

Dear Diver,



Many thanks for signing up to the PADI Advanced Open Water course with us.

*Please read this document carefully as it contains valuable information for your course.*

The Advanced Open Water course will qualify you to dive to 30m, make you a better & safer diver and teach you exciting new skills. There are five 'Adventure Dives' which include a Deep and Navigation dive, due to the local diving conditions we will do 3 of the following dives:

- **Peak Performance Buoyancy or Dry Suit** – this will help you be a much better diver and means that you get to see more and make your air last longer. Or the dry suit course is useful if you wish to dive in the UK year round or you want to stay warmer in the water. This is mandatory in the winter months
- **Wreck** – there are several interesting wrecks at the dive site including planes, boats and helicopters
- **SMB (surface marker buoy)** – this simple yet lifesaving piece of equipment requires some practice to master.

If you would prefer to do a different Adventure dive to those listed above (such as photography if you own your own underwater camera), then we would be happy to try and accommodate you. A list of these can be found in the e-manual you will receive.

## Theory

You should receive your Advanced Open Water Diver online learning code within 1 working day of booking the course. If you don't receive it then please check your spam folder before letting us know. For the start of the course could you please read the sections that correspond to the adventure dives you are doing (above) and complete the knowledge reviews found at the end of each section. You don't need to read the whole manual but some divers enjoy reading about the other types of adventures dives.

Typically it takes around 4-5 hours to complete the theory depending on how many sessions you break it up in to. Please don't leave it until the last minute!



**'Oyster Diving' is the trading name of:  
Oyster Luxury Travel and Diving Ltd**

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## **What to bring**

- The PADI Medical Statement which can be found [here](#). Please note that if you answer 'yes' to any of the medical questions **on PAGE 2 then** we require a COPY of a note from your GP saying that you are fit to dive.
- The PADI Liability Form, which can be found [here](#).
- The e-learning record showing you have completed the theory
- Your open water (or equivalent) certification card
- Log book
- Money for entry (£15 - 22 per day), air fills (£5 each – CASH ONLY), food and drinks

## **Dives**

Your instructor will meet you at Mercers Country Park at 9am on the Saturday and then 9am at the [National Diving Centre in Chepstow](#) on the Sunday and we aim to finish around 3pm both days. You can find directions attached (below). We will be driving to Chepstow from Mercers Lake so you are welcome to join us for dinner when we arrive.

The 5 adventures dives will be split across both days and if you are also doing the dry suit specialty course then you will complete a 6<sup>th</sup> dive on the Sunday.

If you are doing your dives in one of our 7mm wetsuits (May to November) then you will need swimwear, towel and a change of warm clothing.

If you have booked to do it in a dry suit or complete the course between December and April, then please bring along something warm and thin items to wear underneath the dry suit as well as normal swimwear. Thermals are ideal but if you don't have them then sweatshirt / warm leggings / tracksuit bottoms will suffice.

If you have any of your own equipment such as mask and fins then please feel free to bring them along.

## **Accommodation**

There is accommodation on site at NDAC - you can [book the heated Wig Wams here](#). If they are full or if you would prefer to stay at a nearby hotel then we have a corporate account with [Celtic Manor](#) who have luxury accommodation at the famous golf course, or the more affordable [TY Hotel Magor](#). Just call them on when you wish to book and mention 'Oyster Diving Corporate Rate and it will get you a discount'. You can call them on 01633 410262. You are welcome to check where we are staying if you like.

Once you have completed your course then you will receive your e-certification card the following week. If you are planning on diving within a day or two then please let your instructor know so we can fast track your certification. You will also be registered on the global PADI database so every PADI centre can find your certification assuming they have internet.

If you are interested in hearing about any UK trips, holidays, dive gear and other courses we are running, or would like to keep in touch then please 'like' our [Facebook page](#).

Thanks again for booking your Advanced Open Water course with us and we look forward to seeing you soon and continuing your underwater adventures.

**The Team,  
Oyster Diving**

The UK's premier PADI Scuba Diving and Travel Centre

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The lake is surrounded by a country park with green forests that dog walkers and families are free to enjoy. Our partners at Aqua Sports have given us EXCLUSIVITY ON DIVING to the lake, so you won't find lots of other dive schools here fighting for platforms or stirring up the bottom.

Divers benefit from clear waters, with visibility normally in excess of 8m. The lake is surrounded by an underwater forest which is home to tonnes of fish including perch, pike, bream and giant carp. We are still discovering new and exciting parts of the lake but our explorations have found an average depth of around 8m with a maximum depth of 15m.

We will meet you by our van at the top of the slip way at the time shown on the top of your booking confirmation and receipt (normally 9am). One of our instructors will give you a site briefing before starting your course.

The Cafe is currently selling hot & cold drinks as well as snacks such as ice creams and crisps. However we recommend you bring a flask with your own hot drinks as well as any food you wish to consume. If you could take your rubbish home it would really help our team!

