

## **Safety On Board & During Diving**

A thorough briefing the first morning of your safari will highlight the key safety rules and protocols, on board and when diving.

### **Key rules on board are:**

- Smoking inside the boat is strictly prohibited. It is allowed outside in designated areas
- All cabins are equipped with a smoke detector, smoke alarms and extinguishers
- In case of emergency, you will hear the bell ringing continuously. The Assembly point is on the upper deck. You will then follow the instructor's directions
- Life jackets are located under your beds. 2 life rafts are located on the upper (sun) deck. The crew and/or instructors will manage their launch if needed
- An emergency exit is located at the far end of the corridor at the lower cabin level, should the main stairs be inaccessible

Medical oxygen, AED, 1st aid equipment and medicines, emergency protocols are available on board

### **Key rules when diving are:**

- Recreational diving is limited to 40 meters with no decompression.
- 3 equipment are compulsory by Law in Djibouti, and must be carried by each diver at all time: a light, a reflector and a SMB
- Orange SMB should be used for surface signaling and safety stop platform purposes. The use of a yellow parachute should only be limited to emergency situations
- Recall procedures during dives, close to and far from the boat will be recalled during the 1st day briefing
- Environment
- Siyyan Travel & Leisure is supporting the Longitude 181 Nature Association and the guidelines for responsible divers, This charter proposes guidelines and not a list of restrictions!

## **What To Expect & What To Bring**

So much already said and written, so often dived by many and yet, divers are always coming back to Djibouti: a very warm water all year round with a rich biodiversity (more than 30% are endemic species), offering easy recreational to most demanding technical dives opportunities, world-ranking wrecks penetrations, superb and unique natural sea reserves, drift dives on remote reefs, ... and for those visitors coming from Europe, only a few hours away from home with little to no jet lag.

Djibouti benefits from a warm climate with average temperature ranging between 25°C during winter (going down to 22°C in evenings) and 42°C in summer. Water temperature reaches an average of 28°C.

The best period to come diving in Djibouti is between October and June.

## **Environment**

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Apply the suggestions case by case since diving spots and situations change from place to place. The basic idea is to get people to think about how to optimize diving conditions to protect and ensure fair sharing of the Oceans' treasures.

### **1 – Prepare your journey.**

Not all travel agencies and diving centers offer the same services. Some try to protect the environment they help you explore and share natural resources more fairly with host country inhabitants. This may cost them money and make your trip more expensive but together you will contribute to the sustainable development of our planet. The cost per dive should not be your only selection criterion.

- Choose a travel agency which has agreed to respect ethical guidelines
- Prefer Responsible Diving Centers which are concerned with the protection of sea-beds (treatment of solid and liquid wastes, use of mooring buoys etc.) and have invested in local development projects.
- Find out about the marine ecosystems you will be exploring..
- Find out about the inhabitants of the country you are visiting: their traditions, economy and resources.

### **2 – Before diving.**

- Get fit. If you have not dived for a long time, train yourself to manage your buoyancy: lung-ballast, weight jacket, optimized ballasting, etc.
- Find out about the dive spot you are exploring before you go. You will enjoy your dives so much more as you will not just be a passive witness in a world in which you cannot speak the language. Learn to read the first pages of the big marine life book. If you can identify the animals, and know how they behave, you will know where to find them. Much of this incredible fauna is hidden.
- Ask your diving center to give you a presentation of the local ecosystem
- Ask for the list of threatened species, the list of protected species and all relevant regulations.
- Ask about what the diving center does to protect the sea (mooring buoys, etc.)

### **3 – On the boat**

- Never throw anything overboard.

- Refuse plastic plates and cups which take scores of years to break down.
- Ask for dustbins on the deck for (if you absolutely need to smoke) cigarette butts (they take months to break down) plastic waste, aluminum foil, etc...
- Take care to attach spare air valves, consoles and pressure gauges firmly so they do not dangle and damage fixed flora and the fauna.
- Use short, recreational, flippers.

#### 4 – When diving

- As soon as you enter the water, check your weights and adjust if necessary.
- Use your flippers gently, so as not to collide with fixed marine life
- Avoid contact with fixed plants and animals. They are fragile and can be destroyed by repeated shocks.
- Do not bring anything back except pictures!
- Do not bother the animals. If they take refuge in their hiding-place, do not force them out – they are already stressed enough. Wait without moving until they calm down and come out again.
- Do not feed the fish. You change their behavior and unbalance the ecosystem

#### 5 – After Diving

- Save fresh water. It is the most valuable commodity on Earth.
- Ask for equipment designed to conserve fresh water like equipment wash tanks and controlled flow showers.

#### 6 – During your Holiday

- Try to get outside your diving center or hotel. There is a world out there waiting to meet you!
- Do not buy souvenirs ripped from the sea like shark teeth, tortoiseshells, starfish, sea horses and other dried fish, coral and shells.
- Boycott restaurants which serve shark fin soup, tortoise meat, cetaceans and fish caught by destructive means like dynamite, cyanide, etc.
- Ask restaurants how the sea fare they propose is fished and what agreements they have with local fishermen.

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### **Aside of your dive gear, what should you bring?**

- Dive documents: Dive certification cards, dive log, insurance and medical statement (less than 6 months old)
- Sun protection items such as sunscreen, sunglasses, hat
- Dry change of clothes for the week, including a light cold or wind breaker (for winter only)
- Toiletries: soaps are provided but not your favorite shampoo and conditioner
- Cash for expenses and gratuities on board.
- Beach towel: a bathroom towel and a bathrobe (for after the dives) are provided
- Common medicines such as motion sickness medication are available on board.  
Do not hesitate to bring your own should you feel more comfortable taking medicines you know
- Small spare dive equipment: (check dive computer battery & condition of your gear before leaving!)

### **What not to bring (but this is still up to you) ?**

- An alarm clock
- Alcoholic drink, big choice for sale on board
- Expensive items (jewellery, computers, ...)
- Make-up...

Please contact us for any further information

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **1- Is Djibouti a safe country?**

One of the safest country in the world with a very low crime rate. Djibouti is also home to the military bases of five members of the G7 namely the USA, France, Japan, Italy and Germany and soon to be joined by China. It sits on one of the most strategically locations in the world with second busiest maritime route.

2- Do I have to bring specific clothing due to local religion or custom?

Djibouti is a tolerant Islamic country, but visitors should dress conservatively and observe local customs.

3- Can I go clubbing after my dive trip

Yes you can, There are several clubs in town and mainly around Palace Menelik and Rue de Ethiopia.