



UNDERCURRENTS

Newsletter of the Bluegrass Dive Club / www.bluegrassdiveclub.com

NOVEMBER 2025

Volume 55, Number 9

Club Meeting

Date: Tuesday, November 11
Time: 7:30-PM (business)
Social at 7:00

Location: Roosters
Program: Elections

President's Message

By Kathryn Bowers



It's starting to feel just a little like fall here in Central Kentucky. Not so much if you're out in the afternoon but the trees are dropping some leaves (which could be from the dry conditions we have had) and the evenings are cooling off. November is also the traditional month for elections in the country and the Blue Grass Dive Club.

I spent October working with the nominating committee, Butch Mellot and Carol Call putting together a proposed slate of officers for next year. If you have any interest in running for any particular office it's not too late. You can put yourself up for nomination and election at the November meeting.

As a reminder anyone can serve as an officer as long as you meet a few requirements.

Eligibility: Any member of the Club shall be

- a. Is in good standing;
- b. Has been a member of the Club for at least one full year immediately prior to taking of office;
- c. Is 21 years of age or older.

A Board member may not hold more than one Board position simultaneously. In no case shall a member of the Board have more than one vote.



If you are curious about what the duties of each office are you can find a description in Article IV of the by-laws posted on the website. The proposed slate of 2026 officers are as follows.

President: Kathryn Bowers
 VP: Butch Mellott
 Secretary: David Carr
 Treasurer: Dan Miller
 Trip Director: Priscilla Mellott
 Safety: Bill "Doc" McGrady
 Newsletter: Scott Newby
 Webmaster: Alex Fassas

We are also still soliciting ideas for destinations people wish to visit so keep dreaming of oceans you want to explore! 🚩

The Editor's Notes

By John Geddes



I must apologize for not having the October Newsletter. When I downloaded the articles to be published, my operating system was not supposed any longer after mid October and I had 2 more late articles to insert. When I finally got them, I could not download to finish, and this was the day before the meeting. Pics of our stickers left around the world. 🚩

Vice President Report

By Kris Harn



Please make this meeting, it's the electoins for the new Board and who knows you might to hop in. See you Tuesday! 🚩

Trip Director Report

By Natasha Bowers



It has been a busy month for me personally. I have been to St. Louis, Missouri to visit with my new employer, shop for a new place to live, celebrate my grandmother's 90th birthday, and attend a memorial service for a great aunt.

All of this was during a week in St. Louis. Upon returning home to Maplewood, Minnesota the

realities of making arrangements to leave my old employer, packing for a move, continue working full-time as an ICU nurse, making arrangements for the new living situation in St. Louis, and just being a fabulous human have been all consuming.

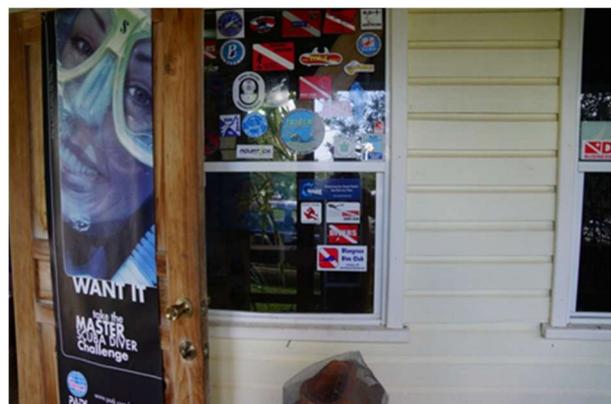
I am currently enroute to my new home in St. Louis, then the unpacking, getting settled and begin the new work adventure.

With that said, I have had wonderful assistance from Dan Miller, the originator of a dive trip idea to the Chogogo Dive & Beach Resort on the island of Bonaire from 28 February to 7 March 2026. And help also from Alex Fassas, who was following up with our travel wholesaler while Dan was off diving.

