



For the adventure, fun and friendship of diving with a Club



Introduction:

Welcome to the **Jamaica Scuba Diving Club (JSDC)**!

If you wish to experience the beauty and diversity of Jamaica's coral reefs and marine life, then the JSDC provides you with the opportunity to do so in a club setting. We welcome everyone interested in scuba diving to join in the adventure, fun and friendship that the JSDC offers.

Diving in Jamaica:

Jamaica is the third largest Caribbean island and its extensive coastline offers many and varied diving opportunities in turquoise tropical waters. In terms of undersea topography, Jamaica is bordered on the northern side by a very narrow shelf, followed by steep drop-offs into the Cayman Trench. On the southern coast, the shelf is wider and the seabed slopes down more gently.

Despite the pressures of global warming, environmental degradation and over-fishing, Jamaica continues to offer a multitude of different dive sites: shallow and deep, reefs and walls, wrecks and caverns. Jamaica is also regarded as having perhaps the most diverse range of hard corals in the Caribbean.

Jamaican Diving: A Short History

Organised scuba diving in Jamaica goes back to 1957 when the Jamaica Sub-Aqua Club (JSAC), the first overseas branch (No. 51) of the British Sub-Aqua Club (BSAC), was established. The JSAC continues to operate today and shares the same clubhouse as the JSDC.

The JSAC has played an important role in the development of scuba diving in Jamaica and has participated in a range of conservation initiatives.

The JSDC was formed in 2004 (as a sister club of the JSAC) to facilitate non-BSAC divers taking part in club diving activities. Many members of the JSDC are also members of JSAC.



The Club:

The **JSDC** is an amateur association of persons who have come together to engage in scuba diving as a hobby. The Club is operated as a not-for-profit association and seeks to promote scuba diving for pleasure and education in a safe manner.

With a view to achieving this, the Club provides a forum for the exchange of ideas and information, and encourages continuing education, environmental conservation, good sportsmanship, and co-operation with all other users of the marine environment.



Your participation in the Club will allow you to meet new friends, develop a network of dive buddies, and enjoy the camaraderie renowned among fellow scuba divers while learning the Club's dive sites and network of boatmen.

Club Activities:

Members meet informally at 9:00pm every Thursday night at the clubhouse at 10 Altamont Crescent. Non-members and guests are welcome. This affords members an opportunity to:

- socialise in a relaxed setting;
- make arrangements with other members to go diving on the upcoming weekend;
- sign-up for club equipment;
- participate in continuing education

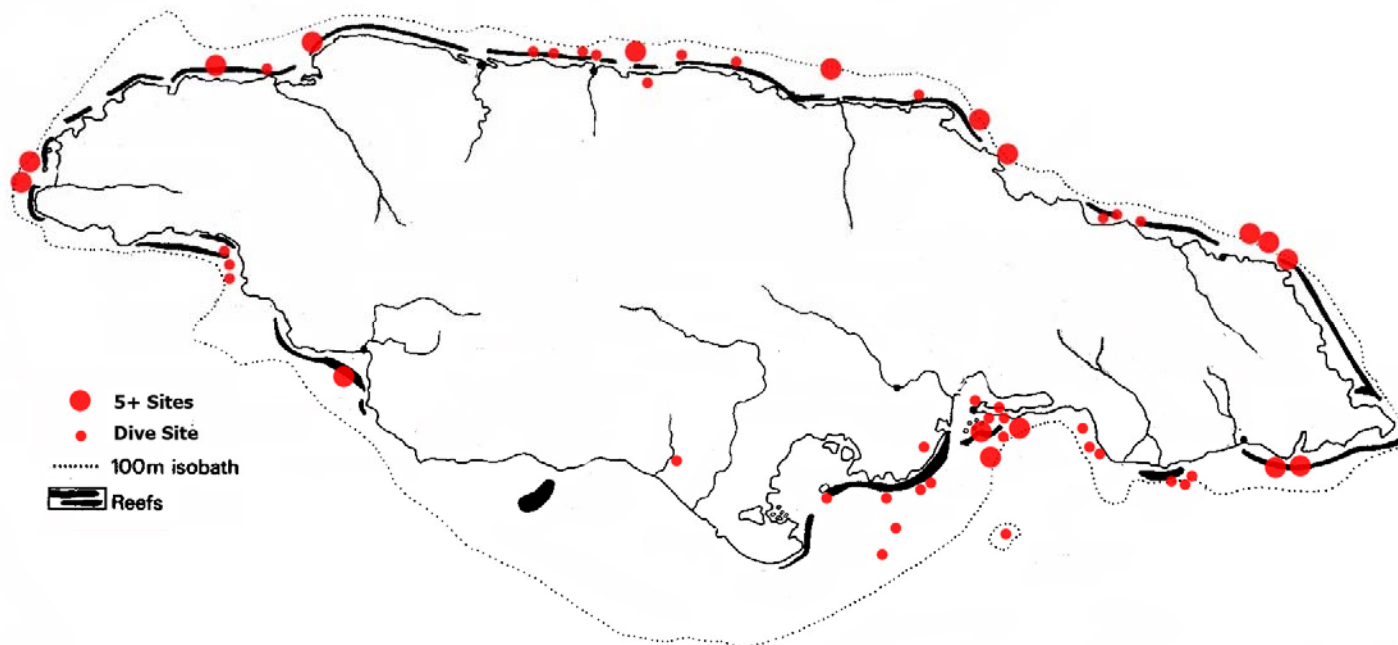
Other social activities include periodic theme/cocktail nights, movie presentations, dinners, and non-diving events.

