

**ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ADMINISTRATION
DIRECTORATE OF TOURISM**

Sri Vijaya Puram

F.No: M-17065/66/2025-AWSS-Tourism-TOURISM_AN

Dated:..... August 2025

NOTIFICATION.

**Guidelines for
Scuba Diving Centres
in
Andaman Nicobar Islands**

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INTRODUCTION

1. OBJECTIVE

- ◆ To promote A&N Islands as a premier and safe diving destination in the Domestic & International market.
- ◆ To establish an open, transparent and safe framework for development and conduct of Scuba Diving activities in A&N Islands.
- ◆ To establish a simple system for recognition and registration of scuba diving centres/operators in these Islands and provide them consolidated framework on guidelines issued by various Departments of Andaman and Nicobar Administration and Ministries of Govt. of India as well as technical requirements from World Recreational Scuba Training Council (WRSTC) affiliated Scuba Diving Training Agencies and National Institute of Water Sports, Goa
- ◆ To ensure that diving is done only in permissible areas in order to protect the marine eco systems and prevent damage to corals.
- ◆ To ensure that exploration for discovery of new potential areas is done by the Department of Tourism in co-ordination with the dive agencies, NIWS, Department of Forests and Environment and Port Management Board.

2. Procedure for Registration of Scuba Diving Centre

To facilitate Scuba Diving Centres, Andaman Nicobar Administration will grant Registration to Scuba Diving Centres to undertake diving activities in these islands in accordance with the following procedure:

- i. The firm/operator, desiring to operate a Scuba diving centre in the islands shall submit three sets of filled up application forms in the prescribed format (Annexure-III), along with the prescribed application fee of Rs.5,000/- in the form of demand draft/pay order in favor of Sr. Accounts officer (IPT), to the Director (Tourism), Andaman and Nicobar Administration, Port Blair, Pin code-744101, (Andaman Island) India, Tele-fax No. 03192-230933, before the commencement of the Dive Centre. The application shall be accompanied with the PAN card, GST

number and registration under the EPF, if applicable, for registration as well as renewal of the dive centre.

- ii. The firm/ operator shall give details of their office, and currently employed certified dive instructor, in the prescribed application form. Changes in staff members are allowable without intimation to the registering authority as long as at least one pre-named certified dive instructor remains on the rolls. The firm/operator shall also submit the rates to be charged for diving activities, and any substantial change in prices, beyond 20% overall, should be informed to the authorities in writing and alongwith submission of a new rate card. Discounts on printed rates are at the discretion of the dive centre.
- iii. Foreign Divers/operators shall obtain Restricted Area Permit (RAP) from the Foreigner's Registration Office, Port Blair or from Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India and shall enclose a copy of the application for the permit made to FRRO/MHA, or copy of permit so granted (if available) together with copy of the employment visa/ business visa along with the application form. s
- iv. Seaworthiness certificate and registration certificate and/or other survey report/certificates in respect of dive boat issued by MMD/Deputy Commissioner/Director (Fisheries) (as the case may be) shall be enclosed with the application form.
- iv. The Certificate of Registration of Scuba Diving Centre will be issued by Director (Tourism) normally within 30 days. In case of deficiencies in the application, a deficiency memo shall be issued within 7 days of the application. The Director Tourism, shall enter the name and particulars of the scuba diving centre/operator in the register maintained for the purpose and shall issue a certificate to the Scuba Diving Centre/operator, unless the registration is refused. Reasons for rejection shall be indicated by a reasoned order within 30 days of the application.
- v. The Registration granted to Scuba Diving Centres owned by the foreigners, will be valid for the period they have been granted Restricted Area Permit, while the Registration granted to Scuba Diving centres in case of the Indian nationals and Indian Registered companies that are substantially owned by Indian Nationals, will be valid for one year, with yearly compliance documents as per Annexure II shall be

deposited annually physically or through online portal, failing which the registration shall be put on Administrative hold. Registration fee of Rs.8000 per year shall be payable at the time of registration.

- vii. The Scuba diving centre/operator may apply for renewal annually with the prescribed renewal fee, by giving a simple application on plain paper, enclosing a copy of the Certificate of Registration issued by the Directorate of Tourism, and enclosing details furnished with the original application, duly updated, provided that the fees of Rs. 8000/- along with the yearly compliance documents as per **Annexure II** shall be deposited annually in physically or through online portal. The application for renewal must be made 60 days prior to expiry of the registration. Branches of those dive shops who have already established their base in the Island will be allowed to be set up under intimation to the Directorate of Tourism. The renewal fee of Rs.8000/- per year shall be payable at the time of renewal.

3. Requirements for firms operators, desiring to open Scuba Diving Centres

3.1 General

- i. All Scuba Diving centres desiring to undertake their Scuba Diving activities must be registered with the Directorate of Tourism, Andaman Nicobar Administration before commencement of their activities.
- ii. The dive centre shall be divided into two categories
 - a. WRSTC recognized dive centres, which maintain compliance to ISO standards and is also an active member of the member agencies of WRSTC
 - b. Non WRSTC recognized dive centres – Which maintain compliance to NIWS norms but are not WRSTC standards.
- iii. All the scuba diving centres and its branches must have these guidelines properly displayed for the information and compliance by the all concerned.
- iv. All Dive Centres / operators registered with the Director, Tourism should give proper receipts to all the dive tourist/guests. They should maintain proper records of the tourist /guests approaching them and receipt for the fees charged from them.

