

## Tor Bay Trip Report: May 27<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> 2005

Trip Organizer was Richard Rowley, overseen by Marcus Allen.

**We stayed at:** Broadleigh Farm Park,  
Coombe House Lane,  
Stoke Gabriel,  
TQ9 6PU.  
01803 782309  
The contact is Mrs Hunt.

Nice campsite: we stayed in a huge field. No problems with having a barbeque. Big shower block with laundry facilities. £10 for a two man tent pitch per night, £12 for a three man. We were charged £14 for a four man tent. No deposit was needed, but we had to pay the whole bill for the three nights in cash on the Saturday morning before we left. Some people had difficulty finding the campsite (the AA's website is wrong. You turn LEFT onto Yalberton Road after you leave Paignton). I should have supplied a map really...

It is worth noting that the campsite Sam used in 2003 doesn't "do" tents any more.

**We launched from:** Paignton Harbour.

Harbour Master's office:  
South Quay,  
The Harbour  
Paignton  
Devon  
TQ4 6DT  
01803 557812 (phone)  
01803 520057 (fax)  
[marine.services@torbay.gov.uk](mailto:marine.services@torbay.gov.uk)

They charge £6.50 per boat per launch.  
Because we were nice to them and well organized (!) they let us leave the RIBs moored to a buoy over night (once) as well.

Also, you can no longer park on the breakwater near the area designated for parking boat trailers in. We got away with it because someone else's trailer blocked us in.

**Our air shop was:** Nautique Diving and Watersports,  
Unit 5, South Quay,  
Paignton Harbour,  
Devon,  
TQ4 6DT  
01803 550278

[Nautique@aol.com](mailto:Nautique@aol.com)

(there may be a capital I before, or it may be a typo!)

Pete mobile: 07971 827225

Sandra mobile: 07790 148852

Pete is the manager of the shop and Sandra runs the café next door. He charged us £2.50 per fill (anything from a 7l upwards). He also has a deal where he filled 12 cylinders and charged for 10. He's also a pretty cool guy; very helpful and cooperative. Their usual opening hours are 9 to 5.30, but if you have a fair few cylinders to fill, and ask nicely, he'll stay open late and wait for you: he fills tanks overnight. He even let me charge my mobile in his shop whilst I went diving!

**Nearest Coast guard:** Brixham 01803 882704.

**We hired the van from:** H&H Van Hire,  
107e Bartholomew Road  
London  
NW5 2AR  
020 7916 6616 (phone)  
020 7916 6617 (fax).

We hired a high top Ford Transit to collect on the Friday and return by 9AM on the Tuesday for £176.25. They hold £200 on your card as a deposit which is cancelled after returning the vehicle. Ours came back without a rear skylight (although we didn't check the roof when we collected it!), but they didn't charge me for this ☺. When you return the van, you can just park it on the street and drop the keys down into the deposit box. Although it is a residents' parking area, you can leave your car there on a Bank Holiday Monday without a fine.

Due to adverse weather on the first day, we shore dived from Brixham and did some drills and so on.

For actual dive sites, we dived the Bretagne – so great we did it twice, the Ore Stone and Tucker Rock.

The Bretagne is about 30M to the seabed and a little over 20M to the deck. There is a scour at the stern where you can find 30M if you're looking for your dives below 25M. It is pretty much intact and I think we did most if not all of it in a single dive with no deco. The seabed around the stern is covered with shells. I thought it was really beautiful and unique - but then I'm biased as this is one of my favourite wrecks!

Watch out for fishing line all over it. It's very popular with fishermen and they will fish on the wreck whilst you've got divers down. The usual warnings about sharp

edges and so one are relevant. There are a lot of dead man's fingers all over the hull too, so try not to kick them with your fins.

Also there are phosphorous wedges apparently so remember to only take photos and memories back up with you or you might start smouldering!

Tucker Rock is a nice dive: Helen and I saw a dogfish loitering at the bottom of the shotline, giving us the evil eye as we checked our air after the descent.

The Ore Stone is a great swim – through, with a fair bit of life inside the cavern. It's a short swim: you can see the other end as soon as you're in and it is shallow. However there's a lot to see in there. Having a torch is a real bonus here, even a "back up torch" like mine. For people new to no clear surface diving it's a fun dive to get some confidence. It was a bit hard to actually get inside through the current, but it was well worth it. We exited the rock into a drift dive.

Thanks to everyone for coming on this trip, and especially those who help re - launch the RIB on Sunday; nearly the whole area within the breakwater empties during low water and the RIB got beached whilst the second wave were diving and the rest of us were eating. Oops.

Thanks again guys, see you all soon. If anyone organizing a trip to Tor Bay in the future wants a chat, feel free to drop me a line,

Rich.