

Salcombe Dive Trip 29/5/10-31/5/10

Thanks to Janet and Simon for organizing the Salcombe Dive weekend.

Anthony and I snapped up the opportunity to experience our first UK dives. Unfortunately the man in the sky was punishing us for some previous sins and we were unable to dive out of Salcombe due to poor weather conditions. To make the torture even worse, the weather on the weekends prior and following was absolutely glorious! However, despite the grey, drizzly, windy conditions we were able to dive out of Plymouth.

On our first dive adventure we became heroes to some stranded British Navy Men, towing them back to shore - I'm sure this qualifies us as Rescue Divers! Following our good deed of the day, we dived Breakwater Fort. Our first dive in the chilly 12 degree British waters, and our first time throwing ourselves from a rib backwards, plopping into the water a little less gracefully than we had planned! The visibility was a mere 3m, however, there was plenty of life including spider crabs, wrasse and anemones.

Getting back onto the rib was our next challenge. I am proud to have the record for the least graceful entry, being pulled into the rib by Darren, missing the bar I had aimed to catch and landing in a heap, fins in the air!

In the evening we had the opportunity to get to know everyone a little better, and sample some delicious desserts!

The second day we dived Breakwater Fort again. With greater attention to detail we were able to explore the life down there, being slightly less anxious than the previous day. Then came my first lesson in boat handling and rib driving - great fun!

The third day the weather eased and the currents became a little kinder. An 8:30 start took us to James Eagan Layne Wreck. This was fascinating - exploring the wreck inside and out, looking for Conga Eels, and holding on as the current sailed past. Visibility had improved to 6m - watching amazingly bright star fish passing by and shoals of fish swimming around.

Then came my second boat handling lesson - great!

A quick trip back to the slip way for lunch and then back onto the boat to dive Mew Stone Reef. Here we saw dog fish, sea urchins by the plenty and got up close and personal with a crab. This saw the launch of my modelling career, Simon creating my portfolio!

A big thank-you to Janet, Simon and Dave B for looking after us underwater, and to Darren and Trevor for dressing me, ensuring every strand of hair was under my hood, away from my mask!!!

What a great weekend, can't wait for Brixham at the end of June.