This trip is now OPEN for registration. Check out our upcoming trips here: <https://bluegrassdiveclub.com/upcoming-trips/>. I know that Dan & Anna Miller and Kathryn Bowers & Alex Fassas will be going to Bonaire on this trip.

Do not forget that we also have a liveaboard trip open aboard the Turks & Caico Aggressor II from 22 August to 29 August 2026. Check this trip out at <https://bluegrassdiveclub.com/2025/08/turks-caicos-aggressor-ii-liveaboard-dive-trip-22-august-to-29-august-2026/>. We have 4 club members signed up for this trip so far, including myself and my Mom.

I cannot wait to hear about the wonderful trip that the 8 club members had at the Cozumel Iberostar Waves all-inclusive resort for a week of diving and fun from 25 October to 1 November 2025. 🚩



Secretary's Report

By Amy Hiatt



Board Meeting Highlights

Quick Recap September Board

The meeting focused on upcoming trip planning, officer recruitment, financial tracking, and event coordination. The group reviewed flight details for the Cozumel trip, discussed new trip opportunities to Bonaire and the Cayman Islands, and confirmed changes to the board meeting schedule. The meeting also addressed WeTravel financial reporting, upcoming newsletter deadlines, and preparations for officer elections in November.

Key Highlights

Board meetings will now be held on the fourth Tuesday of each month to improve attendance consistency.

Cozumel trip preparations continue, with flight and rooming details being finalized and gear rentals confirmed.

Bonaire trip proposal (Chogogo Resort) under review for February 28–March 7, 2026; pricing and nitrox clarification pending.

WeTravel financial reports reviewed funds verified and fee integration strategy approved.

Turks and Caicos trip ongoing, with Dan preparing media for a future presentation.

Officer elections are set for November, with Alex leading the nominating committee and slate due for approval in October.

Potential Blue Mind Oceanic partnership explored to expand wholesale travel opportunities for the club.

Upcoming DEMA show scheduled for November 11–14 in Orlando.

Future trip discussions included interest in Caribbean resorts, including Little Cayman, Cayman Brac, and Bonaire.

Quick Recap October Board

The meeting focused on financial updates, officer nominations for 2026, upcoming dive trips, and newsletter planning. Members discussed improving financial reporting through WeTravel, confirmed.

updates to club records, and reviewed trip proposals, including the 2026 Bonaire trip. The meeting also

addressed membership management, board transitions, and the timing of the holiday party.

Key Highlights

Meeting minutes were reviewed and condensed for clarity and recordkeeping purposes.

Board meetings will continue on the fourth Tuesday of each month, with an adjusted agenda focusing on essential items.

Financial update: Current account balance at \$22,969.46. Membership transactions and dive credits confirmed.

WeTravel and Stripe financial tracking improvements implemented for better reporting transparency.

Officer nominations approved for 2026, including Secretary David Carr and Treasurer Dan Miller. The nominating committee (Alex, Butch, and Carol) finalized the slate.

Trip director team for 2026 will include LaVon Land, Angie Newby, John Boyd, and



Secretary's Report Cont.

Natasha, who will continue remotely after her move.

Bonaire trip confirmed for February 28–March 7, 2026, at Chogogo Resort, with a \$200 per person deposit. WeTravel will manage bookings and room selections.

Trip packages include unlimited shore diving with optional boat dives; nitrox included for shore divers at no extra cost.

Club voted to book 10 rooms with a \$2,000 deposit, coordinated by Dan and Alex through Caribbean Dive Travel (CDT).

Newsletter deadline set for October 7th; technical issues with Kris's computer may cause a short delay.

The annual Christmas party is on December 20th, with Alex and Natasha offering to host if no other volunteers step forward.

The club decided not to attend DEMA this year due to scheduling conflicts and travel logistics. 🚩

Webmaster

By Alex Fassas



[Tales from the Watery Web](#)

Closing Swimming Pools

It is always bittersweet when the summer season gives way to fall, and it becomes time for Kentucky outdoor swimming pools to be closed and winterized for the season. It is a good thing that we have a second home in Florida where the swimming pool is open all year round. Oh, the benefits of years of hard work.

