



# The Whaler

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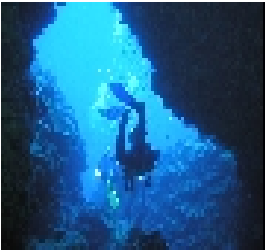
## Up and coming trips



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1. Seven Sisters. Trip to be run by Andy Gray. For those who want to experience some of the best diving that Taiwan has to offer, this is a must do dive. Not for the faint hearted, only advanced divers and above, who are confident in deploying Surface Marker buoys and other dive safety equipment including reel, a whistle or air horn, a mirror, a strobe, or a waterproof flare etc. (choose two). Sometimes big swells get up pretty fast out at the Seven Sisters making it difficult for the boat captain to see divers in the water, add that to a swift surface current and you have a serious problem if you are not noticed. All of the safety equipment for diving is available at the dive shop on Tzu Chiang Rd near the 85 building Kaohsiung.  
Seven Stars is an awesome dive, viz is usually in the 30-50 metre range and there is lots and lots of marine life, plus an old wreck of a steam ship, if we are able to hit the right spot. This of course attracts big pelagics (big fish) and if lucky you will see Shark, Barracuda, Jacks, Tuna, Eagle Rays, Turtles, and in season big game fish, as well as all the usual stuff, which out there is super sized !!!!.
2. Penghu, For those who have not already had the experience Penghu is fantastic, Just read the stories, Long weekend 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> October. No trip organiser to date, but all contact numbers available for the brave heart.

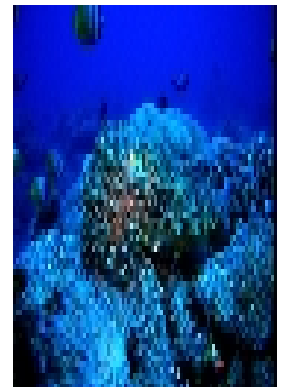
3.



Green Island Trip to be run by Andy Gray. Dive trip during school winter vacation next year (around Chinese New year), Last year at the end of February well over 200 Hammerheads were seen and caught on video! Only experienced divers with at least Advanced Open Water are eligible for this trip, as there are usually fast running currents which rip through the dive site. Plenty of time to get organised for this one.

4.

Diving of Orchid Island, Trip to be run by Andy Gray Probable the most renowned dive trip in Taiwan, which is excellent, as good if not better than Andy has done in Thailand or the Philippines; it has exceptional viz around 40~50 metres, plus outstanding corals and marine life ( He saw the biggest Giant moray eel he had ever seen back in January, with a 9 inch jaw line! So he says)  
Diving here is open to all competent Open Water divers, but it would be better if you had your Advance Open Water certification as some of the dives are deep and drift. We will stay in a small hotel, approx 1200 to 1600NT for a double room with twin beds, aircon and TV. Boat diving (not of shore) will cost about 1000 to 1600NT per day including tanks and weight belts, depending on how many people we have on the boat. Food is Chinese and it works out cheap if we all eat together. The boat rental is a fixed price regardless of how many divers there are on board.  
Another great opportunity not to be missed!!!!!!!



5. Kenting, diving here will get better during the winter months as the viz improves and the Typhoon's cease, shore diving is available but had work going in and out of the water over the



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rocks, 2 good dive sites at Hooby Hoo and Coral Gardens, both with a maximum depth of 15 – 18 metres, Ideal for any one who has been out of diving for a while to fine tune their skills. Boat diving is available at 2000Nt per person for two dives tanks and weights, additional kit can be hired from Sammy's. Accommodation varies depending on what type you require, from 400Nt to 5000Nt for the upper crust. Any none working weekend is good. Drop Clive or Wayne an email if you would like to go.

**All trips will go on a first come first served basis, as most of the dive boats only take a fixed number of personnel.**

## Dive Trip Stories.

### Penghu Weekend Sept 05, Island reconnaissance by Billy No Mates



Well another weekend and nothing to do but work, not much option than to go for exploratory trip to the islands of Penghu. The priority of the trip was to find a dive shop and dive information, to weigh up the logistics of travelling to Kenting. The planned trip started of with 4 buddies, too busy, can't afford it and too tired, dropped out one by one, so Billy no mates went for a boat ride on his lonesome, and what a trip it turned out to be.

Found out the hard way that Amping port is 5 minutes from hotel and not a 3hr bike ride 47K to next port, with the wind against you coming back, with b\*\*\* rash along with the other hundred ailments I had from the drink the night before.

On a bright Saturday morning at 7.30 the Uranus left Amping harbour for Penghu, 10 minutes into the journey I was sleeping like a baby only to be woken by the drop of the engine motors as we pulled in the harbour entrance of Penghu.

Not wanting to be stung in the tourist trap area of the port I ventured in land and found a little corner shop that did island tours.

