



*Dive into*  
**DOMINICA**



[www.DiscoverDominica.com](http://www.DiscoverDominica.com)



## ABOUT

# *Dominica*

### GETTING STARTED

Nestled in the southern branch of the Caribbean archipelago is Dominica, a diver's dream. Envision pristine reefs, dramatic walls, underwater hot springs and spectacular marine life. This isle also boasts a dive culture characterised by excellent service, professionalism and environmental awareness.

All dive centres belong to the Dominica Watersports Association and adhere to strict operational and safety procedures. There are three main diving areas on the West Coast, South, Central and Northern side, and all dive shops offer something different.



## EXPLOSION OF *Colour*

One of the first things you might notice on your first dive in Dominica is the healthy and vibrant reefs. This is reflected by an explosion of colour rarely seen on Caribbean reefs and is always one of the lasting memories our divers take home.

Our sponge life is truly spectacular and on every dive you will see sponges of many colours. Pink azure sponges, red rope sponges, yellow tube sponges and purple vase sponges are just some of the colours that will catch your eye. Another unusual aspect of diving in Dominica is an incredible number of crinoids all over our reefs. It is common to see multiple crinoids attached to one giant barrel sponge. The variations in colour from yellow to red or gold also contribute to the explosions of colour. This is just one more reason to bring your camera!



# DIVE *Sites*



## SCOTTS HEAD PINNACLE

Location: South  
Difficulty: Moderate

At Dominica's south end, where the Leeward side blends into the Windward, discover Scotts Head Pinnacle, the best-known part of a vast and fantastic underwater topography.

Follow the sloping bottom come to the Pinnacle itself, the remnants of a volcanic crater rim. Swim through a cavern into the crater and the bottom drops away to a spectacular wall. The buddy system will allow one diver to search for seahorses and lobsters while the other scouts for passing barracudas, ceros and huge yellowtails.

From the wall, swim to the sloping reef at Soldierfish cave, move forward slowly and the school of soldierfish part like a stage curtain. You will emerge on top of Swiss Cheese, a large rock formation, and can spend your safety stop here searching for frogfish or scorpionfish.





## **DANGLEBEN'S PINNACLE**

Location: South

Difficulty: Moderate

This amazing site is one of every divemaster's favourite dives in the South. There is frequently a slight current that draws schools of horse eye jacks who flow up and down the south wall. Bar jacks also patrol the drop-off trying to panic shimmering schools of bait fish.

On current-free days, look out for the huge barrel and vase sponges with golden crinoids that spill over the top.



Spend your safety stop on top of the pinnacles with schools of creole wrasse and chromis causing shifting waves of blue and red, and on a good day, why not be adventurous and follow a turtle to the surface!



## SHARK'S MOUTH

Location: North

Difficulty: Beginner–Moderate

This site, found at the south end of the Cabrits National Park peninsula, is named for the barrel sponges that look like sharks' mouths.

While descending, bask in the kaleidoscope of colour from purple and azure vase sponges, yellow tube sponges and schools of blue chromis and tang.

Look out for the spotted scorpionfish, eels hiding in the reef, shy porcupinefish



and passing rays and turtles. Along the top of the reef, in about 30 feet of water, spotted snake eels, peacock flounders and shy yellowhead jawfish can be observed.

On your safety stop, enjoy playing along the large boulders that have dropped down from the cabrits and lie in just 15 feet of water.



## WHALESHARK REEF

Location: Central  
Difficulty: Moderate

Starting at about 55 feet and cascading down to 130+ feet is this reef, found on the southern drop-off of the Grand Savanne flats.

This reef is a photographer's dream with remarkable sightings of arrow crabs, banded and pederson cleaner shrimp and spotted flamingo



tongue snails. Whaleshark Reef's vertical face has giant barrel sponges, brilliant yellow tube sponges, stunning azure vases and colourful hard corals teeming with tropical fish. However, it is the outermost sites in the area that offer the best chance to see large fish like barracudas, Spanish mackerel and jacks.

## RINA'S HOLE

Location: Central  
Difficulty: Beginner



For the best beginner diving experience, come to Rina's Hole. Found further north of the island, it boasts a great shallow dive with a beautiful swim through clustered rock formations encrusted with corals, teeming with moray eels, giant anemones, delicate sea fans and beds of sea plumes.

The vibrant colours seen here can be attributed to the contrast with white sand and the shallow sunlit site. Rina's is the ultimate critter dive, as the nooks, crannies and overhangs shelter all kinds of marine life. Expect to see large schools of chub, along with occasional stingrays, spotted eagle ray and nurse sharks.

## TOUCARI CAVES

Location: North

Difficulty: Beginner



Toucari Caves' dive starts at just 25 feet and circles around the reef as deep as 100 feet. Nearing the front of the reef, pass through narrow gaps covered with black coral, sponges and soft coral, and scout for turtles, stingrays, barracudas and eagle rays as they slowly glide along the open blue. From crevices, hidden moray eels peek out at you.

Imagine swimming through a beautiful cave and a coral archway to find hidden crabs and lobsters clinging to the cavern ceilings and then up over the same spot where you will dance in your own bubbles escaping from the caves. Turtles love to play and feed here.



## TOPSIDE

# Activities

While diving is one of Dominica's main attractions, there is a plethora of other activities happening year-round. The other water-related activities include spa visits, turtle and whale watching, kayaking, rafting, river tubing and canoeing.