**Mercers Country Park,**  
Nutfield Marsh Road,  
Merstham,  
Redhill,  
Surrey,  
RH1 4EU.

The lake is perfectly located between the M25 and M23, with easy access from London and Gatwick Airport

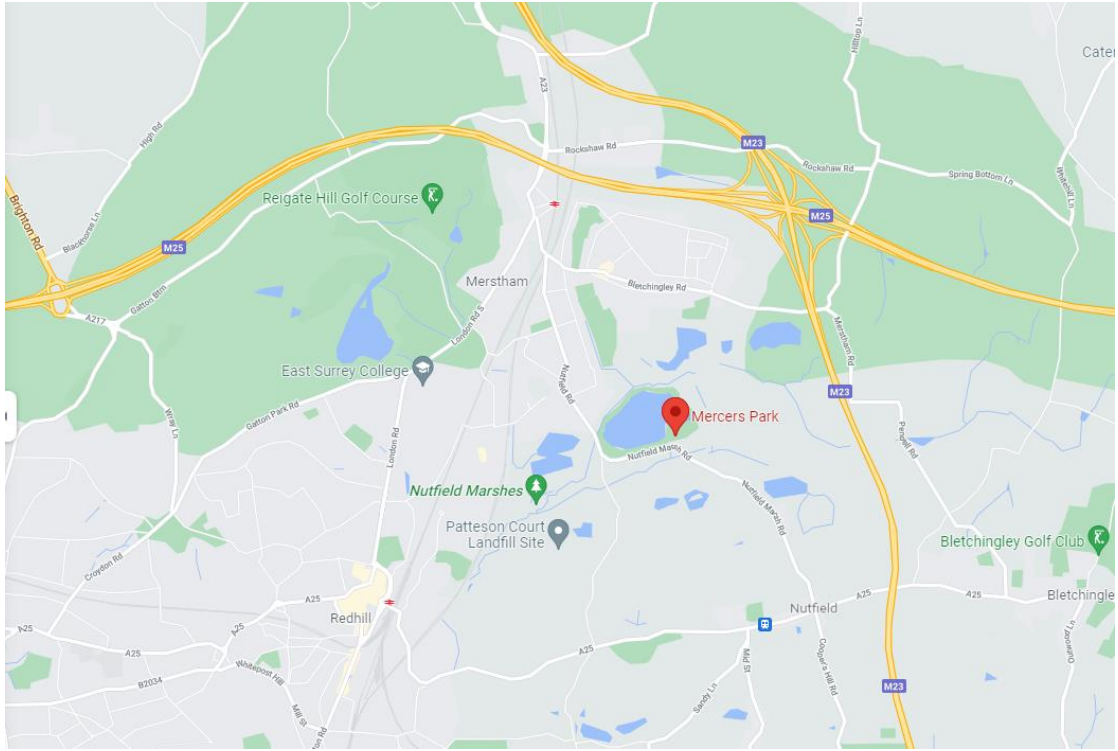
Nearest Rail Stations: Merstham or Redhill (direct from London Victoria)

Bus: Take to 430 from Redhill bus station Platform 4 to Mill Lane in Merstham (opposite Watercolours Housing) then it's a 12 minute walk around the lake.

**Please remember to bring:**

- Certification cards
- Swimwear
- Warm clothes for in between dives or for under your drysuit
- Sun protection if it is a sunny day
- Towel / robe
- Log book
- Any equipment not hired from us
- Money for entry fee (£15 payable on arrival and £5 for subsequent air fills)

We look forward to seeing you at the lake.





### **NDAC – Chepstow**

The National Diving & Activity Centre  
Tidenham, Chepstow, Gloucestershire  
NP16 7LH                      Tel: 01291 630046

NDAC is famed for its clear deep water and sunken attractions such as planes, buses, helicopters and other military vehicles. It is the only blue water diving site in the UK and is ideal for the deeper dives.

If you are travelling with a non-diver they will find lots of other things they can do there such as a waterpark, segways and zip wire. Make sure to book in advance as it can get quite busy!

#### **Facilities**

**Café** - Serving great food and drinks, such as, a selection of teas & coffees, hot chocolate, cold drinks, with a variety of food. Also for people staying with them will be able to enjoy a cold beer (after the dive of course) and hot food.

**Entry Free & Parking** – £22 per person (pay on the door or [book in advance here](#))

**Air re-fills** £5 or 32% Nitrox £8 per cylinder

**Don't forget** – Swimwear, towel, warm clothes, PADI cards, log book and money

#### **Wooden Wigwams**

Wooden Wig Wams are available from £50/night and can comfortably sleep up to four adults, Wigwams are the ultimate eco cabin; double-glazed, secure, cosy and warm whatever the time of year. A low cost alternative to hotels and B&Bs, these Wigwams truly offer all year round camping, and the best bit, no pitching a tent in the rain! [Book your Wig Wam here.](#)

We tend to stay at the slightly more comfortable TY Hotel, a 15-20 minute drive away. We have a corporate account with the owners [Celtic Manor](#) who also have luxury accommodation at the famous golf course, or the more affordable [TY Hotel Magor](#). Just call them on when you wish to book and mention 'Oyster Diving Corporate Rate and it will get you a discount'. You can call them on 01633 410262. You are welcome to check where we are staying if you like.

## Directions

**From M4 to Junction 15** - Take M4 towards South Wales - Turn onto the M48 towards Chepstow and Services - Cross the Severn and Wye Bridges and turn off at Junction 2 - Take the second exit A466 towards Chepstow and Tintern - Turn right onto the A48 at the next roundabout and continue into Chepstow. Continue through Chepstow on the A48 towards Gloucester, the National Diving & Activity Centre is 1.2 miles outside Chepstow on the left hand side.

