Training the next generation of Marine Conservationists

SCIENCE | RESEARCH | EDUCATION | COMMUNITY
BLACK TURTLE CONSERVATION

MARINE CONSERVATION

Courses & Programs

CONSERVATION DIVER **Training Center**

1 day to 8 weeks

OUR COURSES & PROGRAMS

At Black Turtle Conservation, we offer a range of marine conservation courses developed in collaboration with Conservation Diver, PADI AWARE, and our own in-house programs. Whether you're a beginner or an experienced diver, you'll find **hands-on opportunities to contribute to real conservation efforts** while expanding your knowledge of marine ecosystems.

From learning how to monitor reef health to contributing data on endangered species, our courses combine theory, practice, and passion for the ocean. Several of our in-house programs also include participation in real research projects led by our conservation team here on Koh Tao.

ANY LEVEL

COURSES

Open to Divers & Non-Divers

- Sea Turtle Ecology & Monitoring
- Coral Watch Speciality
- Shark Ecology & Population Studies
- Plastic Pollution: Monitoring & Assessment

PROGRAMS

Open to Divers & Non-Divers

CITIZEN SCIENCE — *3 days*

- *Coral Watch Speciality*
- *Citizen Science Initiatives*
- *Marine Ecology*

ADVANCED DIVERS

COURSES

AOW Required

Ecological Monitoring Program (EMP) →

- Coral Taxonomy & Identification → Advanced Coral Taxonomy
- Nudibranch & Sea Slug Ecology
- Coral Restoration Theory & Techniques → Artificial Reefs Theory
- Coral Predators Monitoring & Mgmt

Advanced Coral Taxonomy, Coral Disease Monitoring → Advanced EMP

PROGRAMS

AOW Required

CORE CONSERVATIONIST — *1 week*

- *EMP*
- *Coral Taxonomy I*

CONSERVATION SPECIALIST — *2 weeks*

- *EMP*
- *Coral Taxonomy I & II*
- *Sea Turtles*
- *BTD Sea Slugs*

→ **REEF SPECIALIST** — *+ 2 weeks*

- *Coral Restoration*
- *Artificial Reefs*
- *Coral Taxonomy III*
- *BTD Marine Pollution*

→ **MASTER CONSERVATIONIST** — *+ 2 weeks*

- *Giant Clams*
- *BTD Cleaning Stations*
- *BTD Coral Predators*
- *Sharks*

→ **SCIENTIFIC DIVER** — *+ 2 weeks*

- *Image J*
- *Coral Disease*
- *Advanced EMP*

→ **RESEARCH ASSISTANT** — *Min. 2 weeks*

- *Research Assistant*

PRO

PADI PROFESSIONAL LEVEL

PADI Certifications

CONSERVATION DIVE MASTER — *Min. 6 weeks*

CONSERVATION + PADI IDC — *Min. 4 weeks*

CONSERVATION DIVER INSTRUCTOR LEVEL

Dive Master & Research Assistant Required

CD IDC - EMP INSTRUCTOR
EMP

→ **SPECIALITY INSTRUCTOR**
EMP + ≥5 courses

→ **MASTER INSTRUCTOR**
EMP + ≥10 courses

→ **INSTRUCTOR TRAINER**

1 day

COURSES OPEN TO ALL LEVELS

No prior dive experience or certification is required. All of these are 1-day courses and can be completed either while snorkeling or scuba diving.

SEA TURTLE ECOLOGY & MONITORING

Learn about the ecology, behavior and threats facing sea turtles, all of which are endangered. Develop skills in turtle ID and data collection, allowing you to contribute to real conservation initiatives by recording sightings to support ongoing monitoring efforts in Koh Tao and internationally.

1 day / 1 snorkel - **6,000 ฿**

SHARK ECOLOGY & POPULATION STUDIES

Sharks play a crucial role as apex predators, yet many species are now critically endangered. Explore their evolution, anatomy, and ecological role. Learn population monitoring techniques and how to contribute to local and global shark databases to aid conservation efforts.

1 day / 1 snorkel - **6,000 ฿**

CORAL WATCH

Learn how to assess coral health and contribute to a global monitoring effort using a powerful method developed by CoralWatch and supported by PADI AWARE. Gain insight into coral biology, bleaching, and climate change, while participating in real reef surveys.

1 day / 1 snorkel or 2 dives - **6,000 ฿**

PLASTIC POLLUTION: MONITORING & ASSESSMENT

Learn about the scale and impact of plastic pollution in the ocean. Gain hands-on experience monitoring microplastics and help protect reef ecosystems by removing macroplastics.

1 day / 1 snorkel or 2 dives - **6,000 ฿**

3 days

CITIZEN SCIENCE

The Citizen Science program is a 3-day experience designed to give you a hands-on introduction to the world of marine conservation. Perfect for beginners, this program offers a taste of what it's like to contribute to ongoing conservation efforts and understand the marine ecosystem.

Upon completion, participants will earn the PADI Coral Watch Specialty certification, making it an excellent starting point for those curious about conservation and eager to make a positive impact.

CORE MODULES

- **Coral Watch:** Learn to assess coral health using a simple yet powerful citizen science tool. You'll gain insights into the challenges corals face and how you can help monitor their condition.

- **Marine Ecology:** Dive into the basics of marine ecosystems, exploring how different species interact and the vital roles they play in maintaining ocean health. The theoretical part includes learning about marine ecology, fish, and invertebrates, providing a solid foundation for understanding underwater environments.

- **Citizen Science Initiatives:** Discover various global and local projects you can participate in, and learn how your contributions can aid scientific research and conservation efforts.

In addition to theoretical learning, this program includes an introduction to scientific diving, allowing you to apply what you've learned in a real-world setting. You'll gain valuable skills that serve as a first step into the exciting world of marine research and conservation.

WHO IS THIS FOR?

This program is ideal for:

- Beginner divers and snorkelers curious about marine conservation.
- Anyone interested in learning how to contribute to citizen science projects.
- Individuals looking for a short, immersive introduction to the underwater world.

