

PORTROE DIVING SITE RECOMMENDATIONS AND POTENTIAL HAZARDS

A dive site plan is displayed at the main building.

- *Access to the water is only across the jetty to the island. There are 2 step off points, and metal steps. Exit the water ONLY via the metal stairs. STRICTLY NO ACCESS TO THE WATER AT THE SLIPWAY.*
- Portroe is an old slate quarry. Be aware of the potential hazards below the surface. Spoil heaps and walls are loose built and may become dislodged. **Proper buoyancy control is essential.**
- Always check that the area you are dropping into is safe and clear of hazards, (or divers!) before entering the water. Pay particular attention to submerged objects such as large rocks - they may be shallower than you think!
- Take precautions to minimise the risk of regulator free flows, especially during the winter months. We recommend the use of regulators specifically designed for cold water use. If in doubt, consult your regulator manufacturer.
- Even during the summer months, deeper parts of the lake can be very dark and very cold. Unless you are very confident in such conditions, we recommend that you stay away from these areas. Always use thermal protection appropriate to cold water diving, especially during the winter months.
- **DO NOT ENTER ANY TUNNELS OR OVERHEAD ENVIRONMENTS. THESE MAY BE UNSTABLE AND COULD CAUSE SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH!**
- It is recommended that you do not take on any dive below 30m without an alternative air source such as a pony bottle, a rebreather 'bail out' cylinder or an isolated/independent twinset.
- It is recommended that you do not dive below 30m without a primary torch and at least one backup torch per diver. In the event of a light failure, follow your training and abort your dive.
- We recommend that ascents are carried out by following the north side of the quarry to the surface. If you do ascend mid water, be aware of boat traffic and deploy a surface marker buoy to provide a stable ascent platform.
- Sections of the lake can be very silty and visibility can be reduced dramatically if this silt is disturbed. Avoid all contact with the lake bottom - especially with your fins – and be mindful of the 'wash' that your fins create behind you.
- We have marked off various depths with a buoy tied off by a line of rope. If you plan to use these buoy lines for your ascent or descent, be mindful of divers that may be above or below you.
- Fresh water lakes can be very cold and very dark - always use equipment and thermal protection appropriate for such conditions. We recommend that a neoprene hood and gloves are worn at all times.
- We employ a very simple diver recall signal that you should listen out for at all times when underwater. In the event of an incident that requires all divers to exit the water, a member of our staff will pound a heavy object against one of the metal uprights located at the water's edge. If you hear the diver recall signal, make a safe ascent and leave the water by the nearest safe exit.
- It is recommended that you have your own diving insurance.

SCHOOLS, INSTRUCTORS & DIVERS 'AT WORK'

Teaching or working at Portroe? All diving schools, instructors and divers working at the site must conform to best practice and standards as laid down by their training agency. You must have adequate insurance to cover all aspects of liability and must accept responsibility for provision of all relevant safety cover both above and below water. Our staff and facilities - including oxygen therapy units - cannot be treated as part of your emergency assistance plan. Stay safe during your visit to Portroe. Remember - we are there to help!

Please note that you are responsible for the management of your own safety whilst you are on site. Our staff are there to assist you but you or a member of your group must accept full responsibility for the management of any incident that you may be involved in.

You are responsible for your own assessment of conditions and potential risks while diving.

WE WELCOME SAFE AND HAPPY DIVERS!