- v. Scuba diving is permitted only in the specified areas as mentioned at Annexure -IV. The dive centre/operators are advised to take tourists only to the specified dive sites.
- vi. The Dive Centres must remain aware of local weather conditions and inform divers of any special conditions at each dive site prior to dive.
- vii. Dive centres should put buoys preferably orange in colour in the diving area. Dive Centres must be aware and inform to the in charge of TSET Team and to the Control Room of PMB, if any changes to the dive plan of the dive boat and divers.
- viii. Dive Centre owners will be required to ensure that the Dive Centre has a third party insurance policy for a minimum amount of Rs.10 Lakhs per person, and also that its Dive Instructors have a specific dive insurance policy for scuba diving industry professionals through an accredited Insurance Agency.
- ix. The Dive centre/operator will be required to bear any cost to be incurred in case of any rescue or medication during emergency if such rescue work is necessitated as a result of negligence on the part of the Dive Centre/operator.
- x. The Dive centre may be inspected by any authorized officer(s) from the Directorate of Tourism or any other official authorized by Law.

3.2 Dive Centre Requirements

- i. All Dive Centres must be equipped with the pure Oxygen / filled air bottles and an Emergency Action Plan in case of diving related accidents. The Emergency Action Plan must include mechanisms for:-
 - a. Searching methods in case of missing divers / guests.
 - b. Immediate Medical Assistance by Providing First Aid Treatment.
 - c. Transport to the earliest/nearest appropriate medical facility.
 - d. Reporting to appropriate authorities (Control Room of PMB, Directorate of Tourism, Health Department, Police and Coast Guard).
- ii. Dive Centre staff must be familiar with the Emergency Action Plan, and should be able to act appropriately.
- iii. All Dive instructors and Dive Masters must have a valid Emergency Response certification (such as Emergency First Response or React Right) to deal as First Responders to any diving incident/accident.

- iv. Dive Centre must have a base leader, and safety staff member, who is responsible for the Dive centre and is available during operational hours..
- v. Dive Centre must have adequate equipment spare parts etc.
- vi. Dive centre must have medical first aid, and specified wireless communication (radio/walkie-talkie) / or any other effective communication system to facilitate communication between base station (Dive Centre) and identified sites for diving.
- vii. The Dive Centre must have on its staff at least one “Dive Instructor”, who is certified by any of the following agencies :-
 - a) Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI)
 - b) Confederation Mondiale Des activités Subaquatiques (CMAS)
 - c) National Association of Under Water Instructors (NAUI)
 - d) British Sub-Aqua Club (BSAC)
 - e) Scuba Schools International (SSI)
 - f) Any other WRSTC Member diving agencies.
- viii. Dive Centers must have a list of all dive services and courses conducted by them with the rate list, prominently displayed at all dive centre premises.

3.3 Dive Centre Equipment

- i. Dive centre must provide well -maintained dive equipment, with pure oxygen and must have an emergency action plan.
- ii. Dive Centre should have a minimum of ten diving sets which includes tank, regulator with pressure gauge, depth meter and dive watch or deco- computer, mask, snorkel, fins, buoyancy compensating jacket, quick release weight belt and alternate air source.
- iii. Buoyancy Compensator Devices (BCD) must be approved for recreational diving by the manufacturer and must have a low pressure inflator. The BCD must be maintained according to the manufacturer’s instructions.

- iv. Regulators must be approved for recreational diving by the manufacturer and must be maintained according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- v. Dive Centre must provide Alternate Air Source, depth & air gauge or air timing devices like dive computers as standard rental equipment.
- vi. Dive centre must possess a certificate of pressure testing from an authorized testing centre as per rules of the PESO, regarding high pressure cylinders older than 5 years. Cylinders must be annually visually inspected and cleaned. Any cylinders going through fall/damage between test periods must be pressure tested before operational usage. This inspection must be entered in a maintenance log book along with the cylinder number.
- vii. The Dive Centre must use only specified compressor oil. Air purifying filter must be changed as per guidelines of the compressor manufacturer and filter changes enter in the compressor log book along with the number of cylinders filled during this period.
- viii. Air quality check certificate (AQC) for compressors at the dive centre must be kept valid throughout the year and obtained after testing at authorized agencies for said purpose.

3.4 Recognized Diver Training agencies : Minimum Certification requirement

- i. The minimum certification level for divers wishing to participate in guided diving or Advanced course is an entry level certification from a recognized agency.
- ii. Other diver training agency's entry level certificates must have as performance requirements for open water training dives encompassing the knowledge and skills as outlined in the entry level performance requirement.
- iii. A diver is required to submit proof of his/her training by means of a diving certificate and to submit proof of his/her diving experience by means of a physical or digital log book.
- iv. A diver who cannot submit an entry level or higher certification must be considered a trainee and may only participate in training dives according to the standards of the training programs as sponsored by the

recognized diver training agencies, until certified as an entry level diver.

- v. A diver who cannot submit proof of his/her dive experience by means of a log book must demonstrate to the dive instructor that he/she has mastered the skill as specified in para 3.11.
- vi. A diver is required to fill and complete all mandatory authorized forms as prescribed by WRSTC Agency standards including Liability Release/waiver forms.
- vii. Every diver will be required to complete the prescribed medical form and provide a physician's approval of fitness to dive if there is a YES in any of the conditions on the Form. Divers answering NO to all the questions will have to self certify themselves on the form as required by agency standards.
- viii. Parental/Guardian approval is required on the relevant forms for minors before diving.
- ix. The age limit for divers in category B dive centres will be 12 to 60.
- x. The age limit for category A dive centres shall be as per the WRSTC member Agency's defined standards.

