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Welcome to The Adventure Junkies
Liveaboard Diving Quick Starter Guide!

You’ve probably found your way to this ebook through our website, or maybe a friend passed it along to you. Either way, we’re happy you’re here.

We wrote this guide because when we were just starting out with scuba diving we couldn’t find a single easy to read resource about liveaboard trips. The techie articles from magazines and websites just made us more confused. Also, none of our friends were liveaboard divers so we had to go ask around to find the answers we needed. The process left us feeling lost and overwhelmed, we don’t want that to happen to you.

The Adventure Junkies was created to inspire you and give you the right tools to explore the outdoors. We call it the believe it, learn it, live it process. First, you get inspired by others. Then, you learn the basics of the sport. And finally, you do it yourself. We do this by providing you with high quality and practical education, and connecting you with a community of like minded adventurers from all over the world. And, because you are reading this right now means you’re well on your way to achieving your goal!

This eBook is a quick starter guide, and the purpose of this guide is to do just that - get you started fast. It is not an liveaboard diving manual and we won’t cover every aspect of the hobby. It will, however, take you through the basics and give you the tools you need to take the first steps in becoming an liveaboard diver.

To all of our subscribers, followers and friends out there, thank you for the gift of your support. We only hope that this free guide can begin to repay you for the time you’ve given us. Here’s to you and your many years of liveaboard diving adventures to come!

Antonio & Amanda
GET STARTED

7 REASONS TO GO ON A DIVING LIVEABOARD

Have you ever wanted to take a break where you can simply scuba dive all day, every day? Or maybe you’re interested in learning or advancing your dive training and need all the dive experience you can get? These are just a couple of the reasons to go on a diving liveaboard. From a few days to a couple of weeks, you can choose a liveaboard boat to suit your needs, your budget, your timing and to get some precious diving experience under your belt.

Here at The Adventure Junkies, we want to help inspire you and make the most of your underwater exploration. In this guide, we’ll show you the top reasons for going on a diving liveaboard as well as a video on how to pack for a liveaboard trip.

1 ADVANCE YOUR DIVE EDUCATION

Many liveaboard boats offer divers the chance to step up or advance their training. So if you need to complete a certain number of dives before your next step up the diving ladder, such as becoming a Dive Master, then a liveaboard gives you a great chance to dive everyday while gaining new confidence and skills.

Perhaps you’d love to get into underwater photography? How about nitrox diving? Or maybe you want to finally go from Open Water to Advanced Open Water? Many liveaboards offer these specialty training programs which means you can gain the next level certification in a shorter time.

Different liveaboards work with different agencies such as PADI and SSI. If you want to stick with one agency, you can choose the liveaboard which offers training through it. So, be sure to check what each boat offers.

Not all liveaboards offer the same training opportunities so if advancing your dive education is one of the key reasons for going on a diving liveaboard, then look for a boat with the appropriate certifications and your preferred agency.

2 GAIN CONFIDENCE

Many new divers often want to know how to gain more confidence scuba diving. The truth is, the only way to really feel more at ease underwater is to get out and dive, dive and dive again! Practice does make perfect, after all.

On a liveaboard, you’ll be diving two to three times a day, every day, if you wish! This means it’s the fastest way to gain confidence, experience and skills underwater.

Plus, you get to discover exciting new dive spots every day and even get the chance to try different types of diving. You might even end up doing a drift dive one day and a night dive the next.

3 EXPLORE A NEW COUNTRY

Did you know that over 70 percent of the earth is made of water? That means, if you only ever discover new countries on land, you’re missing out on nearly three-quarters of what the planet has to offer.

Scuba diving is a fantastic way to explore a new country. Each country is diverse, with many different topographies.

Some dive sites might have lots of caves, caverns and pinnacles, while others may have incredible coral wall and impressive reef systems. Some countries, such as Thailand, have a wonderful variety of incredible dive spots on either side of the landmass.

A dive liveaboard allows you to thoroughly explore the underwater landscape of a new country.

4 DISCOVER NEW MARINE LIFE

The more you dive, the more familiar you’ll become with different fish and marine species. Joining a dive liveaboard can introduce you to many more species that are unique to different parts of the world.

If you’re diving in one location multiple times, you will begin to recognize certain types of fish faster and with greater ease. It’s one thing observing beautiful species, but it’s another to be able to accurately name them.

A dive liveaboard can also increase the chances of you being able to have some of those special encounters with larger species such as manta rays, whale sharks or hammerhead sharks.

While there are areas which these species are most likely to be found, there are never any guarantees that you will definitely see them on one dive. Diving at the right time of the year will help, but it would also take a bit of good luck when it comes to being in the right place at the right time.

By diving an area multiple times on a liveaboard, you raise the likelihood of floating alongside some of the world’s most magnificent creatures. This is definitely an experience which many people can only dream to have.

5 COST-EFFECTIVE DIVING

Let’s be honest. Scuba diving is not the cheapest hobby in the world especially when it comes to diving off a boat. But, liveaboard diving can be a cost-effective way to travel and get in some precious diving experience.

They’re often all-inclusive which means your upfront cost includes your accommodation, your meals, snacks and all diving. When you consider what you’d usually spend on your travels and multiple dive trips, a liveaboard can work out to be just as cost-effective, if not cheaper.

Of course, there are many different types of liveaboards ranging from budget to luxury options. Expect to pay more if you want hot tubs and massage parlors on board versus more basic accommodation offerings.

Some destinations are also more expensive, regardless of the boat. Diviac, a scuba diving booking agency, has compiled a list of the world’s most luxurious dive boats for you to drool over.

6 DISCOVER AREAS NOT ACCESSIBLE FROM A RESORT

One of the beauties of going on a dive liveaboard is the opportunity to head out to remote dive spots, which are usually inaccessible by smaller boats used by dive resorts. Your liveaboard boat can take you to areas where few others are able to access.

Diving remote areas often mean the sites are more pristine, less polluted and less damaged, meaning more fish and marine species can be found. You can reach sites with better visibility due to the lack of pollution from run-off or rubbish on the land.

Some places, such as the Tubbataha Reef and the Galapagos Islands, can only be accessed by boat.

7 MAKE NEW FRIENDS

One of the most fun aspects of any dive holiday is about the people you meet along the way and the friends you make. On a dive liveaboard, you’ll be eating, sleeping and diving with new, friendly faces, all sharing in the same exciting adventure.

