



# UNDERSTANDING THE RISKS

## SCUBA DIVING AND SNORKELLING RISK DISCLOSURE DOCUMENT

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### Important Notice to Participants

We are excited to introduce you to the exhilarating experiences of scuba diving and snorkelling in the stunning underwater world. Safety is our utmost priority, and we want to ensure that you have a memorable and secure adventure. Please read the following information before participating in any scuba diving and snorkelling activities with us.

#### **Medical Fitness Requirement**

All participants must be medically fit to engage in scuba diving and snorkelling activities. It is crucial to be in good health and free from medical conditions that could be exacerbated by the physical demands and pressure changes associated with these activities. We require all participants to complete a medical questionnaire and consult a physician if necessary before diving or snorkelling.

#### **Professional Guidance and Instruction**

Our certified dive instructors are experienced professionals who will provide you with comprehensive guidance and instruction. They will teach you essential skills, safety protocols, and proper techniques to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience. It is imperative that you follow their guidance and instructions at all times.

#### **Equipment Maintenance**

We take equipment safety seriously. All the scuba diving and snorkelling equipment we supply undergoes regular servicing and maintenance to meet the highest safety standards. However, it is essential to use the equipment correctly and responsibly to ensure your safety.

#### **Risks of Underwater Activities**

Scuba diving and snorkelling involve inherent risks and potential hazards, including but not limited to:

- Barotrauma and decompression sickness due to pressure changes.
- Equipment malfunctions.
- Marine life encounters.
- Limited visibility.

- Physical exertion and fatigue.
- Changes in weather conditions.
- Risk of entanglement.
- Drowning.
- Cold water exposure.
- Injury due to falls on uneven surfaces
- Emotional stress and panic.

### **Assumption of Personal Responsibility**

Participating in scuba diving and snorkelling activities carries inherent risks, even with professional guidance and well maintained equipment. By engaging in these activities, you assume personal responsibility for your safety and wellbeing. It is essential to act responsibly, communicate openly with our staff, and adhere to safety guidelines.

### **Your Health and Safety Rights**

During your training you will be asked to sign PADI Liability and Assumption of Risk Forms. These are international forms required by the agency. You need to be aware that this does diminish your rights under the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015. There is a clause in this act (Section 28 - No Contracting out) that protects you against attempts to contract out of negligence. The good news is our staff are trained to the highest standards and employ best safety practice at all times.

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### **Understanding**

By purchasing a Scuba Diving or Snorkelling activity with us , you acknowledge that:

- You have read and understood the risks and potential hazards associated with scuba diving and snorkelling activities.
- you are aware that participating in these activities involves inherent risks that may result in injury or death.
- You confirm that you are medically fit to participate, and agree to follow all instructions, guidelines, and safety procedures provided by Dive Otago and its certified dive professionals.