3.5 Supervision of diving activities

- i. All diving activities must be supervised by Dive Centre staff directly as per the ISO standards and/or WRSTC standards as applicable for each category of dive center of each recognized program being conducted. If a Dive Centre staff is found to be negligent in supervision, the dive centre staff and dive centre, will be subject to appropriate action as deemed fit by the government authorities.
- ii. In order to function as dive centre staff a person must meet all the prerequisites as mentioned at para 3.13, recognized qualification for dive centre staff.
- iii. Prior to a dive, a dive briefing has to be given to the divers by the dive centre staff.
- iv. For all diving activities a dive roster must be kept stating the divers dive time, maximum depth and remaining tank pressure after dive.

- v. For independent land based diving activities a dive centre staff member is required to note the time the divers enter and exit the water.
- vi. Dive rosters are to be kept by the dive centre staff for reference for the authorized officers of the Directorate of Tourism, or any other person authorized by the Law, for a period not less than one year.
- vii. Certified divers, who do not have the skill or experience necessary to safely and comfortably dive in given environmental conditions, must dive under the immediate supervision of dive centre staff.

3.6 Maximum Depth limitations

- i. Maximum depth for all introductory diving by Category B dive centres is 12 meters.
- ii. Maximum depth for all category A dive centres is as per the course and Agency standards.

Any person repeatedly and deliberately violating this guidelines may be excluded from further diving. Furthermore, any dive centre staff repeatedly and deliberately violating this regulation will be subjected to disciplinary measure as deemed fit by the Director Tourism or any other official authorized by the Law.

- iii. Entry level divers may dive to a depth of 18 meters or within the limits as set forth by standards of their certification agency, but not exceeding 18 meters.
- iv. Not until entry level divers have received training in Deep Diving Techniques, may they go deeper than 18 meters.
- v. Instructions in deep diving techniques must be provided in compliance with the WRSTC standards of the program the instructor is qualified to teach according to the Diver Training Agencies as mentioned at para 3.4.
- vi. The fact that the entry level diver is diving under the supervision of an instructor shall not be the grounds to dive deeper than 18 meters unless the diver is trained or is receiving training in Deep Diving Techniques as per standards.
- vii. Every dive centre shall comply to ISO standards for each program , course of certification of diver in terms of maximum training or diving depths.

3.7 Decompression Dive Limitations

- i. Only no stage decompression diving is allowed in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. This no stage decompression limitation also applies to live aboard or safari boats.
- ii. This applies to everybody who participates in diving activities within the Islands, tourists, and dive centre staff, instructors on and off duty also instructors and students involved in Advanced and Deep Diving Training. This no stage decompression limitation also applies to live aboard or safari boats. No exception whatsoever is allowed.
- iii. Any person repeatedly and deliberately violating this guidelines may be excluded from further diving. Furthermore, any dive centre staff repeatedly and deliberately violating this regulation will be subjected to disciplinary measure as deemed fit by the Director Tourism or any other official authorized by the Law.

3.8 Equipments for divers and instructors

During all recreational diving activities, diver must be equipped with:-

- i. Mask, snorkel, fins
- ii. Regulator with submersible pressure gauge, and Alternative Air Source, or air supply.
- iii. Adequate Buoyancy Compensator Device (BCD) with oral and low pressure Inflator.
- iv. Submersible Pressure, time and depth measuring device.
- v. The use of dive computers is highly recommended for all divers.
- vi. Emergency signaling device comprising Surface Marker Bouys (SMB) and whistle.

During all night diving activities divers must be equipped with:-

- vii. A backup light. Underwater torch and night signaling device, with every diver in possession of a marker light. Coloured blinking lights (preferably red in colour), shall be placed, in the diving area for attention of other boats.
- viii. Reflective Surface Marker Buoy (SMB), and

- ix. A small vessel to follow and assist divers
- x. In addition, all dive instructors supervising diving activities must be equipped with Emergency cutting shears/ cutting tools and emergency signaling device.

3.9 Dive Boat

- i. The dive boat drivers must hold an appropriate boat handling certification as per the IV Act, MS Act, or Andaman and Nicobar Marine Fishing Regulations 2003 as the case may be. The dive boat must carry a person who holds a valid Life Saving Techniques (LST) certificate from NIWS (validity two years)/recognized agency or hold a valid Medic First Aid Certification. Power Boat Handling Certificate issued by recognized agencies such as National Institute of Water Sports, Goa would be acceptable.
- ii. The Dive Boat must carry the following:-
 - a. Dive Flag (as illustrated in Annexure-V).
 - b. Oars, wherever such boat is capable of independent propulsion by oars.
 - c. Flares
 - d. First Aid Kit
 - e. Walkie-Talkie/radio or alternate communication device.
 - f. Medical Oxygen set.
 - g. Life jackets, and buoys.
 - h. All other LSA, FFA, LSS equipment required by the Registering Authority under which the seaworthy certificate is issued should be carry on board.
- iii. If diving in Marine National Park areas, the Boat should anchor at designated points only, marked by floating buoys in wherever they are installed. Where such buoys are not yet installed, the boat crew should take all precautions to avoid any damage to coral reefs by faulty anchorage.
- iv. Boats, surveyed by MMD/ Engineer and Ship surveyor and registered under M.S./I.V. Act (as the case may be) or registered by Fisheries Department, for Game Fishing shall only be allowed for scuba diving. The Vessel has to be Registered as follows:-

