

# Minimal Impact Tips: Scuba Diving



You don't like to be chased or poked by a stranger or have someone pointing a torch in your face. Neither do marine animals. Avoid stressing them so everybody underwater is having a good time.

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Work on your buoyancy and finning techniques. You can join courses and/or train in the pool. By being in control, you greatly limit your contacts with the reef and the ground. Most damaging contacts come from your fins. Did you know that stirring the ground has more negative impacts than just reducing the visibility? It upsets marine life habitats.

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If you aren't diving with your usual equipment, do a weight check before starting the dive. Being overweight can impact your buoyancy and lead you to damage the marine environment.



If you need to hold onto something underwater, make sure it's dead (like a rock). Corals or kelp can get damaged if you touch them.

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Research shows that photographers damage the reef more than other divers. [Source: GreenFins] You may like your photos more if you know they didn't involve invading the animal's space, getting it stressed and scared.

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If you see something that shouldn't be down there, you may want to pick it up, if it is safe to do so.

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Ensure all your gear is secured to avoid dropping and dragging on precious habitats.

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Have you thought about participating in a citizen science project? Check out Project Manta, Grey Nurse Watch, Coral Watch and others in your local area.

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If you're unsure about how to behave, ask your ECO Certified operator. Ecotourism operators have in depth knowledge of their surrounding environment and how to preserve it. They'll be happy to give you local tips to protect it.