A liveaboard is a great way to make new friends from different parts of the globe. Who knows where you might end up in the future needing a local dive recommendation?
DO I HAVE ENOUGH EXPERIENCE?
Whether you have enough scuba diving experience depends on where you are going and your goals for the trip. It is advisable to carry an advanced open water certification or its equivalent at the least. This way, you won’t feel left out of night dives or profiles deeper than 60 feet.
If you are planning to visit cold water, caverns, shipwrecks or any other challenging environment, be sure to complete the appropriate specialty course before your vacation.
Remember, your level of experience is not only about your certification. The number of dives that you have completed plays an important role as well.
You will get way more value out of each tank if you are comfortable in the water.
If you are not able to control your buoyancy and dive safely, you won’t enjoy yourself. A responsible liveaboard operator won’t let you dive without these skills, regardless of your certification.

WHAT IF I DON’T HAVE A BUDDY?
Of course, you can book a liveaboard by yourself but you should ask some extra questions before reserving. Some operators charge a single supplement to cover the cost of your room. Others may ask you to share a cabin.
Remember that you cannot dive without a buddy unless certified to do so, and solo scuba divers will most likely be assigned a partner once onboard.
If you’d rather not leave it to chance, social media can be a great place to meet dive buddies.
Some boats cater primarily to solo travelers and create a mix-and-mingle atmosphere which is perfect for meeting new people. The experts at Diviac.com put together a helpful list of the best liveaboards for single travelers.

WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT FROM MY CABIN?
That depends on your budget. Some of the most affordable options offer no-frills bunk beds with shared bathrooms or dorm style accommodations with many roommates. Most mid-range boats provide a few extra perks like air conditioning and en suite facilities.
If you are booking a luxury liveaboard, you can expect a much higher standard for your cabin. High-end amenities like king-sized beds, televisions and private balconies may be available.
You should always have a look through photographs of your chosen vessel, and pay close attention to the cabins. It is also a good idea to read online reviews to see what other scuba divers think about the accommodations.
When booking, get as much information as possible about your cabin. Be sure to confirm bed style, the number of guests and whether you will be sharing a bathroom with other guests.

WHAT WILL I EAT?
Most boats serve a combination of local and western cuisine. You can expect plenty of free, hydrating beverages throughout the day, as well as some snacks between meals. Budget-friendly boats serve food buffet or family style, while more expensive vessels offer à la carte dining.
Keep in mind that not all dietary requirements are possible to accommodate in remote areas. Try to limit your requests to religious needs, food allergies and similar situations.
If you are vegan, gluten intolerant or extremely picky, you might need to pack supplemental food.
Many countries are not familiar with these diets and do not have access to specialty food items.
Only the most expensive “all inclusive” liveaboards provide free alcohol. Some boats may allow you to bring your own onboard, but make sure to research this in advance.
Remember that some countries restrict the import and possession of alcohol. It is important to keep safety in mind as well. Drinking and scuba diving don’t mix, and you should use caution and moderation while on a scuba vacation.

WHAT SHOULD I PACK?
The most important thing you can pack on a liveaboard is your equipment. Even if you don’t have a complete set, bring what you are comfortable using. Rentals can become uncomfortable if they do not fit properly, and you may have no opportunity to swap them out once at sea.
If you are a photographer, bring any additional gear you might need. Extra batteries, cables, silica gel pouches and personal cameras are all highly recommended.

Onboard safaris are a great option for vacation divers hoping to maximize their time underwater. But, with hundreds of tempting itineraries available worldwide, it can be hard to know what to choose. Even the most experienced scuba divers face new challenges when booking a liveaboard. If you are wondering where to go, how much to spend or whether you have what it takes to spend a week at sea, then you’ve come to the right place. Our helpful guide will answer these frequently asked questions and get you started planning your first trip.

JESSICA MERRILL
WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT FROM THE CREW?

Onboard, the crew is not only in place for your enjoyment but your safety too. Most or all employees will speak English and should have a friendly helpful attitude.

Dive guides are usually locals with relevant experience diving in the area. Underwater, you should give them the same respect as any professional. You may also find that they have expert knowledge in photography and fish ID. If you need something, you should always ask the crew for help, follow their instructions, and trust their judgment. If you are not satisfied with your liveaboard experience, be sure to speak up.

Finally, remember that these employees work for tips. If you feel that your vacation was exceptional, be sure to reflect that via gratuity.

SHOULD I GET INSURANCE?

Yes. If possible, join DAN the Divers Alert Network. They offer insurance plans for divers traveling in the US and abroad. Helpful bulletins, informative blogs, and members-only benefits are other perks of joining. DAN also conducts dive related research, provides safety training, and offers a 24-hour dive emergency hotline.

If you are planning to use standard travelers insurance, be sure to read the fine print. Many of these policies do not cover dive medicine such as treatment in a hyperbaric chamber. They may also have low limits for emergency evacuation or search and rescue efforts.

WHAT ABOUT SAFETY?

As a scuba diver, you are always responsible for your safety. On the first day of your trip, have a look around the boat and locate fire extinguishers, first aid, emergency oxygen, and flotation devices. It’s also a good idea to familiarize yourself with the onboard emergency action plan.

Since many liveaboards operate in the open ocean, safety precautions are even more important. If it’s been a while since your last dive or you can’t remember safe scuba diving practices from your open water course, it might be time for a refresher. Read through our helpful article, What should divers do for their own safety, for more tips.

You should always practice the buddy system. In unfamiliar and remote locations, you may need to look out for your partner even more than usual. If you haven’t been diving with a new buddy for a while, give yourself a reminder. Our guide covering all you need to know about the scuba diving buddy system will jog your memory.

Some liveaboards may offer other safety features. GPS systems for marine rescues, such as the Nautilus Lifeline, are standard on luxury boats and in isolated locations. Marine radio, emergency lighting, smoke detectors and life rafts are standard features found on even the most budget friendly ships.

WHAT ABOUT KEEPING IN TOUCH?

For some divers, the best part of a liveaboard trip is putting down their smartphone for a few days. If possible, take the time to unplugged.

Many boats offer wireless internet for a fee, but it is often unreliable. You may have some service, but it will most likely be too sporadic to rely on for work purposes. The occasional Facebook post or email might make it through, but who needs that stuff anyway?

If your lifestyle permits it, consider taking a break from technology. Socialize with the crew and other divers on your safari. You might meet a new dive buddy, or even make a friend for life.

SHOULD I PLAN FOR EXTRA EXPENSES?

Whether you are traveling independently or have booked a direct transfer, getting to your port of embarkation can be tricky. Be sure to budget a little extra for travel expenses along the way. Snacks, drinks, tips and souvenirs can add up fast.

Extra cash also comes in handy in case of emergency. Some countries do not accept US credit cards and you may not be able to access an ATM in rural or remote destinations. Spare money in both US and foreign currencies will come in handy should an unexpected situation arise.

