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THE BESTS

The Best Scuba Diving Sites, From Mexican Cenotes to Egyptian Reefs

For first-timers, experts, and everyone in between.

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Experienced scuba divers know: There's no shortage of great locations for exploring undersea. Seventy percent of our planet is covered in water, after all, from the clear Caribbean Sea beside Honduras, to the glowing plankton-rich depths surrounding Hawaii. Plus, the Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI) issues globally recognized certifications in more than 200 countries and territories worldwide—giving you just one more reason to travel.

We've rounded up the very best scuba diving sites in the world, for anyone ready to scour the globe in search of that perfect dive. From shipwrecks to vibrant reefs, each spot is a unique portal into the strange, beautiful world beneath the ocean's surface—just waiting to be explored.



West End, Roatan, Honduras

Though you may not know it by name, you've likely seen the cerulean ocean and thatch-roofed cabanas of Roatán—a Caribbean island 40 miles off the coast of Honduras (possibly on an inspirational poster in your dentist's office). The largest of the Bay Islands is a paradise for divers, dense with colorful coral and diverse marine life, like playful dolphins and West Indian manatees. It's also home to comfortable dive resorts that can set you up with an experienced crew, and offer dive packages for those wanting multiple adventures at sea during their stay.