- (a) Vessels which ply in inland waters have to be registered under IV Act with Deputy Commissioner being the registering authority.
 - (b) For all sea going vessels beyond IV waters the vessels have to be registered with MMD under various clauses as per MS Act and/or as per Guidelines issued by Director General, Shipping, Govt of India, or with Fisheries Department for Game Fishing.
- v) For operation in Protected Areas, these boats should have the permission of Chief Wild Life Warden.
- vi) The dive boats are the responsibility of the dive center and crew. The dive boat shall always manned as per minimum safe manning as required by the Registering Authority and whenever used for diving must have an additional at least crew of 3 including dive instructor and must be dedicated for the safety of the divers and support the divers at all times.
- vii) The dive Boats should have sufficient fuel to make prearranged dive trips and any changes there to.
- viii) In case weather condition deteriorates while divers are under water, the crew must be proficient in recalling methods.
- ix) The Dive Centre staff is responsible for the provision of a spare tank, spare diving equipment, first aid, oxygen kit, dive flag and a boat ladder that allows for a comfortable exit from the water.
- x) For Night Operation of diving boats, the boat must carry all equipment including an operational search light on board and shall meet all the classified guidelines for night operations as per the M S Act / I V Act/ or Andaman and Nicobar Marine Fishing Regulations 2003 requirements.
- xi) The dive boat must have inscribed the, name of the boat, diving centre and registration number as well as all other requirements/markings as required by the registered class of boat.
- xii) All dive boats must submit a physical copy/email copy of their daily manifest and trip schedule with the local Port Master's Office before going diving and abide by all the aspects of safe operations, weather warnings etc as per the office of Port Master.

3.10 Safety Considerations

- i. Dive center must have emergency action plan duly approved by the authorized agencies (safety auditing agency) for all dive sites specify action to be initiated by the members of the dive team and the support staff in the event of emergencies.
- ii. The Dive Centre staff must brief the divers prior to every dive. The brief must include information about safety regulations, depth limits, dive site characteristics, currents, entry and exit techniques, environmental considerations and potential hazards.
- iii. The use of Buoyancy Control Device (BCD), is mandatory for all diving activities. Except for short and shallow dives, after all dives, a safety stop must be made for at least 3 minutes at 5 meters. Divers must commence their safety stop with a tank pressure not less than 50 bars. A safety stop at 5 meters for 3 minutes is recommended for all dives deeper than 9 meters.
- iv. Solitary Diving is not allowed under any circumstances.
- v. For practical reasons the term diving is used to describe recreational diving only. Commercial or navy divers and other occupational divers must adhere to these guidelines when participating in recreational diving activities.
- vi. Familiarization sessions with the oxygen equipment must be provided at the dive centre for all dive staff and this training session must be held annually.
- vii. The dive centre/operator must abide by the guidelines for safe operations mentioned in these guidelines.
- viii. Only registered Scuba dive operators will be permitted to dive/take tourists for diving in the areas permitted on the fulfillment of the guidelines/terms and conditions as specified herein.
- ix. Model Emergency Action Plan is at Annexure-I.

3.11 Orientation dive

- i. If a diver is certified as an entry level diver or above, but cannot show proof of at least 30 dives, and /or has not been diving in the last 3 months, the diver is required to make an orientation dive.

- ii. An orientation dive is not a Test, but is a dive in shallow water under quiet controlled circumstances, where the diver is given the opportunity to regain confidence in his/her skills, including but not limited to : mask clearing, regulator recovery, neutral buoyancy, ascents, descents, and alternate air source breathing.

3.12 Recognized qualification for Dive Centre staff

- i. All dive centre professionals should be on an active status with a WRSTC recognized agency.
- ii. All training and certification of divers is to be done exclusively by instructors who may be assisted by Assistant Instructors and or Dive Master and he should strictly adhere to all the standards that apply to the Dive training programme.
- iii. In order to function as a Base Leader or Assistant Base Leader, an individual must have undergone an emergency first responder course or equivalent course.
- iv. The Dive Centre professionals who are engaged in leading dives must be familiar with and also properly trained in extending First Aid treatment.

3.13 Environment Protection

- i. Proper care should be taken to protect the marine environment, its associated living organisms and their habitat. Divers should be briefed by the dive instructors on responsible behavior, and avoid damage to the corals and physical contact with marine life/animals. Scuba divers shall not cause any damage to marine flora and fauna.
- ii. Collection of corals, marine flora, fauna and other sea wealth is strictly prohibited and any violation of this will attract penal action under Section 29 of the Wild Life (Protection) Act 1972.
- iii. There should not be any disposal of sewage or garbage in the reef areas. Divers should also not use chemicals, explosives, or any other substance, which may cause injury to marine life/wild life or destroy its habitat.
- iv. The provisions, rules and regulations covering National parks and Sanctuaries under Wildlife Protection Act 1972 and as prevailing in

- the islands should be adhered to. Provisions regarding grant of entry permit and activities prohibited under Wildlife (Protection) Act.
- v. Anchoring of dive boats will not be permitted within 50 mts from the shore of the islands coming under Marine National Park/ Wildlife Sanctuary except with prior permission from the concerned DFO. The fees for entry in Wildlife Sanctuary/National Park shall be paid as per existing fee structure.