Additional excursions and day trips, such as hiking and kayaking may be available as part of your itinerary for a fee. If you have an interest in activities other than scuba diving, be prepared to pay in cash when you arrive. Local guides rely on tips as a part of their income, so don’t forget a gratuity for good service.

CAN I BRING NON-DIVING GUESTS WITH ME? WHAT ABOUT KIDS?

Whether non-divers are welcome onboard is dependent on the preference of your dive operator. Many companies will happily charge you to bring an extra passenger along, but there may not be much for them to do while you are in the water. Be sure to find out what activities your guests will have access to for any.

When it comes to bringing kids along, be sure to consider their comfort first. There will be very few entertainment sources for them, especially if they are too young to dive. Depending on their experience and comfort level around water, a liveaboard might not be a safe choice for your family trip.

CAN I AFFORD THIS?

Definitely. Liveaboard itineraries range in price from $500 to over $2,000. How much you spend depends on what level of luxury you prefer. If you dive four or more times per day and don’t spend any extra money on the boat, your safari might even be cheaper than diving from a resort.

If you are looking for a bargain, last minute bookings are a great option. Having a flexible travel schedule and standard for comfort will help you get the best price.

If you are traveling alone and hoping to save money by sharing a cabin, The Adventure Junkies Facebook community is a great place to look for a roommate.
Onboard safaris are a great option for dive travel. But with exotic destinations and a price for every budget, it can be hard to decide which dream vacation suits you best. Our top tips to choose a liveaboard will help you narrow down the options and plan the perfect diving holiday. A big benefit of booking a liveaboard is that your diving, meals, and accommodations are included. Combine that with the best and most remote dive sites on earth, and you have a diver’s dream vacation. You don’t have to spend a fortune on liveaboard diving. Many budget friendly and mid-range options offer excellent value for their price. Of course, if you prefer a high-end holiday, some luxury vessels feel more like a boutique hotel than a boat. Whether you’re taking a quick trip to Thailand or going all out in the Maldives, we’ve got you covered.

6 TIPS TO CHOOSE YOUR LIVEABoard BOAT

1. Onboard safaris are a great option for dive travel. But with exotic destinations and a price for every budget, it can be hard to decide which dream vacation suits you best. Our top tips to choose a liveaboard will help you narrow down the options and plan the perfect diving holiday. A big benefit of booking a liveaboard is that your diving, meals, and accommodations are included. Combine that with the best and most remote dive sites on earth, and you have a diver’s dream vacation. You don’t have to spend a fortune on liveaboard diving. Many budget friendly and mid-range options offer excellent value for their price. Of course, if you prefer a high-end holiday, some luxury vessels feel more like a boutique hotel than a boat. Whether you’re taking a quick trip to Thailand or going all out in the Maldives, we’ve got you covered.

2. If you’ve already checked these off, an encounter with the strange and endangered ocean sunfish might be for you. Larger than life swims with dolphins, sea lions, turtles, and sharks are exciting experiences, even for seasoned pros. If you are looking for an adrenaline rush, South Africa’s sardine run brings the big stuff to you. Divers can expect to see balletish, big sharks, and massive schools of migrating baitfish. For an even more hair-raising experience, take the plunge with saltwater crocodiles in Jardines de La Reina, Cuba.

3. The biggest planning decision you’ll have to make is where to go. Liveaboards operate in the best areas for diving worldwide, and the options are limitless. Rather than choosing a specific destination up front, start by selecting a region and go from there.

4. CHOOSE YOUR LOCATION
The American’s Pacific dive locations throughout Mexico, Costa Rica, Colombia, and Ecuador are favorites for shark enthusiasts. Across the continent, Caribbean liveaboards in Belize, the Bahamas, and Cuba feature colorful and vibrant coral reef systems.

5. The Galapagos Islands are this hemisphere’s most popular liveaboard destination. Thailand, Burma, the Philippines, Malaysia, and Indonesia offer limitless potential in a variety of underwater environments.

6. Liveaboards in this region typically offer outstanding service. Guests can expect warm hospitality, excellent traditional food, and knowledgeable local guides.

7. The Middle East
This diverse region features warm water year round, making it a serious hotspot for large pelagics. Hammerheads, Oceanic white tips, whale sharks, and thresher sharks can be spotted here, often in open water.

8. A multitude of shipwrecks, most from the 19th and 20th century attract technical divers from around the world. Discovered by Jacques Cousteau, the SS Thistlegorm is considered one of the top wrecks for divers worldwide.

9. All these attractions, alongside pristine reefs, make the Red Sea a popular liveaboard destination. Egypt, Sudan, Jordan, Oman, and Djibouti offer unique itineraries throughout the region.

10. Indian Ocean
The Indian Ocean hosts some of the world’s most remote atolls and luxurious liveaboards. Manta rays and whale sharks are the primary focus for dive safaris in the Maldives, making it a mecca for underwater photographers.

11. With over 115 islands, the Seychelles are spectacular above and below water. Most Itineraries feature a trip to the world’s largest raised coral atoll, Aldabra.

12. Sri Lanka and India are emerging dive destinations, with a few liveaboards operating. These waters are also an excellent region for whale watching in addition to liveaboard diving.

13. Marine Life
What flora and fauna are you hoping to spot underwater? Nothing is certain, and no dive operation will promise specific wildlife sightings. But, it’s a good idea to plan around what you’d like to see. Be sure to take the season into consideration when researching for your trip.

14. Macro
Not just for photographers, macro life is small but stunning. Favorite finds include the blue ring octopus, Spanish dancer and ghost pipefish. Thousands of species including nudibranchs, crabs, and shrimp can be found around the world, hiding in the reef’s cracks and crevices. Bubble and muck bottoms in remote locations are best for locating super rare species.

15. Indian Ocean
Indonesia’s Lembeh Strait is the most famous macro liveaboard destination featuring these environments, but certainly not your only option.

16. For more information, check out our guide to the best spots in the world for macro diving.

17. The Big Stuff
Most liveaboard divers are hoping to encounter large species underwater. Whale sharks, manta rays, and hammerheads top most scuba bucket lists.

18. If you’ve already checked these off, an encounter with the strange and endangered ocean sunfish might be for you. Larger than life swims with dolphins, sea lions, turtles, and sharks are exciting experiences, even for seasoned pros.

19. If you are looking for an adrenaline rush, South Africa’s sardine run brings the big stuff to you. Divers can expect to see balletish, big sharks, and massive schools of migrating baitfish. For an even more hair-raising experience, take the plunge with saltwater crocodiles in Jardines de La Reina, Cuba.

