

Overview of the requirements for an Underwater Marine and Shark Diving Guide.



Assessor Accreditation - Cobb Andy

Provider Details: Adventure Qualifications Network cc - CK 2004/090830/23
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- This is confirm that Andy Cobb a registered assessor with the Tourism Hospitality Sport and Recreation Education Training Authority, (THETA), who has the approval scope to assess guides for TG 38 #(12126) specifically as Underwater Marine and Shark Diving Guides.
- Andy Cobb is licensed through Adventure Qualifications Network (AQN) to offer these assessments and AQN is an accredited training & assessment provider with THETA.

AQN's Accreditation number is 613/P/000005/2004

Andy's Assessor number with THETA is 613/A/000352/2005.



The use of Marine Guide Unit Stds. -TG38...

The Unit Standard TG38 (12126) is titled Conduct a Guided Marine Environmental Experience however within the purpose of TG 38 has scuba and shark diving included, from which the SAQA approved assessment process has been accredited to be assessed as "Underwater Marine Guides" and one level up "Shark Diving Guides"

Costs:

1. Registration R450
2. Course R1500
3. Assessment R1500.

Underwater Marine and Shark Diving Guide

Entry Level – In Date Divemaster

The 2nd tourism Amendment Act states that a tourist guide is: "Any person who for reward, whether monetary or otherwise, accompanies any person who travels within or visits any place within the Republic and who furnishes such person with information or comments with regards to any matter"

- **The minimum qualification required to lead a dive, as per the 2nd Tourism amendment Act to the reef or open water for paying divers, is a Dive Master who must have an in-date Dive Master Status, minimum level one, First Aid, and personal liability insurance.**
- **SAQA Unit Standard #12126. DOES NOT propose to specify the technical competence of the guide (Scuba Qualifications); this is left to the recognised dive industry controlling training bodies. SAQA Unit Standard 12126 ONLY provides for the guiding aspect of the activity.**
- **The regulatory body, the Department of Environmental Affairs & Tourism, (DEAT), has included adventure guides in this definition, so requiring people**

who offer activities such as Scuba diving (Dive masters), Mountaineering, Paddling, etc for reward as guides.

NB: Training and Assessment is on Generic Guiding Skills – Not re-assessing Divemaster status.

For Underwater Guiding the **SAQA Unit standards 8531 – 8532 & 8533**. Site guide level 2 since 2006 has been raised to level 4 Adventure site guide. (Create a guided experience for customers as a statutory requirement for any guiding plus the guiding elective knowledge required in **SAQA Unit Standard #12126** for scuba and shark diving. The guide is required to have done various courses and have proof as a Record of Prior Learning (RPL) to have the necessary generic knowledge (1 & 2), or do an Underwater Marine and Shark Diving Guide Course (3), as follows:

1. A comprehensive Marine Environmental Course and Advanced Shark Diving are vital for the generic knowledge required. Those that have completed such courses can supply with the correct verification as part of their Record of Prior Learning (RPL).
2. Under Water Marine Diving Course and Advanced Shark Diving Course are run by Andy Cobb Eco Diving and duly accredited to Andy Cobb Eco Diving by NAUI and SSI. Comprehensive course notes supplied. Both courses now on Power Point with many specific video clips and pictures and includes 3 reef dives, with each discipline.
3. A Shark Diving Guide is one level up from an Underwater Marine Guide and therefore has the generic knowledge of an Underwater Marine Guide, as well in order to be able to give a safe, sustainable, informed, interactive experience with marine flora and fauna and sharks. Hence the Shark Diving Guide in addition will be required to have specific generic knowledge for a safe, informed, sustainable, interactive experience with sharks.

THE OBJECTIVE: To have the dive leader guiding skills to conduct a safe, sustainable, well informed, interactive experience with marine flora and fauna and sharks, in order to comply with the 2nd Tourism Act.

The subject matter covered:

- Understand the tidal cycles, coastal hydrodynamics and the formation of reefs and the dynamics of sand dunes, adjacent wetlands and estuaries.
- Recognise the flag-ship species that inhabit the beach, the rock pools and marine birds.
- Understand the 4 X 4 ban on beaches and above high water.
- Recognise the flag-ship species of reef invertebrates and fish.
- Recognise the flag-ship species of sharks and rays
- Recognise the flagship species of whales, dolphins, sharks and turtles.
- Techniques of identifying species and communicating to identify under water.
- Symbiotic marine relationships.
- Know the fears phobias and myths related to sharks.
- Shark's evolution
- Shark's biology. Unique body design and function, breathing and buoyancy control.
- Shark's reproduction
- Understand the food chain and why the sharks are the ocean regulators.
- Shark and fish kinospheres and marine species and sharks territories.
- How to respect shark and fish kinospheres, to view and get a picture without impact.
- How to take photos with current and surge without damaging the reef.
- Know the do's and don'ts for photographers, whilst photographing sharks, turtles, dolphins and whales.
- Know the interactive regulations and related legislation for sharks, marine mammals, and turtles and the reef flora and fauna.
- Sound knowledge of the shark's biology reproduction, buoyancy control, electrolytic control and respiration.
- Understand the range a degree of shark's senses, abilities and assessment processes.
- Understand the shark's process of cross reference evaluation.
- How sharks communicate
- Understand the two shark behaviour groupings, hyped and normal.

