



# INTERNATIONAL GUIDELINES for RESPONSIBLE DIVERS



Association  
LONGITUDE 181  
**NATURE**

*These are guidelines and not a list of restrictions !  
Apply the suggestions case by case, since diving spots and situations change from place to place.  
The basic idea is to get people to think about how to optimize diving conditions,  
to protect and ensure fair sharing of the Oceans' treasures.*

## 1 - PREPARE YOUR JOURNEY

Not all travel agencies and diving centers offer the same services. Some try to protect the environment. This may cost them money and make your trip more expensive, but together you will contribute to the sustainable preservation of our planet.

- Choose a travel agency which has agreed to respect ethical guidelines.
- Prefer Responsible Diving Centers which are concerned with the protection of sea-beds.
- Find out about the marine ecosystems you will be exploring.

## 2 - BEFORE DIVING

- Get fit : If you have not dived for a long time, train yourself to manage your buoyancy : lung-ballast, weight jacket, optimized ballasting etc...
- Find out about the dive spot you are exploring before you go. You will enjoy your dives so much more.
- Ask your diving center to give you a presentation of the local ecosystem.
- Ask for the list of threatened species, and all relevant regulations.
- Ask about what the diving center does to protect the sea and the marine ecosystems.

## 3 - ON THE BOAT

- Never throw anything overboard.
- Refuse plastic plates and cups which take years to break down.
- Ask for dustbins on the deck.
- Attach spare air valves and pressure gauges firmly
- Use short fins.

## 4 - WHEN DIVING

- As soon as you enter the water check your weights
- Use your fins gently.
- Avoid contact with fixed plants and animals.
- Do not bring anything back except pictures !
- Do not bother the animals.
- Do not feed the fish.

## 5 - AFTER DIVING

- Save fresh water as much as possible.
- Ask for equipment designed to conserve fresh water.

## 6 - DURING YOUR HOLIDAYS

- Do not buy souvenirs ripped from the sea (shark teeth, tortoiseshells, starfish, corals and shells)
- Boycott restaurants which serve shark fin soup, tortoise meat, cetaceans, and fish caught by destructive means like dynamite, cyanide...
- Ask restaurants how the sea fare they propose is fished