20. Duration and Dives per Day
Liveaboard itineraries come in short, average, and fantasy lengths. Easy to reach destinations, like Thailand’s Similan Islands and Ras Mohammed National Park in Egypt, make for great four-day trips. Farther-flung destinations such as the Galapagos Islands need six to seven days to explore.

21. Extended trips to the most remote places on earth can run upwards of 14 nights and cover two or more countries. These once in a lifetime liveaboards often explore Komodo and the Coral Triangle. For the craziest trip we’ve seen, check out Wicked Adventures 19-day voyage known as The Great Crossing. Longer trips don’t always mean logging the most dives. Most liveaboards offer around four tanks per day but select safaris offer up to six.

Jessica Merrill
"Nothing is certain, and no dive operation will promise specific wildlife sightings. But, it’s a good idea to plan around what you’d like to see.”
your comfort. A full day of diving leaves little down time for relaxation. Also, many people find themselves more tired than expected after three to four dives per day. Keep your physical condition, temperature and experience level in mind as factors when deciding what number works best for you.

ALTERNATIVE ADVENTURES

What type of scuba diving experience interests you the most? Liveaboards feature excursions in all kinds of environments ranging from mild to wild. Based on the region, special sites may include shipwrecks, caves, muck, and more. Most safaris offer night diving, and fluorescent dives are growing in popularity. If photography is your focus, you may prefer to book a liveaboard centered around helping you capture the moment underwater. Many vessels provide special facilities for your equipment and photo editing. Many safaris also offer workshops and photo training onboard. With anywhere between three and five dives a day, you are sure to enhance your skills while onboard.

WHAT CLIMATE SUITS YOU BEST?

Some fantastic destinations for rare wildlife are in cold water. Pacific sites like Cocos Island and the Revillagigedo Archipelago are famous for interesting topography and scores of sharks. Remember that you will feel colder after repetitive dives. When it comes to chilly conditions, always use comfort and experience to make a decision.

BUDGET

Like shopping for diving equipment, planning for your trip should be all about fit and comfort. Cost is a factor, but it shouldn’t be the decision maker. Keep all the above points in mind, and then find a price tag that suits your lifestyle. Whether booking a budget or luxury liveaboard, be sure to decide which amenities suit you best. Details like whether your cabin and bathroom are private or shared can make a big difference during a week long voyage. When it comes to upscale itineraries, be sure that you will partake in the luxury perks. Hot tubs, massage parlors, kayaks, and top shelf alcohol may be included in the price whether you use them or not. Don’t forget to factor in a few extra expenses. You’ll need a bit of spending money to reach your port of departure, and for hotels and meals while you are on the road. Gratuities are separate from your booking price, and you should expect to tip between 10 and 20 percent based on service and hospitality.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

These days, most people use online reviews to assess a product before they make a purchase. Book ing a liveaboard is no different. Trust other scuba divers’ opinions and watch for both positive and negative trends for each boat or provider. Keep your eyes open for any red flags concerning safety, and always book through a reputable agency. When possible, schedule your dive travel with environmentally responsible providers. Spending your dollars wisely as a “green consumer” encourages dive operators to provide and promote sustainable options.

YOUR FIRST LIVEABOARD: WHAT TO CONSIDER & WHAT TO EXPECT

Are you thinking of booking your first liveaboard trip? Like any other vacation, there’s plenty that you need to know before you go. Careful planning and realistic expectations will help you make the most of whatever destination and itinerary you choose. But with hundreds of boats operating worldwide, the options can seem endless. What kind of vacation suits you the best? Are you looking for adventure or relaxation? Is this a budget holiday, or the trip of a lifetime? Are you hoping to encounter specific wildlife, explore a new environment, or try your hand at specialty diving? Asking the right questions, and doing your homework before booking, is vital to planning the perfect liveaboard diving trip.

OUR TOP CONSIDERATIONS

TIMELINE

How much time can you dedicate to this trip? Ideally, plan at least a week to enjoy your liveaboard. And, don’t forget that you’ll need a bit of time for off-gassing before you fly home. If it’s been a while since your open water course, you may have forgotten how much time you need. Refresh your memory with our guide to flying after diving.

SEASON

What time of year are you planning on diving? It’s important to factor this in when choosing a destination. In most places, the liveaboard season does not run year round, and having a specific month in mind may limit where you can go.
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Remember that you will be using a bit of energy while diving on your trip. Most experienced liveaboard divers prefer at least two days before and after their voyage to relax.

**SEASON**
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If your dream vacation centers around a particular type of wildlife, be sure that you know whether the species will be in the area. Divers frequently observe that scuba diving destinations are suitable for your current skill and experience level. These two factors combine to create what PADI often refers to as your personal diving limits.

As a diver, your skill level is closely related to your credentials. Some liveaboards require a certification level of advanced open water or above for all divers on board. This restriction ensures that all everyone in the group will be comfortable with basic navigation and dives below 60 feet (18 meters).

Many liveaboards travel through marine parks and protected areas, and some regions will ask you to complete a “check out” dive. During this assessment, your boat’s dive staff will observe your skills in the water and determine whether your buoyancy and general dive practices are safe for the conditions that you will be dives in.

Not sure if you’ll make the cut? Check out our helpful guides on improving your buoyancy and safe diving practices to brush up on your skills and knowledge.

**SKILL**
It’s likely that not all scuba diving destinations are suitable for your current skill and experience level. These two factors combine to create what PADI often refers to as your personal diving limits.

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**EXPERIENCE**
A mystery of the basic diving skills is mandatory for enjoying your time underwater. But, it’s no match for experience. After all, you can qualify as an advanced open water diver with less than ten dives.

The more dives you complete, the more comfortable you will become in the underwater world. These hours of experience translate to clear thinking, problem-solving, and heightened safety even in difficult conditions. As you practice, you are more likely to become familiar with a variety of environments.

For this reason, some operators may ask that you come prepared with a minimum number of logged dives as a prerequisite. Though it might sound silly, this is another requirement with your safety in mind.

Be sure to bring your log book along whether the operator asks for it or not.

**BUDGET**
How much money do you need to spend on your trip? The key to determine how many days you plan to dive is to be prepared. Once you have determined the number of days you plan to dive, you can begin to budget for your trip.

**WHAT YOU NEED TO COMPARE YOURSELF TO OTHER DIVERS, OR FEEL BAD IF YOU ARE LESS EXPERIENCED THAN THEM. INSTEAD, FOCUS ON ENJOYING THE UNDERWATER WORLD.”**

**JESSICA MERRILL**

**“MANY LIVEaboards TRAVEL THROUGH MARINE PARKS AND PROTECTED AREAS, AND SOME REGIONS WILL ASK YOU TO COMPLETE A “CHECK OUT” DIVE.”**

**JESSICA MERRILL**

between ten and twenty percent is fair, depending on the service you received onboard.

