

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 most recognized diver certification in the dive industry and will allow you to dive anywhere in the world, independent of professional supervision, to a maximum depth of 18m.

The three best words to describe the diving in Taganga are: SO MANY FISH. Its difficult to know where to look when a school of a thousand Blue Tang surrounds you, just when you've spotted two huge Gray Angelfish eating of a colorful sponge - but that is the reality when diving around Taganga and Tayrona National Park. You will find a large range of colorful reef fish and different corals. For the larger pelagic, you might get lucky with sea turtles and dolphins as well. It is such a cool place!

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



Area name / Island name

Taganga, Tayrona National Park, Colombia

Nearest airport

Santa Marta, Simón 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, 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 Tech 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 travelers end up extending their stay in this area of Colombia.

Your Guesthouse

La Casa Felipe is your cozy home during your stay. This colourful little pearl has great communal areas, is filled with plenty of hammocks to hang out in and it is located just a five minute walk from the beach and the dive center. It is super 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 French and Colombian couple that owns this cool little hostel in Taganga, offers tasty breakfast options and afternoon/evening meals at low cost. There's laundry service and free WIFI.

Your room - Dorm accommodation

2 spacious mixed female/male dorm rooms, with 5 & 8 comfortable single beds. 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).





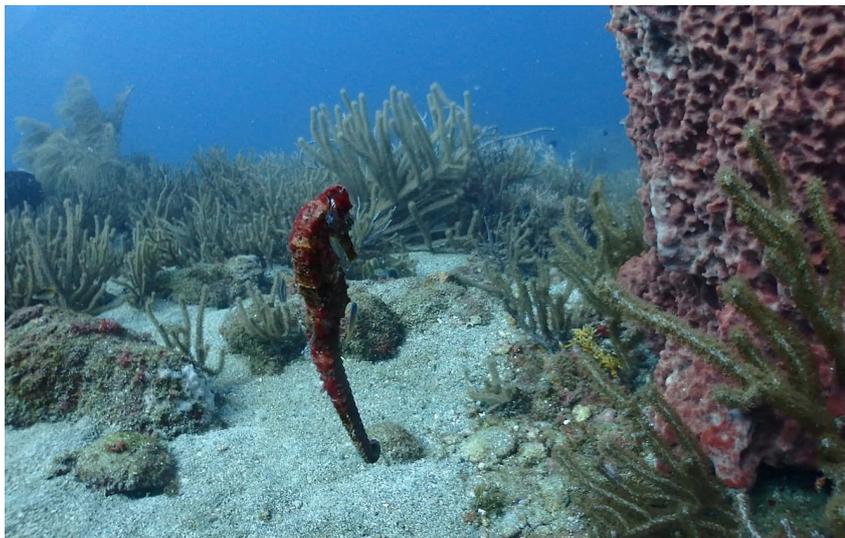
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Introduction to course

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 18m independently with a buddy. The course consists of five modules of learning. You study via a self-study workbook or offline-app, completing knowledge reviews for each chapter. This process is complemented by videos accompanying each chapter to reinforce what you have learned. The instructor reviews everything with you to ensure that you have fully understood everything. The practical learning consists of confined water lagoon sessions and four open water dives. Dive one and two are conducted at a depth of maximum 12m and dive three and four are conducted at a maximum depth of 18m. 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 confined water lagoon and the open water sessions 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 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 learning materials, Log Book (NOT included in this package but can be bought at the dive center for **(approx Euro 105)** 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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Itinerary - 6 days and 5 nights - Learn to Dive

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 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 La Casa Felipe and the dive center for an orientation on your course and the coming days. You'll be filling in the paperwork, and depending on your arrival time and if there are other students on your course, you might even start watching a few videos today.

Day 2

Theory and confined water sessions.
Open Water Dives.

Day 3

Theory and confined water sessions.
Open Water Dives.

Day 4

Exam and 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. 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



Activity starts

Meet at 8.00 am in 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



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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 (6 am - 9 pm)

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 - DORM ACC.

Days / Nights	6/5
Amount of dives	4
Price (incl. accommodation)	511 EUR

Supplements

Extra day diving (2 dives) - no accom	97 EUR
Extra night in dorm (after package)	18 EUR
Extra night in dorm (before package)	18 EUR
Extra night in private (after package)	20 EUR
Extra night in private (before package)	20 EUR
Refresher Dive (added to 1st dive)	22 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, 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
 - Instructor Fee
 - Soft drinks and snacks on boat
 - Accommodation in Dorm room
 - Towels
 - Bed linen
 - Wifi at Hostel
 - Dive insurance during course

- Not included**
- PADI Open Water Materials - (approx Euro 105)
 - 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

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.