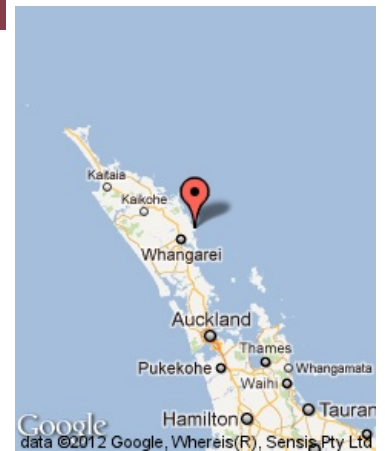


PADI Open Water Course in New Zealand



Highlights

The PADI open water course is the most popular dive programme in the world, teaching you all you need for independent sub-aqua exploration. This five-day course includes pool sessions and open water dives off the world-renowned Poor Knights Islands!

Located just 22km off New Zealand's Tutukaka Coast, the uninhabited Poor Knights Islands are one of the world's top ten diving destinations. This awesome marine reserve (and pending World Heritage Site) is home to an incredible diversity of sub-tropical and temperate plant and animal life, including soft corals, encrusting sponges, ecklonia kelp forests and over 125 species of fish! These myriad life forms inhabit an underwater wonderland of caves, tunnels and wrecks like the Tui and Waikato, making for some truly unique dive expeditions!

This five-day Padi open water course is your passport to a lifetime of diving adventures! You'll start off with some classroom sessions designed to introduce you to diving theory and the fundamentals of practice (pay close attention – there's an exam on this at the end of the course!). It's then into the pool for two training dives to help you get used to the feeling of breathing under water and put some of your new skills into practice. Once you feel comfortable in this low-stress environment, you'll head out to the Poor Knights for your first open water dives amidst the colourful corals and kelp! Upon successful completion of all sessions you'll be awarded your PADI certification - your diving career starts here!

Is it for me?

The PADI open water course is the perfect introduction to the wonderful world of diving! Anyone can learn to scuba; as long as you're able-bodied (you'll need to provide a medical certificate to evidence this) and fairly confident in the water you should have no problem with a programme of this kind. The training is comprehensive but not fiercely paced, giving you plenty of time to review what you've learnt and check that it's all sunk in (pun fully intended!). You'll be tested on what you've been taught, so those with a childhood aversion to examinations might be a little apprehensive about this part. The tests aren't too challenging though, and once you pass you're set up for life! Age wise, the minimum ages for this course is 12. If you have a non-diving partner, there are plenty of activities to occupy them, including snorkelling and kayaking.

Accommodation

Food and accommodation aren't provided on this course, but there are plenty of options for both in Tutukaka and nearby Whangarei. On the accommodation front you'll find hotels, hostels, self-catering cottages and campsites to suit every budget, from The Bach, an exclusive beach house at Kowharewa Bay, to the cheap and cheerful YHA Manaakitanga overlooking Whangarei Harbour. There's an equally comprehensive range of restaurants and cafes serving both international and 'local' cuisine. As you'd expect being so close to the ocean, seafood is the regional specialty, but for those needing a break from all the fish there are lots of other options, from organic meats like lamb and venison to excellent fresh fruits and vegetables.

Itinerary

Prices from

421 GBP (5 days) per person

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The timetable for this course varies, but sessions usually begin at 8am on Monday and finish on Friday. Activities you can expect to undertake during the week include:

- Classroom theory sessions
- Pool sessions
- Self-study time
- Theory tests and exam
- Four open-water dives

Details

Getting there

It takes 2.5 hours to drive from Auckland and 1 1/4 hours drive from Paihia. Alternatively, if you get a bus to Whangarei, you can be picked up by a complimentary shuttle bus.

Price includes

Price quoted is the price for each person in a group. For one-to-one tuition the price is NZ\$1450.

Open water kit, pool sessions, four open water dives, equipment, certificate, certification card, PADI fees.

Available

Jan—Dec

Typical Duration

5 days

Experience required

A reasonable level of fitness and interest is all that is needed