

Panglao, Bohol, Philippines Learn to dive in Panglao, Bohol

The Diving.

Once you've taken the plunge and gotten certified, other divers will definitely ask, "Where did you learn?" You can dive anywhere there's water, but some places are downright exceptional - and Panglao is one of those. Here, the blend of healthy coral walls and fascinating marine life is really something special. In Panglao, it's a whole mixed bag of seahorses, flamboyant cuttlefish, blue-ringed octopus, funky nudibranchs (a naked sea snail in crazy colours) and the occasional turtle waiting right off Alona Beach.

Your Open Water course starts from this beach... The bay is calm, the water crystal-clear, and your instructor is a pro who takes safety seriously. It's an ideal, fun, and steadily progressive way to start your underwater journey.

Once you're certified, step it up with extra dives around Panglao. Explore Arco Point's "Hole in the Wall" filled with morays, ribbon eels, and more naked snails in techno colors, or head to Napaling's vibrant coral gardens where octopus and the seriously strange frogfish hide in plain sight.

Then, brace yourself for the real show-stoppers: Balicasag and Pamilacan. On a day trip aboard a bangka, you'll dive into healthy reefs and walls teeming with schools of jackfish, barracudas, giant trevallies, turtles and if you're lucky, even whale sharks. Trust us, it is absolutely breathtaking!



Area name / Island name
Panglao, Bohol, Philippines

Nearest airport
Bohol-Panglao International Airport

Season
The dive season runs all year round
Best conditions exist from October to May

Center type
PADI 5 star CDC Center
International and experienced team of professionals

Experience level
None
Students must be able to swim 200m
and tread water for 10 min

Minimum age for participation
10 years

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Location

Bohol Island isn't just a place - it's the gateway to diving paradise. Nestled right on Alona Beach, the dive center gives you immediate access to over a dozen world-class dive sites - many within a kilometre - plus more reachable by a quick boat ride from the dive center. The coastal diversity is absolutely stunning, both above and below the water.

On land, you've got friendly locals, lush palm-fringed scenery, and a relaxed yet vibrant energy that hits just the right note.

Your Resort

La Sirenita is one of those rare gems where people check in "just for a night" and stay for weeks. Quaint, charming, and oozing with low-key cozy vibes, it sits mere steps from the beach with lush gardens and tranquil corners to unwind. There's free WiFi, and rooms open onto balconies, terraces or garden views, ideal for diving downtime. While there's no restaurant on-site, each room has a fridge and an electric kettle, but there are restaurants close by as well.

Your Room

Rooms at La Sirenita are simple yet full of warmth. Options range from Standard to Deluxe, all equipped with A/C, flat-screen TVs, WiFi, and fridges. Some feature sea or garden views, plus balconies or terraces for catching breezes and sunsets.

Shared bathrooms? Not here. Each room has its own private setup - yes, even bidets and hairdryers included.



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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 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 12m and dive three and four are conducted at max 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 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 Form, you will need medical clearance to dive.

Students must also be able to swim at least 200m and float for 10min



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 will need

PADI Open Water e-learning manual, Log Book (included in your package)

Equipment you will use during the course

Mask, fins, snorkel, tank, regulators, BCD, weight belt, submersible pressure gauge and a wetsuit (included in your package)

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Itinerary - 5 days and 4 nights

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

Upon arrival, have a walk around the area and get checked in. From there, you will be shown to your room and the dive center. Once you've settled, you'll return to the dive center to fill in all the necessary paperwork, watch the first videos and discuss the course schedule for the coming days.

Day 2

Theory and confined water sessions

Day 3

Theory and confined or open water sessions

Day 4

Exam and open water dives

Day 5

Relax & check out. Or go fun diving!

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.



Activity starts

Every morning at 8.30.

Please note that start times can vary from trip to trip if any changes, you will be notified upon arrival.

Activity starts from

Dive center

Please contact your dive center no later than one week prior to arrival and confirm your arrival time

Group Size

Max. 4 divers pr. instructor
(Bigger groups can be arranged)

Language

English, Spanish, French,
Cantonese, Mandarin, German

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Transfer

Getting to Panglao is easy! Most people come by boat from either Cebu or Dumaguete to Taglibarn Harbour, and from here the easiest is to book a taxi with the Grab Taxi app. It's like Uber, but for Asia. A 6 seater from Taglibarn Harbour to Panglao Beach is about 400-600 pesos. Alternatively, you can grab a tricycle for around 300 pesos.

There is also an airport if needed - Bohol-Panglao International Airport, which is just 10-15 minutes away.

If you prefer something more direct and comfortable, La Sirenita can also arrange a private van transfer for around 600-700 pesos, depending on the time of day. Just let them know your flight details in advance and they'll handle the rest.

Please note that all prices are subject to change with no warning.

PLEASE NOTE

Credit card payments are not accepted at the location. Payments can only be made in cash or via WISE

If you are in doubt of how to get to the dive center, please do use the contact details on your voucher. They have an extended knowledge of local bus, ferries and minivan services and can guide you too the best route.

You need to let the dive center know your arrival time at least one week in advance. You will find the details for the dive center on your voucher.



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

LEARN TO DIVE	
Days / Nights	5/4
Amount of dives	4
Price (incl. accommodation)	620 EUR

Supplements	
1 Extra day of diving (2 dives)	50 EUR
1 Extra night of accom. (after)	37 EUR
1 Extra night of accom. (before)	37 EUR
Extra day of diving, Balicasag	103 EUR
Extra day of diving, Pamilacan	103 EUR
Refresher Dive (added to 1st dive)	75 EUR
Upgrade to Balicasag day trip	51 EUR
Upgrade to Pamilacan day trip	51 EUR

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

Supplements

A supplement can be chosen to add to 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 in and get up front on the studying.



Included

All PADI materials
Equipment during the course
Certification Fees
Accommodation in twin or double room

Not included

Boat dives
Daytrips
All meals

Also available on site

Divecomputer Rentals
Medical Oxygen
Enriched Air Nitrox

Continuing education

Rescue diver
Dive Master Programs
PADI Specialties

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.