

PROFESSIONAL DIVING ON A PARADISE ISLAND

Frequently asked Questions

Q) *'The name 'divesamui' suggests you only dive around the island of Koh Samui, is this true?'*

A) Our MOD Resettlement diving customers use every dive-site in the Samui archipelago on the east coast including those around Koh Tao & some further afield. Experienced divers under our wing are regularly sent to the Similan Islands on the west coast for a week on a liveaboard at the end of their PADI Divemaster or PADI Instructor Internship.

Q) *'Why aren't you based on Koh Tao to reduce time getting to dive sites?'*

A) Feedback from MOD customers suggests they prefer to be based on Samui for the following reasons;

- i) Boat journeys are an integral part of diving & the experience is vital to students hoping to become DM's or diving instructors.
- ii) Samui has sufficient infrastructure for anyone undertaking training for 6 weeks or more, inc hospitals, a recompression chamber & the sort of night- time activities service personnel expect to find in Thailand. Divers accommodated on remote Islands get fed up with the isolation after a few days.

- iii) There's plenty to do if bad weather sets in. A standing joke until recently was **'there's everything on Samui except an air-conditioned cinema & a ski-slope!'**
.....but a 4 screen cinema opened in May 2006 so it's only a matter of time before someone opens a ski-slope!

Q) 'Isn't a company that attracts military personnel a security risk?'

A) We are indistinguishable from 'normal' tourists. We don't advertise locally nor do we have a marked office, boat, classroom or accommodation; indeed we're so well hidden that most dive operators don't know we exist. Our director often plays *the grey man* & it makes his day to hear '**Divesamui? Who the **** are they?**' in bars & restaurants frequented by dive operators & tourists.

Q) 'Why aren't www.divesamui.org tied to a governing body like PADI or BSAC?'

A) Our instructors hold qualifications from all major diving agencies including Padi & Bsac and can issue certifications in the usual manner but staying outside their control gives us the freedom to choose what's best for our customers.

For Example: we think PADI EFR is beneath the standard already achieved by military personnel in their day to day training (ATD 5) so we teach 1st aid by the DAN syllabus to enhance their experience & provide a higher qualification. We wouldn't have the freedom to do so if we were a Padi facility.

You'll never be bored on Samui, see (page) for an idea of what is available during rest days or to non divers in your group.

Q) 'www.divesamui.org aren't the only resettlement providers in Thailand. We've found others offering similar training. What makes you different?'

A) We cannot comment on the abilities of others but can state that;

- i) We were the first to target the military market.
- ii) We are the only company with an Ex British Army diver at the helm & in situ.
- iii) Ours is the only SADS permanently based in Thailand.

- iv) We insure all long-term trainees against dive-related injuries including hyperbaric treatment (*details are explained once bookings are confirmed*).
- v) DM/IDC students can expect a hyperbaric exposure (*pot dive*) if the chamber isn't in use. We have access to (*and are part of*) the most qualified & experienced hyperbaric team in the kingdom of Thailand.

Q) ***'Do you have any testimonials from previous customers?'***

A) Yes, this link shows some recent examples. www.demobjob.co.uk

Q) ***'What's your accommodation like?'***

A) It varies; we have rooms in resorts or hotels for short term visitors or families but usually provide bungalows & jeeps for long term trainees.

Q) ***'Is Samui night-life as good as Pattaya?'***

A) Feedback from our (diving & non-diving) R & R customers confirms they found all the entertainment they needed.....



Feel free to email any questions not covered above.