3.14 Refusal / Cancellation of Registration

- i. If any deficiency is found in the application and documents submitted together with the application, a Deficiency Memo will be issued in writing within 7 days, for fulfilling the required conditions.
- ii. The registration will be cancelled if the Scuba Dive Centre/operator loses its affiliation of either A or B category, ceases to operate, or violates any of the guidelines stated above. Provided that Director, IP&T, A&N Administration shall after giving an opportunity of being heard, by an order in writing, cancel the permit for operation Suba Dive Center.
- iii. Appellate Authority- The Scuba dive operator/owner aggrieved by an order issued by the Director Tourism under section 2.(v) & 3.14 may within 15 days from the date of order, prefer an appeal to the Secretary (IP&T).

4. Diving Guidelines

4.1 Planning the Dive

It is essential to “PLAN YOUR DIVE AND DIVE YOUR PLAN”. Dive Centre must be aware of any changes to the dive plan of the dive boats and divers.

4.2 Weather Checks

It is recommended that the dive centres keep aware of local weather conditions and inform divers of any special conditions at each dive site prior to the dive.

4.3 Low risk conditions

- a. Maximum depth of dive sites does not exceed 18 meters.

- b. Swell and /or wave height does not exceed 0.5 meters.
- c. Current is nil to slight (diver can swim against it with minimum exertion)
- d. Underwater visibility is greater than 4 meters.
- e. Dive starts and ends in full day light.

4.4 Prohibited dives

- 1. Decompression Dives.
- 2. Entry level Dives deeper than 18 meters
- 3. Introductory dives deeper than 12 meters
- 4. Dives less than 24 hours before flying (a pressurized aircraft)
- 5. Dives in restricted / no dive areas.

4.5 Diver Qualification

- a. A diver must present following documents to the dive centre.:-
 - i. Dive certification Card from a WRSTC recognized agency that allows the person to dive.
 - ii. Logbook validating open water diving experience of at least 900 minutes, excluding training dives.
 - iii. Medical Certificate dated within 12 months of diving or self declaration stating that the person is fit to scuba dive.
 - iv. Completed Diver registration Form at the dive Centre.
 - v. An orientation dive may be required for persons who have not dived within the last 6 months. The dive centre may impose restrictions on a divers' activities on the basis of his/her logged experience.

4.6 Dive Tables and Computers

- i. Use of dive tables or dive computers are highly recommended for all divers.
- ii. Dive Tables must be available at the dive base for divers to work out their Dives manually.

4.7 Diving from Boats

For all dives away from the dive centre, it is recommended that a person with the following qualifications and experience remains on surface during diving operations: -

- i. A boat driving /captains license from the concerned authority, with significant experience.
- ii. Dive Centre staff with adequate knowledge of the dive location or other person approved by base leader.
- iii. First Aid certificate.
- iv. Oxygen resuscitation and therapy certificate of WRSTC/ internationally recognized, oxygen provider course.

4.8 Damage due to Anchoring

Dive boats are not allowed to anchor on dive sites. Boat anchors destroy fish habitats especially corals and even sea grass beds. If anchoring is required for any reason, prevent reef damage by anchoring in sandy areas or using mooring buoys.

4.9 Diving for commercial fishing and Marine Research

Diving for marine resources and marine research are not covered under these guidelines. Permission should be obtained from the concerned Government authorities before engaging in such activities.

4.10 Diving Wrecks and Underwater Artefacts

- 1) It is important for diving that whenever wreck is discovered it should be only observed but should not be touched so that no damage is done to the underwater wreckage. This rule also applies to any separate object discovered underwater.
- 2) Whenever any underwater object is discovered, the correct procedure is to mark the spot and report to the Director(Tourism) or Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (Wild Life), Andaman & Nicobar Administration.

Model Emergency Action Plan (EAP) prepared by NIWS

The dive operator must have a “safety crew” to be present at their office manning the wireless communication set throughout the time the dive boat is at sea. Actions to be initiated by personnel in case of dive emergency at or around the island are given below.

- 1) **Dive instructor:** The dive instructor in-charge of the dive operations is to assess the emergency and contact his dive centre giving the following information:
 - Nature of emergency: Mechanical failure of boat or engine, injury to personnel etc.
 - Approximate location of boat
 - Type of assistance required : Ambulance, oxygen, doctor, rescue boat etc.
- 2) **Safety crew of Dive Centre:** After receiving the distress message, the safety crew should initiate following actions :
 - Repeat the information received from the dive instructor to confirm that he has understood the emergency situation.
 - a) For boat / engine failure :
Organize to send the rescue boat with appropriate towing equipment.
 - Inform the dive boat of the action taken by him.
 - Maintain contact.
 - b) For medical help :
 - Confirm that the dive instructor wants to shift patient to hospital.
 - Contact staff on duty at Primary Health Centre, at Havelock, on Tel No .282382, at Neil Island Tel No. 282627, and for Wandoor, Tel. No 287227 specifying requirement of ambulance/ stretcher/ oxygen/ nurse etc.
 - If telephone contact with PHC is not established, inform police outpost staff at Havelock, on Tel No .282405, at Neil Island Tel. No. 282602, and for Wandoor Tel. No. 287590 to help in contacting the medical staff.
 - Send messenger to PHC as added precaution.
 - Continue to man the wireless set and report progress to dive boat.
- 3) **Medical officer at PHC :**
 - Ensure that the ambulance is dispatched to jetty immediately.
 - Assess the medical emergency by examining the patient and initiate follow-up.
 - If air evacuation to Port Blair is considered necessary, contact the Director of Health Services on Tel. No 233331 or DHS control room, on Tel No .232102,233473 for further action.