The Citizen Science program is more than just an introduction—it's an invitation to be part of something bigger. You'll leave with a deeper understanding of marine conservation and practical ways to get involved in protecting our oceans.

INCLUDES:

- ***4 Conservation Dives***
- ***1 PADI AWARE Certification:***
  - *Coral Watch Speciality*

	Dive
	Lectures
	Independent Project
	Data Review
	Snorkel
	Extra Activities
	Study time
	Free time

Citizen Scientist	3 DAYS		Day 1	Day 2	Day 3
	Morning	07:00			
		09:00	Coral Watch	Study time/e-Learning	Marine ecology & monitoring
	Lunch				
	Afternoon	12:00	Fluid Mechanics Dive	Citizen science initiatives	EMP Fish, Inverts or Substrate
		14:00	Coral Watch dive/snorkel	Data review	EMP Fish, Inverts or Substrate
	Evening	17:00			

3 days - **CITIZEN SCIENCE: 9,900 ฿**

From 4 days to 8 weeks

COURSES FOR ADVANCED DIVERS

ECOLOGICAL MONITORING PROGRAM (EMP)

MOST POPULAR

Prerequisite: AOW
** The EMP is a prerequisite for most conservation courses.*

The Ecological Monitoring Program (EMP) introduces reef survey methods and scientific diving techniques. You'll learn to assess fish, invertebrates, substrate, and coral health, and report your findings to an international database.

4 days / 6 dives - **11,900 ฿**

CORAL TAXONOMY & IDENTIFICATION

Prerequisites: AOW + EMP

Learn to identify coral species based on skeletal and anatomical characteristics, both on land and underwater. This course builds essential skills for research, restoration, and monitoring projects.

1 day / 2 dives - **6,000 ฿**

NUDIBRANCH & SEA SLUG ECOLOGY & ID

MOST POPULAR

Prerequisites: AOW + EMP

Dive into the world of nudibranchs and sea slugs, key indicators of reef biodiversity and water quality. In this course, you'll explore their taxonomy and ecology while participating in an ongoing research project at Black Turtle Dive, learning how to monitor and document these vibrant creatures.

1 day / 2 dives - **6,000 ฿**

CORAL RESTORATION THEORY & TECHNIQUES

Prerequisites: AOW + EMP

Explore the science behind coral restoration. You'll learn about restoration strategies, site selection, coral health assessment, and attachment methods.

1 day / 2 dives - **8,000 ฿**

ARTIFICIAL REEF THEORY & TECHNIQUES

Prerequisites: AOW + EMP + Coral Restoration

Artificial reefs serve multiple purposes—from restoring damaged reef structure to creating alternative dive sites. You'll learn the theory behind their design and implementation, and put your knowledge into practice by designing your own reef project as a classroom exercise.

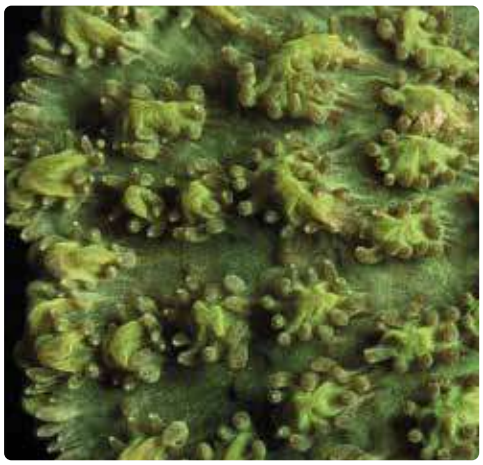
1 day / 2 dives - **6,000 ฿**

CORAL PREDATORS: POPULATION MANAGEMENT & MONITORING

Prerequisites: AOW + EMP

Identify and monitor coral predators such as crown-of-thorns starfish and Drupella snails, and understand their impact on reef health. This course teaches practical techniques for population control and long-term reef protection.

1 day / 2 dives - **6,000 ฿**



ADVANCED CORAL TAXONOMY

Prerequisites: AOW + EMP + Coral Taxonomy

Expand your coral identification skills by learning to recognize more challenging and rare genera. This course deepens your knowledge of skeletal and anatomical traits, strengthening your abilities for advanced research and monitoring.

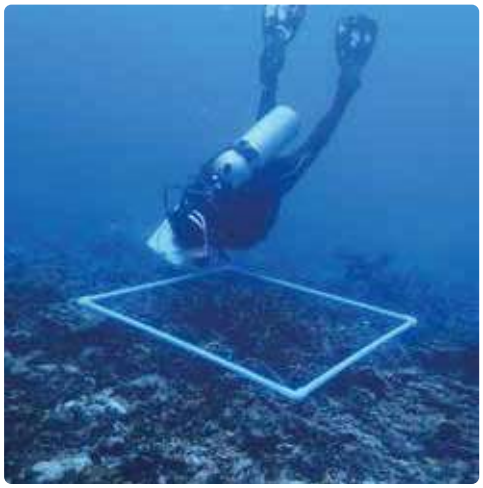
2 day / 4 dives - **10,000 ฿**

CORAL DISEASES & COMPROMISED HEALTH

Prerequisites: AOW + EMP + Coral Taxonomy

Discover how to identify and record common coral diseases and signs of stress in reef ecosystems. This course equips you with the skills to assess reef health and contribute valuable data to monitoring efforts.

1 day / 2 dives - **6,000 ฿**



ADVANCED EMP

Prerequisites: AOW + EMP + Coral Taxonomy + Coral Disease + 3 Monitoring Courses

Gain experience using additional monitoring techniques, including quadrats, transects, and advanced survey methods. This course enhances your ability to collect accurate data and analyze long-term changes in reef ecosystems.

1 day / 2 dives - **6,000 ฿**

EXTRA PRACTICE DIVES

Participants have the opportunity to **add extra dives** after completing the courses **with one of our conservation instructors**, allowing you **to continue your learning and further practice the techniques you've learned.**

These additional dives are a great way to consolidate your knowledge, build confidence underwater, and contribute even more valuable data to ongoing conservation projects.

