

Quepos, Manuel Antonio, Costa Rica Learn to dive in Manuel Antonio

The diving

The PADI Open Water Diver is the most recognized diver certification in the dive industry and will allow you to dive anywhere in the world, independent of professional supervision, to a maximum depth of 18m.

Choosing the right place for your initial diving course is vital. The professionalism of the dive center and the instructor is just as important as the diving itself. Pair up incredible jungle on land with amazing diving in the ocean and a top class dive center in Quepos for your Open Water Course and you will have an experience for life.

The diving in Manuel Antonio is different. The beauty of the reef here is not the corals growing in it, but the topography of the old lava flows. Big boulders, underwater mazes and dramatic walls are what you will be surrounded by. Take these incredible formations and add a healthy marine life to it such as most common reef fish, some funky octopus and a good variety of eels and crustaceans. For the larger pelagic, you might get lucky with anything from reef sharks, rays, sea turtles, dolphins and in season the majestic humpback whales and manta rays (Dec - April).

Together with your instructor you will have a fun, safe and different first experience in diving.



Area name / Island name
Quepos, Manuel Antonio, Costa Rica

Nearest airport
San Jose, Costa Rica

Season
Closed September to start November
Best season is Dec to April

Center type
PADI 5* IDC Center
ECO operators
Project AWARE Environmental Achievement
Awards for the last 4 years for environmental
work in Costa Rica

Experience level
None. This is the initial course
All students are required to swim 200 meters
and float for 10 minutes during the course

Minimum age for participation
12 years



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Location

Surrounded by rainforest filled with monkeys and exotic birds, Puerto Quepos drapes itself across a tropical inlet surrounded by rainforest. The village center is a colorful six-block square of restaurants, bars, hotels, bakeries, and art galleries all fronted by the main beach and harbour.

The high season runs through the drier months of December to April and explodes during Semana Santa or Easter. Quepos fills to the brim with families, surfers, backpackers, ecotourists and gay jet-setters, all as colorful and intriguing as the flora and fauna surrounding the village. All year round, world travelers are discovering the area.

Your accommodation

Hostel Plinio is a authentic place for travelers located a short 10 minute walk up the hill from Quepos town. It is the perfect place for like minded travelers to meet and exchange stories in the hammocks, sunbathe by the pool or relax in one of the many communal areas. With a communal kitchen, dining room and TV room it is a quiet piece of tropical paradise with a stunning view. You'll find Wifi, boardgames, a bar, a small restaurant, luggage storage and guarded overnight parking and great porches with... we said it already... great views!

Your room

Private room with fan (no A/C) and shared bathroom.

You can upgrade to a private room with A/C and private bathroom in the booking process.



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Introduction to course

The PADI Open Water Diver course is the most popular diving certificate worldwide. After completing this 3-4 day course you are certified to dive to 18 m independently with a buddy. The course consists of five modules of learning. Prior to arrival, you will receive a login to the PADI website from the dive center. Once you are logged in, a step-by-step process will guide you through the theory module of your course. This process is assisted by videos and little quizzes to sum-up what you have learned. The final stage of the PADI e-learning, is an exam, which is a multiple choice exam covering all that you have learnt. **You must finish all your e-learning prior to arrival!** The practical learning consists of pool sessions and four open water dives. Dive one and two are conducted at a depth of max 12 meters and dive three and four are conducted at max 18 meters. Remember that the course is performance based and not time based. The course generally takes 3 to 4 days, with the theoretical, the pool and the open water part successfully passed.

WHEN TAKING THE COURSE

Diving is open to anyone in good health, but a medical form must be filled out before arrival. If you answer YES to any questions on the Medical Questionnaire, you will need medical clearance to dive. Students must also be able to swim at least 200 m and float for 10 min.



The course in short

Number of Dives

5 Confined Water Sessions and 4 Open Water Dives

Knowledge Development

Five theoretical modules
(Must be finished prior to arrival)

Prerequisites

10 years for Junior Open Water Diver, 15 years for Open Water Diver.
Good health, reasonable fitness and comfort in the water

Materials you'll need

PADI Open Water theory materials
(NOT included in your package)
Payable on location USD 202
Prices subject to change without notice

Equipment you'll use during the course

Mask, fins, snorkel, tank, regulator, buoyancy compensator, weight belt, submersible pressure gauge and a wetsuit
(Included in your package)

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Itinerary

The PADI Open Water Course is performance based. That means you have to understand and pass the theory and perform the in-water skills correctly and with ease. Therefore, the itinerary can vary slightly from course to course. The course will take 3 to 4 days depending on the students enrolled. To give you an idea of what to expect, see the itinerary below:

Day 1: Check in at hostel and discuss the program with your instructor at the dive center. Possibly confined dives in the afternoon. (depending on student and arrival times)

Day 2: Confined water sessions

Day 3: Open water dives

Day 4: Open water dives
Relax & check out. Or go fun diving!

PLEASE NOTE: You need to allow minimum 18 hours after your last dive before flying or before travelling to an altitude above 300 meters. San Jose is at a higher altitude and you therefore need minimum 18 hrs before traveling to San Jose.