Accompany the patient till he/ she is handed over to qualified recompression staff.

CHECKLIST OF DOCUMENTS NEEDED FOR REGISTRATION /RENEWAL OF SCUBA DIVE CENTRE
IN A&N ISLANDS

Name of the firm:.....
 Name of the Owner/Partner :.....
 Address:.....
 Contact no:.....
 Email:.....

S. No	Documents submitted for registration / renewal of Dive Centre	Yes	No
1.	An amount of Rs. 5,000/- along with Application fee (one time) & required document. Registration/ Renewal fee Rs. 8000/-(annually) in favour of Sr. Accounts Officer, IP&T (by Demand Draft). Subject to yearly compliance documents submitted annually.		
	Filled in online application (only at the time of new registration & renewal)		
	Firm type – Owner details (only at the time of new registration & for any changes in ownership as & when they occur) Name of the owner - i. Aadhar Card No:..... ii. PAN Card No:.....		
2.	Boat Registration details (Annually) <u>IV Act/MS Act/Fishing Act</u> Name of the Boat..... Reg No..... Passengers Capacity..... Validity of Registration..... Name of Boat Operator & Crew (PBH & LST Certificates, GP Rating)		
3.	Insurance coverage of Hull & Machinery of Dive Boat- (Annually)		
4.	Insurance coverage for passengers/tourists travelling by Dive boat (Annually)		
5.	Insurance coverage of tourist/ clients undertaking Scuba Dive activity – Personal Accident Insurance ((Group (Unnamed)) (Annually)		
6.	Registration under EPF (At the time of new registration & renewal) EPF code no.....		
7.	Registration under GST No.(Active status) (At the time of new		

	registration & renewal)		
8.	Foreign Scuba Divers/operator enclose copy of the Passport indicating address, date of issue, expiry, visa details		
9.	Foreign Scuba Divers/Operators shall enclose copy of the Restricted Area Permit granted by the Ministry of Home Affairs, GOI. Or enclose a copy of the permit made to FRRO/MHA or copy of employment visa/ business visa. (Applicable only as per latest notification & validity of visa)		
10.	Details of Dive Staff (Dive Instructor, Dive Master, Rescue Diver, etc)as on date (valid upto) (Annually and for any changes as when they occur)		
11.	Details and copy of Appointment orders of the employees attached with the Dive Centre. (Annually and for any changes as when they occur)		
12.	Details of Insurance of Dive Staff – (Annually) (Should have a specific dive insurance policy for scuba diving industry professionals through an accredited Insurance Agency)		
13.	Details of Support Staff as on date (Copy of Aadhar Card) (Annually and for any changes as when they occur)		
14.	Enclosed Emergency Action Plan with sign and seal of the owner which is formulated by Safety Auditing Agency(PADI/SSI/NIWS, Goa) along with undertaking stating that the EAP will be meticulously followed. (At the time of new registration/renewal)		
15.	<u>Registration under Shops & Establishments Regulations, 2004</u> (Enclosed Shop & Establishment Registration validity expires on) (Annually or at the expiry of existing registration)		
16.	Rate List (At the time of registration/renewal and if changes in price is beyond 20% overall. Should be informed to the authorities in writing and alongwith submission of a new rate card. Discounts on printed rates are at the discretion of the dive centre.		
17.	Annual Safety audit report issued by PADI/SSI/NIWS, Goa (Annually)		
18.	Insurance coverage of Dive Centre – Standard Fire and Special Perils Policy (Annually)		
19.	Air quality analysis certificate- (As per validity) Air quality check certificate (AQC) for compressors at the dive centre must be kept valid throughout the year and obtained after testing at authorized agencies and submitted.		
20.	Details of Rescue Boat- (Annually) <u>IV Act/MS Act/Fishing Act</u> Name of the Boat.....		

	Reg No.....		
	Passengers Capacity.....		
	Validity of registration.....		
	Insurance coverage of Hull & Machinery of Rescue Boat valid upto.....(Annually)		
	Insurance Coverage of Group Personal Accident Policy Rescue Boat valid upto..... (Annually)		
	Name of Boat Operator & Crew (PBH & LST Certificates, GP Rating)		
21.	Affidavit/Undertaking stating that all scuba dive activity will be carried out under the strict compliance of the notified Scuba guidelines. (Only at the time of new registration/renewal)		



v.MekurFkkfudksckjiz'kklu
 Andaman and Nicobar Administration
 i;ZVufuns'kky; /Directorate of Tourism
 Tel.No.03192-244013 Fax No.03192-230933
 E-mail:andamantourismscuba@gmail.com

**Scuba Diving
 Registration/Renewal Order
 Grant of Permission**

Reg. No.

