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Imagine that you are in a wheelchair...

Would not being able to walk stop you from diving? How about total paralysis? If you couldn't see, would that stop you from enjoying diving?

The answer is that physical, mental or medical issues don't necessarily mean that diving is off limits. Certainly not at Dive Friends Bonaire, where we now have two trained IAHD

(International Association of Handicapped Divers) instructors, ready to go in the water with **everyone** who wants to dive and has a dive doctor's approval to do so. We even have an Instructor Trainer who can crossover any current dive professionals.

Of course every disability has its challenges. Someone that is partly paralyzed, missing a limb or has a back problem will adapt and learn how to don a scuba set in the water. A blind person will enjoy the sensation of weightlessness and listen to the sound of their exhaled bubbles and parrotfish gnawing the algae from the reef. However, they depend on their instructor or buddy for depth and time, and communication must be agreed on well before the dive.



It's more of a challenge when someone is completely paralyzed. This person has to depend completely on the instructor and dive masters, even for simple things like equalizing the ears. It takes a lot of trust between diver and instructor to make a comfortable dive.

During an IAHD course, the instructor can match the program to a person's abilities. Depending on what a diver can do to help himself and a buddy, there are three different levels. Level 1 - divers who are able to help themselves and their buddy (dive with just one buddy); Level 2 - divers who can help themselves but not their buddy (dive with two buddies) and Level 3—divers who are not able to help themselves, (dive with at least three buddies, one of which is a professional).

Needless to say, we always go for the highest level possible. With all of the courses and training that we provide, instructors at Dive Friends look at your **abilities**, not your **disabilities**.

For more information: email info@dive-friends-bonaire.com.



HOW many certifications?

Everybody who dives knows that experience counts for a lot! Whenever you fill in paperwork at a new dive center (though why would you want to dive anywhere else but Dive Friends?) you'll be asked how many logged dives you have. Divers strive to have the landmark 100th dive in their logbooks and have the status of being a very experienced diver. Well, Dive Friends Bonaire is approaching a landmark number of certifications. We bet you can't guess how many students we've certified over the years, but based on our quality—you KNOW it's a lot. Watch this space...we'll be celebrating Dive Friends Bonaire-Style soon!



What's New @ Dive Friends Bonaire

- Although Bonaire is famous for our biodiversity, we're not so well known for our gigantic pelagic marine life. This summer changed all that! Many of our divers were treated to the sight of a MANTA RAY who was hanging around the entrance to Harbour Village Marina for several weeks. If that wasn't cool enough, a WHALE SHARK was sighted at one of our southern sites. We really hope they stick around!!
- Every year, Dive Friends Bonaire purchases brand new Scuba-Pro equipment to keep our rental gear looking great. That means that we have some second-hand equipment to sell. We have BCDs & regulator sets available for only \$350.00.
- You won't recognize Dive Friends at Dive Inn. It's looking fabulous! This location received a complete makeover including a new roof. It's now an even nicer place to hang out with that beautiful Bonaire breeze passing through. Stop by for a coffee and check it out.
- Don't forget that coral spawning season is right around the corner. Visit us in September or October to witness this unique event.
- Looking for something fun to do when you're not diving? Book a sunset cruise, Klein Bonaire BBQ or booze cruise on the Good Return. Check out www.goodreturnbonaire.com for more info. You'll see a familiar face!
- Dive Friends will be attending the DEMA Show in Orlando this November. As usual, it promises to be a great time. If you're in the neighbourhood, please stop by our booth in the Bonaire aisle & say hi!
- If you're on Facebook, we welcome you to join the Dive Friends Bonaire Group. We love to have our recent guests post their photos there too! You can keep up with all the fun and action of Dive Friends Bonaire...

Keep Bonaire blue & beautiful @ the upcoming Clean Up Dive on the 17th of September!

On September 17th, 2011 we'll host our next clean up dive around Karel's Beach Bar. Everyone, divers and non-divers alike, are welcome to join us for a good time AND to make a difference. The clean-up starts at 1:00 PM and we will meet at Dive Friends @ Yellow Submarine, located on Kaya Playa Lechi #24. After the work is done, then we party! That's the Dive Friends way!!! At 5:00 PM, the potluck BBQ will begin. We'll supply some drinks and meat and invite everyone to bring a side dish to contribute. It's always a really good time!