Lancastrian Chinese's is not spoken to widely on the island and once again I struggled to cope with the native language, only to be told that there was no diving on Penghu, but lots of water sports at the top end (north of the island), so on the cheap ( by pure luck) I bought the cheapest boat ticket to the nearest Island Jibei, bus ticket 38NT, very patient bus driver sat for a full two minutes before I realized he could not speak Lancastrian Chinese either, and politely pointed for me to leave the bus in the direction of the hill. Strange saying "follow your nose" but doing just that I ended up in a beautiful little harbour. After some more enquires I was given the phone number of a dive shop back where I started in Mangong.

A 20 minute boat ride to Jibei dropped me form what can only be described as a true marvel of nature seeing the long white stretch of sand leave the lush green landscape.



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Found out the local rates for apartment (dog kennels), not very impressed, 5 hours of walking, reading and generally watching water sport, flew by and it was time to return home, (that's how good a feel factor it all ready had on me). Had to return to the shop as I had book a hotel (flea pit) with them, and returned to collect the name and location. Contacted the dive shop which turned out to be 100m form travel shop, The dive shop had a local guy who was fluent in Lancastrian Chinese, and interpreted to the owner the "whalers" future plans, (at the right price). Deal struck time to find hotel, shower and change out on the town, Bright lights, little city, slow pace of life, great pasta restaurant, couple of beers & bed, heaven.

Breakfast right on the doorstep (literally), nothing planned as such, so tried the travel shop to see what other boat tours where available, missed the southern island sailings by 10 minutes, Loads of scooters, bluffed my passport through as my driving licence and off I went, round and round in circles, trying to get out of the down town area, eventually found the open roads and started to explore all of the labyrinth of lanes and jetties which are everywhere. Again the time flew by and time to return to Taiwan, and the comforts of the J.R Plaza. The wind had got up a fair bit and made the crossing back a little interesting.

Dive trip planned for the adventurous on the 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> of September, will have to wait for the proof of the pudding before I start to crow how it had been made possible.

Reported by  
Vice President of tourism Penghu  
[c-hunter@tsc-tokyo.gr.jp](mailto:c-hunter@tsc-tokyo.gr.jp) ;

## Instructors Dive adventure.



How much more pleasant is to go diving off a boat than driving up and down the countryside. Following on from the "recon" completed by Clive, the group assembled at the wharf to depart. I am not sure if some of the crew have been up this early in the morning. If this wasn't exciting enough for an early start on a Saturday morning additional entertainment was provided by "stressed out Eric" and family who later was found not be German but French. Father John using his detective skills cleared that matter prior to docking on Monday night.

Alan always being a helpful sort of person, when someone is running late provided some boat boarding tips to poor old Eric. Something like, "get on the boat:". The boat Captain also assisted by blowing the ship's horn many times. His daughter provided additional stress to poor old Eric on the boat by donating here breakfast on to mum's dress. This then give some people additional incentive to move to new seats.



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## Easy Riders by Father John Day

I didn't have my driving licence so I thought I wouldn't be able to hire a scooter. But in true local entrepreneurial fashion the rental shop lady didn't lose a customer, waived the requirement and told me to drive below 60 km/hr to avoid police problems and gave me the key. Already easy riders Lovell and Gillen had been zooming around Penghu and the first sight we got of them was when burnt bright red they riened in their trusty steeds in front of the dive shop. Alan used the old ram the van method of stopping. And we found out that he was quite a boy racer later. When we were in convoy burning around the islands he raced ahead on his little 50cc moped while the rest of us, Wayne, Suzuki, Peter & me on our 125cc hogs ate his dust. We could be identified by the hats under our helmets. They looked strange but kept us from being burnt by the viscous sun.



You have to rent a scooter to see the place. The roads are much less crowded than the kamakaze video game you play riding on the mainland. The road surfaces are really good everywhere.

Bridges link the islands right out to the lighthouse - closed on Mondays and public holidays. Why? But a cheery Colonel Grump glowing with satisfaction after getting his Open Water certification, comforted the disappointed local tourists by making himself an alternative tourist attraction and gave and took photo opportunities to all comers. V for victory.

There is an army post there too. Ready for the imminent invasion from their country men in China. Looks like a good dive spot down below the lighthouse too. In fact there looks like there are lots of good places to dive around the islands.



We all liked the village on the other side of the same headland. Set up a few waterfront bars serving cold chardonnay or sauvignon blanc and big juicy prawns and the place could be ideal.

I liked the village where big fishing boats where being refurbished right on the main street looming their huge bright painted bows over our buzzing invasion. Seeing the boats below the waterline made you appreciate how capable they would be out at sea. The ornate temple there made me wonder why if so much care can be lavished on temples why can't the other buildings get the same attention.

Temples are everywhere often in spectacular positions overlooking the sea.



