

USU SCUBA Trip to Monterey, CA (2009)

Last updated 01 March 2009

Contact Jesse Walker (ususcuba@gmail.com) or visit the trip web site at <http://www.usu.edu/scuba/monterey2009.html> for updates and more information.

Dates:

We will be diving in CA March 9-13, 2009. Plan on total trip dates of about 7-15 March (incl. travel)

Destination:

Monterey, CA (will also be diving in the neighboring towns of Pacific Grove and Carmel, CA)

Duration:

Five days of diving, with one or two days of travel at each end of that (it's about a 14 hour drive). If you're driving, you can arrive and leave as needed to accommodate your schedule.

Travel Plans:

Carpooling. Each car must transport both divers and their full gear (unless renting in Monterey). Split gas costs.

Lodging:

We have a room reserved at the Lone Oak Lodge, an affordable (and nice) motel not far from dive sites. Room cost is \$60 per night (plus taxes) for a room with two large beds. Assuming four people per room (which has worked well on past trips), this is a per-night cost of approximately \$17 per person. This equals \$102 per person for six nights (this is only an estimate, and may change depending on the number of people in each room!)

Food arrangements:

We bring an electric hot plate and cooking pot to the motel, and can make breakfast and dinner there very inexpensively when desired (there's also a small refrigerator in each room). There are also plenty of restaurants around, but food will cost more if you eat out frequently. Lunch is best eaten between dives, either at a fast food place (Jack in the Box is popular), or by packing food with us (brown bag-type lunch). We will visit grocery stores (hooray for Trader Joe's!) as needed for supplies.

Payment arrangements:

Pay-as-you-go, each person on their own (for food, etc), with two main exceptions: lodging and tank fills. For these, I'll pay the costs up front and ask for reimbursement near the end of our week of diving. Gas costs should be fairly shared by the people within each vehicle. Tips for the trip leader and dive staff (that's me) are completely optional. =)

Tentative Itinerary (somewhat flexible):

TUE: Meet at Jesse's for potluck dinner in evening (7pm), discuss trip.

SAT: leave (early morning, ~7-8am) for trip. 11 hour drive. Spend Saturday night at Jesse's uncle's house in Sacramento, CA.

SUN: finish drive to Monterey (~3 hours), check into the Lone Oak Lodge (around 2pm), explore Monterey.

MON: Diving (see typical diving day schedule, below). Tour hyperbaric chamber (3:00-4:30pm).

TUE: Diving.

WED: Diving in morning; Monterey Bay Aquarium (2-6pm). Possible night dive.

THU: Diving.

FRI: Diving.

SAT: Check out of motel by 11am. Drive home (possible morning dive? possible camping on the way home? possible dive at Blue Lake?)

SUN: Arrive back in Logan

Typical Diving Day schedule (very flexible):

7 - 8am: wake, eat, drive to dive site

8 - 10am: 1st dive.

10:30am: fill tanks at local scuba shop, eat snacks, log dive.

Noon: 2nd dive.

1:30pm: fill tanks, get lunch, log dive.

3:30pm: 3rd dive.

5pm: fill tanks.

6pm: dinner, head to motel, etc.

9pm: night dive (optional).

10pm: sleep (camping or motel)

Dive Sites in Monterey/Carmel (we'll visit as many as possible):

Del Monte Beach/Wharf #2

Lover's # 3

Butterfly House

Breakwater

Otter Cove

Carmel River State Beach

Metridium Fields

Coral Street Beach

Monastery Beach (North and

Hidden Beach

Point Pinos

South ends) – *deep dive*

McAbee Beach

Stillwater Cove

Point Lobos (Whaler's Cove)

Lover's Cove

Copper Roof House

...and others...

Shore Diving:

Our dives will be done from shore. Parking areas are typically close enough to the ocean that we can gear up at our vehicles and walk into the ocean to begin each dive. Note that this is more physically demanding than boat diving, and you may want to get in a few extra exercise/workout sessions prior to the trip to maximize your enjoyment.

Gear Lists: stuff to bring

SCUBA gear (most can be rented if needed):

wetsuit (7mm fullsuit and vest, 2-piece 7mm suit, or equivalent; a drysuit would be even better, but expensive and requires additional training)

hood (or hooded vest)

boots (5mm+)

gloves (3mm or 5mm)

mask

snorkel (optional)

fins

Buoyancy Compensator (BC)

Regulator Set: 1st stage, 2- 2nd stages (primary and backup), pressure and depth gauges, bottom timer (waterproof watch) or dive computer

Tank (AL80 is fine, HP steel even better if available)

Weight belt (with at least 20-25 lbs of weight, some people may need more).

Dive lights (necessary for night diving, which is optional): one primary (big), one backup (small)

Dive knife or shears

Whistle

Personal gear:

Clothing (include a WARM jacket & hat)	water bottle
toiletries/personal stuff	camera
sleeping bag/pad	scuba certification card
spending \$ (include change for parking meters)	scuba log book
snack food (there are grocery stores in Monterey)	scuba dive table

Estimated trip cost per person:

\$50-100 transportation (gas)
\$90 food (depends on your food choices)
\$102 motel (tentative)
\$50 air fills (will depend on the # of dives you do)
??? SCUBA rentals/purchases

Total: ~\$300 per person (estimated minimum)

SCUBA Rental fees if you wait until CA to rent stuff (approximate):

BC: \$16/day	Weight Belt w/ weight: \$10/day
Regs: \$14/day	tank: \$11/day (includes high-volume steel cylinders)
Wetsuit (plus hood, boots, gloves): \$25/day	

Note: can rent complete scuba package in Monterey (all of above, plus more) for ~\$80/day (additional days half off). See <http://www.mbdscuba.com> for details.

Suggestion: rent gear ahead of time from Hans (\$125 for entire trip for all scuba and personal gear) or Neptune Divers (in SLC; \$128 for 10-day scuba gear rental). Could also buy some gear in advance.

SCUBA skills we may work on during the trip:

Buoyancy, proper weighting and gear configuration
Beach entries and exits
Critter identification (fish, invertebrates, algae, etc)
Kelp diving
Night diving
Deep diving (to ~80 ft, deeper possible for those with additional training and experience)
Rescue techniques
Navigation
Underwater Photography

Recommended Resources:

See links on scuba club trip web page:
<http://www.usu.edu/scuba/monterey2009.html>

As of 01 March 2009, we currently have 6 people planning to come: JW, AW, DH, AH, WL, KR