



The SCUBA Investment

You'll find SCUBA diving to be one of the most exhilarating and exciting experiences in your life. Whether you enjoy diving on shipwrecks, diving to see the incredible variety of aquatic wildlife well hidden below the surface, or diving for search and recovery, this experience will take you to places that most people will never see. That said, SCUBA diving is not an inexpensive undertaking. Costs involved include expenses related to:

Gear , Training, and Travel

GEAR

Divers absolutely must make an initial gear investment that includes the purchase of:

Fins, Mask, Snorkel, Booties, and Carrying Bag

These items all come in a range of prices which generally reflect the quality of technology or material, or both. This gear can initially be borrowed but if the diving bug bites, you'll have to make the investment.

Bottom line investment: \$200-\$300

There will be more gear to be bought later, but for now you will be able to rent the following necessary gear:

Buoyancy Compensation Device (BCD), Regulator, Tank, Weights, and Wetsuit (if necessary)

Bottom line investment (per dive for rental gear): ~ \$50-\$75

TRAINING

Open Water Diver - A Discover SCUBA event is free, but once you've had the experience of actually being able to BREATHE under water, you'll want to proceed to the first level of certification which is **Open Water Diver**. Certification at this level includes a classroom component, knowledge exam, pool dives (confined water), and ocean, lake or river dives (open water). There are important skills to be checked off with each component. Cost for an Open Water Dive certification class includes all educational materials and rentals (except for a wetsuit).

Bottom line investment: \$375

Advanced Open Water - Qualifications for this certification are a bit more involved. Divers must first complete 5 **Adventure Dives** as defined by PADI, the most universally recognized SCUBA certification organization in the world. Each **Adventure Dive** is a specifically targeted learning experience and may include:

Fish Identification, Boat Dives, Deep Dives, Underwater Photography, Underwater Navigation, and Peak Performance Buoyancy among others

*Of these, **Navigation** and **Deep Dive** Adventure Dives are required.*

Each of these Adventure Dives includes a classroom learning component, knowledge review or short test, and a dive.

Bottom line investment: \$290 (includes instruction and educational materials)

This cost includes instruction for each Adventure Dive. However, rental gear is an additional cost and is necessary for each Adventure Dive.

Specialty Courses and Master SCUBA Diver - Certification beyond Advanced Open Water includes Specialty Courses and Master SCUBA Diver. In order to become certified as a Master SCUBA Diver, individuals must take a total of **5 Specialty Courses**. Most Specialty Courses are expanded versions of Adventure Dives and include more intense classroom and dive components. **Rescue Diver** and **Oxygen Provider** Specialty Courses are required courses. Each course is priced individually.

Bottom line investment: \$150-\$300 (includes instruction, educational materials, and certification fee)

Rental gear is an additional cost and is necessary for each Specialty Dive.

The next level is **Professional certification**

GEAR REVISITED

The more you dive, the more the rental costs add up. The “gear to be bought later” alleviates rental costs and includes:

- Buoyancy Compensation Device (BCD) - this is a dive vest that holds the dive tank and attaches hoses so that air can be let in or let out to regulate buoyancy in the water
- Regulator - this is the apparatus that attaches to the air tank providing air to the diver and to the diver's BCD
- Dive Computer/Compass - this records valuable information each dive, allowing divers to accurately record individual dives
- Dive Knife - in case of entanglement
- Wetsuit
- Gloves, Hood or Cap

Bottom line investment: \$1000-\$3000

TRAVEL

SCUBA diving inherently includes travel to dive sites. Some sites are local, others are not. Many dive sites also require a dive fee which is often included in the cost of the trip. Obviously, the farther you travel, the greater the expense.