2 dives: **2,500 ฿**

4 dives: **4,500 ฿**

6 dives: **6,500 ฿**

OUR PROGRAMS

Our marine conservation programs run **from 1 to 8 weeks** and are **designed for anyone passionate about the ocean**—whether you want to learn more about marine conservation, make a positive impact, or are an experienced marine biologist looking to gain advanced skills in monitoring, research, and specialised knowledge.

Each program includes both a Black Turtle Conservation diploma and multiple Conservation Diver certifications, making them ideal for those who want to grow their CV and experience towards a career in conservation.

The only requirements are an Advanced Open Water certification and solid buoyancy control!

1 week

CORE CONSERVATIONIST

Embark on a transformative journey into the world of marine conservation with our Core Conservationist Program. This 1-week intensive course combines hands-on experience, engaging theoretical sessions, and practical applications.

Whether you're taking your first steps into the world of conservation or looking to expand your understanding of marine ecosystems, this program is the perfect starting point.

Designed for beginners and diving enthusiasts alike, this program equips you with essential skills to monitor marine ecosystems, identify key species, and analyze ecological data within a supportive and inspiring environment.

CORE MODULES

- **Ecological Monitoring Program (EMP):** Master the foundational techniques needed to assess marine ecosystems. Learn to identify fish, invertebrates, and substrate types, and gain a solid understanding of how to collect reliable data for conservation purposes.

- **Coral Taxonomy & Identification I**: Dive into the incredible diversity of coral species, exploring their roles in marine ecosystems, and learn the basics of coral identification through engaging lectures and guided dives.

- **Data Review and Analysis:** Learn how to organize, interpret, and present the ecological data you collect, turning raw information into actionable insights that support conservation initiatives.

ADDITIONAL DIVES INCLUDED

- **Reef Safari Dives:** Apply your skills while exploring and observing the incredible biodiversity of marine ecosystems.

- **Assessment Dives:** Refine your techniques and gain valuable feedback in a practical learning environment.

This program isn't just an introduction to marine conservation—it's your gateway to making a real impact on our oceans. Whether you're just starting your conservation journey or looking to expand your diving skills, the Core Conservationist Program offers a unique opportunity to learn, grow, and make a difference.

Join us for a week of discovery, diving, and dedication to ocean conservation!

INCLUDES:

- ***10 Conservation Dives***
- ***2 Conservation Diver Certifications:***
  - *Ecological Monitoring Program (EMP)*
  - *Coral Taxonomy & Identification*

	Dive
	Lectures
	Independent Project
	Data Review
	Snorkel
	Extra Activities
	Study time
	Free time

Core Conservationist

WEEK 1		Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
Morning	07:00							
	09:00	Marine Ecology Lecture	EMP Inverts Lecture	Study time/e-Learning	EMP Substrate Lecture	Coral Taxonomy Lecture	Study time/e-Learning	Data review
Lunch								
Afternoon	12:00	Fluid Mechanics Dive	EMP Fish Lecture	EMP Fish Dive	Substrate Safari Dive	Tax Safari Dive	Assesment Tax dive	Data review
	14:00	Reef Safari Dive	Study time/e-Learning	EMP Inverts Dive	EMP Substrate Dive	Tax Safari Dive	Assesment EMP dive	
Evening	17:00			Debrief	Debrief	Debrief	Debrief	Exams / Questions

1 week - **CORE CONSERVATIONIST: 19,900 ฿**

2 weeks

CONSERVATION SPECIALIST

MOST POPULAR

Discover the world of marine conservation with our Conservation Specialist program, a 2-week course designed to broaden your understanding of marine ecosystems, build practical skills, and provide you with the opportunity to pursue your own research interests.

This program is an alternative to our Core Conservationist program, so there's no need to complete both. Simply choose the one that fits your schedule and goals—Conservation Specialist is perfect for those with two weeks available who want a more in-depth and research-focused experience.

CORE MODULES

- **Ecological Monitoring Program (EMP):** Comprehensive training in fish, invertebrate, and substrate monitoring.

- **Coral Taxonomy & Identification I & II:** Gain a deeper understanding of coral species, their taxonomy, and ecological significance.

- **BTD Sea Slugs:** Explore the fascinating diversity of sea slugs, their behavior, and their importance in marine ecosystems. As this is an in-house course, you'll have the unique opportunity to participate in real research projects we are conducting, contributing directly to ongoing studies.

- **Sea Turtles Ecology & Monitoring:** Learn about the biology, behavior, and conservation of these iconic marine creatures.

INDEPENDENT PROJECT

One of the highlights of this program is the Independent Project, where you'll have the chance to lead a conservation-focused initiative of your choice. Whether it's creating educational materials, developing conservation strategies, or exploring a specific research question, you'll work closely with our team to design and implement a project that aligns with your interests and contributes to meaningful marine conservation efforts.

ADDITIONAL DIVES INCLUDED

- **Reef and Safari Dives:** Apply what you've learned while observing marine life in its natural habitat.
- **Assessment Dives:** Refine your skills and receive feedback to ensure you're confident and prepared.

This program is ideal for anyone interested in conservation, whether you're taking your first steps into the field or looking to deepen your understanding of marine ecosystems. It's also a great way to experience the camaraderie and support of a like-minded community.

Join us for two weeks of diving, learning, and personal growth, and become an active contributor to marine conservation efforts!