Keep a cushion of extra cash on hand, just in case. While emergencies are rare, it is best to be prepared. Travel insurance is a must for liveaboard diving, but you may have to pay cash up front and seek reimbursement later.

**WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT**

**SERVICE**
Liveaboard diving is an adventurous holiday, but you should still feel like you are on vacation. The boat staff, both diving and non-diving are there to help, so don’t be shy about asking them if you need something.

Basic food service on any liveaboard should include at least three meals, drinking water, and snacks throughout the day. Some boats include soda and juices as well. Remember that you will be on an extended voyage at all not every meal will be gourmet.

Housekeeping should include a bed with clean sheets and towels, and a place to shower after dives. Liveaboard cabins are generally small, even on luxury boats. Plan to spend the majority of your time in common areas getting to know the other divers on board.

When it comes to customer service and diving, every liveaboard is different. Your comfort should be the top priority for boat staff, so ask if you need extra help. This could include setting up your equipment, entering the water, or exiting after a dive.

To conserve fresh water while at sea, most liveaboards do not wash divers equipment daily. However, you should be able to rinse sensitive items like computers and cameras after each immersion.

**SAFETY**
No matter what company you book with, your safety should be the top priority. A well-prepared crew should brief all divers on boat safety, including the location of emergency equipment. If you know where to find it, you will be less likely to panic.

Pay attention to all dive briefings, and be sure to speak up if there is something you don’t understand. Once in the water, your dive guide will be watching out for you. Safety is the responsibility of each scuba diver. Always follow safe diving procedures, use the buddy system, and dive well within your limits.

Many liveaboards include insurance. But, it’s a good idea to buy your own anyway. Organizations like DAN offer affordable packages with plenty of perks, like extra coverage for anyone traveling with you.

**FUN**
Your very first liveaboard dive trip is going to be incredible. Whether you have decided on a thrilling shark encounter in the North Pacific, or week of relaxed cruising in the Indian Ocean, be sure to let yourself relax and enjoy the ride.

Scuba diving is not a competitive sport. There is no need to compare yourself to other divers, or feel bad if you are less experienced than them. Instead, focus on enjoying the underwater world. Keep your goals for the trip in mind, and have fun!
Whether it’s your first liveaboard dive trip or your hundredth, how much fun you have on board will rely on the staff serving you. The captain, crew and dive team are there to help make the most of your voyage and underwater experience and ensure your safety. We created this tipping guide for liveaboards to help you show your appreciation for their hard work. Just like any other guided tour, tipping is customary while on a liveaboard trip. How much you give is up to you, and should always reflect the service you received and your satisfaction as a client. So, whether you are splurging in Fiji or traveling on a budget in Egypt, you should make gratuities a part of your expenses. If you are new to liveaboard diving, check out our brand new article on choosing a liveaboard for more awesome tips and advice.

Choosing a top rated liveaboard will help ensure that you receive the best customer service on your trip. Read online reviews when possible, and watch for both positive and negative trends in staff interactions and service. Booking through a trusted source like Diviac.com or Liveaboard.com is advised.

When you are booking your trip, ask the provider about their tipping policies. They will be able to tell you about what percentage is appropriate, and whether the team divides all gratuities. Of course, these are only guidelines.

The final decision on how much to offer and who to give it to will always be up to you. Liveaboard boat crews and dive guides work hard to make sure your trip is safe and enjoyable. They wake up before you to prepare for the day and go to sleep after the last guest has retired. While it may seem like tons of fun, these employees do have challenging jobs.

If one staff member has gone above and beyond to make your experience positive, be sure to thank them in person. In these cases, an individual tip may be your best bet. Small gifts are also appropriate, and much appreciated in rural areas. Scuba diving books make an excellent choice, as do equipment and accessories.

Many scuba divers come from countries where tipping is not a part of daily life. But, offering the crew a small gratuity at the end of your trip is a common practice worldwide. Even in countries like Australia, where tipping is not expected in bars and restaurants, you should plan on a little something extra for the staff. Keep in mind that these employees are providing you with customer service around the clock, often for a week or longer.

In remote destinations, boat staff may depend on these small additions to their pay. Remember that the majority of your fare will go to the owner or operator of the liveaboard, not the crew. In most parts of the world, working in the dive industry is not a high paying profession. Low wages are especially common among local workers, who may earn less than foreigners in the industry.

Tipping is seldom considered to be rude, and staff members can always decline the offer. If you feel concerned that you might cause offense, tip diving, and boat crew individually, and do so in private.

Though uncommon, sometimes guests do experience poor customer service while liveaboard diving. If at any point during your trip, you feel less than satisfied, speak up. It’s best to address the issue immediately and in person.

Like any other touristic experience, you are not expected to tip in the case of an unsatisfactory experience. Before deciding not to leave a gratuity, consider whether your complaints are about the boat, staff, management, or owners.

After your trip, leave an online review. Both good and bad service deserves public recognition. Divers trust each other to leave honest comments on whether their trips were safe and enjoyable.

If specific staff members offered outstanding service, don’t forget to mention them by name. You may also consider nominating exceptional dive staff for the PADI Ambassador Divemaster program, aimed at honoring special scuba divers from around the globe.

Tipping is a part of diving and accounts for a very small portion of your vacation expenses. Anywhere between 10 and 20 percent is appropriate, depending on your customer service experience. By adding this amount into your budget as a planned expense, you are positively contributing to the diving industry as a whole. You may also be helping local workers provide for their families and themselves.

The basics

The BASICS

Choosing a top rated liveaboard will help ensure that you receive the best customer service on your trip. Read online reviews when possible, and watch for both positive and negative trends in staff interactions and service. Booking through a trusted source like Diviac.com or Liveaboard.com is advised.

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LOCAL CUSTOM

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CONSIDER THE SERVICE

Though uncommon, sometimes guests do experience poor customer service while liveaboard diving. If at any point during your trip, you feel less than satisfied, speak up. It’s best to address the issue immediately and in person.

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THE BOTTOM LINE

Tipping is a part of diving and accounts for a very small portion of your vacation expenses. Anywhere between 10 and 20 percent is appropriate, depending on your customer service experience. By adding this amount into your budget as a planned expense, you are positively contributing to the diving industry as a whole. You may also be helping local workers provide for their families and themselves.
So, you booked a liveaboard dive trip. That’s awesome! But, you still need to plan and pack for your voyage. Not sure what you need? Struggling to find the balance between overpacked and unprepared? Don’t worry. The Adventure Junkies are here to help with our handy packing list for liveaboard diving trips.