If you want a longer itinerary, you can add extra days of diving and accommodation upon booking.

Please Note!

PADI e-learning **is not included** in package!

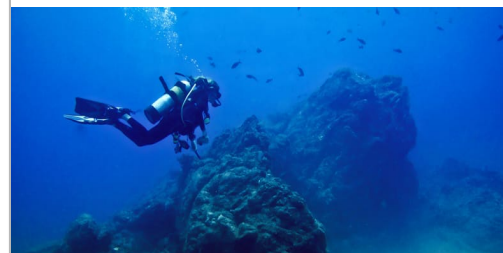
To enroll in the PADI Open Water Course at this destination, you must finish the PADI e-learning program online at PADI.com

The e-learning must be finished **BEFORE you arrive at the dive center!**

Upon booking this course, you will receive your login for the PADI e-learning, and instructions for this online part of the course. It is very simple, and can be done whenever you can get online on a good internet connection. The e-learning takes approximately 5 to 6 hours, and can be done in steps whenever you have the time. The PADI e-learning is not included in this package, but will be charged locally upon arrival at the dive center at the price of: **USD 202.** (subject to change without notice)

Please Note:

Please book the start date for your course on a: Sunday, Tuesday or Thursday, so you can start your pool training the next day (on a Monday, Wednesday or Friday).



Activity starts

Beginner courses are run on a daily basis.
Courses on all levels can start every day.

Please note that daily start times can vary from course to course. You will be notified upon arrival.

Activity start from

Dive center

Group Size

No limit Max. 4 divers pr. Instructor

Language

English

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Transfer Information

There are several options to get from San Jose to Quepo

By Car: The journey takes about 2 ½ hours, depending on the traffic. Take the new road from San Jose (Ezcazu) toward Caldera, turn off towards Jaco and on to Quepos. It is not necessary to rent a 4X4 to visit Quepos / Manuel Antonio, though in other areas of the country it is recommended.

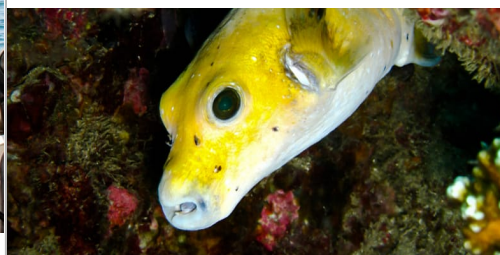
Public Bus: 5 direct buses daily from San Jose to Quepos, leaving from the Coca Cola bus station in downtown San Jose. You can buy your ticket at the bus station from the Transportes Morales Counter, \$8, the trip takes about 4 hours.

Direct Bus Times: 4am, 6am, 9:30am, 12pm and 4pm.

Grayline: Has daily shuttles from the most popular tourist destinations in Costa Rica to Quepos, pick-up and drop off at hotels, cost is approximately \$25. Grayline is more comfortable and faster than the public bus service.

By Plane: a quick and easy way to get to Quepos in 20 minutes. There are two airlines, Nature Air and Sansa that fly between San Jose and Quepos. They have several flights daily to Quepos and the cost is approximately \$70. If you are bringing dive gear be careful the allowance is only 27lbs

You need to let the dive center know your arrival at least one week in advance. You will find the details for the dive center on your voucher.



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Prices below are based on 2 persons sharing accommodation, unless stated otherwise.

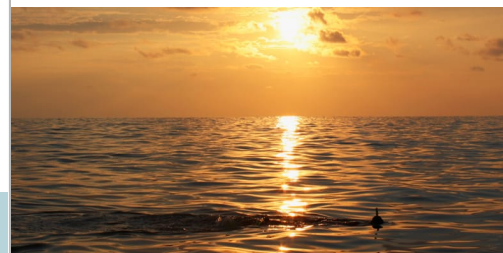
LEARN TO DIVE	
Days / Nights	4/3
Amount of dives	4
Price (incl. accommodation)	651 EUR

Supplements	
Extra day of diving (2 dives)	126 EUR
Extra night of accom. (after)	42 EUR
Extra night of accom. (before)	42 EUR
Refresher dive (added to 1st dive)	65 EUR
Upgrade to A/C & private bathroom (define nights)	25 EUR

Prices for supplementary accommodation are based on 2 persons sharing accommodation, unless stated otherwise.

Supplements

A supplement can be chosen to add on your package. All supplements can also be booked on site. In high season, bungalows and boats get filled fast - you might find trouble getting an extra night in your resort or an extra day of diving. If you are booking a course, it is recommended to book an extra night of accommodation after your course, to leave some time to enjoy the destination after your course.



Included

All dive equipment
Instructor
Boat, soft drinks and snacks on boat
accommodation in private room
Towels and bed linen
Wireless internet

Not included

All meals
PADI e-learning
Soft and alcoholic drinks
Transfer to/from Quepos

Also available on site

Extra accommodation if available*
Extra days of diving if available*
Upgrading to private room if available*

*Availability depending on seasons

Continuing education

All continuing courses available on site

Cancellation

As written in terms and conditions

Dive insurance

Basic dive travel insurance required

General terms and conditions

GENERAL CONDITIONS

CHANGES OF BOOKINGS:

You can change your booking request or start date free of charge.