INCLUDES:

- ***14 Conservation Dives***
- ***3 Conservation Diver Certification:***
  - *Ecological Monitoring Program*
  - *Coral Taxonomy & Identification*
  - *Sea Turtles Ecology & Monitoring*
- ***1 Black Turtle Dive (BTD) Certification:***
  - *BTD Sea Slugs*

	Dive
	Lectures
	Independent Project
	Data Review
	Snorkel
	Extra Activities
	Study time
	Free time

Conservation Specialist

WEEK 1		Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
Morning	07:00							
	09:00	Marine Ecology Lecture	Study time/e-Learning	Study time/e-Learning	EMP Substrate Lecture		Coral Taxonomy Lecture	Study time/e-Learning
Lunch								
Afternoon	12:00	Fluid Mechanics Dive	EMP Inverts Lecture	EMP Fish Dive	Substrate Safari Dive		Tax Safari Dive	Independent project
	14:00	Reef Safari Dive	EMP Fish Lecture	EMP Inverts Dive	EMP Substrate Dive		Tax Safari Dive	
Evening	17:00	Debrief		Debrief	Debrief		Debrief	

WEEK 2		Day 8	Day 9	Day 10	Day 11	Day 12	Day 13	Day 14
Morning	07:00			Sea Slugs Dive				
	09:00	Independent project	BTD Sea Slugs Lecture	Sea Slugs Dive		Study time/e-Learning	Coral Taxonomy II Lecture	Sea Slugs Data review
Lunch								
Afternoon	12:00	Assesment Tax dive	EMP Data review	Independent project		Independent project	Tax Safari II	Independent project presentation
	14:00	Assesment EMP dive				Sea Turtles	Tax Safari II	Questions
Evening	17:00	Debrief				Turtle Snorkel	Debrief	

2 weeks - **CONSERVATION SPECIALIST: 33.000 ฿**

4 weeks

REEF SPECIALIST

(Completion of the Conservation Specialist program is a prerequisite for this course.)*

Take your marine conservation knowledge further with our Reef Specialist program, a 2-week advanced course designed to build upon the skills and knowledge gained in the Conservation Specialist program. This course focuses on reef restoration, marine pollution, and artificial reef projects, while continuing to refine your practical skills and research capabilities.

CORE MODULES

- **BTD Marine Pollution:** Understand the causes, impacts, and mitigation of marine pollution, with a focus on practical assessment and monitoring techniques.

- **Coral Taxonomy & Identification III:** Expand your knowledge of coral species, focusing on advanced identification and ecological roles within reef systems.

- **Coral Restoration Theory & Techniques:** Gain hands-on experience in coral restoration, exploring techniques such as site preparation, attachment methods, and monitoring to support reef recovery efforts.

- **Artificial Reefs Theory & Techniques:** Learn about the design, planning, and ecological benefits of artificial reefs. As part of this module, you'll create your own artificial reef design project as a practical exercise, allowing you to apply your knowledge and develop innovative solutions for supporting reef ecosystems in a simulated context.

INDEPENDENT PROJECT

Build upon the foundation of your Independent Project from the Conservation Specialist program by delving further into your chosen topic. This phase allows you to expand your initial work, explore new angles, and produce tangible results, whether through research, educational initiatives, or innovative conservation strategies.

ADDITIONAL DIVES INCLUDED

- **Practice and Application:** These additional dives are designed to help you solidify your understanding of marine ecosystems and scientific methods. You'll have the opportunity to refine your skills, apply conservation techniques, and process the knowledge gained throughout the course in a practical underwater setting.

This program is ideal for those passionate about reef conservation and restoration, providing you with the advanced tools and experience to make a tangible impact. Join a team of like-minded conservationists, deepen your expertise, and become an active participant in the restoration of marine ecosystems.

INCLUDES:

- ***12 Conservation Dives***
- ***3 Conservation Diver Certification:***
  - *Coral Restoration Theory & Techniques*
  - *Artificial Reef Theory & Techniques*
  - *Advanced Coral Taxonomy & Identification*
- ***1 Black Turtle Dive (BTD) Certification:***
  - *BTD Marine Pollution*

	Dive
	Lectures
	Independent Project
	Data Review
	Snorkel
	Extra Activities
	Study time
	Free time

Reef Specialist

WEEK 3		Day 15	Day 16	Day 17	Day 18	Day 19	Day 20	Day 21
Morning	07:00							
	09:00	BTD Marine Pollution		Coral Taxonomy III Lecture	Tax review	Study time/e-Learning		Independent project
Lunch								
Afternoon	12:00	DAD dive		Tax Safari III	Tax Safari (all)	Independent project		EMP dives
	14:00	Data review		Tax Safari III	Tax Safari (all)			EMP dives
Evening	17:00			Debrief	Debrief			Debrief

WEEK 4		Day 22	Day 23	Day 24	Day 25	Day 26	Day 27	Day 28
Morning	07:00					AR Dive		
	09:00	Restoration Lecture	Restoration Monitoring		Artificial Reef Lecture	AR Dive	Independent project	AR Project Presentation
Lunch								
Afternoon	12:00	Restoration Techniques	Data review		AR Dive	Data review	Independent project	Independent project Presentation
	14:00				AR Design Project			Questions
Evening	17:00	Debrief						

+ 2 weeks - **REEF SPECIALIST: 30.000 ฿**

4 WEEKS PACK

Conservation Specialist + Reef Specialist:

~~*63,000 ฿*~~ **60,000 ฿**

** The offer applies when the full pack is reserved at the time of booking.*

6 weeks

MASTER CONSERVATIONIST

(Completion of the Conservation Specialist and Reef Specialist programs is a prerequisite for this course.)*

Take your marine conservation journey to the highest level with our Master Conservationist program, a 2-week expert-level course designed for those who have completed the Conservation Specialist and Reef Specialist programs.

This program combines advanced scientific training with participation in cutting-edge research projects, offering a comprehensive understanding of marine ecosystems and the skills needed to contribute meaningfully to conservation efforts.

CORE MODULES

- **Giant Clams:** Dive into the biology, behavior, and ecological importance of giant clams while participating in in-house research aimed at understanding and protecting these remarkable species.

- **BTD Cleaning Interactions:** Explore the fascinating relationships between cleaning organisms and their hosts, contributing to our ongoing research on this crucial ecological behavior.

- **BTD Coral Predators: Population Management & Monitoring:** Study the impact of coral predators on reef health, learning to identify species and assess their effects on coral ecosystems.

- **Sharks Ecology & Population Studies:** Gain insight into the ecology, behavior, and conservation of sharks, including their critical role in maintaining the balance of marine ecosystems.

