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away to sea

Taganga, Tayrona National Park, Colombia
Learn to Dive in Taganga

With our dive center in Taganga being the only five-star PADI Instructor, Tec and Sidemount center in Colombia, you can't go wrong by beginning your diving experience here! The gear is new and well serviced, the instructors are friendly, professional and knowledgeable and safety is always in focus. These are the exact things you want to know is in order, when diving.

The PADI Open Water course is the world's most recognized diver certification. Once certified, you'll be qualified to dive independently with a buddy anywhere in the world, to a maximum depth of 18 metres.

Diving in Taganga and nearby Tayrona National Natural Park is best described in three words: **so many fish!** Imagine being surrounded by a swirling school of thousands of Blue Tang while two majestic Gray Angelfish feed on vibrant coral nearby. Every dive is packed with colourful reef life, healthy corals, and an incredible variety of tropical marine species.

Keep your eyes peeled and you may even encounter sea turtles, dolphins, and other larger pelagic visitors that occasionally cruise through these Caribbean waters.

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





Area name / Island name
Taganga, Tayrona National Park, Colombia

Nearest airport
Santa Marta, Símon Bolívar International Airport

Season
All year round
Colder temperatures and stronger winds from
December to March with a drop down to 20 degrees.
You'll be diving in a 5mm wetsuit, so you will be comfortable and warm in the water

Center type
International dive center
German owned
European standards
PADI 5 star Instructor Development Resort
PADI Tec/Rec Diving Facility
Sidemount Facility

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
10 Years

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Location
Taganga is an old fishing village located just 15 minutes from the big bustling Santa Marta. It is known to be a popular destination for backpackers wishing to stay close to the water, have a couple of drinks and dive in a relaxed atmosphere (of course not in that order). The main road along the beach, is filled with fishermen and local kids playing football during the day. In the evening, when the temperature drops, the restaurants, cafés and beach front attracts divers, hikers and backpackers alike. The many activities around Taganga and Tayrona National Park will keep you busy for days and are also the reason why many travellers end up extending their stay in this area of Colombia.

Your Guesthouse
Villa Mary is your cozy home during your stay. This colourful little pearl has great communal areas and hammocks and is located just a five-minute walk from the beach and the dive center. This family-run accommodation is clean and cozy, with the friendliest reception staff, who are happy to help you plan your onward travels, or trekking in Tayrona. If you prefer to cook your own food, there is a little communal kitchen. The hostel offers tasty breakfast options meals at a low cost, and there's a laundry service and free WIFI.

Your room - Private accommodation
Twin or double bed in spacious room with private bathroom, fan cooling and semi-hot water for your shower (This you will realise is quite a standard for Colombia, but if you want a hot shower, you can take one at the dive center, where they will provide you towels after your diving for that exact purpose).

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Introduction to the Course
The PADI Open Water Diver course is the world's most popular scuba diving certification and your passport to exploring the underwater world. Upon successful completion of the course, you'll be certified to dive independently with a buddy to a maximum depth of **18 metres**, anywhere in the world. The course is typically completed over **3–4 days** and combines knowledge development with practical, in-water training.

You'll begin by completing five knowledge development modules using the PADI eLearning platform, which **must be purchased prior and completed prior to the start of the course!**
You can purchase it on padi.com or via your agent at a discounted rate.

Each chapter includes interactive learning, videos, and knowledge reviews to help reinforce your understanding, with a multiple-choice exam at the end. Your instructor will then review the material with you, answer any questions, and ensure you're confident before moving on.Your practical training starts in calm, shallow water where you'll learn and practise essential scuba skills in a safe and controlled environment. Once you're comfortable, you'll complete four open water training dives. The first two dives are conducted to a maximum depth of 12 metres, while the final two dives take you to a maximum depth of 18 metres, allowing you to gradually build confidence and experience.

It's important to remember that the PADI Open Water Diver course is **performance-based, not time-based**. While most students complete the course in three to four days, your instructor will ensure you progress at a pace that allows you to become a safe, confident, and competent diver.

