

www.myphocea.com

# CENOTES MADNESS (MERIDA) 2024/2025



Join us on a five-day trip to Merida and uncover the mystical world of Cenotes.

Hidden within the lush jungle of the Yucatan, you will explore these ancient sinkholes formed by the collapse of limestonebedrock, revealing stunning underground caverns and crystal-clear pools.

Considered as time capsules, Cenotes diving will give you the opportunity to dive amongst pre-historic fossils. You'll encounter remnants of ancient civilisations, including bone remains, pottery shards and ceremonial offerings left behind by the Maya.

This trip combines cenote diving and cultural visits around the colonial city of Merida. The dives we offer on this trip are exceptional not only for their beauty, but also because they are so rarely visited due to their remoteness. Some Cenotes during this trip are accessible only via rappel.

A cave trained diving instructor will accompany you throughout this adventure in a small dive group of four.

For this trip, divers must hold a PADI Nitrox and Deep speciality, or equivalent, and at least 100 dives.





### WHAT IS INCLUDED

- Accommodation for 4 nights
- 3 meals per day
- Transport
- Entrance fee for archaeological sites
- Visit of the nature reserve Punta Laguna
- Visit on foot of the famous Tecoh caves
- 8 dives
- Scuba gear
- Someone to carry the tanks in the jungle
- English instructor & guide

#### **TYPES OF DIVING**

- Adventurous
- Archaeological
- · Overhead environment
- Technical
- Deep
- Remote
- Cavern

#### **AVAILABILITY**

- End of Sept 2024 Merida for four @ 1,600\$
- Beginning of Dec 2024 Merida for four @ 1,600\$
- Beginning of Apr 2025 Merida for four @ 1,600\$
- End of Apr 2025 Merida for four @ 1,600\$
- Beginning of May 2025 Merida for four @ 1,600\$

## WHALE SHARK



We have combined, in three different dive packages, a mix of a snorkelling encounter with whale sharks and some of the best diving in the region.

Ideal for the whole family, the whale shark activity allows you to enjoy nature, these gentle giants, and the Caribbean Sea together.

Once you arrive at the marina, you will have time to relax, enjoy a breakfast and get ready for the adventure. Afterwards, we depart and begin our search. If on the way to the whale shark area we spot manta rays, we will stop the boat and snorkel with these amazing animals.

Once the whale sharks are spotted, the snorkelling begins. In turns, we swim gently and calmly. We are guests in the home of these magnificent creatures. We respect, watch and enjoy these amazing animals.

Afterwards, sandwiches, fruits, water, and soft drinks will be served. On the way back we will stop to snorkel on a local shallow reef and head to Isla Mujeres for lunch. You will have an hour to relax and enjoy the beautiful beach of Playa Norte in Islas Mujeres.





## WHAT IS INCLUDED **TYPES OF DIVE PACKAGES** (VALID ONLY FOR JUNE, JULY & AUGUST) For the Whale Sharks encounter: · One whale shark encounter trip Whale Shark & Playa (4 days) Whale Shark + 6 dives Playa @ 500\$ Snorkelling equipment · Snack and lunch • Whale Shark & Cenotes (4 days) Transport Whale Shark + 6 dives Cenotes @ 650\$ · Pick up at hotel (category 1\*) • English speaking guides Whale Shark & best of Quintana Roo For the Scuba Diving: (4 days) • 6 scuba dives of your choice Whale Shark + 2 Playa + 2 dives Diving equipment Cenotes + 2 dives Cozumel @ 600\$ • Snacks and refreshment Transport (including ferry) \* Category 1 are Cenotes that remain close to Playa del Carmen and require no more than a • English speaking instructors 45-minute drive.

# **QUINTANA ROO PROMO**



These packages are ideal for both newly certified and experienced divers. PHOCEA offers four dive packages that allows you to explore some of the best dive sites in the world!

The Playa dive package lets you explore the second-largest coral reef system on earth and a world of underwater wonders. With visibility exceeding 30 meters/100 feet, every dive site offers breath-taking views. You'll encounter colourful tropical fish swimming among vibrant coral gardens and graceful turtles gliding through the sea, majestic eagle rays and curious nurse sharks.

Uncover the mystical world of cenote diving with our Cenotes dive package. Accessible with an Open Water level, or equivalent, and with visibility exceeding 60 meters/200 feet, Cenotes offer unique and surreal diving experiences for all levels and diving enthusiasts.

A cave trained instructor will accompany you throughout this adventure in a small dive group of four. You will stop along the way to pick up fresh fruits and some Mexican cuisine to enjoy after your dives.

With its exceptional visibility, Cozumel offers crystal-clear views of its vibrant marine life and stunning coral formations. Combined with warm Mexican hospitality, pristine beaches and beautiful dive sites; our Coral dive package is a diver's dream! You will discover world-class dive sites like Palancar Reef and Santa Rosa Wall.

Our final package - the El Loco dive package. This diverse package includes a mix of our different Quintana Roo dive promotions. Ideal for curious divers who seek to discover the true diversity of this amazing region.





# WHAT IS INCLUDED **TYPES OF DIVE PACKAGES** Diving equipment • The Playa Package (4 days) • Snacks and refreshment 8 dives @ 350\$ Transport (including ferry) • The Cenotes Package (3 days) • English speaking instructors 6 dives @ 450\$ (category 1\*) • The Coral Package (6 days) 6 dives Playa + 6 dives Cozumel @ 800\$ • El Loco Package (6 days) 4 dives Playa + 4 dives Cenotes (Category 1\*) + 4 Cozumel @ 850\$ \* Category 1 are Cenotes that remain close to Playa del Carmen and require no more than a 45-minute drive.