The only best thing to wash out that bittersweet taste is a warm weather dive trip. I think a trip to Bonaire Chogogo Dive & Beach Resort would be nice for a week starting on 28

February of 2026. Anyone want to join us? This trip is OPEN for registration here: <https://bluegrassdiveclub.com/upcoming-trips/>.



How A Club Dive Trip Is Born

Step 1. A club member is interested in dive destinations, resorts, and specific dates.

Step 2. The same club member did some research on the resort and shared with the Trip Committee.

Step 3. The Trip Committee sought a group dive trip proposal from a travel wholesaler with package details, pricing, payment and cancellation details.

Step 4. The Trip Director presents the Trip Proposal to your club officers for review, Q&A, and for approval.

Step 5. Approved trip contract is executed by the club's Treasurer or Trip Director, and any required deposit funds are paid.

Step 6. The club's Webmaster prepares the Dive Trip information and registration page on We Travel from the approved trip proposal information. Then follows up with posts on the club website and facebook, also with an email to everyone on the club's email list.

If you see yourself being a part of this process, then step up. You can reach her at president@bluegrassdiveclub.com or (859) 619-0166. Natasha, club Trip Director, is looking for people to be involved with the Trip Committee. You can reach Natasha at tripdirector@bluegrassdiveclub.com or

Webmaster Cont.

(651) 786-9574. If you have a place you want to go diving and a date, pass it along to the Trip Director.

Do you have news or a program to share?

Your dive club has a fabulous email list with which to share news and information that would be of interest to its members and friends. If you have something to share forward it along to webmaster@bluegrassdiveclub.com. If you have a topic or program that would be a good presentation at an upcoming membership meeting, let the club President, Kathryn Bowers know at president@bluegrassdiveclub.com.

I am working on adding a page for members shared pictures. Look for it soon! 🚩

Safety Information Director

By Bart Bertetto



I Got a Taste of Diving Safety from This SAFETY BITE

Apologies, as this is not a short bite. It is a very important lesson on dealing with panic, emergencies, and staying alive.

Reprint from October 2019

My mission is to provide you with relevant safety information for your use. Each article will focus on a specific safety risk. I will draw from my experience, hopefully yours, and the diving community to highlight real risks that we must be aware

of. So, if you see or hear of something that we

Could you all learn from, please pass it to me. There is nothing like first-hand experience to drive a point home.

Thanks to BGDC member Dan Miller for suggesting the subject of this article. We all know and have all felt panic at some point in our lives. It is a very natural survival response. Scuba diving on the other hand is a very unnatural activity. As a result, panic while diving is life threatening. Don't let it happen to you! Here is a great read on the subject of panic prevention while diving.

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How to Deal with Panic While Scuba Diving

By PATRICIA WUEST

Google sayings for "cool," and you'll find a plethora of results that could apply to people who strap on tanks, giant-stride off the back of the boat, and drop down into the ocean to explore its wonders: cool customer, cool as a cucumber, and cool, calm and collected. But when a diver panics underwater, you can throw those sayings — and the diver's even-keeled demeanor — overboard.

You may have seen at least one case of panic in a dive buddy — a wide-eyed look,

Safety Director Cont.

a desperate tug to get your attention, a rapid ascent. And if we're being honest, most of us have personally experienced at least a

momentary bout of anxiety. But if you feel panic rising, it's important to keep small things from snowballing into an out-of-control disaster.

"Recognizing the warning signs is the best method to proactively defuse a panic situation," says Kell Levendorf, dive accident investigator for Dive & Marine Consultants International in Florida. If you notice a buddy panicking, "you must be prepared and practiced controlling the fight-or-flight mentality by securing the regulator, controlling buoyancy, and safely aborting the dive," Levendorf says.