- Recognise shark body language and meaning.
 - Recognise shark threat body language
 - Recognise the different shark attitudes and meaning
 - In depth understanding of the so called Shark Attack, the causes and issues related.
 - Techniques of viewing resting-sharks and when moved on the resting-sharks remain un-disturbed, for the next group to enjoy.
 - Understand why the GIMEC shark feeding protocol is flawed.
 - Issues related to the use of attractants and feeding and the consequences of shark and fish feeding.
 - Understand the damage caused by the electronic shark repeller
 - Understand why the shark nets are no longer required.
 - Know the CITES protected and South African protected flagship species of fish and sharks
 - Know the related causes of the demise of sharks, whales, dolphins and fish stocks.
 - Know the pertinent Marine Coastal Act, Shipping Act, Marine Protected Areas Act and local regulations.
 - Effective site assessment and effective briefing
 - Provide effective pre-dive briefings, able to know how to communicate and identify species during a dive and effective debriefs and correct poor interactive practice by letting it be a learning experience.
 - Plan the dive for varying weather conditions and for varying degrees of visibility, current and surge, for optimum interactive experience.
 - Know emergency procedures and able to apply
- Comply with the various codes of conduct (C of C):**
- The Boat C of C,
 - Professional Tourist guide C of C. (Sign & acceptance)
 - Whale and Dolphin watching C of C, (Sign & acceptance)
 - Whale shark viewing.
 - Diving Responsibly with Sharks C of C. (Sign & acceptance)
 - Comply not to exceed maximum Sport diving depth is 39-metres. (Dive Controlling Body). Shark dives vary from 14-meters to 36-meters.

Registration: R450.

For any Course, refresher or any assessment will require registration with AQN, to get a THETA learner registration number.

Course / Coaching cost: R1500 (3-days)

The course presentation is on Power Point with many specific video clips, video clips on behavior and pictures.

The course requires 3-dives; a refresher takes 9-hours of lectures, no dives and to be assessed as an Underwater Marine Guide and Shark Diving Guide, requires 2-dive for practical assessment, specific oral questions on shark behaviour, various role plays, simulations and final exam.

The Underwater Marine and Shark Diving Guide Refresher for those with accredited RPL's, requires takes 2- Days with lectures, no dives to be coached a prepared be assessed as an Underwater Marine and Shark Diving Guide. 1 day for Level one guide coaching and one day for simulations, role plays, oral questions and one day for practical assessment and exam. The oral questions are set for shark behaviour. Once the assessment process is complete, (documents are attached), they will be forwarded to AQN for Moderation and onto THETA for verification.

If learner feels competent to go straight for assessment, the Exam cost R240, but a pass mark of 80% required to continue with the assessment. However after a full assessment the pass mark for the exam must be 100%. Fail the Exam will require a Course / refresher process with coaching for the final assessment.

Statutory SAQA Unit Std. (# 8531-8532-8533) to "Create a Guided Experience for Customers"

This is a major assignment and it is expected that you will put a lot of effort into it. Rushed work not properly researched will not be accepted and the information is to be delivered in a neat easily readable manner that has been well thought out and presented in logical format.

For this assignment you are to research your designated Guiding environment. That is, the area within which you will travel with your clients. If you are unsure of any of this please ask your trainer to discuss and guide you on this projects scope.

This assignment may be presented in any format you wish. The assignment should relate to one trip planned by you, and any work presented should be something that you could use for your own company. Don't do planning you would never use. Use this as a possible real trip you could market for your company.

The assignment must include the following:

- Describe the trip, geological formations if applicable, vegetation types, access restrictions.
- Provide maps that you have produced of the area/trip and its surrounds detailing points of interest.
- Identify the type of person who would use the trip. (Client profile).
- Identify sites that may be of interest to visitors that are easily accessed on foot or in the visitor's own car in the immediate area. (Half to one hour drive limit) Describe alternative venues or attractions to compensate for closures or cancellations of your guided operation. Describe supplementary attractions to enhance your guided itinerary.
- Conduct research into aspects of local history and culture that are especially significant integrating these into the wider historical context where relevant. What can you tell clients about the history or first explorers in this area?
- Detail appropriate behavior based on protocol at the site & personal security advice in the areas visited.
- Draw up a detailed itinerary for your activity for a tour lasting one full day, or multi day should you prefer.
- Describe how you will find out your clients needs and limitations before running this activity. Show the actual means you will use. (Questions, forms etc)
- Produce some sort of advert for your activity chosen above. This must be of good quality and suitable for public use.
- Detail the administration required for this activity.
 1. **Indemnities**
 2. application forms
 3. feedback forms
 4. Kit lists for the individual and group
- Present examples of these with your assignment. They must be good quality and suitable for actual use.
- Include a brief on the weather that can be generally expected on the trip and include the predicted weather for the trip. (You choose simulated dates for the trip)
- Detail any catering arrangements, including menu, quantities etc.
- Detail any other technical support needed such as drivers, cooks etc if applicable
- Cost this activity detailing
 1. The cost to the client
 2. The various costs to yourself
 3. The profit you will make
- Detail the Health and Safety requirements for this activity.

Assessment: R1500: (3-days)

Assessment consists of a summative written assessment of 4 ½-hours, set oral questions, simulations, role plays and observed practical application. All Codes of Conduct signed and assessment process reviewed. Once the assessment process is complete for [SAQA Unit Standard # \(8530-8531-8532\)](#) and [SAQA Unit Standard # \(12126\)](#) and all documentation are received they will be forwarded to the [SAQA approved Provider - AQN](#) for Moderation and onto THETA for verification. Once deemed competent by AQN a certificate will be supplied for registration as an Underwater and Shark Diving Guide, as THETA verification takes time. The AQN certificate will be sufficient to register as a guide with the regional tourism controlling body. Registration fee R240.

This process leads to a qualification. Once assessed and deemed competent, the originals of all documents of assessment and fully annotated RPL's will be moderated by AQNcc and if competent will be forwarded to THETA for verification.

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www.adventurescuba.co.za - www.sharkproject.co.za

For a unique informed, safe, sustainable, interactive experience with African wild life, sharks, marine flora & fauna and a shark experience with Shark College.