

Goat Island Dive & Snorkel

Risk Disclosure Statement

Important Notice

We are delighted to welcome you to experience the unique marine environment of Goat Island Marine Reserve through snorkelling, scuba diving, and freediving. Your safety is our utmost priority, and we want you to enjoy a memorable and secure adventure.

Before participating, please read this disclosure carefully. By signing, you acknowledge that you understand and accept the risks involved.

Inherent Risks of Adventure Activities

Snorkelling, freediving, and scuba diving are classified as adventure activities and involve inherent risks that may result in serious injury or death. Despite our safety systems, equipment checks, and qualified staff, residual risks remain.

Potential Hazards

Health & Safety Risks:

- Drowning due to panic, loss of buoyancy, entanglement, or equipment failure
- Decompression sickness (the bends) from rapid ascents
- Barotrauma (ear, sinus, or lung injuries from pressure changes)
- Air embolism and other hyperbaric injuries
- Exhaustion, overexertion, fatigue
- Hypothermia or hyperthermia from water temperature extremes
- Sunburn, dehydration, motion sickness, or UV exposure
- Slips, trips, and falls around wet or uneven surfaces

Natural Hazards & Environment:

- Strong currents, tides, surge, or sudden weather changes
- Poor underwater visibility due to murky water or plankton blooms
- Marine life (jellyfish, stingrays, sea urchins, fish, or other wild creatures) that may sting, bite, puncture, or cause allergic reactions
- Natural disasters such as earthquakes, tsunamis, or coastal rockfalls

Equipment:

- All equipment provided is regularly maintained and inspected, however malfunctions may still occur
- If supplying your own equipment, it must be well-maintained, serviced, and fit for purpose. We may decline its use if deemed unsafe

Health Declaration

- You must disclose all pre-existing medical conditions, medications, or previous dive-related injuries that may affect participation
- A dive medical form may be required for scuba training dives; medical clearance may be needed from a doctor
- You must be physically and mentally fit to participate

Drugs & Alcohol Policy

Goat Island Dive & Snorkel enforces a zero-tolerance policy. You must not be under the influence of alcohol, recreational drugs, or impairing medication before or during activities.

Safety & Participant Responsibilities

By taking part, you agree to:

- ☐ Follow all staff briefings and instructions at all times (on land, on the boat, and in the water)
- ☐ Dive/snorkel within your training, certification, and comfort levels
- ☐ Use all required safety equipment properly
- ☐ Speak up if you feel unsafe or observe unsafe behaviour
- ☐ Accept that activities may be cancelled, postponed, or relocated if conditions are unsafe

Limited Liability

If you act recklessly, disregard instructions, or operate outside of your training/fitness/medical advice, Goat Island Dive & Snorkel cannot be held liable for injuries, damages, or losses caused by your actions.

Cancellation Policy

We reserve the right to cancel or alter activities if we cannot mitigate risks (e.g., due to weather, safety concerns, or equipment issues). Safety always comes first.

Acknowledgement of Risk

By booking any activity with Goat Island Dive & Snorkel you confirm that you:

- ☐ Have read and understood this Risk Disclosure Statement
- ☐ Are aware that snorkeling, freediving, and scuba diving involve risks that may cause serious injury or death
- ☐ Accept these risks and agree to participate responsibly
- ☐ If under 18 years, a parent/guardian must give consent
- ☐ Consent to receive medical treatment in the event of an accident or illness