And if you are being overwhelmed by panic, "the best thing to do is stop what you are doing, take a deep breath, and start to think about what it is you are dealing with," says Liz Parkinson, an instructor with Stuart Cove's Dive Bahamas.

Sometimes this is easier said than done, and as David F. Colvard, M.D., and Lynn Y. Colvard, Ph.D., reported in "A Study of Panic in Recreational Scuba Divers," there are important distinctions to be made in understanding panic.



Recognizing the warning signs is the best method to proactively defuse a panic situation.

Losing One's Cool

The causes of panic underwater vary from divers struggling with equipment problems and task overloading to strong currents and dangerous marine life. Throw in things like poor fitness, peer pressure and fear of the unknown, and you've got the recipe for potential disaster.

In 2000, David Colvard and Lynn Y. Colvard, with support from Sport Diver's sister magazine Scuba Diving, undertook a multiyear study of thousands of divers to examine the incidence of panic while diving and the reasons why divers panic.

"We were impressed with how eager divers and instructors were to talk about their panic dive experience and how much they wanted to help us understand what had happened to them," says David Colvard. Overall, 37 percent of female recreational scuba divers reported a panic experience during a dive, while only 24 percent of male divers reported one.

"We categorized the divers into two groups: those with a history of panic prior to diving and those with no history prior to diving.

We subdivided them into those who had a panic on a dive, and those who had not," says Colvard. "Age, years diving, certification level and lifetime number of dives were similar for each group."

The Colvards found that male divers with a prediving history of panic were 1.9 to 2.7 times as likely to panic than those without a prior history. females were 1.4 to 2 times as likely to panic than those without a prior history.

Why It Happens

Panic is a sudden, uncontrollable surge of overwhelming anxiety and fear, often accompanied by wildly irrational thinking and behavior. "It's something that even a seasoned diver can experience," says Parkinson. "Many factors can lead to panic — misplaced equipment, rough weather.

Safety Director Cont.

conditions, diving in a new location, losing your buddy underwater.”

The Colvards had to first define what they meant by “panic” before conducting their study. “Because panic can be an imprecise or vague term used in a casual sense, the survey defined a panic experience as ‘an intense fear of losing control or dying,’” says David Colvard. “Consistent with a panic attack as defined by the APA, the essential feature of a panic attack is a discrete period of intense fear or discomfort that is accompanied by at least four of 13 somatic or cognitive symptoms ... often accompanied by a sense of imminent danger or impending doom and an urge to escape ... or desire to flee from wherever the attack is occurring.”

How is panic defined? Understand the major warning signs!

In other words, part of what the Colvards wanted to know is whether the diver made a rapid ascent or another dangerous action in response to feeling panicked.

“Most divers who panicked during a dive reported they remembered their training in how to deal with panic, and used that training,” says David Colvard. “Eighty-five percent of those who panicked while diving did not make a rapid or uncontrolled ascent. Even among the 15 percent who made a rapid or uncontrolled ascent, only 5 percent of males and 4 percent of females reported suffering from symptoms of decompression illness.” That’s the good news. But the reality is that it’s a scary feeling to be panicked or to try to help a buddy who is panicking underwater. So how do you deal with it?

Scared Stiff

“Divers who panic sometimes breathe too fast and hard, and may bolt to the surface or forget basic and easy lifesaving techniques that they learned in their Open Water Diver course,” says Jo Mikutowicz, managing partner of

Divetech on Grand Cayman. Parkinson underscores

Mikutowicz’s message: “You have the training, so use it.”

Colvard recommends that instructors teach diaphragmatic or belly breathing. According to the University of Texas Counseling and Mental Health Center, “Diaphragmatic breathing allows one to take normal breaths.



while maximizing the amount of oxygen that goes into the bloodstream. It is a way of interrupting the fight-or-flight response and triggering the body’s normal relaxation response. Says Colvard, “This way, you can make sure students and divers are calm and relaxed before getting into the water.”

Levendorf says that instructors are trained to recognize when a student is about to panic. “We recognize the deer-in-the-headlights look mere seconds before the novice diver spits out the regulator and bolts,” he says.

