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away to sea

Playa Del Carmen, Riviera Maya, Mexico

Learn to dive in Playa Del Carmen



The diving

Doing your SSI Open Water Course - the initial step on the ladder in your diving adventure - in Playa Del Carmen will provide you with a diving experience that is far from what you would get anywhere else.

Few places on our planet give you the contrast between two very different but equally inspiring underwater worlds. Mexico is an exception. One day you will be on a boat, ready to gear up for your dive on one of the biggest most beautiful coral reefs in the world. The next you will be on your way into the ancient Mayan Jungle in a jeep full of dive gear, on a mission to dive the enchanting cenotes. These two types of diving are so spectacular that you can't do one without doing the other!

During your Open Water Course, the best environment will be chosen on a day-to-day basis, based on the weather.

Together with your instructor, you will have a fun, safe and different course that will be something to remember.



Area name / Island name
Playa Del Carmen, Riviera Maya, Mexico

Nearest airport
Cancun International Airport

Season
All year round

Center type
SSI & PADI Dive center.
Small groups.
More than 20 years of experience.
Good and well maintained equipment.
Professional and good fun.

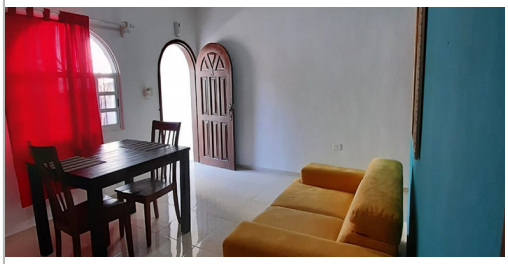
Experience level
None. This is the initial course.
All students are required to swim 200 meters and float for 10 minutes during the course

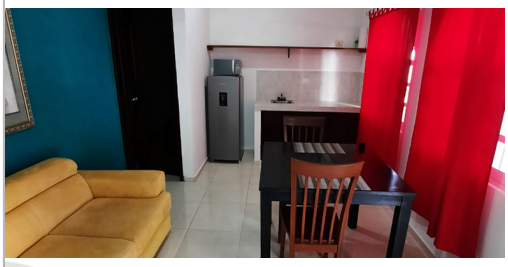
Minimum age for participation
12 Years

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Location
Situated between Cancun and Tulum on the Mayan Riviera, Playa, as locals call it, has grown to be the most frequented vacation destination in Mexico. You'll find miles of white sandy beaches and turquoise waters of the Caribbean Sea to the east, while lush green jungle parallels the town to the west. Here, beach bumming and visiting ancient Mayan ruins is almost as popular as the legendary nightlife.

Accommodation in Playa del Carmen
Finding accommodation that offers a relaxed atmosphere can be difficult, since the town and many hotel bars comes ALIVE at night. Since you will be diving, and therefore need your rest at night, you will be checking in at your very own quiet apartment. Within a mere 100 meters you will find the dive center, the beach and the main street where cafes and bars are only outnumbered by little art shops and Mexican market stands.

Your apartment in Playa Del Carmen
Your apartment is one out of 6 apartments that is rented out to divers at the dive center. With a little kitchen and living room area, you can cook meals and relax in a quiet atmosphere whenever needed. The apartment has Aircon, wifi and hot shower. The bedroom comes with a twin or double bed and fits 2 people comfortably.



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Introduction to course

The SSI 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 SSI diving license is recognized worldwide.

The course consists of five modules of learning. You study via self-study workbook and complete a knowledge review. This process is assisted by videos accompanying each chapter to reinforce what you have learned. The instructor reviews everything with you to ensure that everything required are confidently understood.

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. The final stage of the SSI Open Water course is an exam, which is a multiple choice exam covering all that you have learnt. 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:
Five Confined Water Sessions and Four Open Water Dives

Knowledge Development:
Five theoretical modules

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:
SSI Open Water online materials, online logbook (Included in your package)

Equipment you'll use during the course:
Mask, fins, snorkel, tank, regulator, buoyancy compensator, weightbelt, submersible pressure gauge and a wetsuit (Included in your package)

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Itinerary
The SSI 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 4 to 5 days depending on the students enrolled. To give you an idea of what to expect, see the itinerary below:

Day 1: Check in and relax, start reading the book
Day 2: Theory, Videos, pool training
Day 3: Pool training and theory
Day 4: 2 Open water dives
Day 5: 2 Open water dives + final exam
Relax & check out. Or go fun diving!

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

Please note
Due to ocean and weather conditions, the itinerary can be subject to change.

Activity starts
Beginner courses are run on a weekly 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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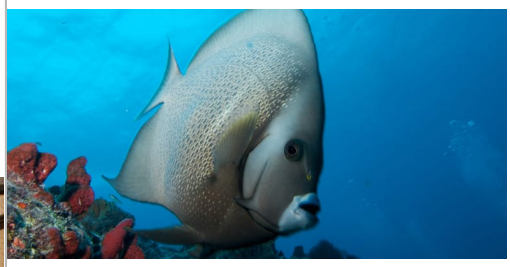


Transfer Information from Cancun airport:
Taxi - Grab an authorized airport taxi. It's a 45 minute ride to Playa del Carmen. A union controls who are allowed to carry tourists from the airport and what they charge. Taxis originating in Playa del Carmen are not actually authorized to take people to Playa, but you may end up with a driver that doesn't find his way around Playa very well.

Colectivo - A colectivo is (usually) a van that will take up to 10 people. They don't leave at any specific time, but you will have to wait until it's full enough to justify the trip. You may have to make stops at other resorts and hotels along the way, which can easily double the time it will take you to get to Playa del Carmen. To take one of these authorized taxis, go to any of the TTC kiosks located around the terminal and buy a ticket, or just step out of the arrival hall and you will get many offers.



Direct bus - Mexican bus company Riviera operates a direct bus service between Cancun airport and Playa del Carmen. Tickets are 65 pesos (about 7 usd) each way, either way. It leaves from outside the main arrival hall at the airport. Just before you exit the terminal, there is a Riviera counter where you buy the ticket. In Playa del Carmen the bus works out of the main bus terminal on 5th Avenue and Juarez.
When you arrive at the bus station in Playa, there will be many taxis to take you to the hotel.



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	5/4
Amount of dives	4
Price (incl. accommodation)	541 EUR

Supplements	
Extra 2 dives (Caverns/cenotes)	97 EUR
Extra 2 dives (reef dives)	75 EUR
Extra night (after)	37 EUR
Extra night (before)	37 EUR
Extra person in room	36 EUR
First aid course + 1 night	135 EUR
Full refresher course	52 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 accomodation prior your course, to get settled and get up front on the studying.



Included
Accommodation
All SSI course materials
All dive equipment
Instructor
Soft drinks between dives

Not included
All meals
Lunch pack
Transfers

Also available on site
Extra days of diving

Continuing education
All continuing courses available on site

Cancellation
As written in terms and conditions

Dive insurance
Basic dive travel insurance required

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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

Medical statements, specifically for courses in Cairns (Australia)

Entry level (E.g. Open Water course)
https://blueventure.net/files/required/138.pdf

Continuing education (e.g. advanced course)
https://blueventure.net/files/required/139.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.