# PADI INSTRUCTOR DEVELOPMENT COURSE (IDC)



Passionate about becoming a scuba instructor? Our highly experienced and certified PADI team are dedicated to providing you with the best training. Their expertise ensures that candidates receive the best possible education and preparation for their professional dive careers

As a 5-star IDC dive centre, we offer PADI's comprehensive training program designed to prepare you to become PADI Open Water Scuba Instructors. It includes both theoretical and practical components, covering instructional techniques, dive theory, and the PADI system of diver education, concluding in an Instructor Examination (IE) to assess and certify the candidates as instructors.

Our dive centre is located in the city centre and is easily accessible. You will find many shops and restaurants around this area, and the beach is a one-minute walk away from the centre.

Doing your PADI IDC with PHOCEA in Playa del Carmen gives you the opportunity to experience a variety of dive sites, including coral reefs, wrecks, and cenotes. This variety provides candidates with the opportunity to train in different underwater environments, broadening their experience and skills.

PHOCEA offers a comprehensive support service such as accommodation assistance, visa advice, and logistics support. Making your transition to this new location as smooth as possible.

We are involved with Hurakaan, a local environmental charity. This partnership allows us to participate in coral restoration dives. At PHOCEA, we consider such environmental and conservation initiatives to be a crucial part in your journey as an Open Water Scuba Instructor.

PHOCEA includes with this course the scuba equipment, PADI materials and the Emergency First Response Instructor course. On top of that, we offer a three-day pre-IDC refresh period to review certain skills and theoretical information. We also offer four PADI specialties that you will be able to teach. In addition, PHOCEA offers its students a drive in a hyperbaric chamber and finally, two dives in the Cenotes once you've completed your course.





#### WHAT IS INCLUDED

- 3 full weeks of theory & practical training
- Scuba equipment
- PADI materials
- English speaking instructors
- Emergency First Response instructor course

#### WHAT WE OFFER

- 3-day pre-IDC refresh period
- PADI specialties: Oxygen Provider, Nitrox, Deep & Wreck
- 1 dry dive in the hyperbaric chamber
- 2 dives in the Cenotes once you've completed your course

### **AVAILABILITY**

- 24 Jun 17 Jul 2024
- 2 Sept 25 Sept 2024
- 8 Nov 11 Dec 2024
- Beginning of Jan 2025
- End of Mar 2025
- Beginning of May 2025

Price: 2,450\$ + Exam fees of 1,200\$

# THE CENOTE EXPLORATION PROGRAM



Are you a serious adventure seeker wishing to explore the best cave diving destination in the world? Join PHOCEA's Cenote Exploration Program and discover the mystical world of Cenotes.

This program begins with the Technical Diving Internation (TDI) Sidemount course or Backmount course. You have the choice between the two, but for our region, sidemount is often recommended.

You will be introduced to gas matching procedures to include dissimilar volumes, psychological considerations of technical diving, problem solving in a sidemount and backmount configuration and S-drills specific to sidemount and backmount diving.

You will learn how to use various propulsion techniques such as the frog kick, modified frog kick, modified flutter kick, backwards kick and helicopter turns. These skills will prepare you for diving in overhead and restricted environments.

Once the first stage of your course is completed, you will begin the TDI cavern program. This course is designed to develop the skills and knowledge for cavern and overhead environment diving within the limits of light penetration, and outline specific hazards associated with cave diving.

Our program ends with the Full Cave course. Advanced cave dive planning, practical execution of different types of cave systems and scenarios divers encounter are presented. The objective of this course is to expand and critique previous skills accomplished in the TDI Cavern and Introductory Cave Diving programs. Emphasis is placed upon dive planning and skill perfection through actual cave penetration.





#### WHAT IS INCLUDED

- Four TDI courses: sidemount or backmount, cavern, intro to cave and full cave.
- · Two full weeks of theory and practical work
- Technical cave diving equipment (BCD, helmet, lights, reels, etc.)
- Transport
- · Cenotes entrance fee
- Refreshment, snacks and lunch
- · E-learning
- One day of full cave diving offered at the completion of your program

#### MORE ABOUT THE COURSE

- Standard cave diving policies
- Gas management procedures
- Psychological considerations of cave diving
- Equipment considerations
- Communication (light and hand signals)
- Swimming techniques (position & trim propulsion techniques)
- · Cave environment
- Conservation
- Problem solving
- Accident analysis
- Cave diving etiquette

#### **WHY TDI**

Technical Diving International is considered as one of the most reliable technical diving association due to its comprehensive and up-to-date training programs, highly experienced instructors, strong emphasis on safety, and wide international recognition. TDI continuously updates its materials based on the latest research, provides extensive support and resources, and offers a broad range of specialised courses.

### **ABOUT US**

We are located in a region renowned for cave diving primarily due to its extensive and diverse underwater cave systems. The area is dotted with thousands of cenotes, which are natural sinkholes connected to vast underwater cave systems.

These cenotes provide easy access points for divers to explore the caves.

The water in these caves is typically crystal clear due to the natural filtration through limestone. This clarity enhances visibility, making it an ideal environment for diving.

The underwater cave systems in Mexico are characterized by stunning geological formations, including stalactites, stalagmites, and flowstone. These formations create a visually spectacular and unique diving experience.

Some of the world's longest underwater cave systems are located in Mexico. Sistema Sac Actun and Sistema Ox Bel Ha have over 500 miles of interconnected tunnel system.

## **AVAILABILITY**

- April
- May
- June
- September
- October

Price: 4,200\$ (certification included)