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# PADI National Geographic Open Water Diver Course Information



Become an adventurer, explorer, and conservationist.

Go beyond the boundaries of PADI's Open Water Diver course and become a PADI National Geographic Diver. Your adventure begins with the National Geographic Diver certification, where you'll gain the knowledge and practical experience to live the diving life.

You'll learn basic dive skills and safety information through the PADI Open Water Diver course. The PADI Open Water Diver certification qualifies you to dive independently up to **18m** accompanied by a buddy in conditions with which you have training and/ or experience.

Meanwhile, you'll be introduced to worldwide dive environments and opportunities by interacting with the National Geographic Diver Almanac and DVD.

National Geographic Divers have an interest in scuba diving and underwater sciences that goes beyond that of the average diver. Your study of National Geographic's course materials will provide you with knowledge of the importance of the aquatic realm and your role in preserving this resource for current and future generations. Extra pool sessions and dives will enhance your diving skills beyond the open water diver level

## Course Structure

The PADI Open Water Diver course consists of three segments. Each plays an important role in learning to dive by meeting the performance objectives you need to qualify as a diver.

The **Knowledge Development** section establishes the principles and basic information all divers need to have to dive safely. **Confined Water Dives** is where the fun really begins. You will practice dive procedures and skills under the direct supervision of your instructor. You will also need to complete a 10 minute float and 200 metre swim. The **Open Water Dives** complete your training as an entry-level diver by applying and further developing your knowledge and dive skills in a dive environment you can expect after you become a certified diver.

To earn the National Geographic Diver qualification, students have to complete an exploration project, collecting images and information to create a visual representation of a dive site, detailing what you've discovered through your observations. To prepare for this, students will complete the following through classroom and pool sessions:

**Buoyancy** - Hover easily and manoeuvre carefully through delicate habitats

**Navigation** - Expand your skills using a compass and natural references.

**Aquatic life identification** - Identify the amazing sea life Sodwana has on offer!

Over 1 extra sea dive, student will collect information for their project using underwater slates and/or underwater digital camera (rental is included). Information may include but isn't limited to:

- Map or sketch a specific area or dive site.
- Conduct a fish (invertebrate, mammal, creature) count over a specified area and represent the results with pictures, graphs etc.
- Photograph a (group of) animals over time to identify any behavioural patterns
- Create a photo-essay pointing out physical, behavioral, and habitat differences over a dive site
- Create a photo-essay describing the area's biodiversity.
- Photograph all unnatural disturbances (anchor damage, etc.) as well as the location and type of garbage to create a graphic environmental assessment.

The detail and subject of your exploration project, is only limited by your imagination. When it is completed you can present it to your PADI instructor.

### **Course Prerequisites**

To qualify for acceptance into the PADI National Geographic Diver Program, you must meet the following requirements:

1. Be 10 years of age or older. Students under the age of 15 may obtain the PADI Junior Open Water certification (restrictions apply). Anyone aged under 18 will require a parent/guardian to complete and sign some paperwork.
2. Complete the PADI Medical Statement. If you answer "yes" to any of the questions, you must acquire clearance for diving by a physician attesting that you are fit to dive. The medical clearance must be signed, and current within the previous 12 months. The physician signing the form cannot be the individual. Click [here](#) for a copy of the medical statement.

### **Course Costs and Breakdown**

Course Price: **R 5500,00**

Includes 6 nights accommodation in a safari tent. Our safari tents are basic budget accommodation and you are required to provide all necessary linen.

You may upgrade if you wish to a standard cabin (R100pppn), standard cabin with private bathroom (R270pppn) or Ensuite cabin (R370pppn) - **Low Season Rates**. Or standard cabin (R100pppn), standard cabin with private bathroom (R280pppn) or Ensuite cabin (R430pppn) - **High Season Rates**.

All equipment is included in the course price as well as the PADI Open Water Diver Manual and RDP (required) and PADI certification.

By doing the PADI National Geographic Diver course, you also receive the following:

- 1 Day's 12 mega pixel digital camera rental
- National Geographic DVD & Almanac
- Exclusive National Geographic Leatherette Log Book
- Certification as a National Geographic Diver

Catering is not included but can be provided on a Dinner and Breakfast basis (R170 pppn)

Please note that our cost does not include the Kwazulu – Natal Conservation Service fees:

Gate Fee: R25pp (Once-off cash gate entry fee)  
Camping Fee: R75pp for the First Night (R5 community levy)  
R70pp per night thereafter