Dive Friends Bonaire organizes the Bonaire Underwater Clean Up Dive with the support of various businesses such as Selibon, BonPhoto, Deep Blue Gear, Reef, & Ouray Sportswear. On each Clean Up Dive, a different area of Bonaire's coastal reefs or beaches is selected and any trash which has not become part of the reef is collected. We'd love to have your help to keep the reefs around Bonaire healthy.

We invite and welcome any participants who want to combine vacation with doing the right thing for their reefs! Please sign up now and send an email to info@dive-friends-bonaire.com or call +599-717-2929. For more information regarding our clean up, please visit: http://www.dive-friends-bonaire.com/clean_up_dives.html





Ever wished that you could talk underwater???

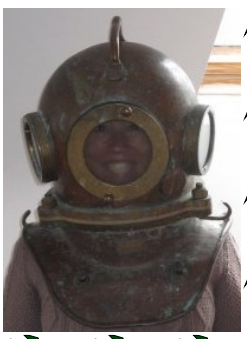


Well, now you can! We've all joked about having a buddy that would talk too much, ahem... But really, what better way to learn more about fish & critters? To be able to ask your DM, "What's that?" If you dive with a full face mask , we can provide

you with more information about our amazing marine life than just pointing & making a hand signal. Until recently, full face masks were only used by military and tech divers, but now recreational divers are able to get in on the fun! Diving technology has come a long way since the old days. Now it's easy enough for everyone! If you'd like to try out this unique experience, Dive Friends Bonaire @ Yellow Submarine can take you out for a "Discover" Full Face Mask dive with only a small

amount of training for \$92. We also offer a two dive specialty course for \$130 per person . Advance reservations are recommended to avoid disappointment. For more information or to make a reservation please contact info@dive-friends-bonaire.com.

It's not like this anymore...



Think you've got what it takes to be an Instructor?

Dive Friends Bonaire is like Scuba University. If you're a Rescue Diver, we can make you a Divemaster in 8 weeks. If you're already a Divemaster, we can make you an Open Water Scuba Instructor in 2 fun-filled and action-packed weeks. "Only two weeks?" some of you might be asking. Well, think about it this way. During your Divemaster training, you learn everything that you need to know about diving, working with certified divers & with student divers in training. During the Instructor Development Course, you only need to learn how to TEACH people to dive. Instructor training is very interactive. You'll make knowledge development presentations to learn how to explain theory, you'll conduct confined water sessions to demonstrate skills properly and then practice with your fellow candidates during open water training dives. The part that everybody loves is when they get to be the "bad student" and make their colleagues work really hard to explain a skill! It's hard work, but it's the most rewarding thing you'll ever



do. Dive Friends Bonaire conducts two Instructor Development Courses every year. The next one will begin on November 22nd. Please visit [Dive Friends Bonaire](http://DiveFriendsBonaire.com) for more information or contact info@dive-friends-bonaire.com





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Without Blue there is no Green!

Bon Dia Dive Friends!

Welcome to the summer News Splash. It's slow season on Bonaire at the moment, so why aren't you here?

The water temperature is so warm that you don't need a wet-suit, the surface is flat calm and at most of the dive sites you won't see anyone else! We're also having some amazing marine creature sightings.

The crew of Dive Friends are enjoying the break and working hard on updating our facilities so that we're looking good for when you come back to visit us again.

We always welcome your feedback, please drop us a line with questions or comments at info@dive-friends-bonaire.com.

We hope to see you soon at Dive Friends Bonaire.

Pascal de Meyer

General Manager

Dive Friends Bonaire

Join our E-Mailing List

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Or, if you prefer to unsubscribe for our mailing list please use the link below or let us know by emailing info@dive-friends-bonaire.com.

Those interested may subscribe or unsubscribe at any time by using this link: http://www.dive-friends-bonaire.com/subscribe_mailinglist.html



For more information, questions, comments, or anything else, please feel free to contact us. We will do our utmost to answer your mails as quickly as possible.



We're all Dive Friends!