

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	10 th – 26 th August 2007	<u>Springs</u> <u>Neaps</u>
Venue	Northern Ireland – Ballycastle	
Marshal	Vicki Lees/	
Overseer	Michelle Kim	
Number of People	17	
Accommodation Address Telephone Number Cost per night/per tent/per person or as appropriate Notes	Hostel Castle Hostel, Ballycastle (Now closed down) Very accessible and only five mins walk from the lovely slipway. Good beds in dorms and nice showers and an amazing kitchen. But It's closed down now and been turned into apartments.... never mind! 10 pounds per person, per night. Awesome value	
Launch Site (incl cost & nearest coastguard)	Ballycastle Marina We launched on the first day and kept the boats moored all week in Ballycastle Marina. It cost about 160 pounds for both boats for the whole week.	
Air Shop	Aquaholics £3.00 for 12l, 15l and manifolded twin 7l. This place was great, very convenient as it is just up the hill from the slipway. It's not actually a shop but a diver's lodge with a compressor. We have to call Richard each day and arrange a time for filling the tanks, he was super nice and always fitted in with our plans as best he could and gave us lots of friendly helpful advice about sites and tides. Highly recommended. http://www.aquaholics.org/	
Van Hire (incl notes, did you breakdown, aa cover, tow bar, etc)	H&H Van hire in Kentish Town (107 Bartholomew Road). (020) 7916 6616. Great Value and great service... there is a very good reason we always use these guys.	

Dive 1	
Site:	SS Templemore
Max depth:	18m Max
GPS Marks:	55 12.694 North, 06 13.953 West
Brief description:	Perfect for all levels of diver. This steam coaster Sank in Ballycastle Bay on 6th December 1911 in heavy weather. Lying in 18 metres of water, well broken up. This wreck is inhabited by loads of tame conger eels around boiler section, which may be hand fed by divers. Bow section full of fish life. All you have to do is pop your nose out of the harbour and you're there! Fantastic first day dive.

Dive 2	
Site:	HMS Drake
Max depth:	18m
GPS Marks:	55 17.224 North, 06 12.561 West
Brief description:	14100 ton heavy cruiser torpedoed by U-79 on 2nd October 1917. Lying in 18 metres of water in Church Bay, Rathlin Island. Heavily broken up as has been heavily slaved and covered in kelp but lovely second dive. Permanently buoyed.

Dive 3	
Site:	LOUGHGARY
Max depth:	33m
GPS Marks:	55 15.971 North, 06 10.406 West
Brief description:	Ferry turned troop transport ship struck rocks finally sinking off the east coast of Rathlin on 21st January 1942. Lying in 33 metres of water, upright and intact. Superb dive. Best dives on slack as current can get a bit speedy. Hold had been filled with chain by the Navy as it contained lots of rifles apparently and there is live ammo round. The engine room is absolutely stunning and you can see lots of lovely black and white tiles still covering the floors. She would have been a splendid vessel in her day!

Dive 4	
Site:	North wall of Rathlin Island
Max depth:	10-200+m!!!!!!
GPS Marks:	Anywhere off Skerrigh Point.... check the current and get a good depth profile on the echo. We dropped a shot in about 15m then followed the bottom down to the drop off and picked our depth.
Brief description:	The most amazing wall I have ever done ever! A beautiful sheer wall that descends to the depths of the earth covered in the most amazing sponges of all shapes and colours... apparently many of the species found are unique to this wall and not seen anywhere else in the world! Truly beautiful to be able to look up from 40m and see the sunshine! Excellent Viz too, if you get to go anywhere near this part of the world you HAVE to dive this wall!

General Details

Ballycastle is a lovely town with plenty going on. The locals are (mostly) friendly and the beach is wonderful for going swimming at 3am! The Guinness is good and there is much fun to be had.

Please return completed forms to the Diving Officer asap