after LSD's latest IDC:



Congrats to Craig, Giovanni, Kate, Willem, Bevan and Steve

Should you require any further information about anything in the newsletter, please do not hesitate to contact the LSD Team.

The office hours are Monday – Friday 10am – 6pm and Saturday 9am – 4pm

Telephone: 0208 995 0002

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Website: www.londonschoolofdiving.co.uk

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