If you need to change your booking you must contact the **dive center** directly by e-mail or phone. You will find the contact details on your voucher. For verification purpose, please remember to mention your name and booking ID.

If you want to change your start date, we recommend that you do so minimum 10 days before the beginning of your dive package. Later than this, might cause the accommodation to be fully booked for alternative dates. During high seasons, 10 days might not be sufficient time, please allow extra time for changes in the high season. As a reminder, you will receive an email with general information and contact information of your dive center 10 days prior to your start date.

CANCELLATION RULES:

Any customer has the right to cancel their booking with Blue Venture Diving. In order to do so, you must contact your selling agent. The cancellation fees and rules of your selling agent will apply for your cancellation.

Blue Venture is not liable for any cancellations done by the customer of personal reason such as/or in the same category as sickness, family, missed flights etc, or other circumstances that is beyond reasonable control such as force majeure.

Blue Venture booking cancellation

In the unlikely event that Blue Venture is forced to cancel a booking, the customer will get direct notice. A cancellation will only happen if Blue Venture finds that the contracted dive center can't perform the needed service of the booked package or if the dive standards can't be fulfilled accordingly. Minor changes in the itinerary will not be defined as a valid cancellation reason, as diving is dictated by the environment and the people enrolled in the activity.

Blue Venture will always do their best to find another operator of same or higher standard, but it is up to the customer to decide whether they want to accept the change or get a refund.

INSURANCE:

A cancellation insurance is not included. It is highly advised recommended that you obtain adequate travel insurance prior to your departure from your home country.

REFUNDS:

Medical Statement

To enroll in an Open Water Course, all students **MUST** fill in the Medical Statement. Please ensure that you have received the medical statement from your travel agent. If any questions are replied with a "Yes", the medical statement must be signed by a doctor. Failing the medical statement at the destination, and therefore not being able to enroll in the diving course, you will not be entitled to a refund.

If you have not received your Medical Statement, please make sure to print it from this link.

<https://blueventure.net/files/information/12.pdf>

Restricted dives

Diving is dictated by the environment and the people enrolled in the activity. All diving is performance based. It is up to the discretion of the dive guide/instructor to restrict divers from entering activities that goes beyond their experience level. All guides strive to reach the expectations of the customers. However, if they find that the safety of the group or an individual is jeopardized or at risk by one or several individuals, it is up to the dive guide/instructor to restrict any divers from entering the water.

In this event the dive center or Blue Venture is not obliged to give a refund.

Dives not completed

There is no refund for dives not carried out.

Refund for dives not done for any reason is up to the discretion of the dive center. Most dive centers do not give refunds for dives not done with personal causes such as seasickness, low on air situations or a failure in mastering the equipment etc. All log books will be checked prior to the dive and the dive sites will be chosen accordingly to the experience level. It is however expected that certified divers keep within their limits and do not cross their comfort zone. Blue Venture and your travel agent is never responsible to pay a refund for dives not done.

Courses not completed

There is no refund for courses not completed! All courses are performance based, but it is up to the instructor to pass the student. If a customer can not complete a course with success they will receive their course documents for an optional referral, but the contracted dive center, your travel agent and Blue Venture is not responsible to pay a refund.

Boats or dives not departing

If boats or dives are cancelled due to bad weather or sea conditions, it is up to the dive center to re-schedule and compensate with a similar dive trip when conditions allow. If the customer does not have adequate time to enroll in another trip/course it is up to the customer to make sure the dive center notify Blue Venture of this in order to secure a refund via the sales agent who completed the sale with the customer. There will only be refund on the diving and not the accommodation.

ACCOMMODATION:

Unless mentioned in the destination information folder the accommodation is always part of the package.

If the dive center by any means can't deliver the agreed accommodation, it is up to their discretion to supply immediate accommodation of the same or higher standard. (the destination information folder is found on the Blue Venture website.)

If the accommodation somehow does not live up to satisfactory standards of the customer, the customer must contact Blue Venture by phone or email as soon as possible (preferably while still on site) in order to solve the problem.

DIVE INSTRUCTORS & DIVE GUIDES:

All contracted dive centers has been handpicked based on their level of professionalism and expertise. Blue Venture ensures that all guides and instructors have the correct education and experience. In the unlikely event that a customer suffers a bad experience with any guide, instructor or dive center facilities, Blue Venture is entitled to know, but can't by any means be held liable.

At the end of you dive experience as questionnaire will be sent out to you, that we would like you to answer. By doing this, you help securing a high level of professionalism towards all customers.

MEDICAL STATEMENT & LOGBOOK:

If you are about to enroll in a dive course (entry level only), you must fill out the RSTC Medical Statement before you leave your home country. Please make sure your agent has provided you with the RSTC Medical Statement. You can also print the medical statement from the link, further up on this page. If you need the medical statement reviewed by a doctor, you have 10 days from the date of the booking with the option of cancelling for free.

If you are already certified as a diver and about to go fundiving, you must remember your current dive certificate and your personal logbook or dive computer.