When it comes to liveaboard diving, the trick is to pack light and essential pieces. In this article, we’re breaking down the best gear and personal items for you to take along. Especially if this is your first liveaboard, you should shop and pack well in advance. Last minute options might cost more, and force you to settle on less than perfect purchases.

**How to use this packing list**

The items on this list were hand picked, keeping a few key qualities in mind. For each piece, we’re giving you a little bit of extra information. Focus on these factors when shopping and packing for your liveaboard dive trip, and you’re sure to have everything you need.

**Purpose:**

We’ll let you know what the item is for and how to use it.

**Essential items:**

Not everything on this list is a must have. So, we’ve made a special note for which items are essential to help you shop smart.

**Price range:**

We’re giving you a wide range of prices with a fit for every budget.

**Look for:**

Details can make a big difference. Here, we point out key features and design elements for top-performing gear.

**Learn more:**

A link with more details on the product or shopping tips.

**Best models:**

A link featuring the year’s best equipment.
DIVE GEAR

MASK

PURPOSE: Allow you to see underwater

ESSENTIAL ITEMS: This is the first piece of equipment you should buy

PRICE RANGE: $50 – $200

LOOK FOR: Proper fit, good seal

PRO PICK: Cressi Eyes Evolution

LEARN MORE: What Scuba Gear Should You Buy First?

BEST MODELS: Top 10 Scuba Diving Masks

LIGHTWEIGHT SET

PURPOSE: Provide comfortable breathing underwater

PRICE RANGE: $480 – $1,700

LOOK FOR: Ease of breathing, lightweight

PRO PICK: Atomic T3

BEST MODELS: Top 10 Scuba Diving Regulators

TRAVEL BCD

PURPOSE: Maintain and control buoyancy

PRICE RANGE: $150 – $650

LOOK FOR: Plenty of lift, lightweight

PRO PICK: Oceanic BioLite Travel BCD

BEST MODELS: Top 10 Scuba Diving BCDs

GAUGES

PURPOSE: Measure depth and tank pressure

PRICE RANGE: $120 – $180

LOOK FOR: Imperial or metric, lightweight, durable

PRO PICK: Oceanic Max-Depth SWIV Combo

BEST MODELS: Top 10 Scuba Diving Gauges

ACCESSORIES

COMPUTER

PURPOSE: Plan, calculate and log dives

ESSENTIAL ITEMS: A computer makes you more self-reliant and adds to your safety in the water

PRICE RANGE: $200 – $2,000

LOOK FOR: Easy to operate

PRO PICK: Suunto Zoop

BEST MODELS: Top 12 Dive Computers

KNIFE

PURPOSE: Free you from entanglement

LOOK FOR: Safely guarded blade, easy to use

PRO PICK: Eezycut Trilobite

BEST MODELS: Top 10 Dive Knives

TORCH

PURPOSE: Provide additional light underwater

PRICE RANGE: $80 – $200

LOOK FOR: Battery life, lightweight, multiple settings

PRO PICK: Big Blue AL1200NP

BEST MODELS: Top 10 Dive Lights

FINS

PURPOSE: Propell you through the water

PRICE RANGE: $120 – $150

LOOK FOR: Sturdy design, easy to use releases

PRO PICK: Apeks RK3

BEST MODELS: Top 10 Scuba Diving Fins

LEARN MORE: What Scuba Gear Should You Buy First?
EXPOSURE PROTECTION

WETSUIT

PURPOSE: Protect your body from ocean environments
PRICE RANGE: $50 – $400
LOOK FOR: Quality construction, proper fit
PRO PICK: Scubapro Everflex
LEARN MORE: How Should A Wetsuit Fit?
BEST MODELS: Top 10 Scuba Wetsuits | Top 10 Scuba Wetsuits For Women

BOOTIES

PURPOSE: Keep feet warm and protected while using open heel fins
PRICE RANGE: $30 – $100
LOOK FOR: Firm but flexible construction, durable soles
PRO PICK: Cressi Isla
BEST MODELS: Top 10 Dive Boots

RASHGUARD

PURPOSE: Adds a base layer of warmth and sun protection
ESSENTIAL ITEMS: This multi-use piece of gear protects above and below water
PRICE RANGE: $20 – $150
LOOK FOR: UV Protection, 1 – 3mm Warmth
PRO PICK: O’Neill Long Sleeve Crew
BEST MODELS: The 10 Best Rashies for Women

SIGNALING & NAVIGATION

COMPASS

PURPOSE: Navigation above and below water
PRICE RANGE: $10 – $150
LOOK FOR: Wrist console mounted or retractable, easy to read
PRO PICK: Scubapro FS-2
BEST MODELS: The 10 Dive Compasses

DSMB

PURPOSE: Signal boats and mark your surface position
ESSENTIAL ITEMS: The DSMB is a life-saving piece of equipment. Do not dive without one.
PRICE RANGE: $10 – $100
LOOK FOR: Durable construction, reflective strips for night use
PRO PICK: Blue Reef 4′ Surface Marker
BEST MODELS: Top 10 SMBs For Scuba Diving

WHISTLE

PURPOSE: Audible signaling on the surface
ESSENTIAL ITEMS: Divers should always carry both visual and audible signals
PRICE RANGE: $5 – $10
LOOK FOR: Loud, submersible, easy to use
PRO PICK: Fox 40 Sonik Blast
BEST MODELS: Top 10 Whistles

CLOTHING

Swimwear
Hat
Sunglasses
Quick Dry Shorts
Quick Dry Shirt

PERSONAL ITEMS

Travel Towel
Ear Plugs
Basic First Aid Kit
Snacks
Hydrating Drinks
Biodegradable Sunscreen
Natural Insect Repellent
Motion Sickness Tablets
Waterproof Logbook
Fish ID and Diving Books

JUST IN CASE

Dive Certification Cards
Passport
Extra Cash
Insurance Documents
Save-a-Dive Kit

SPLURGES

GPS
Waterproof Case
DPV

PHOTOGRAPHY EQUIPMENT

Camera
Strobe
Housing
Lenses
Chargers
Spare Parts
O’Ring Lubricant
Silica Gel Packets
Are you a recently certified diver with your sights set on a liveaboard dive trip? Believe it or not, there are tons of great dive locations around the globe, perfect for your skill level. We've rounded up the best liveaboard destinations for beginners worldwide and packed them into this article. So, grab your dive buddy and start planning.

