

Dive and Snorkel Guide



Également offert en français

Park Regulations

Diver Registration: All divers must register and purchase a dive permit prior to diving. No registration or permit is required to snorkel.

Dive Flags: A dive flag must be displayed at all times, night and day, and within 30m (100ft) of all diving activity. Vessels are required to display the blue and white "Alpha" flag. Towed or anchored floats must display the red and white divers' flag.

Boating Restrictions: At least one person capable of operating a radio and manouvering a vessel must be left on board when a boat is anchored or moored. Anchoring is not permitted into any shipwreck site; use the mooring buoy, or the natural lake bed. Please allow commercial vessels access to mooring and tie off for safety. Vessels entering restricted boating areas must have the required Parks Canada permit.

Prohibited Activity: Removal, damage or disturbance of any natural, cultural or scientific feature is prohibited.

Camping: Camping is only permitted in the designated areas on Flowerpot Island. A Parks Canada permit is required.

Dive Safety

Cold Water: Fathom Five is classified as "cold water diving." Plan your dives as if they are 3 m (10 ft) deeper. Adjust buoyancy while ascending and descending.

Physical Condition: A pre-existing medical condition could affect your diving ability. Adjust your dive plans to match your current health limitations.

Never Dive Alone: Always dive in pairs. The even numbered buddy system offers essential safety in the event of difficulty.

Alcohol and Drugs: Being under the influence of alcohol or drugs while diving can have disastrous effects.

Night Diving: Only experienced divers should engage in night diving. Each diver should be equipped with underwater lighting.

Dive Restrictions: Around the harbours, dive only in the designated diving areas, do not dive in vessel channels.

Dive Legend

- LEVELS**
- **Beginner Dive Site**
 - **Intermediate Dive Site**
 - ◆ **Advanced Dive Site**
In Fathom Five - Cold water experience in depths over 18m (60ft)
 - Snorkel Site**
- Please use caution at all dive and snorkel sites

Contact Information

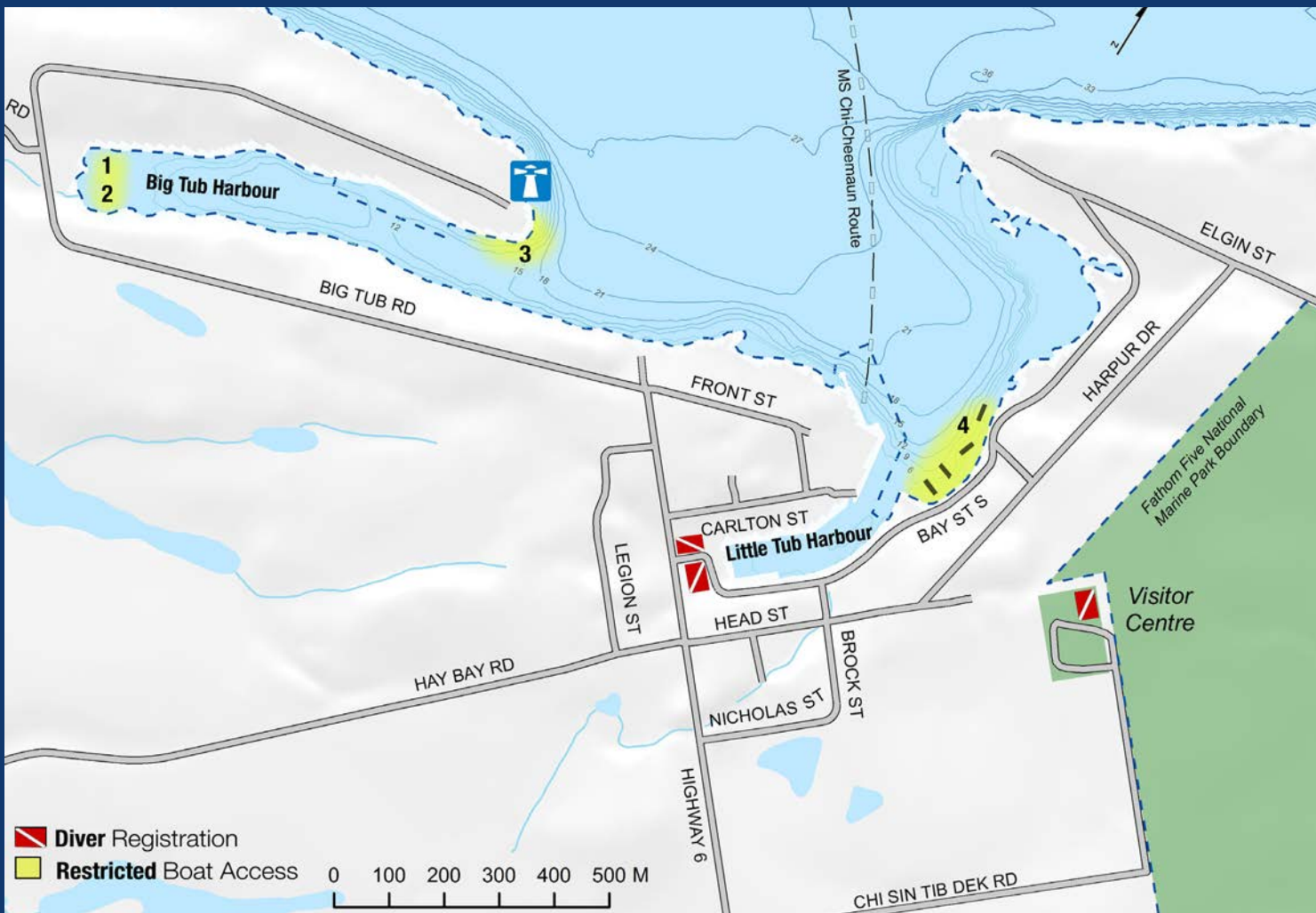
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Cover: Parks Canada / Jerzy Kowalczyk



