

ULSAC Trip Report Form

Please include on this form any details you think will help organise another trip to this area. Please include details of any problems encountered, or any particularly good things/places in the area, such as good or awful restaurants and pubs.

Date	31 st May – 4 th June 2002	<input type="checkbox"/> Springs <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neaps
Venue	Porthoustock Beach - Lizard Peninsula	
Marshal	Sam Denby	
Overlord	Andy May	
Number of People	19	
Accommodation	Tents	
Address	Bob & Barbara Muxlow Chy Carne Holiday Park Kuggar Ruan Minor Helston, Cornwall TR12 7LX	
Telephone Number	01326 290200	
Cost per night/per tent/per person or as appropriate	Standard rate is £3 per night per person (I think) we got a small discount for being a group which put the cost somewhere under that. They didn't seem to mind how many tents we used and gave us our own little area to be noisy in! They also do static caravans (£8per night per person (I think))	
Notes	Ok website with directions. Bob and Barbara are very friendly and helpful with divers loads of room to leave boats etc. Shower block is excellent, there is also a small shop that sells basic food and camping stuff. http://www.cornwall-online.co.uk/chy-carne/Welcome.html	
Launch Site	Porthoustock Beach - basically shingle beach with no slip so land rover(s) at a push and preferably launch and recovery by Dive Action (see below) Launching was free provided we bought the air from them. Launching is difficult/ impossible in north to south easterly winds. Beach is ~20 minute drive from campsite. Alternative nearby launch sites are: Porthkerris (but same problem) Mullion Harbour - on opposite side of the lizard so good in easterlies. It is a (not very busy) fishing harbour so it is quite easy to launch from (big wide protected slip) but it's fairly	

<p>(incl cost & nearest coastguard)</p>	<p>small so need to be considerate to locals (especially when parking vehicles) Also need to get permission to dive/launch from the harbourmaster Dennis (get number from yellow pages or dive action) AND pay £2.50/diver/day.(again ~20 minute drive) diving is not as good on this side of the lizard</p> <p>Falmouth - slip by Falmouth watersports centre £5 use of the slip. Some quite nice stuff out of Falmouth easy launch/recovery (~1 hour drive from campsite). Have known need to recover from falmouth if sea state changes after launching at Porthoustock.</p> <p>Penzance - Again good slipway but need to be careful of tides as it dries out on low water springs (~1hr from campsite)</p> <p>Parking and launching were both free at Porthoustock. Nearest coastguard is FALMOUTH</p>
<p>Air Shop</p>	<p>There are quite a few airshops in the vicinity. We used</p> <p>Dive Action Diving Services Dive Action Diving Services Unit 2c, Industrial Estate, St.Keverne, Helston, Cornwall, TR12 6PE http://www.dive-cornwall.demon.co.uk/</p> <p>Standard rates are £2.50 per air fill although again we got a discount because I know them. They also do nitrox up to 100% and trimix. The compressor isn't on the beach although they do run a van backwards and forwards if it's busy</p>
<p>Van Hire (incl notes, did you breakdown, aa cover, tow bar, etc)</p>	<p>(Un)Able Vans 02082019836</p> <p>Did have a van with a towbar, however that's where the positive's end. I'd strongly advise against using them unless you like sleeping over in chipping sodbury, spending cold dark hours getting high on haribo e-numbers near junction 19 of the M4 waiting for the AA man to come and take you back to London, Walking. Basically DON'T use them.</p> <p>Got a lovely van (but towbarless) from chiswick van hire 02089944004</p>

Dive 1	
Site:	Volnay
Max depth:	17-20 ish
GPS Marks:	Are in the GPS.
Brief description:	Ship carrying Munitions in the first world war hit a mine and headed for porthallow beach. It nearly got there before it sank. Was carrying munitions and is still covered in lead shot and the occasional shell case. Was also carrying luxury goods but most of these washed onto Porthallow and the cornish had a field day.

Dive 2	
Site:	Drawna Rocks
Max depth:	Depending on tide up to 15m
GPS Marks:	Big rocks sticking out of water at north end of porthkerris beach
Brief description:	Rocks with some fishies and crabs and kelp on them. Also Cuthbert, a (sometimes) resident cuttlefish

Dive 3	
Site:	Pencra Head
Max depth:	20-30m
GPS Marks:	Think there might be some in a GPS
Brief description:	Quite pretty scenic dive with lots of fan corals and some life if you get the right spot. Lots of people dive 'pencra head' but everyone I speak to says it's in different positions. Basically there are three walls on pencra head land follow the line of the northernmost wall out to sea until the bed drops sharply from 15 to 20 ish metres. BE VERY CAREFUL on this dive there can be massive currents so use permanent SMBs I've known people drift undetected past the manacles before

Dive 4	
Site:	Raglands Reef
Max depth:	6-45m
GPS Marks:	In GPS
Brief description:	Very pretty dive, stunning Pinnacle reef from 40-45m coming to just 6m at the highest point. Usually absolutely covered with life. We got excellent Viz with someone from a dive action boat describing it as the best dive they'd had outside the caribbean!

Dive 5	
Site:	Mohegan

Max depth:	20-30m
GPS Marks:	In GPS
Brief description:	Big Steam powered liner that sank at the turn of the century after steaming into the manacles (really not recommended). Very little idea what caused the error in course as most of the crew and passengers were killed in the wreck. Generally the wreck is well broken but has two huge boilers. It is, I'm assured by someone who got stuck under them, possible to get under the plates although I think this requires both a deathwish and a lot of perseverance

General Details

What Can I say? this trip was a catalogue of unexpected events!

Firstly hire a van that will get you to where you want to go without breaking down (see Jimmy's advice in Poole 2002). This will stop:

- (a) Craig and his housemate having to be absolute stars and put an entire downstairs floor's worth of divers up for the night.
- (b) Andy Hanna and Will having to wait hours for the AA man and Will experimenting with the hallucinatory effects of excess Haribo consumption.
- (c) Andy getting woken up at 8:00 the next morning by me asking him politely if he could sort a new van out because you're in Chipping Sodbury and he's in London
- (d) Andy shouting at you (see (c))
- (e) Getting caught in the Bank holiday Saturday traffic when everyone and their dog (including the 'pikeys') wants to go to Cornwall

Secondly buy a map! this stops you ending up on the A30 heading East when you don't want to be on the A30 because of massive traffic Jams and actually want to be going WEST. (Don't attempt to buy the map whilst talking to Andy on your mobile on the petrol station forecourt - they don't like this).

Thirdly don't arrange for the first dive to be at the same time as the England world cup game - this lead to half the people being in the pub and the other half diving

Next don't drive boats over the top of people (I'm lead to believe it hurts). Accidents do happen but as I'm sure most of you are aware by now we had a very lucky escape with this one and have looked at what caused it and made changes to try and stop it happening again.

If you are going to have an accident and the coastguard get involved don't remind them that you personally spoke to them in their professional capacity at Easter.

Do eat at the Anglo-Asia in Helston - top Curry

Do phone Bovi if you're near Plymouth when everything is going wrong on the way down and you're not sure where the diving is going to take place (DaisyRay, and passengers)

If, God forbid, any of the above should happen on your trip try and remember to keep smiling. Also take a group of people who were as helpful and supportive as everyone that was on this trip. Thanks a lot guys you all seemed to manage to enjoy most of the trip.... or were you just being nice?!;-)

One last Top Tip partly from my trip (Bovi contingent) and also from Jimmy's:

Make sure you're sleeping stuff goes in the same vehicle you do!!

Please return completed forms to the Diving Officer asap