



Special What?

W Yes, we are special but this is not about us, this is about diving. So what is this chat about special diving? No, no...in the industry it is called specialty courses and if you want to be a 'special' diver, then specialties are for you. Quite seriously though, whether you are SSI or PADI, specialty courses enhance your knowledge, skill and experience as a diver. Once you are open water certified, it is a good idea to combine your basic proficiency with a few courses that particularly interest you or can help with a skill that you find challenging. For example, you struggle with buoyancy. For some reason you cant get a grip of the neutral buoyancy that you see Mitch, Diego or Selma having mastered. After taking the buoyancy specialty, you will learn some extra skills to assist in obtaining that natural instructor state underwater and let you hold your own while under the blue.

For the diver that is enticed by longer dive times, Nitrox (Enriched Air Nitrox) would be the course for you. More and more divers are taking this course so they can stay down longer and feel more invigorated after their dive. Or you may want to take the photography course, wreck diving, drift diving or boat. All of these extra courses will go towards further diving certifications and make you a more capable diver.

Whether you are open water certified, platinum scuba diver or a stress and rescue diver, specialties are fun to complete while on vacation (think of the crystal clear Caribbean waters that don't fall below a temperature of 78F) and combines theory with diving. If you complete one specialty on each vacation, you can quickly obtain a diving level you never dreamed of.



Dave using a rebreather

Photo credit: Roger Shultz

Think about it. On the SSI website www.ssila.com or PADI website www.padi.com, the specialties are outlined for your review. On our website www.abysddiveshop.com, our specialty courses are under 'pricing' so you can pick the next level you wish to achieve. >>>



Photo credit: Roger Shultz

Specialty courses are not just for hard core divers. They are for divers who love what they do and want to be better. I can't think of one diver who does not fall into the category. Can you?

Ten reasons to become a diver:

1. Wear a wetsuit and look cool
2. Enter another world that takes up 75% of the earth's surface
3. Have a great excuse to go to the Caribbean on vacation
4. Meet great people who share in the same passion
5. Justify dreaming about being an instructor and living on the beach
6. Have a great excuse to start drinking beer early in the day after a dive
7. Shut out the world for at least 45 minutes and be in a place where no one can speak, cell phones are not allowed and computers don't exist
8. Travel to different and exotic places just to dive
9. Lie on the couch and read dive magazines and not feel guilty
10. Think you are Jacques Cousteau if only for a minute

Carlos-Dog or God?

To the unsuspecting vacationer Carlos would be a dog. To us, Carlos is God. What would be the Abyss without Carlos? Born in Playa Del Carmen (does this mean Dave can become a Mexican as he has a Mexican child) Dave was given Carlos as a birthday present five years ago. The two are a splitting image of each other (they walk and talk the same, both wear a gotte and have long hair, hmmm) and never leave each others side. Carlos has been a great asset to the shop. He makes sure we all take a break at least once a day to take him swimming, comes for a boat ride to oversee our competency in the water and generally keeps us in line. Carlos is not afraid to speak his mind to us or anyone else. When he barks we all listen. We do have to say that as keeper of the shop he does have a tough job and can be found having a siesta during any part of the day (or all day) just as a reminder to us all the it is tough being a dog.



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