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Then there was the banyan tree expedition. We followed instructions from the guy at the ferry port and went directly there, not far from the 2km bridge joining the islands together. The huge tree spread over the part of the town square was amazing to see on an island almost bereft of trees. Why we decided that this was not the banyan tree we were looking for is beyond me. Off we raced exploring every detour but no other tree was to be found.

We almost went for a swim under the soaring vanes of the wind farm. The sea looked so inviting from up on the hill. But at the water's edge we were again disappointed by the rubbish and debris that made entry into the water impossible.

When we got back to Magong it seemed that we had all escaped injury riding our scooters over the weekend until Clive showed me the big gash on his arm and described how a wheelie bin jumped out and attacked him while he was trying an old Mods vs Rocker maneuver.

## Pats first Experience (of diving in Taiwan).



Clean air, clear blue skies, warm blue water and great company, what more can you ask for?

Last weekend I enjoyed a great trip to Penghu Island, for a bit of R & R. George (my better half) and myself along with Helen Jason and Sophie flew from Kaohsiung, it took only 30 minutes, the rest of the gang took the ferry from Tainan. The diving was great, lots of beautiful corals in blues and purples reds and yellows, and a fantastic variety of fish, including a 2 - 3 ft crocodile fish (knowing how men exaggerate though could have been 6ft), a rather sleepy sting ray, (even when poked) thank goodness, and a group of 4 or 5 Lion fish, my favourite was the two Puffer fish.

The whole experience was friendly and comfortable for me - being the only girl diving, can't wait for the next trip boys. Maybe a little bit bigger boat next time. The dive site's provided great "viz" and a very good selection of fish life. There was a nice wall with loads of coral and fish life for us to see. Well done to Jason who passed his Open Water, with a long swim and water tread.



Prepared by Pat Smith care of [g-smith@tsc-tokyo.gr.jp](mailto:g-smith@tsc-tokyo.gr.jp)



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## Sundays Dive -

### The Sunday Crew



Crew change for the Sunday dive, only the good the bad and the ugly could go, which made us a dive group of five plus the Dive leader. A new location was for this dive, the viz was not quite as good as on Saturday but the current was stronger, which provided a good drift dive.

Good fish life and hard corals Peter achieved his Open water qualification; join the rest of the elite dive crew.

Suzuki somehow manages to come up with nearly as much air as he went in with.

There are still lots more dive sites to be explored, these first couple have only wetted our appetite to revisit Penghu again.

### Kate & Lifen's trip to Penghu

It is my pleasure to be telling you what we have experienced on a long weekend on full moon festival 17-18 September 2005, although this is in exchange for Clive to just change his ring tone from the same as mine forever.

It was very exciting to be away from our sweat factory to a nice, famous and beautiful Penghu Island, although there was nothing behind the earlier misleading ads of the giant stuff (Wooh).

We arrived Penghu on late morning of 17 Sep.05, heading on a boat trip to Jibei on the very northern side of the mainland Makong, of course, we also went for a motorbike ride which was absolutely fantastic, the trip around the island took us only an hour to visit all lovely coasts and beaches, after that we were heading a back on the boat a bit further south to Chipei Island, the smallest island I ever saw which I named "a sand drop" lots of water activities; banana boat, jet ski, etc.

18 Sep.05, a day for snorkelling, well....first time...for myself, the sea seemed to be too violent, due to the full moon tide, we could only snorkel around safely rocky area with water level at my hip (2ft) but the corals and small fishes were still lovely, I could not imagine how wonderful diving would be. I again sucked in a lot of water, problem with breathing, stopped thinking about diving by then.



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We finished our perfect trip by a ferry back to Tainan from Makong on the 4:30pm sailing on the most important full moon in Taiwan. It was the most horrible boat ride ever!!! The wave's seemed to be 2-3 miles high although some would think about 10 miles high. It was a most terrible trip after 30 minutes off shore, kids stopped laughing and started screaming and crying, the local Taiwanese guys who previously looked just like scary gangster to me, were screaming such vomiting voice like pregnant women, people were lined up in front of the toilets to vomit, some didn't make it and exploded on to the passenger seats, I do not want to describe the smell, even the ferry crew did not know, what they where walking on.



The Air-conditioning was a freezing sensation, but nobody seemed to bother, the kids were left crying as the only mission the parents could do at that time was controlling themselves from throwing up. The Taiwanese people looked even more pale faced. We thought about what Clive's group trip were going to experience the following day. After 2 hours in a moving hell, we arrived Tainan safely, some probably lost weight for 1-2 kilogram. I never wanted to be back to solid Taiwan ground like that before.

It was absolutely perfect trip for me (being a hard case) but next time my gang prefers air-flight or non-full moon trip to the beautiful Penghu. Shame on you ferry for making so many people suffer.