Diving:

Club dives are normally organised every second weekend (either Saturday or Sunday), and periodically there are extended weekend excursions and mid-week night dives. Active JSDC members regularly organise additional dive outings. Most diving is done using a network of boatmen's canoes around the island. Overseas trips are organised based on demand.

Typically, the weekend Club dives are arranged by a Dive Marshall by the preceding Thursday. Divers meet early in the morning in Kingston at a convenient spot, and drive to the dive site in convoy or in car pools. In most cases the dives are boat dives from a canoe, holding up to 6 or 8 divers.

The surface interval between dives is normally spent back on land – frequently picnicking at a secluded beach.



Interacting with the local fishermen and the rest of the group adds a distinctly Jamaican flavor that cannot be found in commercial dive operations. Plus, Club dives tend to offer greater flexibility and diversity than those offered by commercial dive operations.

Membership:

Diving Membership is open to scuba divers holding internationally recognised diving qualifications (a minimum of PADI Open Water or equivalent). A minimum of 10 logged post-qualification dives, and a check-out dive will normally be required (at the discretion of the Club's Diving Officer).

All Members pay a subscription fee each calendar year. The fee is reduced by half for members joining after June, and discounted for full time students and under 18's. Members of the Club are entitled to discounts offered by a number of dive instructors and operations.

Applying for Membership:

If you have any questions about diving in Jamaica, the Club or are interested in joining the JSDC, please visit the clubhouse any Thursday night or send us an email: someone from the Club's Committee will contact you. You may also download a set of the application and medical forms from the Club's website.

Club Diving Rules, Medicals, Insurance:

It is the responsibility of each individual to ensure that he or she is fit, healthy and capable of participating in scuba diving. You must complete a self-declared Medical Statement, and (in the event of certain medical conditions) may be required to complete a Medical Examination before diving.

All divers must agree to abide by the Club's Dive Rules and Guidelines.

The Club provides liability insurance coverage as part of your membership, and strongly recommends dive medical insurance, with benefits tailored specifically to diving incidents. This is relatively inexpensive and can

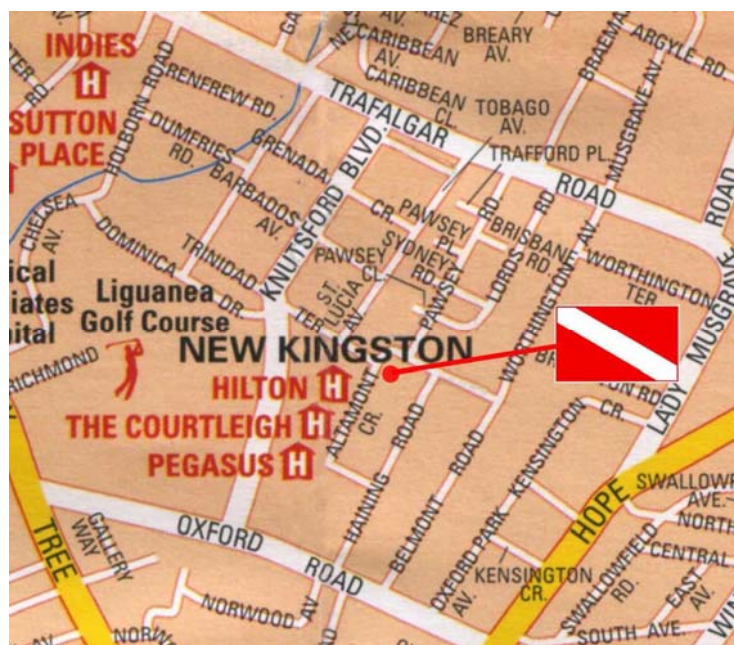
also be arranged through the Club.

Visitors may dive with the Club for a limited number of times as a guest of a Club member, after obtaining permission from the Dive Officer and filling out the same forms as a full member.

Several sets of equipment and tanks are available to Club members and their guests. Members with their own tanks can have them filled in Kingston through the Club.

Scuba Diving Certification:

The Club itself does not provide formal training or certification courses. If you are interested in obtaining a certification or upgrading your current qualification, the Club can assist you with referrals: several members are active instructors.



Clubhouse:
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