“With coaching, this can usually be resolved before they dive in open water.” But Levendorf says when panic happens in open water, “it’s a far more serious circumstance — the ultimate dive wrecker — and great care must be taken to protect both the diver and the instructor when trying to arrest a headlong flight to the surface.”

Divers who panic sometimes breathe too fast and hard and may bolt to the surface or forget basic and easy lifesaving techniques that they learned in their Open Water Diver course.

Safety Director Cont.

Pro Tips

If you have a history of panic disorder, you shouldn't dive until the disorder has been treated and is under good control. "Likewise, claustrophobia or agoraphobia is a



contraindication to diving," says Colvard. "I once helped an instructor with an open water checkout dive student who had struggled in the pool. We dived, but she did not complete the checkout dives. On the surface she told me that she had taken up scuba to deal with her claustrophobia. I told her she was doing it backward." But if your stress is not related to a disorder, what can you do when you feel anxiety building?

"**Stay current with your diving,**" says Mikutowicz. "If it has been longer than a year, take a refresher before your next big diving adventure to get familiar with being underwater again, as well as how to properly use all of your equipment."

"When you feel panic arising, **concentrate on problem-solving techniques, relax yourself, regain your composure,**" says Parkinson. "And if you are able to communicate with someone, do so."

Karl Shreeves, technical development executive with PADI, adds extra emphasis to the **importance of buddy diving.** "The problem with panic is that once it sets in, it

usually requires intervention," says Shreeves. "People rarely calm down and stop panicking

on their own. This means a buddy or someone has to intervene, but only if you can do so without getting into trouble yourself, which would only make things worse for you and the diver."

Instructors also teach this mantra: **Stop — Breathe — Think — Act.** Stop swimming for a moment. Slow down your breathing and take deep, even breaths from your diaphragm. Remember your training — such as what to do in an out-of-air emergency — and then act. 🚩



2025 BGDC Officer's

Kathryn Bowers, President	859 619-0166
Kris Harn, Vice President	859 333-6911
Amy Hiett, Secretary	303 815-8375
Dan Miller, Treasurer	859 948-5133
Natasha Bowers, Trip Director	651 786-9574
Bart Bertetto, Safety Info Dir.	502 299-3656
Alex Fassas, Webmaster	859 582-1600
John Geddes, Newsletter	859 608-0682

Bluegrass Dive Club 2025 Calendar

November

11, Tuesday Club Meeting (Elections)
25, Tuesday E.C. Meeting

December

20, Saturday Christmas Party

From the Treasurer

By Dan Miller



Student with ID, New Diver, First Year **\$10.00**

2025 Membership Renewal \$20.00

Student with ID
Single & Family (1 diver)
Family (non divers)
Family (2 or more divers)

Renewal: Please send payment to the address listed below, please make sure there is a correct indication of your mailing address, phone number and it is very important to indicate an email address.

Contact / Mail to: Bluegrass Dive Club c/o
Dan Miller 824 Gunpower Drive
Lexington, KY 40509

New Members: Visit the website to fill out an on-line form or to access a Microsoft Word printable form. [CLICK HERE](#). 🚩



This next article is a copy from Dan Miller that was from Ultimate Travel Diving Guide – Florida Keys a tropical paradise stretching over 120 miles, offer some of the best diving .

Florida Keys Travel Diving Guide

As you head farther south into Florida, you'll start to feel the vibe shift into something a little more laid-back and breezy like a preview of paradise. You'll know you've made it to Key Largo by spotting Big Betsy, the famous giant lobster sculpture. At an impressive 30 feet long, she's hard to miss, proudly perched along the main highway. Visitors love stopping to snap a selfie with Betsy, making her a must-see landmark and a fun start to your Key Largo adventure.