Sri Vijaya Puram, dated ,2025

Name of the Firm	
Name of the Owner(s)	
Postal Address of the Firm	
Permission Type	
Firm type	
Validity of Permission	
Area of Diving/Operation	

It is hereby certified that the above-mentioned Establishment has been registered under the rule provisions of "Guidelines for Scuba Diving Centers in Andaman and Nicobar Islands", subject to fulfillment of the terms and conditions prescribed by Directorate of Tourism.

This has approval of the competent authority.

**Assistant Director (Admn.)
 Andaman and Nicobar Administration**

Note:

1. Approved by the competent authority and signed by the Assistant Director (Admn.)
2. This Grant of Permission is valid only if all the supporting documents are validated on time failing which this permission will be treated as cancelled.
3. The Scuba Diving Centers are directed not to conduct dive activities without re-validation of any documents i.e. certificate of survey, certificate of registration,

insurances, air quality, shop and establishment, staff certification and any other document required to be validated.

4. The Scuba Diving Centers are directed to comply with Scuba Guidelines and also to strictly follow all terms and conditions prescribed by this directorate.
5. The Dive Boat/Rescue Boat registered under IV Act/MS Act/Fisheries Act should ply within its respective plying limits as mentioned in the registration certificate by the registering authority.

**Assistant Director (Admn.)
Andaman and Nicobar Administration**



Andaman and Nicobar Administration
Directorate of Tourism
Tel.No.03192-230381 Fax No.03192-230933
E-mail:andamantourismscuba@gmail.com

Paste passport
size photo of
owner

PROFORMA FOR SEEKING REGISTRATION/ RENEWAL FOR SCUBA DIVE CENTRE

1.	Name of the SCUBA Dive Centre	
	• Address of the Scuba Dive Centre	
	• Landmark	
	• City	
	• Village/ Tehsil	
	• District	
	• State/UT	
	• Pin Code No.	
	• TAN No.	
	• Contact No.	
	• Landline	
	Mobile	
	Email Address	
Website		
2.	Category of Dive Centre	
a) WRSTC recognized dive centres	☐	(Put ✓/Mark)
b) Non-WRSTC recognized dive centres	☐	(Put ✓/Mark)

3.		1	2	3	4
	Name of the Owner (s)				
	• Sex				
	• Date of Birth				
	• Aadhar Card No.				
	• Nationality				

	• Passport details of foreigners				
	Country Name				
	Passport No.				
	Visa Details				
	RAP details				
	Work permit				
	• Present Address				
	Landmark				
	Village/ City				
	Tehsil				
	District				
	State/UT				
	Pin Code No.				
	• Communication Address				
	Landmark				
	Village City				
	Tehsil				
	District				
	State/UT				
	Pin Code No.				
	• Contact No.				
	Landline				
	Mobile				
	Email Address				
PAN Number (In India)					
4.	• Details of Demand Draft for Registration of SCUBA Dive centre				

	Bank Name		
	Branch		
	IFSC Code		
	DD No. & Date		
	Amount		
	• Details of Demand Draft for Renewal of Registration of SCUBA Dive centre (For office use Only)		
	Date of Expiry		
	Date of submission		
	Bank Name		
	Branch		
	IFSC Code		
	DD No. & Date		
	Amount		
5.	• Whether the firm is a Proprietorship firm or Partnership firm • Registration Details	Proprietorship firm (Put ✓/Mark) ☐	Partnership firm (Put ✓/Mark) ☐
6.	• Name and address and contact details of the Local Agent or local Representative in Andaman (in case of foreign nationals ownership)		
	Name of the Local Agent		
	Date of Birth		
	Aadhar Card No.		
	Nationality		
	Landmark		
	Village/City		
	Tehsil		
	District		
	State/UT		
	Pin Code No.		
7.	Address of the office in mainland – India and Abroad		
	Name of the office		
	Name of the Owner		
	Date of Birth		
	Aadhar Card No.		

	Nationality	
	Landmark	
	Village/City	
	Tehsil	
	District	
	State/UT	
	Pin Code No.	
	• Contact No.	
	Mobile	
	Email Address	
	Website, if any	

8.	Details of Insurance SCUBA Dive Centre		
	Particulars	Registering Agency	Validity of Insurance
	• Personal Accident Insurance for tourists/ Special Contingency Policy (The Dive Centre should have third party insurance policy for a minimum amount of Rs. 10 Lakhs per person)		
	• Insurance coverage of passenger travelling by Dive boat.		
	• Insurance Coverage of Hull & Machinery of the Dive Boat		
	• Insurance coverage of the Dive Centre (Standard Fire and Special Perils Policy)		
	• Insurance coverage of staff/ personnel (Instructors, Dive Master, Support staff) Name of staff		
	1.		
	2.		
	3.		
	4.		
	5.		
9.	Details of Appointment orders of staffs attached with the Dive Centre.		
	Name of the Employee	Appointment Details / along with orders	Yes / No
	1.		
	2.		
	3.		
	4.		
	5.		
	6.		

	7.		
10.	Details of Registration Certificate of Shop and Establishment		
	Name of the establishment	Registration No.	Date
11.	Registration under EPF		
	Name of the firm		Registration No. & Details
12.	Registration under GST		
	Name of the firm		Registration No. & Details
13.	Income tax clearance certificate		
	Name of the firm		For the year
14.	Rate Chart of SCUBA Dive Centre		
	Name of the activity	Details of activity	Rate per person

15.	Details of SCUBA Centre Staff/ activity operational staff :-		
	Designation	Name of employee	Certification Agency (PADI / SSI etc)
	• Master Scuba Dive Trainer	1.	
		2.	
		3.	
	• Open Water Scuba	1.	