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## The trip back

The icing on the cake after a great weekend away was seeing a pod of dolphins half back on the boat. As you can see these people didn't enjoy the trip back. What a way to switch off for a few days.



## The "Hunter's Arms"



At the end of each day somehow people gathered at the newest drinking spot in Penghu the "Hunters Arms". The front bar at the "Arms" became quite full after each dive day. Many discussions took place between group on the "viz", "depth and time" and the use of the stereophonic ear muff mask that were to be tried on Sunday. The stockers of the establishment's fridge had to work over time to keep the beer up. After this weekend they were seen to buying there new retirement home based on their profits.



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## ***Congratulations***

Over the weekend two of the group achieved their PADI Open Water Dive qualifications, congratulations to Jason and Peter who now join the elite club of spending money. Well done guys.



## **Congratulations to Jack Jenkins.**

True Brit Jack who has only been in Australia 12 months has just won the player of the year award for Central Under 9s team in Townsville Queensland

Jack learned most of his Rugby skills from his uncle Clive.



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## Training in Progress

John Day                   – Rescue course  
George Smith           - Nitrox  
Clive Hunter           - Nitrox

A further Discover Scuba course will be run at the Tainan Pool, this will be the last occasion for any none divers to join this already expanding group of adventures, into the undersea world.

## Feature article, fishing in Hua Hin Thailand.

Here's a fishy story.  
Like going Lake Fishing? Visiting Thailand? Anywhere near Hua Hin?  
If you do –  
Then try us out at Hua Hin Fishing Lodge. We can offer a fun fishing day in peaceful surroundings with 23 different species in two well equipped ponds. We have BBQ facilities so you can sample fresh Pla Nin and Pla Pacu, or your own catch  
We also have 'sport' (Catch & Release) varieties such as Giant Mekong  
Catfish, Giant Siamese Carp and others. We provide a full day's fishing including pick-up and transportation to and from the Cha-Am, Hua Hin area to our fishing park, use of rod & tackle, supply of bait and attendant, buffet lunch (alcohol extra).  
All inclusive price of THB 1,500 / day / person.  
Transport to and from Bangkok and accommodation in Hua Hin can be arranged at extra cost

Our accommodation will be open next year. If you are interested, visit [www.huahinfishing.com](http://www.huahinfishing.com) for more details

## Polo Shirts

For these that have ordered Polo Shirts they will be delivered around the end of the month. There are a few spare in this order. As the demand arises we will reorder.

## Interesting Reading Links

- Palau - dive sites

<http://images.google.com/images?svnum=10&hl=en&lr=&q=Palau&btnG=Search>

- PADI - dive information



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<http://www.padi.com/english/default.asp?o=ap>

- Nitrox diving explained

<http://www.gasdiving.co.uk/pages/misc/Nitrox.htm>

## Competition Time

**“LANCASTRIAN/CHINESE UNIVERSITY 1<sup>ST</sup> YEAR EXAMINATION PAPER”**

**(COMPREHENSIVE)**

**DECIPHER THE FOLLOWING:-**

1. THAMMUN GERRIT THISSELL
2. GIUZIT
3. GEROFIT
4. EEEZITINTIZ BURRA BERRITIS
5. SUMMOFUSUL AFERT GERROF
6. THAMUN GERRIT LERNT
7. SHUT THIGOB
8. AST SEENIM ONT TELLY
9. ATOWDIM BURRI WUNT LISSEN
10. THAKON IFTHA WONTS
11. CAWFORUSATAPASTAITITMORNIN
12. THALUKS OWDER BART TEETH
13. THAT INTIT
14. OOZTHAT NOKINONT LOBBIDOOER
15. THAGAWMLUSS BUGGER

**PLEASE SEND YOUR ENTRIES TO [c-hunter@tsc-tokyo.gr.jp](mailto:c-hunter@tsc-tokyo.gr.jp)**

**ENTRY RESULTS WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE “WHALER”**

**For sale**

**Dive equipment in Taipei**

- BCD lady 's cut medium size
- MARES regulators

contact Steve Carter MHI Taipei 0930176221

**Trip photos**

Mitch has a prepared a free site where some of the better trip photos are stored. The address is



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Being worked on and will be advised when finished.

## **Distribution Lists**

There is a lot of people working in various companies on this project who are qualified divers or just interested in diving. Please pass this newsletter around and as interested parties read it please have contact the editor of the newsletter to add them to the distribution list

## **Member List**

I would like to have a consolidated list of all people who get the Whales so that individuals can contact others should events or trips be arranged. The format would be as below. If you don't want your contact details in a general mail out list please advise.

Should you need any contact information for any of the articles in this edition please let me know

We are preparing a complete list of many contacts. We hope to issue it out in the next "Whaler"

**Yours in Safe Diving fair winds and fine viz.**

**Thanks to all that contributed to this edition**