




## ***Protection of Wrecks Ordinance***

There are eight shipwrecks around St Helena that you can dive on, plus numerous articles of marine archaeological interest.

To protect these for the future:

- **No wreck penetration**
- **It is prohibited to take or tamper with marine archaeological items**
- **You must dive the wrecks with a local guide**
- **No spearfishing allowed on the wrecks**



**Papanui** - steam passenger ship caught fire and sunk 1911

**Spangereid** - coal ship caught fire and sunk 1920


**Darkdale** - royal fleet auxiliary tanker sunk by German U Boat 1941

**Witte Leeuw (White Lion)** - cargo ship sunk 1613

**Bedgellat** - salvage vessel for Papanui sunk 2001

**Frontier** - drug running fishing boat confiscated and sunk 1994

**Portzic** - fishing vessel, old and unrepairable so sunk 2008



**Atlantic Rose** - converted fishing vessel used for cargo, broke moorings and sunk

## ***SAFETY***

There is no recompression chamber on St Helena - stay well within your decompression limits and don't ascend to altitude straight away after your dive.

Remember even though it is good visibility stay close to your buddy.

Listen to your dive briefing carefully, local operators have good knowledge of currents and weather.

***ENJOY***

# Diving and snorkelling St Helena

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## Good Practice Guide

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***St Helena has some spectacular  
underwater marine vistas;  
take the plunge and come face-  
to-face with its unique and  
captivating marine life***



**EMD**

"Our Island. Our Environment. Our Responsibility."



**To prevent damage to this pristine environment please:**

- Ensure good buoyancy control especially prior to entering caves or arches - practice over sand patches beforehand if necessary



- Check buoyancy when using new equipment prior to start of dive, ensure correct weighting
- Check before you enter the water that all your dive equipment is secure

- and not trailing to prevent it dragging on the seabed and causing damage to the marine environment



- Keep clear of free-swimming animals (such as devil rays, turtles, whales and whale sharks).

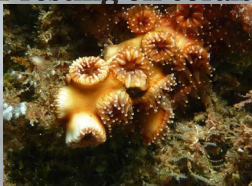
In particular, do not ride, grab or block the path of these animals

- Respect all marine life - look but don't touch and don't re-locate marine life



- Be aware of your surroundings especially when you are taking underwater photographs

- Maintain an awareness of fins to avoid touching, kicking, standing or resting on corals and to minimise stirring up of sand



- Don't feed fish or other marine animals

- Take nothing but photographs - even empty shells provide good homes to marine species



**St Helena Law**

- Spearfishing and taking of crayfish whilst scuba diving is illegal
  - It is illegal to take crayfish with eggs
- Closed season for spearfishing 1st January to 31st March each year
  - Closed areas for spearfishing- Lemon Valley, James Bay wharf and Rupert's beach swimming areas, Long Ledge to Billy May's Revenge, around the historic wrecks



**Enjoy the beautiful habitats and magical creatures St Helena's underwater world has to offer**

Charismatic megafauna: green and hawksbill turtles; devil rays; whale sharks; pan tropical, bottlenose and rough toothed dolphins; humpback whales



Numerous endemic species that you can only see on St Helena: parrotfish, damselfish, seaslugs, corals, shrimps, starfish and more



Bedrock, boulder, cobble or sandy habitats - each with their own unique species composition

