

## **Chris Waites**

### **Diving Instructor**

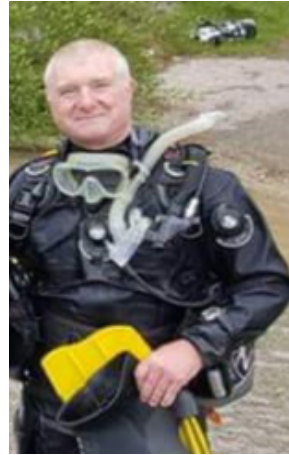
---

#### **Qualifications:**

PADI Master Scuba Diver Trainer  
EFR at work Instructor

#### **Other Qualifications:**

AIDA 2\* Freediver  
TDI Advanced Nitrox  
TUSA regulator technician  
Aqualung regulator technician



Although I have been snorkelling since I was very young and actually took my first breaths of compressed air in a swimming pool in Newcastle in the 1970s I didn't qualify as an SSI Open Water Diver until 2003 when I was in Australia to watch the Rugby World Cup.

I then spent the next 5 years diving in a variety of places including Australia, the Red Sea, the Caribbean and the Maldives but never in cold water.

In 2009 I decided to do my PADI Divemaster course and enrolled with a dive school on the island of Koh Lanta in Thailand. While on the course I realised that I didn't want to stop at the DM level and decided to do my Instructor qualification and in May 2010 went to the Perhentian Islands in Malaysia to study.

After qualifying I travelled around SE Asia teaching in Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand before going to work for a couple of months with Freestyle Divers in the UAE teaching their military the basics of snorkelling and diving.

At the end of 2010 I decided that I did not want to work for someone else and moved to Cabarete on the North coast of the Dominican Republic to run my own dive school. I had a very enjoyable and varied 5 years there and when I returned to the UK I realised that after 12 years of diving in nothing more than a shortie I was going to have to learn how to use a drysuit to teach in cold water.

Since 2015 I have been working with ROHO teaching all levels of courses and going on a variety of their trips including the Maldives, the Red Sea and the Farnes and when not teaching I have continued to travel the world to encounter the variety of life (above and below water) that only diving can provide.

