

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	8 th – 10 th of August 2003	<input type="checkbox"/> Springs <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neaps
Venue	Salcombe (Devon)	
Marshal	Andrew May	
Number of People	8 (Eight)	
Accommodation	Tents	
Address	Alton Farm Caravan and Camping Site Marlborough Devon	
Telephone Number		
Cost per night/per tent/per person or as appropriate	£3.75/person/night sharing, £4.00/person/night one to a tent	
Notes	<p>No need to book as they have lots of space, just turn up and pitch in the tent fields. There were only a few showers but they were OK. Remember your 20p pieces.</p> <p>Roads were single lane but no real issue. You just have to force the cars into backing up.</p>	
Launch Site	<p>Salcombe Slipway: Slipway is set in a large car park on the far side of town. It is a very good idea to phone and book spaces as it was very busy when we were there (I don't have the number, sorry!) £5.00 per day. The Slip is wide and not too steep so the Minibus had no problems with launch and recovery. You also need to pay harbour dues to the Harbour Master. He will approach all boats not displaying a valid sticker.</p> <p>NB. Driving through the town centre whilst towing would be suicide so follow the signs to Boat Park and you will be fine.</p> <p>Check out http://www.salcombeinformation.co.uk for local information for local people.</p> <p>Slip is a good way from the harbour entrance so stick to the 5 and 8 knot speed limits and navigate through the Paris-like traffic (on the hottest day of the year this was a little challenging)</p>	
(incl cost & nearest coastguard)	Nearest coastguard is Brixham 01803 882 704	
Air Shop	Diventure – Salcombe Tuckers Marine	

	<p>Brewery Quay Island Street Salcombe TQ8 8DP Email: Richard@diventure.net Tel/Fax: 01548 843663 Mobile: 07974 910878</p> <p>The only diveshop in Salcombe. Their main compressor went down so air was <u>very</u> slow from the emergency compressor and no Nitrox. They were good to us and hired us two tanks at £2 each to make up for the O₂ clean tanks that they couldn't fill.</p>
Van Hire	<p>As there were only eight of us we only took the Minibus. Kit fitted nicely but remember not to put wet kit on the seats. Empty Jerry cans were secured in the boat.</p>

Dive 1	
Site:	East Rutts
Max depth:	10m to 50m+
GPS Marks:	50 13.438N 03 59.003W
Brief description:	Rock pinnacle rising to 10m from the surface. Very nice scenic dive. Must be dived at slack water. If you are late (like we were) the divers and shot will be pulled straight off as the current is strong.

Dive 2	
Site:	Skaala
Max depth:	48m
GPS Marks:	50 11.732N 03 49.655W, HW +2hrs LW +2.5hrs Slack
Brief description:	Intact. 1129 tons 229ft long by 35ft wide. Starboard anchor in place. Boiler, engine room accessible. Holds full of big heavy Coal Patent Fuel blocks (Don't try lifting them). Well worth a dive. We had 7m+ visibility and bright sun light but we all still got hugely narked

Dive 3	
Site:	Soudan
Max depth:	22m
GPS Marks:	50 12.542N 03 46.598W, 20min of slack on Low water
Brief description:	844 tons. Lies in the mouth of the estuary so keep an eye out for yachts/powerboats. Wreck has been cleared to 18m so don't expect anything too intact, That said, there is a lot of fish life including congers and a very large lobster

Dive 4	
Site:	Maine
Max depth:	25m to 38m
GPS Marks:	50 12.835N 03 51.008W, HW +2hrs LW +2.5hrs Slack (New marks for Bow and Stern on GPS)
Brief description:	3616 tons. 375ft long. Big ship and largely intact. Big holds with bulk heads that you can swim through. Engine and Boilers easily accessible. Propeller has been removed but steering gear has fallen to seabed at stern. Packed with fish and really excellent 10m visibility. We could even see the wreck from the bottom of the shot. Very enjoyable dive, but popular although only two other boats on it whilst we were there.

General Details	
A very enjoyable trip with an amazing weather and very helpful people. Salcombe is	

a nice place but busy in the summer so if you want to eat out book before you get there to avoid disappointment. We dined at the Victoria Inn, Fore Street, Salcombe. Beer is very good. Food was tasty but possibly a little over the student budget in the restaurant. Pub food downstairs will hit the spot too though.

On the way back from one dive, Ross' torch came on and scorched a cylinder boot. If this had been the fuel can it would have been a different story. Nuclear powered torches are not toys. Be careful!

There are many more wrecks in the 40-50m range within 4 miles of Salcombe. This is a perfect place for a Dive Leader trip to go and explore some new wrecks for ULSAC.

If you go on the hottest weekend in recorded history it may be an idea to only take wetsuits instead of drysuits. Strong sun block, sunglasses and hats are essential. We took 16 litres of water between 8 of us on the boat. It didn't last the morning dives!

The one boat and Minibus option saved a lot of money even though it was a high mileage trip. Also remember the ULSAC secret weapon (Gabi) when trying to avoid paying for launching/parking. I almost felt sorry for the parking attendant when I unleashed him (almost).

Trip organisers should remember that they must bring the boats back full and this includes filling the oil reservoirs on the engines. It is a courtesy that makes hitting slack on the Saturday morning a lot easier. Equally cylinders should be returned full as long as the diveshop compressor is working.

Big thank you to Belly who drove all the way there and all the way back. He did have to beat himself around the face with a wet fish to stay awake on the way home but we didn't mind the smell too much....

Please return completed forms to the Diving Officer asap