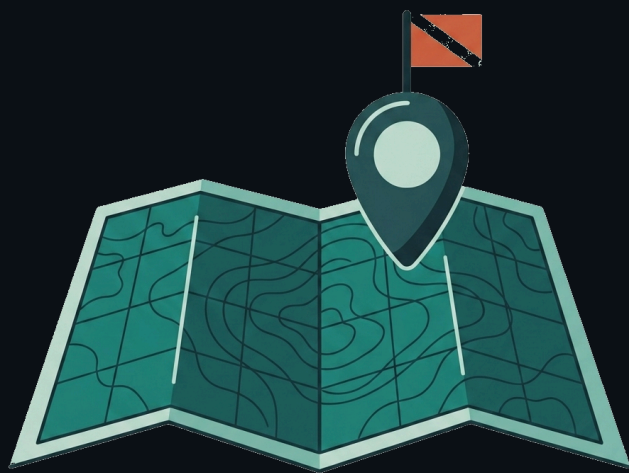


DIVR



FREE GUIDE FROM DIVR

How to pick a dive site

The checks that separate a great dive from an expensive boat ride, and the questions worth asking before you book.



Most dive site advice is **one person's best day**, repeated for a decade

Every "top 10 dive sites" list is written by a small number of people, some of whom have never been in the water there. So everyone books the same handful of spots, those sites get hammered, and the good diving forty minutes down the coast stays empty.

The bigger problem is time. A write-up from years ago tells you nothing about visibility this week, whether the current is running, whether the coral bleached last summer, or whether the thing you flew there for has moved on.

A dive site is not a fixed thing. It is a place plus a season plus a tide plus a time of day. Change any one of those and it is a different dive.

What follows is how to work out whether a site is worth your day, using information that is actually current.



What actually tells you a site is worth it

01

Recent diver reports, not old listicles

Anything without a date on it is a rumour. Look for what people logged there in the last few weeks, in the season you are going.

02

Visibility and current, with dates attached

"Good viz" means nothing on its own. Viz swings with rain, swell, plankton blooms and boat traffic, and it can change within a single week.

03

The nearby spots, before you commit

Most destinations have three famous sites and twenty good ones. Compare before you give a whole day to one boat ride.

04

Live conditions: wind, swell, tide, temperature

Wind and swell decide whether the boat goes at all. Tide often decides whether the site is a gentle drift or unworkable. Temperature decides your exposure suit.



Continued

05 **Fresh photos, not marketing shots**

Resort galleries are the best images from the best day of the best season, often years old. Recent diver photos tell you what it looks like on a normal day.

06 **Divers over influencers**

A diver logging a site has no reason to oversell it. Someone whose trip was hosted does.

07 **Log your own afterwards**

This is the one that compounds. Every dive site on earth is only as well documented as the divers who bothered to write it down, which is exactly why the same twenty sites get all the coverage.

Do the first six and you will dive better than most visitors. Do the seventh and the next person does too.



Seven questions worth asking a dive shop

Ask these by email or message before you pay. How they answer tells you as much as what they answer.

01 **What has been seen there in the last two weeks?**

A good operation knows. A vague answer means they are not paying attention, or they are not going often.

02 **What is the guide-to-diver ratio?**

Four to one is comfortable. Eight to one means nobody is really watching you, and nobody is pointing anything out either.

03 **Which tide or time of day is best for this site?**

If the answer is "any", either the site genuinely has no current, or they have not thought about it.

04 **What certification and experience level do you need?**

An operator willing to take anyone anywhere is a warning, not a convenience.

05 **What is the plan if conditions turn?**

A named alternative site is a good sign. "We will see on the day" is not.

06 **How many people are on the boat?**

Site quality is partly how many others are on it with you.

07 **Do you brief the marine life, or just the route?**

Operations that brief species tend to be the ones that care what is still there.



Red flags that mean **book somewhere else**

None of these are automatically disqualifying on their own. Two or more together, and you should look elsewhere.

No questions about your experience

A shop that does not ask how many dives you have, or when you last dived, is not managing risk. That includes yours.

Vague or evasive on conditions

Real answers are specific: depth range, expected current, entry type, what to do if you get separated.

Pressure to dive beyond your certification

Any encouragement to go deeper than you are qualified for is a reason to leave, not a favour.

Tired or mismatched rental gear

Perished straps, sticky inflators and undated cylinders point at maintenance you cannot see.

Touching or baiting marine life

Handling animals for photos is both an ethical problem and a reliable indicator of how the rest of the operation is run.

Overloaded boats and rushed briefings

Volume operations optimise for turnover. That shows up underwater.



How to log a site so the next diver benefits

You do not need to write an essay. Five fields cover almost everything another diver needs, and all five are things you already know when you surface.

01 **The site, with real coordinates**

Not "that bay with the boats". A named site anchored to an actual position is what makes the record findable and comparable.

02 **Date, max depth, bottom time**

The date is what makes everything else meaningful. Depth and time describe the dive you actually did.

03 **Conditions: viz, current, temperature**

The three things every diver wants to know in advance and almost nobody writes down.

04 **Species, properly named**

"Fish" helps nobody. A real name tied to a site and a date is a record a researcher can use.

05 **Coral condition**

One rating per dive. Meaningless once, a trend line across hundreds of dives.

Thirty seconds on the boat, before your hair dries. That is the whole commitment.

DIVR



NOW GO LOG SOMETHING

Find the site that is actually worth it.

DIVR is a free dive log with citizen science built in. Log a dive in under 30 seconds, tag the species you saw from a catalogue of 4,400+, rate coral health, and find dive sites near you. Every log becomes a structured marine observation that researchers can actually use.

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