

Tarutao national park, Butang archipelago, koh lipe Learn to dive in Koh Lipe

The diving

If your main idea of doing your initial course in diving is on a tropical island with white crunchy beaches and an atmosphere that makes you want to build a shack and adopt a coconut, you should go to Koh Lipe. The island is still a very unspoiled island both on land and in the surrounding ocean. It has all the charm a paradise island should have and each year it is attracting many young backpackers making the place even more interesting no matter what you are into. During your Open Water Course, you will see some very healthy reefs, plastered with soft coral gardens, and amazing topography.

It is the Andaman Sea, meaning that the diversity of fish here is very large. No doubt you will see many different species on one single dive. The variation of the dive sites is just as great, and you will rarely turn up at one site and find another boat there. Some dive sites are calm and peaceful and perfect for getting you down in gear, others are fun drift dives with a confident current pushing you along the reef while you watch everything pass by. Both great types of diving!

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



Area name / Island name

Tarutao national park, Butang archipelago,
koh lipe

Nearest airport

Langkawi, Hat Yai, Phuket, Krabi

Season

All year

Center type

CMAS Dive center
PADI Course
Friendly and experienced
French-Thai owned

Experience level

None. You need to be able to swim 200
meters and float for 10 minutes without
assistance

Minimum age for participation

12 Years

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Location

Koh Lipe remains one of the most enchanting islands in the Andaman Sea, offering a balance of natural beauty and vibrant island life. Nestled in the Tarutao National Park, part of the Butang archipelago, this tropical haven invites visitors with its crystal-clear waters and still-beautiful coral reefs, perfect for snorkeling and exploring. While it has grown in popularity, the island maintains its laid-back charm, with soft white sand beaches, chilled beach bars, and cozy accommodations that make you want to stay forever. Life here feels timeless, surrounded by lush greenery and the warm, welcoming spirit of the Sea Gypsies, whose roots trace back to the island's fascinating past. Koh Lipe is a slice of paradise that blends the best of island living with an authentic yet vibrant edge.

Your resort

Forra Dive Resort Sunrise Beach is a hidden gem on the northern tip of Sunrise Beach, nestled between Lipe Beach Resort and the charming Sea Gypsies village. The 18 cozy bungalows are arranged around a lush garden, where a wood-built lounge and restaurant offer a peaceful space to relax, read, or connect, all with Wi-Fi. Just 100 meters from the beach, you'll find the beachfront clubhouse and dive center, with a stunning view of the majestic Koh Adang island, rising 700 meters into tropical rainforest. Rent snorkeling gear or a kayak and discover the vibrant marine life at Koh Kla, just 200 meters offshore—a true paradise for snorkelers and freedivers alike.

Your room

Your private basic bungalow with garden view is fitted with mosquito net and a fan. It features a private terrace with hammock. and a spacious tiled bathroom with an open-air shower. The bungalow is 2 minutes walk from the beach.

If you are traveling 3 people together, or do not wish to sleep in a queensize bed, upgrade to the Family Bungalow upon booking.





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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. 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 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 PADI 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 200m 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:

PADI Open Water Crew Pack, Log Book
(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 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, then theory and confined water sessions

Day 2: Theory and confined water sessions

Day 3: Theory and open water dives

Day 4: Exam and open water dives

Day 5: Check out, relax or go fundiving!

If you want a longer itinerary, you can add extra days of diving and accommodation upon booking. It is recommended to book a day extra to add to the beginning of your trip in order to settle down and relax prior to your course.

Please note

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

If you are traveling 3 people together, or do not wish to sleep in a queensize doublebed, upgrade to the Family Bungalow upon booking.



Activity starts

Courses are run on a daily basis
Please note that daily start times can vary
from course to course. You will be notified
upon arrival

Activity starts from

The dive center if nothing else is advised.
Please contact your dive center no later
than one week prior arrival to confirm your
arrival and pickup times.

Group Size

No limit
Max. 4 divers pr. Instructor/Divemaster

Language

English

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Transfer information

It's easy to get to Koh Lipe from Southern Thailand. In high season there are several ferry routes in the Andaman Sea. From November until May you will find direct ferries from Koh Phi Phi, Koh Lanta, Langkawi, Pak Barra, Koh Ngai, Koh Muk and Koh Laoliang. Coming from the islands on the east coast like Koh Tao or Koh Samui, it is recommended you stay the night on Koh Lanta, from where it's easy traveling to Koh Lipe.

From Bangkok to Hat Yai: Trains leave every day from Bangkok's Hua Lamphong Trains Station between 17.00h and 20.00h. It is a 15 hour journey and first or second class sleepers are recommended. For a similar price you can take a much less comfortable bus.

From Hat Yai to Pak Barra: Minibuses leave every hour to Pak Barra. The ride to Pak Barra takes around 2 hours and costs around 150 THB per person. Any travel agency can help you book your minibus.

From Pak Barra: The last ferry leaves at 2PM. Tickets range from 650 to 750 baht and can be obtained by the check in desks. There is no pier on Koh Lipe, Local Chao Ley (Sea Gypsies) will come with their longtail boats to pick you up from the ferry.



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

LEARN TO DIVE - PRIVATE BUNGALOW	
Days / Nights	5/4
Amount of dives	4
Price (incl. accommodation)	570 EUR

Supplements	
Extra day of diving (2 dives, incl. equip.)	101 EUR
Extra night of accom. (after)	20 EUR
Extra night of accom. (before)	20 EUR
Upgrade to Family Bungalow - (person per night)	4 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 prior to your course, to get settled and get up front on the studying.



Included

All PADI course materials
Certification Card
All dive equipment
PADI instructor
Accommodation

Not included

All meals and drinks
Alcoholic beverages
All transfers
Insurance
National park fee

Diving Insurance

Dive insurance is mandatory. Can be purchased locally (70thb) or via DAN Europe or your own insurance company.

Also available on site

Extra Accommodation if available
Extra days of diving if available

Continuing education

All continuing courses available on site

Cancellation

Terms on voucher

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>

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.