INDEPENDENT PROJECT

Take your Independent Project to the next level by incorporating advanced techniques and a more in-depth focus on your chosen topic. This stage provides the opportunity to refine your work, apply specialized methodologies, and produce impactful outcomes that support marine conservation efforts, whether through research, education, or practical applications.

ADDITIONAL DIVES INCLUDED

- **Practice and Research:** The six additional dives are designed to provide opportunities for further research and practice. You'll apply scientific methods, conservation techniques, and the advanced knowledge gained throughout the program, allowing you to consolidate your skills in real-world settings.

This program represents the pinnacle of marine conservation training at Black Turtle Dive, offering unparalleled opportunities to participate in in-house research projects and gain expert-level skills. Join us to deepen your expertise, contribute to impactful conservation work, and become a leader in protecting marine ecosystems.

INCLUDES:

- ***12 Conservation Dives***
- ***2 Conservation Diver Certification:***
  - *Giant Clams*
  - *Sharks Ecology & Population Studies*
- ***2 Black Turtle Dive (BTD) Certifications:***
  - *BTD Coral Predator: Population management & Monitoring*
  - *BTD Cleaning Interactions*

	Dive
	Lectures
	Independent Project
	Data Review
	Snorkel
	Extra Activities
	Study time
	Free time

Master Conservationist

WEEK 5		Day 30	Day 31	Day 32	Day 33	Day 34	Day 35	Day 36
Morning	07:00							
	09:00		BTD Giant clams	Independent project	Data review		BTD Cleaning interactions	Data review
Lunch								
Afternoon	12:00		Giant clams survey	EMP dives	Study time/e-Learning		Cleaning stations survey	Research dive
	14:00		Giant clams survey	EMP dives			Cleaning stations survey	Research dive
Evening	17:00		Debrief	Debrief			Debrief	Debrief

WEEK 6		Day 37	Day 38	Day 39	Day 40	Day 41	Day 42	Day 43
Morning	07:00				Shark survey			
	09:00	Coral Predators		Independent project		Independent project	Independent project	Independent project Presentation
Lunch								
Afternoon	12:00	Predators survey		Sharks	Data review	Research dive	Independent project	Exams / Personal Development Session
	14:00	Predators survey		Shark survey preparation		Research dive		
Evening	17:00	Debrief				Debrief		

+ 2 weeks - **MASTER CONSERVATIONIST: 30.000 ฿**

6 WEEKS PACK

Conservation Specialist + Reef Specialist + Master Conservationist:

~~93,000 ฿~~ **88,000 ฿**

** The offer applies when the full pack is reserved at the time of booking.*

8 weeks

SCIENTIFIC DIVER

(Completion of the Conservation Specialist, Reef Specialist and Master Conservationist programs is a prerequisite for this course.)*

The Scientific Diver program is the final stage of our comprehensive conservation training at Black Turtle Dive. This 2-week advanced course is designed for participants who have successfully completed the Conservation Specialist, Reef Specialist, and Master Conservationist programs.

This program focuses on advanced research methods, scientific diving techniques, and the completion of your Independent Project, preparing you for professional roles in marine research and conservation.

CORE MODULES

- **ImageJ for Marine Research:** Learn to use ImageJ, a powerful software for image analysis, to quantify and assess marine habitats, coral health, and ecological changes.
- **Coral Diseases & Compromised Health:** Gain expertise in identifying and assessing coral diseases, understanding their causes, and evaluating their impact on reef ecosystems.
- **Advanced EMP Diver:** Enhance your skills in ecological monitoring with advanced EMP techniques, focusing on precision data collection and analysis for long-term reef health assessments.

INDEPENDENT PROJECT

This program is dedicated to bringing your Independent Project to its conclusion. You'll concentrate on refining your work, synthesizing your results, and delivering a polished outcome that showcases your contributions to marine conservation, whether through research, education, or practical applications.

ADDITIONAL DIVES INCLUDED

- **Seven Advanced Dives:** These dives are dedicated to applying your scientific diving skills, conducting research, and refining your techniques. They are designed to support the completion of your project and consolidate your expertise in real-world scenarios.

The Scientific Diver program is the culmination of our conservation pathway, offering the skills and experience needed to transition into professional roles in marine research and conservation.

With hands-on training in advanced methods and the opportunity to finalize your independent research, this course ensures you're fully prepared to make a meaningful impact in marine conservation.

INCLUDES:

- ***11 Conservation Dives***
- ***3 Conservation Diver Certification:***
  - *Image J*
  - *Coral Diseases & Compromised Health*
  - *Advanced EMP Diver*

	Dive
	Lectures
	Independent Project
	Data Review
	Snorkel
	Extra Activities
	Study time
	Free time

Scientific Diver

WEEK 7		Day 44	Day 45	Day 46	Day 47	Day 48	Day 49	Day 50
Morning	07:00							
	09:00		Image J	Study time/e-Learning	Coral Disease Lecture	Independent project	EMP Advanced Survey Techniques	Data review
Lunch								
Afternoon	12:00		Image J practice	Research dive	Disease Safari	Independent project	Advanced EMP Dive	Image J practice
	14:00			Research dive	Disease Safari		Advanced EMP Dive	
Evening	17:00		Debrief	Debrief	Debrief		Debrief	Research dive

WEEK 8		Day 51	Day 52	Day 53	Day 54	Day 55	Day 56	Day 57
Morning	07:00			Research dive				
	09:00		Study time/e-Learning	Research dive	Independent project	Independent project	Independent project	Independent project Presentation
Lunch								
Afternoon	12:00		EMP dives	Independent project	Independent project	Independent project	Independent project	Exams / Personal Development Session
	14:00		EMP dives					
Evening	17:00		Debrief					

+ 2 weeks - **SCIENTIFIC DIVER: 30.000 ฿**

8 WEEKS PACK

Conservation Specialist + Reef Specialist
+ Master Conservationist + Scientific Diver:

~~*123,000 ฿*~~ **115,000 ฿**

** The offer applies when the full pack is reserved at the time of booking.*

From 2 weeks

RESEARCH ASSISTANT

(Completion of the Conservation Specialist, Reef Specialist, Master Conservationist & Scientific Diver programs is a prerequisite for this course. Dive Master Level Required.)*

The Research Assistant recognition is the **highest achievement a student can attain within the Conservation Diver training pathway.** Unlike a traditional course, this certification represents a milestone: the transition from student to active team member. It is awarded to those who have demonstrated exceptional dedication, consistency, and passion for marine conservation.

