



Frequently Asked Questions

Technical Diving Charters

The Basics

- Depths, decompression and gasses are limited to the diver's certification level.
- Equipment must meet the requirements of your certification agency for the dives planned, and all dive equipment must be well maintained and in current service.
- Run times limited to 2 ½ hours.
- Entries staged depending on planned depths and run times.
- Appropriate and generally accepted gas management rules need to be applied to dive plans.
- Appropriate surface intervals need to be incorporated into dive plans.
- Divers need to carry 100% of their gas and not rely on the boat's gas supply.
- Tentative dive plans need to be submitted to the boat for staff and gas planning purposes. They will not be reviewed for safety or adequacy of decompression profiles; these plans will merely be used to set-up the dive schedule and the schedule for the safety divers (informational purposes only.)
- Divers will file dive plans with the Diving Safety Officer, log out before exiting the boat, and put their intended return time on the white board in the galley.

Dive equipment



Divers should have the appropriate equipment as outlined by the recognized training agencies for the level of diving the diver is planning to do.

- 2 surface marker buoys (not lift bags) with the diver's name prominently displayed on the bags are recommended for each diver.
- 2 reels or line spools are recommended for each diver.
- Audible surface signalling device (whistle, dive alert)
- Dive computer or depth gauge and timer and dive tables (custom or agency standard)
- Back-up dive computer or depth gauge and timer and dive tables (custom or agency standard)
- Compass and the ability to use it.
- Two dive lights recommended.

- Jon-Line recommended
- Please limit yourself to a maximum of 2 stage bottles.
- Scooters are allowed, and a charging station will be set up out of the weather.

Paperwork before the trip

- A copy of your dive plan with gas consumption requirements. It is imperative that I know how much gas to buy. I'd rather buy too much than fall just short.
- Dive Assure or DAN insurance covering the type of diving planned (i.e. decompression diving) is required.

at the dock

- The Spree has a technical diving waiver that must be signed prior to departure. Please bring the waiver to the boat with you. That waiver may be found on the Spree website under the FAQ/Forms tab or at the following link: http://www.spreeexpeditions.com/PDF/boat_release_tech.pdf
- Copies of Diver's Certification cards attached to waiver.
- Copy of Dive Assure/DAN insurance.

Gas stuff

Fills will be provided to the rated pressure limit of your cylinder. Plan your gas accordingly. Cylinders will **NOT** be filled until after the first dive, so arrive with your cylinders ready to dive.

- Air fills up to 3500 psi, (included in trip price)
- EAN 32 fills up to 3500 psi (included in trip price)
- Oxygen fills up to 3000 psi available for rebreather fills and deco gas (included in trip price)
- Helium mixes will be banked on the boat. Likely mixes will include 10/55, 16/50, and 21/35. All divers will be heartily encouraged to dive the same mix. The mix will be adjusted depending on depth of the dive site. Helium is not included in the trip price.



Boat emergency equipment for dive ops

- Emergency oxygen AI-80 with second stage and inflator hose will be attached to the deco line at 20'.
- Emergency EAN80 AI-80 with second stage and inflator hose will be attached to the deco line at 30'.
- Medical grade bottles of oxygen will be provided for divers to breathe from on the surface. There will be no disincentive for using this oxygen. Medical oxygen will be provided for injured divers.
- Chase boat will be operated by boat staff divers. Divers who get away from the boat should shoot an SMB as soon as possible to be followed by the chase boat. Injured divers who come up away from the Spree will be recovered by the chase boat. The inflatable chase boat is very small, and is not well equipped to handle tech divers with all of their gear. It will be used as a surface marker until the diver/team can be recovered by the Spree. Try to avoid coming up away from the Spree.



Emergency procedures

- **Lost/missing divers:** when a diver is determined to be missing, the safety divers will enter the water at the dive site to conduct a search on the bottom. The Spree will notify other vessels in the area, as well as the Coast Guard to conduct a surface search. Bottom sweeps will be performed by the safety divers. All other diving will be terminated until the missing diver(s) are found. The surface search will take place until the USCG calls off the search.
 - **Missing the boat:** if you miss the boat, perform drifting deco. We will follow you in the chase boat.
 - **Underwater emergency:** If you have an emergency underwater, make an effort to get your SMB with a slate indicating the problem to the surface. We will make every effort to alleviate your problem.
- **Non-diving injury:** in the event of a non-diving injury, the diver will be treated as any industrial accident. Efforts will be made to evacuate the injured diver to shore (if evacuation is called for). If the injured diver cannot be evacuated, all diving will terminate and the injured diver will be returned to shore on the Spree.
- **Diving injury:** if the injury is dive related, the diver will be placed on 100% oxygen, and the evacuation plan will be initiated with the USCG. The diver recall will be sounded, all other divers will terminate their dives, and after appropriate deco, will surface and re-board the vessel. The vessel will get underway for shore to meet the USCG helicopter if available. If the injured diver is evacuated by the USCG, an alternate dive site will be picked for the continuation of the trip.
- **Lost anchor/mooring:** if the vessel comes free from the anchor, or the mooring breaks while divers are in the water, the vessel will get underway and get clear of the dive site. Divers should perform their decompression on



the shot line and surface following deco. The captain will ask the divers how far under water the next team of divers is to determine if it is safe to back the boat down to the divers ready to board. When it is clear to back down, the boat will back down to the dive team and recover them.



Other good stuff to know

- The Spree will be set up with 3 to 4 down lines (for shallow stops), and a trail buoy for those who miss the ladder line.
- A shot line will be dropped into the wreck and tied in by the trip leaders. This line will be the main up/down and deco line for the dive.
- 2 gear lines from the stern for stage bottles or goodie bags, and 1 or 2 camera lines as necessary.
- Divers planning to recover artifacts must provide plastic tubs to contain items until they can be taken ashore.
- Trip Cancellation Insurance is available and highly recommended. Go to the following link to arrange insurance for your trip: http://www.travelguard.com/agentlink.asp?ta_arc=51061&pcode=003700