B.	Details of Dive Boat/ Boats	Registering Agency	Registration No.	Validity of registration	
	Name of the Dive Boat -				
	i. M. S. Act				
	ii. I.V. Act				
C.	Equipment's and Accessories of dive boat-	Make			
	i. wireless communication System/ Walkie Talkie/radio or alternate communication device (VHF)				
	ii. Dive Flag				
	iii. Oars				
	iv. Flares				
	v. Life Jackets & Buoys				
D.	IRS Survey of the Dive boat	Validity of IRS Survey		Passenger Capacity (Passenger + Crew)	
	i				
	ii				
E.	Details of Crew Members	Power Boat Handling, Mater or Equivalent Certificate		Validity of the Certificate	
	i				
	ii				
	iii				
	iv				
F.	Details of Rescue Boat available at the dive site/ Rigid Inflatable Boat (MMD Approved/ Certified) Class and accessories	Registering Agency	Registration No.	Validity of registration	Capacity (Crew + Pax)
	i. Name of the Rescue Boat				
	ii. Adult Spine-board with immobilizer				

	iii. Oxygen cylinder along with necessary accessories			
	iv. First Aid Kit, Splinter			
	v. Rescue Tube			
	vi. Life Jacket			
	vii. Marine grade rope -30 mts (14 - 16mm)			
	viii. Scramble net			
	ix. Jumping ladder			
G.	Details of staff on board a Rescue boat			
	Name of the Crew	Whether cerified & Licensed boat driver/ handler	Cerified & Licensed Lifeguard / proficiency to administrror emergency oxygen	Advance Certificate holder in First Aid & CPR
	i.			
	ii			

18. Detailed of Emergency Action Plan

Base Leader				
Emergency Communication System				

19. Air Quality Check Certifacate(AQC)

Air Quality Check Certifacate	Registered / Authorized agency	Validity of the Certificate Up to	

20. Area of Operation with GPS co-ordinates as per notified guidelines-Annexure-IV

21. Safety Audit conducted by PADI/SSI/National Institute of Water Sports, Goa for registration /renewal

☐☐

Yes

NO

22. An undertaking with regard to compliance of the notified guidelines of Scuba Diving.

Signature of Owner/operator of the Dive Centre

Name and address_____

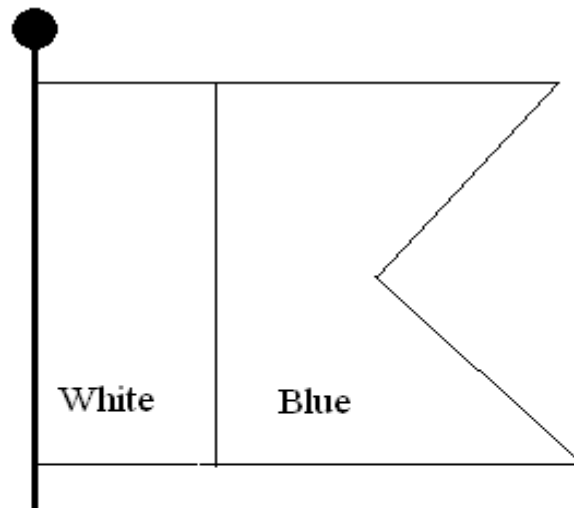
Areas Open for Scuba Diving in Andaman Islands

Following areas have been identified and kept open for Scuba Diving activities:-

- a. Neil Island
- b. Henry Lawrence Island *(Marine National Park)
- c. John Lawrence Island *(Marine National Park)
- d. Inglis Island (Sanctuary)
- e. Outram Island *(Marine National Park)
- f. Campbell Shoal
- g. East Coast of South Andaman Island between North Point and Chidiyatapu with the exception of Ross Island, main channel to the harbour, Phoenix Bay, Chatham, Haddo/I.N. Jetty, FDN-I and Brichgunj.
- h. East and South coasts of Rutland Island outside the Marine National Park.
- i. Cinque Island Sanctuary*(Marine National Park)
- j. North of North Wandoor and North of Tarmugli Island excluding the Marine National Park and Lohabarack Sanctuary and shallow open sea areas such as Allen Patches. *(Marine National Park)
- k. Havelock Island and shallow sites and barren rocks in open sea such as Pilot Reef and Minerva Ledge excluding Havelock Jetty and Radhanagar Beach
- l. Long Island
- m. Avis Island
- n. North Brother (Wildlife Sanctuary)
- o. South Brother (Wildlife Sanctuary)
- p. Sister Island
- q. Jolly Buoy and Red Skin Island (Marine National Park)
- r. Narcondum Island and Barren Island (no landing ashore).

- (i) Scuba Diving is allowed in Marine National Park subject to payment of prescribed fee which is Rs.500/- per person per day in respect of Indian citizens and Rs.1000/-per person per day in respect of foreigners.
- (ii) The entry to Marine National Park/Wild Life Sanctuary is subject to prior permission from the Chief Wildlife Warden, Department of Environment and Forest, Andaman Nicobar Administration on payment of prescribed fee.
- (iii) The list of areas open for Scuba diving will be updated from time to time and negative list will also be notified by the Administration periodically.

Dive Flag



Length of Flag: 750 mm
Width of Flag: 600 mm