1. SWEEPSTAKES (Two-masted schooner)

Length: 36.3 m (119 ft)
Depth: 7 m (20 ft)

The Sweepstakes was damaged off Cove Island, then towed to Big Tub Harbour where it sank in September 1885. The hull is still intact, with the windlass and a portion of the bow rail still in place. For both safety and conservation, penetration of the wreck is not permitted. This is one of the most popular wrecks in the park. See the Controlled Access Schedule for usage times.

2. CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS (Steamer)

Length: 37.3 m (122.5 ft)
Depth: 5 m (15 ft)

The City of Grand Rapids was an elegant passenger steamer until it burned and sank in October 1907. Its charred remains now lie in shallow water about 30 m (100 ft) from the wreck of the Sweepstakes. Its rudder and propeller are displayed at the local museum. See the Controlled Access Schedule for usage times.

3. BIG TUB LIGHTHOUSE POINT

Depth: 23 m (75 ft)

Limited parking - access via brick walkway - a washroom is available. Please respect the rights of adjacent private property owners. An interesting wall dive. For your safety, limit diving to the area inside the restricted boating area markers. Vessels are not permitted at any time.

4. THE TUGS

Depth: 13 m (40 ft)

Wreckage of four small steam tugs (*Alice G, Robert K, John and Alex, Bob Foote*).

Access via walkway to wooden deck area. This is a good site for divers and snorkellers as well as a popular site for open water check-outs. It is also great for those wanting to observe divers in action. Washrooms and parking available. Vessels are not permitted at any time, except for the mooring buoy near the *Alice G*.

Controlled Access Schedule

Big Tub Harbour Shipwrecks

May 1st - October 31st

Non-Motorized Access Only

Snorkelers, Swimmers and Registered Divers Permitted:

Daily 8:00am-10:00am and 4:00pm-8:00pm

Motorized Access for Commercial Tour Boats

Registered Vessels Permitted:

Daily 10:00am-4:00pm

Harbour Area Sites

Around the Tobermory harbours, diving and snorkeling are permitted only in the numbered dive areas, as shown on the map.

Due to vessel traffic, it is important for each diver to review the park regulations and dive safety information.

Please ensure extreme caution when diving and operating a vessel within these harbour areas. Please respect the rights of private property owners near these sites.