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

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 eLearning
NOT included in this package.
PADI eLearning can be bought via your agent,
or at the dive center for approx Euro 117.
The price can be 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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Activity starts
Meet 8am at the dive shop
Check with your dive center for changes the day prior to your diving

Activity starts from
The dive center

Group Size
Max. 4 divers per instructor

Language
English

Itinerary - 6 days and 5 nights - Learn to Dive
The PADI Open Water Course is performance based. That means you must 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 approximately 4 days depending on the students enrolled. To give you an idea of what to expect, see the sample itinerary below:

Day 1
Arrive in Taganga, check in at Villa Mary and the dive center for an orientation on your course and the coming days. You'll be filling in the paperwork, and can complete the eLearning if you haven't done so already.

Day 2
Review of theory and confined water sessions.

Day 3
Confined water sessions.
Open Water Dives.

Day 4
Open Water dives

Day 5
No diving day. This is your day to take your foot of the gas. You need to allow 24 hours on land, before leaving Taganga, as you must leave 24 hours before (See explanation below).
If you are not leaving the area, we highly recommend that you go and use your new certificate, with some fundiving!

Day 6
Relax & check out. (Or extend your stay and go fun diving... some more!)

Taganga is nestled by the ocean. To transfer to other bigger cities, you need to travel by road or plane at heights over 300m of sea level. This requires 24 hours without diving, which is why we have added a day of "no diving" in the itinerary. If you are feeling active, talk to the dive center about snorkeling or other activities for this day of off-gassing.

Please note
Due to ocean and weather conditions, the itinerary can be subject to change.
If you want a longer itinerary, you can add extra days of diving and accommodation upon booking.

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Getting to Taganga from:

Santa Marta Airport (SMR):
When arriving in Santa Marta International Airport you have two choices of transportation. The cheapest way to get to Taganga is by public busses, the first one leaves just outside of the arrival hall (there's only one bus line leaving from the airport, so you can't miss it) That will take you to Carrera 5 in the center of Santa Marta. From there catch any bus that says 'Kra.11 Taganga" to Taganga. The journey takes around 30-40 minutes and will cost you around 1EUR. The busses run every 10-15 minutes from 06:00 to 21:00.

The easier option is to take a taxi from Santa Marta Airport to Taganga. Remember to always negotiate the price before getting into the car to avoid misunderstandings. The ride should not cost you more than 35.000 pesos (10 EUR) during the day and 50.000 pesos (13 EUR) at night. We recommend this option after dark.



Cartagena or Barranquilla:
It is no problem to travel from west to east on the northern coast of Colombia. From Cartagena several minivan services will take you to directly to Taganga. They even offer hostel to hostel drop off and pick up. The journey from Cartagena takes around five hours and costs approximately 52.000 pesos (15 EUR) one way, from Barranquilla three hours and costs 35.000 pesos (10 EUR).







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

LEARN TO DIVE - PRIVATE ACC.	
Days / Nights	6/5
Amount of dives	4
Price (incl. accommodation)	697 EUR

Supplements	
Extra day diving (2 dives) - no accom	131 EUR
Extra night in dorm (after package)	18 EUR
Extra night in dorm (before package)	18 EUR
Extra night in private (after package)	43 EUR
Extra night in private (before package)	43 EUR
Refresher Dive (added to 1st dive)	37 EUR

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

Supplements
A supplement can be chosen to be added onto your package. All supplements can also be booked on site. In high season, rooms and boats get filled fast and you might find trouble getting an extra night of accommodation or an extra day of diving. If you are booking a course, it is recommended to book an extra night of accommodation prior your course, to get settled and get up front on the studying.



Included
PADI Open Water Course
All dive equipment during course
Soft drinks and snacks on boat
Accommodation in Dorm room
Towels
Bed linen
Wifi at Hostel
Dive insurance during course

Not included
PADI eLearning - (approx Euro 117)
All meals
Soft and alcoholic drinks
Transfers

Also available on site
Extra accommodation if available
Extra days of diving if available
Upgrading to private room if available
Continuing education
All continuing courses available on site

Cancellation
As in terms and conditions on voucher

Dive insurance
Basic dive travel insurance required (included)

Please note
For the dive insurance, you need to bring your passport to the dive center on day 1

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.

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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.