If you've just finished your open water certification, it's a good idea to do a few local dives before your trip. Check out dive sites in your area, even if you don't live by the ocean. You can gain plenty of experience and confidence by leisure diving in a variety of environments including quarries and lakes. You should also check out our pro advice for planning your first liveaboard, packing list and tipping guide.

Belize

With over 400 islands scattered along the Mesoamerican Reef, Belize is a dream destination for divers of all skill levels. A liveaboard will help you make the most of this tropical paradise, exploring remote coral atolls and searching for unique wildlife. Favorite finds include sea turtles, eagle rays, and a multitude of colorful reef fish.

The high season, running from April to June offers the best diving conditions of the year, and a chance to snorkel with whale sharks in the Gladden Spit. Itineraries visit the lovely and shallow Turneffe and Lighthouse reefs, sheer walls around Half Moon Caye, and the world famous blue hole.

Both boats operating in Belize offer dive courses onboard. Advanced Open Water and Nitrox are the most popular choices, especially for those who want to experience the blue hole. If you'd rather stay shallow for now, consider bringing an underwater camera along. Good lighting and clear water make Belize a great place to practice your underwater photography.

Similan Islands

This beautiful chain of nine tiny islands has been a protected marine park since 1982. Thanks to decades of preservation, today these waters are home to some of the best diving in Thailand.

Manta rays, whale sharks, sea turtles, and vibrant coral reefs are the area's most popular underwater attractions. And, many of the region's best dive sites are accessible only via liveaboard.

A perfect destination for new divers in Southeast Asia, the Similan Islands offer calm, crystal blue water and a variety of budget itineraries. If you're looking for a quick getaway or backpacker-friendly trip, this is your best bet. Liveaboards combine Koh Bon and Richelieu Rock with Similan diving for week-long “best of Thailand” trips in the Andaman Sea.

When shopping for your liveaboard, keep some goals for the trip in mind. You may find 3-day itineraries on luxury boats to cost as much as a week-long trip elsewhere. Many boats in this region offer courses onboard, and Thailand is one of the most affordable places in the world to continue your scuba education.
### Maldives

**When to go:** January through August  
**Price range:** $1,500 - $5,500  
**Why it’s good for beginners:** Outstanding visibility, sharks, variety of itineraries  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Length of the Trip</th>
<th>Water Temperatures</th>
<th>Best boats</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7 to 10 days</td>
<td>80 to 86°F (26 to 30°C)</td>
<td>Best Maldives Liveaboards (Indian Ocean)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

***The Maldives is a region famous for luxury liveaboards. Creature comforts like chef-prepared meals, on-deck hot tubs, internet access, and spa services are standard. And, many of the most high-end boats cater to beginner divers.***

- Tranquil blue water and white sand beaches set the stage for fantastic liveaboard diving in the Maldives. Home to a thriving reef system, shipwrecks, sharks, and plenty of colorful fish, these islands make a great destination for beginner divers. And, a variety of boats operating in the region offer an itinerary for every budget and time frame.
- With over 700 islands to explore, you’ll have to dive from a liveaboard to see the best of the Maldives. Itineraries focus on one group of islands per trip, touring a variety of underwater environments.
- Divers can expect deep walls, colorful reefs, blue holes, seagrass, and mangroves. Be sure to research routes and dive sites in advance if you have specific goals in mind for your trip like sharks or shipwrecks.
- Liveaboard operators in the Maldives offer a wide variety of options and themed itineraries. Intense 10-day shark experiences, week-long wreck cruises, and dorm-style budget trips are all top picks.
- Calm conditions and clear water also make the Maldives an excellent place to practice your underwater photography. Even point and shoot users can expect excellent results.

**Price range:** $1,500 – $5,500  
**Water temperatures:** 72 to 83°F (22 to 28°C)  
**Why it’s good for beginners:** Clear water, options for continuing education, humpback whales

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Best boats</th>
<th><strong>Best Liveaboards in the Maldives:</strong></th>
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</table>

### Bahamas

**When to go:** October through June  
**Price range:** $1,000 - $4,500  
**Why it’s good for beginners:** Flat water year-round, luxury boats, variety of itineraries  

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Length of the Trip</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6 to 10 days</td>
<td>72 to 83°F (22 to 28°C)</td>
<td>Best Bahamas Liveaboards (Bahamas)</td>
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***The Bahamas is a region famous for endless walls, dramatic shipwrecks, and a seasonal migration of humpback whales.***

- With over 700 islands to explore, you'll have to dive from a liveaboard to see the best of the Bahamas. Itineraries focus on one group of islands per trip, touring a variety of underwater environments.
- Divers can expect deep walls, colorful reefs, blue holes, seagrass, and mangroves. Be sure to research routes and dive sites in advance if you have specific goals in mind for your trip like sharks or shipwrecks.
- Liveaboard operators in the Bahamas offer a wide variety of options and themed itineraries. Intense 10-day shark experiences, week-long wreck cruises, and dorm-style budget trips are all top picks.
- Calm conditions and clear water also make the Bahamas an excellent place to practice your underwater photography. Even point and shoot users can expect excellent results.

**Price range:** $2,000 – $3,000  
**Water temperatures:** 73 to 79°F (23 to 26°C)  
**Why it’s good for beginners:** Clear water, options for continuing education, humpback whales

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Best boats</th>
<th><strong>Best Bahamas Liveaboards:</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
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### Turks & Caicos

**When to go:** November through May  
**Price range:** $2,000 – $3,000  
**Why it’s good for beginners:** Clear water, options for continuing education, humpback whales  

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Length of the Trip</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8 to 11 days</td>
<td>73 to 79°F (23 to 26°C)</td>
<td>Best Bahamas Liveaboards (Bahamas)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

***The Turks & Caicos are a paradise for divers. The region is famous for endless walls, dramatic shipwrecks, and a seasonal migration of whales.***

- Best of all, many dive sites are only accessible via liveaboard, so only a handful of divers explore them each year. You can expect encounters with large pelagics like sharks, rays, and turtles, uncrowded dive sites, and great visibility.
- The Columbus Passage divides this region in two, and the deep water invites a variety of large species. This also makes the area outstanding for deep diving.
- Both boats operating in the region offer continuing education for divers including Advanced, Deep, Nitrox, and Wreck courses. Consider working towards a specialty course that will help you make the most of your time underwater.
- Migrating whales are a regional attraction during spring months. But, itineraries focused on the humpbacks offer snorkeling instead of diving, as the whales swim in very shallow water. If your trip is between January and April, be sure to research whether you will be diving, whale watching, or snorkeling.