15. CHARLES P. MINCH (Three-masted schooner)

Length: 47.2 m (154.7 ft)
Depth: 14 m (45 ft)

The *Minch* was driven onto the rocks in October 1898. The wreck is spread over Tecumseh Cove, Cove Island. The main wreckage is found close to shore near the head of the cove. Look for the portions of two rudders. The one situated west of the inner mooring buoy is likely from the schooner Tecumseh, which was wrecked in the area in 1882. The Tecumseh was 33.8 m (111 ft) long.

16. UNIDENTIFIED WRECK

Depth: 21 m (66 ft)

Sections of wreckage strewn over a distance of 120 m at a depth between 15 and 21 m. Site includes the remains of three hull sections, the centreboard trunk as well as the board, plus the rudder. Look for the many interesting and unusual structural features.

17. ARABIA (Three-masted barque)

Length: 40.1 m (131.6 ft)
Depth: 33 m (110 ft)

Foundered off Echo Island in October 1884. The wreck is in good condition. The bow section with bowsprit, windlass and anchors, is particularly impressive. This site is only recommended for advanced diving groups. There may be strong currents, take weather conditions into consideration.

18. FOREST CITY

(Barge later converted to a steamer)

Length: 66 m (216.7 ft)
Depth: 46 m (150 ft)

In June 1904, this ship sank after hitting the east side of Bears Rump Island. The bow lies at about 18 m (60 ft) while the stern is at 46 m (150 ft).

19. THE CAVES

Depth: The submerged grotto entrance is 6 m (20 ft) deep.

Located along the Georgian Bay shoreline about 19 km (12 mi) east of Tobermory. Look for the hidden passages leading from inside the Grotto to the open waters of Georgian Bay. Diving access via boat from Tobermory. (Maintained by the Tobermory Marine Association)

20. CAROLINE ROSE (Schooner)

Length: 39.6 m (132 ft)
Depth: 17 m (55 ft)

The *Caroline Rose* was towed to Driftwood Cove on the Georgian Bay Shore by the Tobermory Marine Association and sunk as a dive site in 1990. Located outside the park, there are a variety of tools and fittings on site including an impressive stem, rudder and propeller.

(Maintained by the Tobermory Marine Association)

21. NIAGARA II (Sandsucker)

Length: 5.5 m (182 ft)
Depth: 31 m (102 ft)

Deliberately sunk by the Tobermory Maritime Association in May 1999 as a dive site. Located outside the park, look for commemorative plaques and lots of machinery. (Maintained by the Tobermory Marine Association)

22. DUNKS POINT

Natural overhang and swim through above 12 m i. A wooden-stocked anchor and chain lie just off the point about 18 m (60 ft) of water.

5. CHINA (Two-masted schooner)

Length: originally 38.1 m (124 ft) then lengthened to 41.8 m (137 ft)
Depth: 3 m (10 ft)

Wrecked on China Reef in November 1883, it is badly broken up. The main portion is close to shore; the rudder is about 100 m (330 ft) northwest of the main wreckage.

6. AVALON VOYAGER II (Motor ship)

Length: 41.2 m (135 ft)
Depth: 8 m (25 ft)

The Avalon served in the Newfoundland fish trade for 30 years and was then used as a floating restaurant in Kincardine. In October 1980, while on a relocation trip to Owen Sound, she was stranded and subsequently burned by vandals. Only the bottom portion remains but there is quite a bit of machinery.

7. CASCADEN (Schooner)

Depth: 6 m (20 ft)

Wrecked in October 1871, the vessel is badly broken up and spread over a large area.

8. JOHN WALTERS (Two-masted schooner)

Length: 32.9 m (108 ft)
Depth: 5 m (16 ft)

Wrecked in November 1883, limited wreckage remains. Look for the heavy keelson and centreboard box and glacial scours.

9. W. L. WETMORE (Steamer)

Length: 65.1 m (213.7 ft)
Depth: 7 m (24 ft)

Wrecked during a storm in November 1901. Look for the impressive boiler, anchor, chain and rudder. Interesting bedrock features and a large amount of timber.