After saying bye to Betsy, it won't take long to find an incredible dive spot. Known as the "Diving Capital of the World," Key Largo truly lives up to the title. With its breathtaking coral reefs and fascinating shipwrecks, this underwater wonderland has something for everyone. Whether you're a seasoned diver or just getting your feet wet, you'll find plenty of charters ready to help you explore the crystal-clear waters of the Florida Keys. From the vibrant marine life to the stunning underwater scenery, your time in Key Largo is sure to be unforgettable!

Why Dive in the Florida Keys?

The Florida Keys are home to the third-largest coral barrier reef in the world and the only living coral barrier reef in the continental U.S. The region boasts warm waters, excellent visibility, and a diverse array of marine life, making it a top

Keys' unique marine sanctuaries, shipwreck trails, and abundance of dive charters cater to all skill levels.

Best Dive Sites in Key Largo, Florida

1. John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park

Highlights: Shallow reefs, the iconic Christ of the Abyss statue

Skill Level: Beginner to Intermediate

Details: This park is America's first undersea park and features vibrant coral formations teeming with marine life like parrotfish, sea turtles, and moray eels. Don't miss the Christ of the Abyss statue, a popular underwater photography spot.

Florida Keys Cont.



2. Molasses Reef

Highlights: Colorful coral in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary

Skill Level: All levels

Details: Known for its stunning coral formations and abundant sea life, Molasses Reef is perfect for divers seeking a kaleidoscope of colors underwater. Look out for nurse sharks, barracuda, and eagle rays.

3. Spiegel Grove Wreck

Highlights: Artificial reef, advanced wreck diving

Skill Level: Advanced

Details: This massive 510-foot former Navy ship is a magnet for experienced divers. Now an artificial reef, it's a haven for schooling fish, large groupers, and sometimes even reef sharks.

Here's a fun fact: Divers Direct's late founder, Kevin Senecal, played a key role in securing funding for the Spiegel Grove wreck. He's

honored on a plaque on the port side of the bow's superstructure, where his name is the third listed. If you're lucky enough to dive the Spiegel Grove, bring a toothbrush in your BC pocket and give Kevin's name a little cleaning for us, it's a small tribute to his lasting impact on the diving community.

As the "Diving Capital of the World," Key Largo is home to even more incredible dive sites, like the USCG Bibb, USCGC Duane, and the SS Benwood. However, to keep this blog concise, we've highlighted what we consider the top three.

If you go farther south to Islamorada, stop by the fascinating **History of Diving Museum**. Or visit the **National Key Deer Refuge** to spot the charming and endangered Key deer, unique to the Florida Keys. There's plenty to explore both above and below the surface in the Florida Keys!

Heading to the Southernmost Point

As we mentioned, the Florida Keys offer plenty of dive sites beyond the bustling hotspots of Key Largo and Key West. If you're looking for a more exclusive diving experience and hoping to avoid the crowds, there are some incredible spots worth exploring along the way.

Islamorada: Dive into the historic Alligator Reef, where you'll find a lighthouse surrounded by crystal-clear waters and abundant sea life.

Marathon: Check out the Thunderbolt wreck, a stunning artificial reef teeming with marine life that is perfect for advanced divers.

Big Pine Key: Explore the vibrant Looe Key Reef, a shallow and colorful coral reef ideal for divers and snorkelers alike. Each of these spots offers a unique and thrilling underwater adventure, making them well worth a stop as you journey through the Keys!

Best Dive Sites in Key West, Florida

For advanced divers, you can't leave Key West without diving the Vandenberg. The Vandenberg Wreck is a thrilling dive site located about 7 miles off Key West. This

Florida Keys Cont.

massive 523-foot former military ship, now an artificial reef, offers advanced divers the chance to explore an impressive underwater structure filled with swim-throughs and vibrant marine life. With depths ranging from 40 to 140 feet, it's best suited for experienced divers. The wreck is home to schools of fish, rays, and even the occasional shark, making it a dynamic and exciting dive. Accessed by boat from Key West, the Vandenberg offers excellent visibility, though currents can be stronger at deeper levels. It's a must-see for those seeking an unforgettable dive experience in the Florida Keys!