This program is designed for participants who have completed all of our previous conservation programs and hold a Divemaster certification. As a Research Assistant, **you step into a more professional role**—supporting real conservation operations, gaining leadership experience, and contributing directly to long-term research projects.

For those considering a future career in marine conservation, this is one of the most valuable steps you can take. The Research Assistant experience **provides the practical skills, field experience, and team integration needed to understand how conservation projects truly operate.** It is also a prerequisite for anyone wishing to become a Conservation Diver Instructor.

CORE RESPONSIBILITIES

As a Research Assistant, you will actively support and contribute to ongoing conservation and research initiatives, including:

- Supporting and sometimes **leading weekly monitoring surveys** (sea slugs, COTs, coral restoration follow-up, turtles, sharks, EMP, and other projects).
- **Assisting** and informally supervising new students during training dives.
- Preparing, maintaining, and organising conservation equipment.
- Helping facilitate learning activities and group discussions.
- Assisting on the boat with equipment setup, student support, and safety checks.
- **Entering and managing data** from surveys and research dives.
- Managing Beach Clean-Ups and Dive Against Debris sessions, contributing to local and global databases.
- Completing an **independent conservation or research project.**

UNLIMITED DIVES INCLUDED

Research Assistants receive **unlimited conservation and fun dives**, giving them the freedom to:

- Lead and join surveys
- Assist instructors in the water
- Conduct their independent project
- Refine buoyancy, navigation, and scientific diving skills
- Gain leadership experience in real underwater scenarios

This immersion helps build the confidence and autonomy expected from someone preparing for a professional pathway.

THE RESEARCH ASSISTANT EXPERIENCE

The Research Assistant role is the final step of our conservation training pathway—marking the shift from learning to actively contributing. **You will gain first-hand experience in how conservation logistics, surveys, student support, and research operations are managed on a daily basis.**

By the end of the program, you will not only have expanded your scientific diving and research abilities, but you will also have acquired the professional skills, field experience, and confidence needed to pursue a career in marine conservation or continue toward becoming a Conservation Diver Instructor.

INCLUDES:

- ***Unlimited Conservation Dives***
- ***1 Conservation Diver Certification:***
  - *Research Assistant*