10. NEWAYGO (Steam barge)

Length: 59.7 m (196 ft)
Depth: 8 to 20 m (26 to 65 ft)

Wrecked in November 1903, the main portion lies flat on the bottom. Pieces of the shipwreck are scattered. Look for the massive timbers used during construction.

11. JAMES C. KING

(Originally a three-masted barque, later converted to a schooner rig, and lastly a barge)

Length: 53.4 m (175 ft)
Depth: 26 m (85 ft)

Wrecked while under tow by the *Wetmore* in November 1901. The rudder may be found in the shallows near the bowpost.

12. PHILO SCOVILLE (Three-masted schooner)

Length: 42.5 m (139 ft)
Depth: 29 m (95 ft)

Wrecked during a storm in October 1889. The bow, including the bowsprit, can be found at the deeper depths and the anchors are located about 30 m (100 ft) east of the main wreckage.

13. TRUELLEN (Yacht)

Length: 12 m (40 ft)
Depth: 16.7 m (55 ft)

Wrecked on the Greenfield Shoal in 1972. It was salvaged but later found to be too badly damaged and towed out to the channel between Cove and North Otter Islands for use as a dive site.

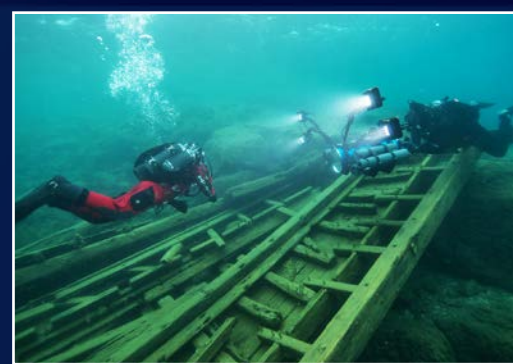
14. POINTS WEST (Wooden guide boat)

Length: 9.7 m (32 ft)
Depth: 15 m (50 ft)

Located 100 m east of Harbour Island on the southwest side of Cove Island. This boat was deliberately sunk in 15m (50 ft) of water as a recreational dive site in 1984.

SHIPWRECK GPS COORDINATES

DIVE SITE LOCATIONS				MOORING	DEPTH	
SITE	DIVE SITE	LONGITUDE	LATITUDE	AMOUNT	(m)	(ft)
1	Sweepstakes	81°40'49"W	45°15'19"N	2	7	20
2	City of Grand Rapids	81°40'52"W	45°15'17"N	2	5	15
3	Big Tub Lighthouse Point	No Boat	Access		23	75
4	Tugs	81°39'42"W	45°15'33"N	1	13	40
5	China	81°41'43"W	45°15'10"N		3	10
6	Avalon Voyager II	81°42'06"W	45°14'39"N		8	25
7	Cascaden	81°43'08"W	45°13'51"N		6	20
8	John Walters	81°42'12"W	45°15'36"N	1	5	16
9	W.L. Wetmore	81°42'33"W	45°15'54"N	2	7	24
10	Newaygo	81°45'04"W	45°16'15"N	3	8	26
11	James C. King	81°42'38"W	45°16'00"N	2	26	85
12	Philo Scoville	81°41'50"W	45°16'07"N	1	29	95
13	TruelLEN	81°42'05"W	45°17'16"N	1	17	55
14	Points West	81°43'48"W	45°17'10"N	1	15	50
15	Minch (Inner)	81°42'38"W	45°17'40"N	1	14	45
15	Minch (Outer)	81°42'26"W	45°17'36"N	1	18	60
16	Unidentified Wreck	81°43'44"W	45°19'06"N	1	21	66
17	Arabia	81°40'24"W	45°18'43"N	2	33	110
18	Forest City	81°33'32"W	45°19'02"N	2	46	150
19	The Caves	81°31'25"W	45°14'44"N	1	23	75
20	Caroline Rose	81°34'57"W	45°14'32"N	1	17	55
21	Niagara II	81°36'10"W	45°15'02"N	2	31	102
22	Dunk's Point	81°37'59"W	45°16'00"N	2	12	40



Alice G - Photo: Parks Canada/Brett Seymour



Avalon Voyager II - Photo: Parks Canada/Brett Seymour

Summer Water Temperature

