blue venture
away to sea

Utila, Bay Islands, Honduras
Fundiving Utila

The diving
If you like adventure and want to experience something new different in the Caribbean then you will love Utila! The crystal clear warm waters, the unhurried atmosphere and the friendly nature of the people will all combine to give you an experience, which you'll never forget… Diving in and around Utila has rightly become legendary amongst divers who like to break away from 'production line' diving. Things tend to move at a more relaxed pace in the Bay Islands and in particular on Utila. Dive boats are rarely crowded and dive sites are strictly limited to one dive boat per buoy. You will never experience the feeling that there are more divers than fishes! The reefs are packed with life and the corals are in pristine condition. It is not uncommon for divers to play with manta rays, swim with dolphins and gasp with wonder as the biggest fish in the sea, the incredible whale shark, goes by.

Area name / Island name
Utila, Bay Islands, Honduras

Nearest airport
La Ceiba, Honduras

Season
All year round

Center type
PADI Career Development Center
Rated as one of the top 3
dive centers in the world
There is no other facility in Utila (Honduras)
or elsewhere in Central America that has
such a combination of experience,
commitment and enthusiasm

Experience level
PADI Open Water diver or equivalent
Each dive site will be chosen according to
experience level and weather conditions

Minimum age for participation
12 years

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Location
Utila has only one main road lined with gingerbread houses in lively pastel colors. The village looks like it came from 1950. Dotted out between the old-school Caribbean looking houses and down the backstreets you will find bars buzzing with life. Utila is known as the divers' island, but it is also famous for its nightlife!

Your resort
Hotel Mango Inn is the perfect escape between diving, partying and swinging in hammocks. It is rare to find a guest in the resort that is not a diver. You will find them hanging out in the restaurant famous for its tasty pizzas, or cooling off in the swimming pool in the hot afternoons. The resort has got Wifi, internet café and a laundry service…

Your room
Dorm room with fan and shared bathroom.

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This is only a selection of the many dive sites represented on this particular destination. The diving is dictated by the safeness of the environment.

WHEN TAKING THE COURSE

Pinnacle; Great Wall/Duppy Waters; CJ's Drop Off; The Maze; Willy's hole; Blackish point.
For many people this is the highlight of diving in Utila. Turtle Harbour is a nationally protected marine reserve and is home to some of the most inspiring sites. It is located on the far North side of the island and is a 45 minute boat ride. Part of the attraction here is the sheer depth of many of the wall dives. The reef drops off from 5-6m rapidly reaching recreational limits. For this reason this part of the island is best for the more experienced diver. These sites are great for seeing many of the bigger fish such as Groupers, Barracuda, Nurse Sharks and the beautiful Midnight Parrotfish.

Raggedy Cay; Spotted Bay; West End.
Also on the North side of the island stretching from the Utila Cays towards Turtle Harbour are the North West group of dive sites – it is a 25-30 minute boat ride. This part of the reef is particularly noteworthy due to the abundance and range of healthy hard and soft corals. The sites start off at around 6-8m and slop off (sometimes gradually, sometimes steeply) beyond recreational limits. For many people the sheer diversity of life on these sites make them must dives for many of Utila's experienced divers. Some special species to look out for here are the beautiful Flamingo tongues as well as the shy Harlequin pipefish but don't forget to look into the blue occasionally – you don't want to miss the Eagle ray's 'flying' by!

Black Hills; Pretty Bush Mound; Captains delight
Whilst Utila's fringing reef has plenty to offer sometimes it's nice to take a break from the islands sites and explore offshore! With outstanding diving available on the many banks that surround Utila this is a must for everyone exploring the island. A particular favorite for many of Utila's resident dive pros, Black Hills offers an unbeatable volume of schooling fish including Atlantic Spadefish, Creole Wrasse and Horse-eyed Jacks. Other banks off the South West side offer incredible views of soft corals unequalled anywhere else on the island. These banks tend to be a little deeper than the fringing reef starting at around 10-12m. Trips to the banks by boat vary from 10-30 minutes.

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Conditions:

Visibility
At least 15m, often extending to 30m

Temperature
25-28C

Current
Mild to moderate

Surface
28-35C year round?

Special marinelife
Dolphins, eagle rays and whale sharks, turtles and frogfish are spotted on frequent occasions

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Activity starts
Daily

Activity starts from
The dive center

Group Size
1 Divemaster pr. 4 divers

Language
English

Itinerary
On the day of arrival you will be greeted at the ferry harbour by the dive staff, shown your room and given an orientation of the island activities and of the dive sites or courses you will be doing. You'll typically do two dives a day. The day prior to your diving, you decide whether you want to dive in the morning or afternoon. Between dives you'll hang out on the boat where a snack and water will be served. Two dives or a night dive can be organized on location for an extra fee. There will be no refund on dives not used. Checkout time is at noon. It is highly recommended that you book extra nights prior and after your package as Hotel Mango Inn is a very popular resort, and in high season it can be quite impossible to extend your stay once you are there.

DIVE PACKAGE 1: Fundiving Utila Island - 4 days/3nights
The short option with 4 dives spread out on 2 days of diving with 2 days of resting and 3 nights of accommodation, the dive sites will vary depending on weather and experience level. One dive can be done as a night dive without extra charge.

DIVE PACKAGE 2: Fundiving Utila Island Extended - 6 days/5 nights
The longer option with 8 dives spread out on 4 days of diving and 2 day of resting, and 5 nights of accommodation, the dive sites will vary depending on weather and experience level. One dive can be done as a night dive without extra charge.

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.

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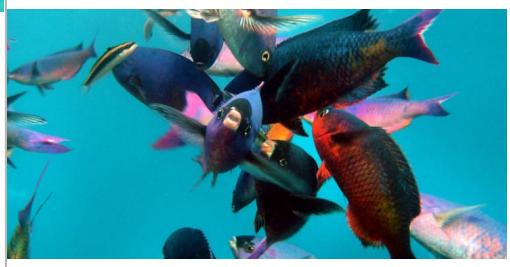
Transfer Information
The easiest way to reach Utila is to get yourself to La Ceiba by plane. Then catch the ferry “MV Utila Princess” leaving twice a day from the port of La Ceiba on Mainland Honduras. Connecting flights to La Ceiba is possible from San Pedro Sula or the capital Tegucigalpa. If you want to make it really easy and convenient, you can fly directly to Utila from La Ceiba - this might cost you a little extra, but it can be cheaper than staying a night in La Ceiba. If you do need to spend a night in La Ceiba, the hotel “Rainbow Village” found just around the corner from the airport is very friendly and safe. The hotel and transfer should be booked in advance.



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

FUNDIVING EXTENDED	
Days / Nights	6/5
Amount of dives	8
Price (incl. accommodation)	370 EUR

Supplements	
Extra 2 dives	95 EUR
Extra night in dorm (after)	15 EUR
Extra night in dorm (before)	15 EUR
Extra night private a/c bungalow (After)	69 EUR
Extra night private a/c bungalow (Before)	33 EUR
Extra night private a/c room (After)	48 EUR
Extra night private a/c room (Before)	48 EUR
Private a/c bungalow during diving (define nights)	30 EUR
Private a/c room during diving (define nights)	21 EUR
Refresher dive (added to 1st dive)	46 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 your course, to get settled and get up front on the studying

Included
Diving as stated in package
All dive equipment
guide or instructor
Boat, soft drinks and snacks on boat
Accommodation in dorm
Towels
Bed linen

Not included
All meals
Soft and alcoholic drinks

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

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

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.