But when not diving to explore underwater exotica, there are countless pleasures above the ground to keep you entertained:

- Year-round village feasts with sports, music and dance.
- Dominica Carnival, dubbed "The Real Mas" is a pre-Lenten festival commencing after the Christmas season in December and



River Tubing



Indian River



Whale Watching



Canyoning

culminating with a costumed street parade on the Monday and Tuesday before Ash Wednesday. More popular events include the Calypso Final and the National Queen Show.

- Domfesta, the Dominica Festival of Arts which takes place in the month of May every year.
- The Emancipation Festival takes place annually between July and August and celebrates local music, dance, arts, culture, drama and cuisine.
- The World Creole Music Festival, held the last weekend in October annually, is a platform for Dominican musicians and musical expressions and promotes creole music as a major musical art form.
- Independence Celebrations on November 3 mark Dominica's independence from the British in 1978.



Kayaking



Boiling Lake



Ziplining



Aerial Tram



## Dive OPERATORS

### ALDIVE and Watersports

Green Flash, Loubiere  
 Tel: (767) 440-3483  
 Cell: (767) 245-1435  
 Website: [www.aldive.com](http://www.aldive.com)  
 Email: [aldive@aldive.com](mailto:aldive@aldive.com)

### Anchorage Hotel & Dive Centre

Castle Comfort  
 PO Box 34, Roseau  
 Tel: (767) 448-2638/9  
 Fax: (767) 448-5680  
 Website: [www.anchoragehotel.dm](http://www.anchoragehotel.dm)  
 Email: [anchorage@cwdom.dm](mailto:anchorage@cwdom.dm)

### Cabrits Dive Centre

Picard Estate, Portsmouth  
 Tel: (767) 445-3010  
 Cell: (767) 275-3020  
 Website: [cabritsdive.com](http://cabritsdive.com)  
 Email: [cabritsdive@cwdom.dm](mailto:cabritsdive@cwdom.dm)

### Dive Dominica

Castle Comfort, Roseau  
 Tel: (767) 448-2188  
 Fax: (767) 448-6088  
 Website: [www.divedominica.com](http://www.divedominica.com)  
 Email: [dive@cwdom.dm](mailto:dive@cwdom.dm)

### East Carib Drive

Salisbury  
 Tel: (767) 449-6575  
 Website: [www.dominicadiving.com](http://www.dominicadiving.com)  
 Email: [eastcaribdrive@yahoo.de](mailto:eastcaribdrive@yahoo.de)

### Fort Young Hotel Dive Centre

Victoria Street, Roseau  
 Tel: (767) 448-5000  
 Fax: (767) 448-5006  
 Website: [www.fortyounghotel.com](http://www.fortyounghotel.com)

### JC Ocean Adventures

Cuba Road, Mero, Dominica  
 Tel: 767-449-6957  
 Website: [www.jcoceanadventures.com](http://www.jcoceanadventures.com)  
 Email: [jorgama@msn.com](mailto:jorgama@msn.com)

### Nature Island Dive

PO Box 2354, Roseau  
 Tel: (767) 449-8181  
 Website: [www.natureislanddive.com](http://www.natureislanddive.com)  
 Email: [natureidive@cwdom.dm](mailto:natureidive@cwdom.dm)

### Sunset Bay Club & SeaSide Dive Resort

Batalie Beach, Coulibistrie  
 Tel: (767) 446-6522  
 Fax: (767) 446-6523  
 Website: [www.sunsetbayclub.com](http://www.sunsetbayclub.com)  
 Email: [sunset@cwdom.dm](mailto:sunset@cwdom.dm)



Designed with the diver and non-diver in mind, Dominica's Dive Fest is an annual event hosted and organised by the Dominica Watersports Association that focuses on educating the public about Scuba Diving and raising awareness about Dominica's spectacular and distinctive marine environment. For the divers, highlights include seminars, scuba diving and exciting competitions. Every year Sealife cameras demo their newest cameras for divers. Divers get a chance to try the cameras and win prizes at the best Sealife camera photo of the week exhibition. Non-divers can take their pick from Jing Ping Ting event, Happy Hour dances, traditional boat races and whale watching, among other activities.

## LOCATION OF THE ISLAND OF DOMINICA



# Dominica

## DIVE AWARDS

- **Top 10 in the Caribbean or 100 Dives to do Before You Die**  
– *Sport Diver Special Edition 2010*
- **Top 10 Whales of the World Category**  
– *Scuba Diving Magazine, January/February 2009*
- **Top 10 Dive Destinations**  
– *Scuba Diving Magazine, January/February 2009*
- **Top 10 Visibility in Diving**  
– *Scuba Diving Magazine, January/February 2009*
- **Top 10 Marine Environment**  
– *Scuba Diving Magazine, January/February 2009*
- **Top 10 Macro Life**  
– *Scuba Diving Magazine, January/February 2009*
- **Top 10 Underwater Photography –**  
– *Scuba Diving Magazine, January/February 2009*
- **Top 10 in Value –**  
– *Scuba Diving Magazine, January/February 2009*
- **Top 10 Snorkeling –**  
– *Scuba Diving Magazine, January/February 2009*
- **World's Top 20 Best Snorkeling Experiences**  
– *Islands Magazine, December 2007*
- **Readers Choice Award**  
– *Scuba Diving Magazine, 2008*



Discover Dominica Authority  
1st Floor, Financial Centre Building  
P.O. Box 293, Roseau  
Commonwealth of Dominica  
Tel: (767) 448-2045  
Fax: (767) 448-5840  
Email: [tourism@dominica.dm](mailto:tourism@dominica.dm)

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