If you're not yet an advanced diver, there are still plenty of great spots to explore, like **Joe's Tug Wreck** or **Sand Key Lighthouse Reef**, both offering exciting dives with beautiful marine life. For a real adventure, consider heading to **Dry**

Tortugas for a unique island getaway. The two-hour ferry ride to the park is scenic and comfortable, and once you arrive, you can take a quick tour of **Fort Jefferson**. After that, dive right in and snorkel the surrounding waters, where you'll find vibrant coral reefs and diverse sea life—

making it a memorable experience for divers and snorkelers alike.

Topside Activities in Key West

The Conch Republic may only be 4 miles long and about 2 miles wide, but it's packed with unforgettable topside adventures. Here are some must-visit spots to make the most of your time in Key West

Fort Zachary Taylor Historic State Park: Enjoy stunning beaches alongside fascinating historic landmarks.

Key West Butterfly and Nature Conservatory: Step into a magical indoor garden filled with vibrant butterflies and exotic birds.

Key West Aquarium: Explore interactive exhibits and get up close with fascinating marine life.

Ernest Hemingway's House and Museum: Discover the charm of Hemingway's home, meet the famous six-toed cats, and take in the art and history of this iconic spot.

Old Town Trolley: Hop on for a convenient and scenic way to explore everything the island has to offer. One of the stops is conveniently located right in front of your favorite dive shop,

Divers Direct.Sunset Celebration at Mallory Square: End your day with local performers, delicious food, and breathtaking sunsets.

Duval Street Stroll: Take a leisurely walk down Key West's most famous street, lined with shops, bars, and restaurants.

Local Specialty Foods: indulge in two iconic local treats, Key Lime Pie and Conch Fritters.

Whether you're soaking up history, nature, or the lively atmosphere, there's no shortage of things to do in the Keys!

Florida Keys Cont.

The Florida Keys are a diver's dream destination, offering something for everyone—from shallow coral reefs to deep wrecks. With its stunning underwater landscapes and rich marine biodiversity, your trip to the Keys will leave you with unforgettable memories. So pack your gear, plan your dives, and get ready for an adventure beneath the waves!

FAQs About Diving in the Florida Keys

What makes the Florida Keys a top diving destination?

The Florida Keys are home to the only living coral barrier reef in the continental U.S., offering vibrant marine life, crystal-clear waters, and a variety of dive sites, including shipwrecks, coral reefs, and underwater sculptures.



What are the best dive sites in the Florida Keys?

Popular dive sites include Spiegel Grove in Key Largo, Molasses Reef, Vandenberg

Wreck in Key West, Thunderbolt Wreck in Marathon, and Alligator Reef in Islamorada. Each offers unique underwater experiences for divers of all levels.

Do I need to be an experienced diver to dive in the Florida Keys?

No! The Florida Keys cater to all skill levels. Beginners can explore shallow reefs like Sand Key Lighthouse Reef or Looe

Key, while advanced divers can take on deeper sites like the Vandenberg Wreck or the Spiegel Grove.

When is the best time of year to dive in the Florida Keys?

The Keys offer year-round diving, but the best conditions are typically from late spring to early fall when the waters are calm, visibility is excellent, and marine life is abundant.

What marine life can I expect to see while diving in the Florida Keys?

Divers can spot colorful tropical fish, sea turtles, rays, eels, sharks, sponges, and coral. Certain sites, like shipwrecks, attract larger schools of fish and pelagic species.



Are there snorkeling options for non-divers in the Florida Keys?

Absolutely! Many dive sites, like John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park and Looe Key, are also ideal for snorkeling, offering shallow reefs and abundant marine life.

What dive shops or charters should I use in the Florida Keys?

The Keys are filled with top-notch dive operators. Key Largo's Divers Direct is a popular spot for equipment, advice, and charters. Researching shops near your chosen dive site will help ensure you find a reputable provider. 🚩