



DIVING AND SNORKELING INFORMATION

Azura at Quilálaea will be a registered Five Star accredited PADI Resort, which ensures the highest standard of training safety, equipment maintenance and breathing air.

The lodge has a current and resident PADI Instructor. The dive centre makes use of the internationally known Mares brand of equipment.



SCUBA COURSES

Courses range from those designed for children and beginners through to full certification up to Divemaster level of training.

BUBBLEMAKER

This is a fun course for children aged eight years and older. A fun course, the children breathe SCUBA in shallow water and play games and perform tricks underwater.



DISCOVER SCUBA

This is the first stage to becoming a diver. Participants must be over ten years of age. A DVD on safety, skills and the environment is viewed. This is combined with instructor tuition. The pool session includes instructor led basic skill mastery, ensuring safety on the optional dive.



DISCOVER SCUBA DIVING

Participants who have completed the Discover Scuba Portion may elect to go on an open water dive. This dive is controlled by the instructor and conducted in shallow water.



SCUBA DIVER

This is the first on the certification courses. Divers with limited time may elect to complete this course. Divers will be certified and receive a PADI card indicating that they may dive worldwide. Certain restrictions apply.



OPENWATER DIVER

Divers with a SCUBA DIVER certification may complete training and dives to become an Openwater Diver. Alternatively, the course may be taken as a standalone course. This qualification allows divers are qualified to conduct dives independently. Time for this course is approximately five days.



ADVANCED OPERWATER DIVER

A series of five dives, called Adventure Dives, are required to qualify as an Advanced Diver. Theory on each specific dive is evaluated and the dive is then conducted under instructor supervision. Each individual dive is logged and dives may be completed over a period of time and in different locations.



DIVE SITES

Lagosta Alley (Lobster Alley)

The southern part of the House Reef a few meters off the main beach, a wall drops from 5 to around 20 meters. The reef is a favourite hangout for the few resident Green turtles as well as Potato Groupers, Napoleon Wrasse, Lionfish, huge varieties of reef fish and, of course, Spiny Rock Lobsters. This is an excellent dive site for getting back into diving after a period of non-diving as well as for night dives. Beach entry.

Cabeças (The Heads)

The northern part of the House Reef, starting just a few meters off the main beach of Quilálea, a wall drops to around 20 meters. The site also has huge free standing coral heads rising up out of the sandy ocean floor, and bustling with life. Weaving through this underwater obstacle course, it is easy to spot the school of resident Blue-Spotted Stingrays, Ribbon Eel and huge schools of various reef fish, including Red-Lined Sweetlips. This site is a must for the micro enthusiast with more than fifteen different species of nudibranch and various types of shrimp spotted. This is the favorite location for all levels of divers, a photographer's paradise and an excellent night dive site. From the Island main beach.

Canyon or Estadio da Luz (The Stadium of Light)

The shape of this 500-meter long wall, spectacular when the light pours through the crystal clear water gave this site its name. Immense Gorgonian Fans and Green Tree Corals, this site is home to a couple of two to three meter long Giant Groupers and Napoleon Wrasse, as well as huge schools of game-fish coming up from the deep with the rising tide. Occasionally Gray Reef Sharks are spotted here. With depths of 20 to 40 meters, as well as very strong currents, a very exciting site but only for advanced divers. Distance by boat is 10 minutes.

Casino Royal

A resident school of hundreds of enormous circular-shaped batfish look like massive silver coins enveloping you in a giant slot machine. Welcome to Casino Royal - where diving dreams come true, almost on a daily basis. Massive Green and Loggerhead Turtles, Giant Morays, huge Flowery Groupers and Yellowtail Barracuda are common. White-spotted Eagle Rays can top off a truly spectacular dive. From July to December, the playful chorus of nearby Humpback Whales makes perfect background music to this jackpot reef dive. A deep dive, so Advanced divers only (or qualify by doing a PADI-sanctioned deep dive course with us beforehand). Travel time by boat 20 minutes.

Banco de Salaama (Salaama Bank)

Although a shallower dive site (6 to 18 meters), suitable for all levels of divers, there is nothing tame about the life to be found at Salaama Bank. Teeming with reef fish and corals of every colour, size and shape, diving here really gives you the idea of what it must be like to swim in a marine aquarium. Until an inquisitive Indian Ocean Bottlenose Dolphin comes to investigate! Travel time by boat 15 minutes.

Napoleon Channel

This dive site is between Quilálea and Sencar Islands, with coral heads rising from the sandy bottom. The coral heads teem with all type of marine life, from nudibranch and lionfish to groupers and batfish. Huge Napoleon Wrasse cruise are often spotted here. Travel time by boat 10 minutes.

Sencar Shamba (Sencar Gardens)

This dive site is in front of Sencar island and is suitable for all levels of divers. The dive site has a gentle sloping bottom, reaching a maximum depth of around 20 meters. Green Turtles, Napoleon Wrasse and huge schools of batfish and other reef fish are common here. Bottlenose and Humpback dolphins are often spotted on the way to the dive site. Distance by boat 20 minutes.

Messunju Rock

A gentle sloping wall site, dropping from 12 meters to 25 meters. The wall and bottom are covered in healthy coral, various species of rays, Giant Groupers, Napoleon Wrasse and Green Turtles are spotted here. Huge schools of reef fish, pufferfish and moray eels are also common sightings. This dive site is suitable for all levels of divers. Travel time by boat. On high tide 15 minutes and on low tide 30 – 35 minutes.

Quirimbas Wall

A recently discovered dive site, this dive site is also a sloping wall, dropping to 25 meters. The site is remarkable for the huge variety of healthy hard and soft coral and coral heads. This site is suitable for all levels of divers.

The following dive sites are outside the marine sanctuary but still no more than a 30 minute boat ride away:

Quisiva Wall

A dramatic wall site which slopes from 12 meters down to 30 meters. Visibility can be so clear here that the wall can be spotted from the surface. The wall runs for well over 1 000 meters and have huge overhangs and caves, inhabited by turtles, groupers and other reef fish. The site has a huge variety and quantity of hard and soft coral. A real adventure dive! Distance by boat 30 minutes.

Mefunvo Wall

A spectacular, steep wall dropping from 12 meters to 30 meters, lots of whip and gorgonian coral cover the wall. The wall is home to Giant Moray Eels and Giant Groupers while schools of barracuda circle above the lucky divers. The uncommon Longnose Hawkfish can be spotted here. The top of the wall is covered in huge variety of hard and soft coral, which are home to a large variety of different kinds of reef fish. This dive site is suitable for advanced divers. Travel time by boat 20 – 25 minutes.

Mefunvo Ridge

A beautiful dive site with a gentle sloping bottom, ranging from 10 meters to 18 meters, covered in a huge variety of hard and soft corals and several coral heads. Huge schools of reef fish, including snappers, fusiliers, sweetlips, triggerfish and unicornfish, and green turtles are in abundance here. The sharp-eyed diver will spot several paperfish here as well. This dive site is suitable for all levels of divers. Distance by boat approx. 20 – 25 minutes.

SNORKELING

All snorkelling equipment is available and can be obtained at the dive centre.

Snorkelling is on your doorstep and is best at low tide from Oyster beach to Lagosta as well as the southern wall at Turtle beach. Numerous reef fish and a variety of soft corals, eels and cowry shells are to be seen.

Guided snorkelling will ensure you do not miss anything!