**Price range:** $2,000 – $3,000  
**Water temperatures:** 72 to 83°F (22 to 26°C)  
**Why it’s good for beginners:** Clear water, options for continuing education, humpback whales

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<thead>
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<th>Best boats</th>
<th><strong>Best Liveaboards in the Turks &amp; Caicos:</strong></th>
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### Bali

**When to go:** May through November  
**Price range:** $1,500 – $5,500  
**Why it’s good for beginners:** Budget-friendly, variety of dive environments  

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<tr>
<td>5 to 10 days</td>
<td>73 to 86°F (23 to 30°C)</td>
<td>Liveboard Diving in Bali</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

***Bali is home to stunning biodiversity. Busy reef systems around the island are a perfect place to practice your underwater photography skills. Calm and clear water, colorful corals, and a myriad of small fish make excellent training grounds.***

**Price range:** $1,500 – $5,500  
**Water temperatures:** 80 to 86°F (26 to 30°C)  
**Why it’s good for beginners:** Budget-friendly, variety of dive environments

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GREAT BARRIER REEF AUSTRALIA

WHEN TO GO: June through August
LENGTH OF THE TRIP: 1 to 7 days
WATER TEMPERATURES: 75 to 85° F (24 to 30° C)
PRICE RANGE: $500 – $3,500
WHY IT’S GOOD FOR BEGINNERS: Flexible itineraries, good diving conditions, big fish

WHY IT’S GOOD FOR ADVANCED: Unique opportunities in the region include dive sites swarming with reef sharks, and underwater encounters with saltwater crocodiles. For those who prefer a more relaxed experience, colorful and shallow reefs set the stage for laid back immersions.

The longest coral expanse on planet earth, the Great Barrier Reef is on just about every diver’s bucket list. And, thanks to a wide variety of itineraries, this region has a liveaboard perfect for every budget, skill level, and vacation type.

Australia’s number one underwater attraction is the reef itself. But, scuba divers will find a variety of large pelagics as well, including sharks, rays, turtles, and more. Seasonal migrations of minke whales and whale sharks are also a major attraction.

Beginner divers may want to commit to a short voyage for their first liveaboard, and Australia offers a variety of 1 to 3 day getaways catered to weekend warriors and backpackers on a tight schedule.

Many budget trips offer a bit more dive time, but you’ll have to sacrifice a few perks. And for divers ready to go all in, there are thrilling week-long “best of” itineraries.

Beginner divers will find a variety of large pelagics as well, including sharks, rays, and turtles. And, the famous Brothers Islands are your best bet for spotting a shark.

CUBA

WHEN TO GO: November through April
LENGTH OF THE TRIP: 6 to 9 days
WATER TEMPERATURES: 79 to 84° F (26 to 29° C)
PRICE RANGE: $1,500 – $5,500
WHY IT’S GOOD FOR BEGINNERS: Excellent water clarity, uncrowded dive sites, sharks

WHY IT’S GOOD FOR ADVANCED: Thrill-seeking divers of all levels can get their adrenaline rush in Cuba. Unique opportunities in the region include dive sites swimming with reef sharks, and underwater encounters with saltwater crocodiles. For those who prefer a more relaxed experience, colorful and shallow reefs set the stage for laid back immersions.

Dived only by liveaboard, the waters around Cayo Largo and Jardines de la Reina are famous for sharks, rays, and turtles. This region boasts excellent visibility and lighting, making these encounters picture perfect even for beginner photographers.

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Local liveaboards offer basic accommodations and incredible diving. Rental equipment varies in quality, and perks like Nitrox and wifi are hard to find. But, if you can give up a few little luxuries, this destination will blow your mind. As travel to Cuba becomes more available to Americans, these dive sites will become much more crowded. Dive here before the secret gets out!

BAY ISLANDS HONDURAS

WHEN TO GO: January through September
LENGTH OF THE TRIP: 7 to 10 days
WATER TEMPERATURES: 80 to 85° F (27 to 31° C)
PRICE RANGE: $2,500 – $3,000
WHY IT’S GOOD FOR BEGINNERS: Laid-back diving, uncrowded sites, whale sharks

WHY IT’S GOOD FOR ADVANCE: The lesser known islands of Cayos Cochinos and Guanaja host the region’s richest coral, and fascinating macro life. And, the only way to explore them all is via liveaboard.

With one boat operating in the region, Honduras is an up-and-coming liveaboard diving destination for divers of all experience levels. This region is one of the most affordable places for an onboard safari, and thrifty divers can score incredible deals on extended itineraries.

With some of the world’s best wrecks, incredible reefs and walls, and sharks galore, Egypt’s Red Sea is an exciting liveaboard diving destination for divers of all experience levels. This region is one of the most affordable places for an onboard safari, and thrifty divers can score incredible deals on extended itineraries.

Egypt is best known for its encounters with big fish. Whale sharks, mantas, dolphins, sharks, and dugong frequent these waters. Massive WWII era wrecks and world-class diving conditions only sweeten the deal.

Over 50 boats operate in this region, so your best bet is to shop around. Start by deciding which dive sites you want to explore, and choose a vessel later.

Northern sites around Dahab offer plunging walls, and plenty of opportunities to earn your Advanced, Deep, or Nitrox certification. Ras Mohammed and Tiran are home to vibrant and delicate coral reefs. And, the famous Brothers Islands are your best bet for spotting a shark.

EGYPT

WHEN TO GO: June through September
LENGTH OF THE TRIP: 7 to 8 days
WATER TEMPERATURES: 70 to 86° F (21 to 30° C)
PRICE RANGE: $550 – $2,000
WHY IT’S GOOD FOR BEGINNERS: Best Cuba Liveaboard Boats

WHY IT’S GOOD FOR ADVANCED: Best Egypt Liveaboard Boats

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Northern sites around Dahab offer plunging walls, and plenty of opportunities to earn your Advanced, Deep, or Nitrox certification. Ras Mohammed and Tiran are home to vibrant and delicate coral reefs. And, the famous Brothers Islands are your best bet for spotting a shark.
We would like to thank you again for taking the time to check out the Liveaboard Diving Quick Starter Guide! We hope you’ve found some value in it and can use it as a guide to help you get into liveaboard diving and explore the outdoors. Lots of great adventures are lying ahead waiting for you!

If for whatever reason you got this guide without ever subscribing to our email list (which is totally okay because we realize people love to share things like this), then please head on over to TheAdventureJunkies.com and subscribe to our email list there.

We would also suggest you to check out the other Quick Starter Guides for outdoor photography, mountain biking, kayaking, snow sports, climbing, hiking, scuba diving, and bicycle touring.

And lastly, if you enjoyed this book, please feel free to share it on Twitter or Facebook.

Cheers, best of luck and we look forward to helping you out again soon!