8.000 ฿ / *week*

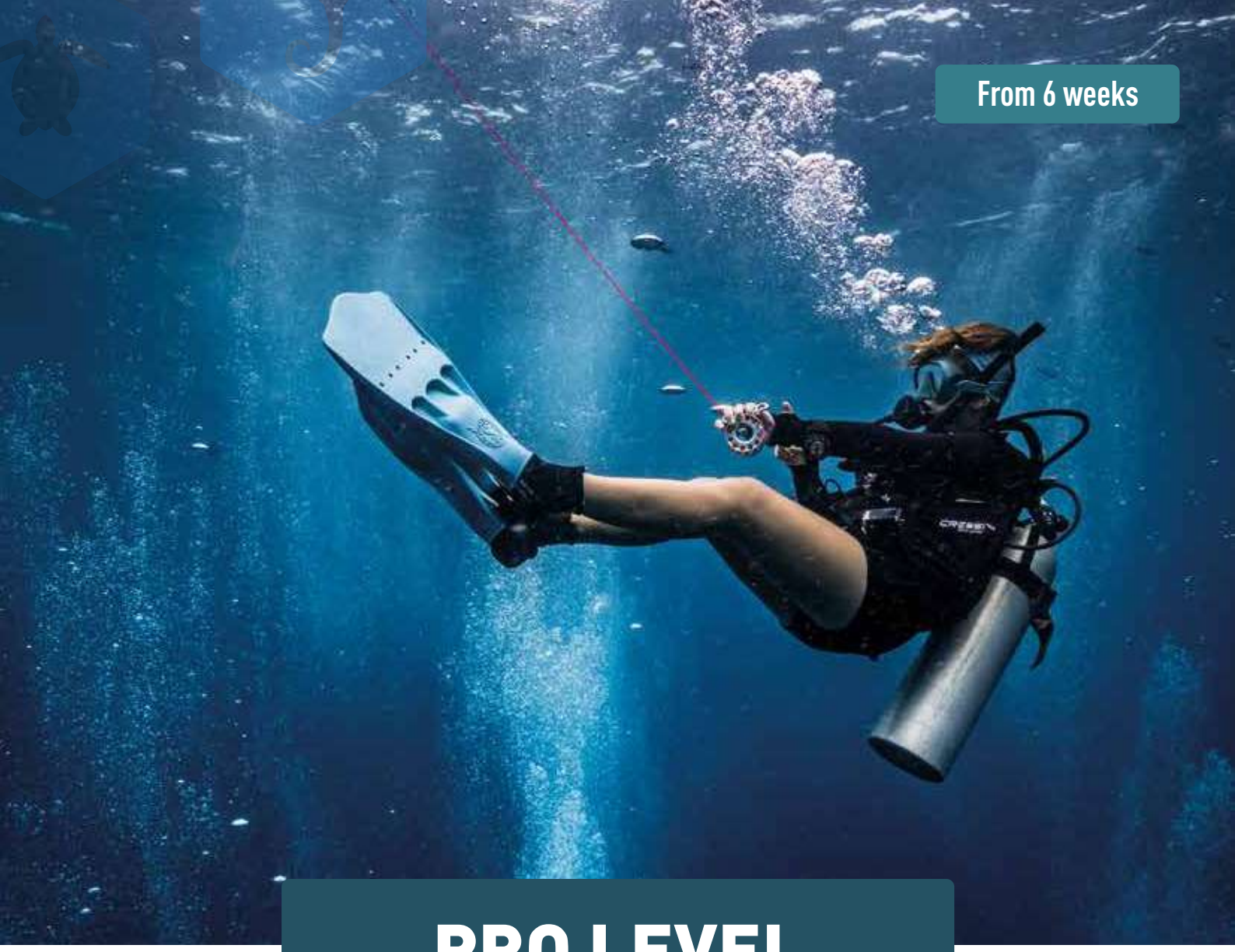
** Minimum of 2 weeks*

WEEKS PACK

4 weeks: ~~*32,000 ฿*~~ **30,000 ฿**

6 weeks: ~~*48,000 ฿*~~ **44,000 ฿**

** The offer applies when the full pack is reserved at the time of booking.*



From 6 weeks

PRO LEVEL

If you're training to become a dive professional and want to build your career on a strong foundation of ocean awareness, our PADI Pro + Conservation pathway is the perfect fit. This option combines two weeks of hands-on marine conservation training with either the PADI Divemaster program or the PADI IDC.

It's a unique opportunity to integrate conservation into your professional development, learn how marine ecosystems work, and get involved in real projects while you train to become a dive pro.

By pairing professional training with conservation experience, you'll become not only a skilled diver—but a responsible, informed, and conservation-minded instructor or Divemaster ready to inspire others underwater.

Min. 6 weeks

CONSERVATION DIVE MASTER

MOST POPULAR

Take your professional diving career to the next level with our Conservation Dive Master, a comprehensive 6-week pathway that combines 2 weeks of intensive marine conservation training with the full PADI Divemaster program. This unique route is **designed for passionate divers who want to become professional dive leaders while actively contributing to reef protection**, ecological monitoring, and community-focused conservation efforts.

The Conservation Dive Master is perfect for those who want to integrate conservation into their day-to-day professional training—learning how marine ecosystems function, gaining hands-on experience in real conservation and outreach projects, and developing the leadership skills needed to guide others responsibly underwater. Throughout the program, you'll be mentored by experienced PADI Instructors, Conservation Diver Instructors, and marine scientists in a professional, supportive environment.

All programs start on the 1st and 15th of every month, with a structured six-week schedule that progresses from foundational marine conservation during the first two weeks into professional-level Divemaster training and real-world experience.

CORE MODULES

CONSERVATION SPECIALIST (2 weeks)

You'll begin with two weeks of conservation-focused training, where you'll:

- **Learn ecological monitoring** through the Ecological Monitoring Program (EMP), including fish, invertebrate, and substrate surveys.
- **Deepen your understanding of coral species** with Coral Taxonomy & Identification I & II, learning to assess reef health and recognise compromised conditions.
- **Explore sea slug biodiversity** through our in-house BTD Sea Slugs ecology & monitoring project, contributing sightings to our ongoing studies.
- **Study Sea Turtle Ecology & Monitoring**, combining theory with a snorkel trip to observe turtles in the wild and practice non-intrusive monitoring techniques.

Throughout this phase, **you'll take part in our long-term research initiatives and begin shaping your Independent Project**, building a strong ecological and scientific foundation before moving into the professional Divemaster component.

DIVE MASTER DEVELOPMENT (4 weeks)

After completing the conservation component, you move into the full PADI Divemaster curriculum while remaining actively involved in conservation work. Throughout this stage you will:

- **Complete all Divemaster** theory, workshops, water skills, and leadership assessments.
- Train all skills **neutrally buoyant,** ensuring best practice for sensitive reef environments.
- Take part in our Fluid Mechanics Buoyancy Clinics and the REACT reef ecology workshops.
- **Assist instructors on PADI courses and conservation courses and iniciatives**, supporting students in class and in the water.
- **Join at least 10 conservation surveys, finishing the program by leading two:**
  - 1 snorkel survey (e.g., turtles or sharks)
  - 1 diving survey (e.g., sea slugs, COTs, restoration or EMP)

With **unlimited fun dives during a 8-week training period**, you'll have plenty of opportunities to refine your skills, explore local dive sites, and build the comfort and confidence expected from a future dive pro. This combined pathway prepares you to become not just a Divemaster, but a conservation-minded leader capable of inspiring responsible diving practices and integrating reef protection into everyday dive operations.

INDEPENDENT PROJECT

As part of the conservation component, you'll complete an Independent Project where **you take the lead on a conservation-focused initiative** of your choice. This could be:

- A **research-focused project** (e.g. sea slug diversity, coral health, turtle or shark observations, plastics).
- An **education or communication project** (blog posts, social media campaign, school workshop, marine life ID guide, educational game).
- A **community engagement initiative** (cleanup events, conservation training for dive pros, etc.).

You'll work alongside our team to design, execute, analyse, and present your project, creating a meaningful piece of work that reflects your interests and contributes to real marine conservation.

INCLUDES:

- ***Unlimited Conservation Dives*** *(Valid for a period of 8 weeks)*
- ***3 Conservation Diver Certification:***
  - *Ecological Monitoring Program*
  - *Coral Taxonomy & Identification*
  - *Sea Turtles Ecology & Monitoring*
- ***1 Black Turtle Dive (BTD) Certification:***
  - *BTD Sea Slugs*
- ***PADI Dive Master Certification***
- ***BTD Conservation Dive Master Certification***

This program is perfect for divers who want to pursue a professional diving career while making a real impact on marine conservation. You'll earn your Divemaster qualification, gain hands-on research experience, and become part of a community dedicated to protecting Koh Tao's reefs. By the end, you'll be a confident dive professional with strong knowledge of marine ecology, monitoring techniques, and conservation best practices.

Conservation Dive Master

WEEK 1		Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
Morning	07:00							
	09:00	Study time/e-Learning	EMP Fish Lecture	Study time/e-Learning	EMP Substrate Lecture		Coral Taxonomy Lecture	Independent project
Lunch								
Afternoon	12:00	Marine Ecology Lecture	Fluid Mechanics Dive	EMP Fish Dive	Substrate Safari Dive		Tax Safari Dive	Assesment Tax dive
	14:00	EMP Inverts Lecture	Reef Safari Dive	EMP Inverts Dive	EMP Substrate Dive		Tax Safari Dive	Assesment EMP dive
Evening	17:00	Turtle Survey - 3 pm	Debrief	Debrief	Debrief		Debrief	Debrief Beach clean up

WEEK 2		Day 8	Day 9	Day 10	Day 11	Day 12	Day 13	Day 14
Morning	07:00							
	09:00	Study time/e-Learning	Independent project	BTD Sea Slugs Lecture	Coral Taxonomy II Lecture		Independent project	Independent project
Lunch								
Afternoon	12:00	Independent project	Independent project	Sea Slugs Dive	Tax Safari II		Independent project	Independent project
	14:00	Sea Turtles		Sea Slugs Dive	Tax Safari II			Questions
Evening	17:00	Turtle Snorkel	Shark Survey - 3:30 pm	Debrief	Debrief			Beach clean up - 5pm

WEEK 3		Day 14	Day 15	Day 16	Day 17	Day 18	Day 19	Day 20
Morning	07:00						Conservation for dive professionals	BTD Monitoring (fish, inverts)
	09:00		DM Workshops - Buoyancy	DM Workshops - Skill Circuit	DM Workshops - Skill Circuit		Intro to Coral tax + compromised health	Citizen science initiatives
Lunch								
Afternoon	12:00	DM Workshops - Orientation	DM Workshops - Buoyancy	DM Workshops - Skill Circuit	DM Workshops - Skill Circuit	Sea slug Survey - PM	Coral Safari (Tax)	EMP (fish)
	14:00						Restoration Project Maintenance	EMP (inverts)
Evening	17:00	Turtle Survey - 3 pm	Shark Survey - 3:30 pm				Debrief	Debrief Beach clean up - 5pm

WEEK 4		Day 21	Day 22	Day 23	Day 24	Day 25	Day 26	Day 27
Morning	07:00		DM Workshops - Dives			DM Workshops - Leads		
	09:00	DM Workshops - Theory		DM Workshops - Search and Recovery	DM Workshops - DSD and Reactivate		Independent project	
Lunch								
Afternoon	12:00	DM Workshops - Theory		DM Workshops - Search and Recovery	DM Workshops - DSD and Reactivate		Independent project	Restoration - PM
	14:00							
Evening	17:00	Turtle Survey - 3 pm	Shark Survey - 3:30 pm					Beach clean up - 5pm

WEEK 5		Day 28	Day 29	Day 30	Day 31	Day 32	Day 33	Day 34
Morning	07:00		Assist - OW				Assist - AOW/Rescue	Assist - AOW/Rescue
	09:00	Independent project		Assist - OW	Assist - OW			
Lunch								
Afternoon	12:00	Independent project	Assist - OW	Assist - OW	Assist - OW	Sea slug Survey - PM	Assist - AOW/Rescue	Assist - AOW/Rescue
	14:00							
Evening	17:00	Turtle Survey - 3 pm						Beach clean up - 5pm

WEEK 6		Day 35	Day 36	Day 37	Day 38	Day 39	Day 40	Day 41
Morning	07:00							
	09:00			Assist - EMP		Assist - EMP	Independent project	
Lunch								
Afternoon	12:00		Assist - EMP	Assist - EMP	Assist - EMP	Assist - EMP	Independent project	Independent project presentation
	14:00							Questions
Evening	17:00	Turtle Survey - 3 pm	Shark Survey - 3:30 pm					Beach clean up - 5pm

** This schedule is an example and may vary depending on conditions and course logistics.*

Min. 6 weeks - **CONSERVATION DIVE MASTER: 85.900 ฿**

Rescue + Conservation Dive Master: **99.900 ฿**

Advanced Open Water + Rescue + Conservation Dive Master: **107.900 ฿**

Open Water + Adv.OW + Rescue + Conservation Dive Master: **115.900 ฿**

EVERY WEEK!

CONSERVATION SURVEYS

Join our Conservation Team and make every dive count!

Looking for a meaningful way to contribute to marine conservation in Koh Tao?

Joining our surveys is a great way to take part in real projects and make a difference by helping collect data that supports long-term marine conservation efforts.

SEA SLUGS & CROWN OF THORNS

Contribute to coral reef research by monitoring sea slugs diversity or coral predators populations.

Dive-based surveys include:

- ✓ *Conservation expert guide*
- ✓ *2 guided conservation dives*
- ✓ *Intro to monitoring & species ID*
- ✓ *Diving equipment & dive computer*
- ✓ *Dive insurance*
- ✓ *Refreshments & fruit on the boat*

2,200 ฿

SHARKS & TURTLES

Support shark or turtle conservation by monitoring local populations and contribute to their protection.

Snorkel-based surveys include:

- ✓ *Conservation expert guide*
- ✓ *1 guided conservation snorkel*
- ✓ *Intro to monitoring & species ID*
- ✓ *All needed gear included*
- ✓ *Transportation & entrance to the site*

600 ฿

BEACH CLEAN UPS & DIVE AGAINST DEBRIS

*every **Sunday***

At Black Turtle Conservation, **we are deeply committed to protecting the ocean—both above and below the surface.** This commitment is part of our daily work, but it also extends to the community.

That's why, **on Sundays, we organise either Beach Clean Ups or Dive Against Debris surveys.** These events bring together divers, non-divers, locals, and visitors to take direct action against marine pollution.

By removing debris from our beaches and reefs and recording what we find, we contribute valuable data to both global databases and our own long-term research ones, helping researchers and conservationists understand and tackle this issue worldwide. It's a simple but powerful way to give back to the ocean we all love.

WANT TO DIVE INTO MARINE CONSERVATION?

Take your passion for the ocean to the next level!
Join our hands-on courses and **discover how you can protect marine life**, monitor reef health, and contribute to real conservation efforts—no experience needed.

Scan the QR to know more!

SCIENCE | RESEARCH | EDUCATION | COMMUNITY
BLACK TURTLE CONSERVATION

CONSERVATION DIVER Training Center