

## How can I help protect the marine environment?

Don't forget that when diving in the marine environment, we are just visitors. For this activity to be sustainable our presence should be as unobtrusive as possible. Please remember:

- Do not feed animals or do anything to alter the environment and the balance of nature

- Control your buoyancy. The environment around you is fragile and easily damaged by knocks.

- Refrain from spearfishing, there are other ways to enjoy marine life while respecting the environment. Please remember that spearfishing is prohibited in Reserve Zone A.

- Avoid interacting with marine mammals may approach you.

- Those interested in underwater photography or night time diving should limit the use of artificial light as this disturbs marine life.

- Do not remove anything from the seabed except the waste you may find (fishing weights, lines, nets, fishing lines, tins, plastic etc)

- Extreme caution should be taken in underwater caves and hollows. Avoid them unless you have been properly trained.

## Regulations for scuba diving

### Where can I dive?

- In Zone A with authorization and in Zone B with 15 days prior notification.

- Night diving requires authorization for all zones.

- Due to their fragility, the abrasion platforms in zone A1 are out of bounds to the general public including divers.

### Where and how do I get authorization?

- To dive in Zone A you need to apply to "la Consejería de Agricultura, Pesca y

Medio Ambiente" presenting the following **documents**: application, map, the boat's seaworthiness certificate ("Certificado de Navegabilidad"), proof of ownership ("Hoja de Asiento"); a valid scuba diving federation licence (FEDAS) except for those companies catering for active tourism. You can also apply online at the Consejería de Agricultura, Pesca y Medio webpage.

## Participating companies

Yellowsub  
(CETS Information point)  
[www.yellowsubtarifa.com](http://www.yellowsubtarifa.com)

Caetearía  
[www.caetariabuceo.com](http://www.caetariabuceo.com)

Cies Sub  
[www.divetarifa.com](http://www.divetarifa.com)

Scorpora  
[www.buceoscorporas.com](http://www.buceoscorporas.com)

## Useful addresses

Oficina del Parque Natural del Estrecho  
C/ Coghen, 3  
San Fernando (Cádiz)  
Tif. 856 58 00 10  
Pn.delestrecho.cma@juntadeandalucia.es

Punto de Información del Estrecho  
Ctra N-340, km 77,5  
Tarifa (Cádiz)  
Tif. 671 590 877

Centro de Visitantes Huerta Grande  
Ctra N-34, km 96  
El Pelayo. Algeciras.  
(Cádiz)  
Tif. 671 590 887

CEGMA  
(Centro De Gestión del Medio Marino)  
Algeciras (Cádiz)  
Tif. 956 673 835

María del Carmen Arroyo.



Reserva de la Biosfera Intercontinental del Mediterráneo  
Andalucía (España) - Marruecos

# Scuba diving



Gustavo Maqueda

The **Parque Natural del Estrecho** is a terrestrial and maritime nature park covering 18,931 hectares. Half of this area is made up of the waters which extend one mile out to sea running parallel to the shore from Cabo de Gracia in Tarifa to Punta de San García in Algeciras.

Located between the Atlantic and the Mediterranean, it is an **area of considerable biological and biogeographic interest** particularly as it is the point of convergence between three marine provinces: Lusitanian, Mauritanian and Mediterranean.

The coastal waters of the Strait of Gibraltar forms one of the areas of greatest biodiversity in Europe with more than 1900 species of marine fauna and flora, some previously unknown to the scientific community. It is therefore an amazing place for scuba diving.

This Parque Natural forms part of what, in 2006, was named the **Reserva de la Biosfera Intercontinental del Mediterráneo**.

PARQUE NATURAL  
Del Estrecho



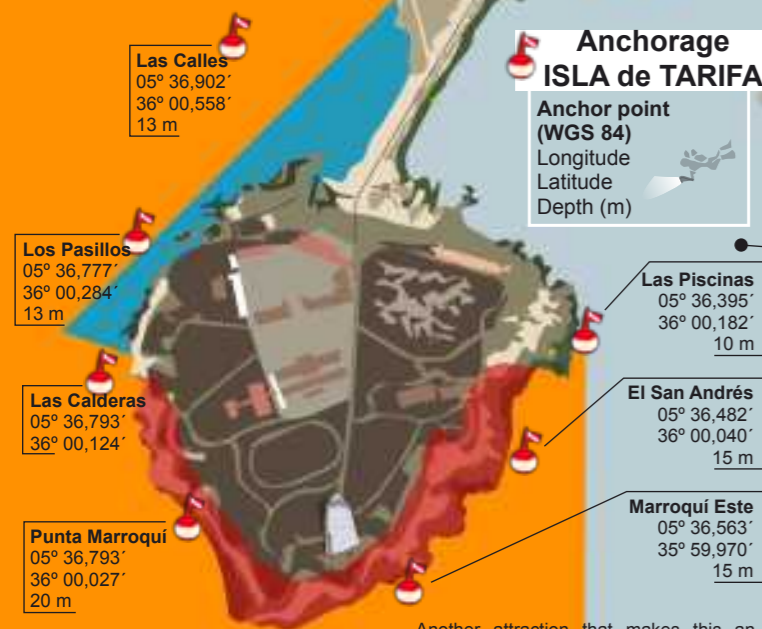
UNIÓN EUROPEA



JUNTA DE ANDALUCÍA  
CONSEJERÍA DE AGRICULTURA, PESCA Y MEDIO AMBIENTE

Sixto García





**Anchorage ISLA de TARIFA**

Anchor point (WGS 84)  
Longitude  
Latitude  
Depth (m)

### Isla de Tarifa

Isla de Tarifa is the southernmost point of Europe and also marks the geographical divide between the Atlantic and the Mediterranean. Parts of the seabed around the island are quite unique and are notably different from those found elsewhere on the Cádiz coast. In the lowest sandy depths you can find "forests" of *Laminaria ochroleuca*. There are also coral and gorgonian colonies as well as sponges and ascidia – a true underwater paradise. Fish seek refuge and feed around the island and in its caves, providing a spectacle of immense beauty.

Another attraction that makes this an exceptional spot for scuba diving is the various shipwrecked vessels which lie on the seabed near the island. These include the San Andrés and Las Calderas which sank at the end of the 19th century.

### The Shipwreck of San Andrés

In April 1856 the Heredia family of Málaga chartered the Ribera del Miño to sail to the Port of Seville. Around 10 O'clock at night it was struck by the English frigate HMS Minden and just a few minutes later it sank along with 64 of those on board. The shipwreck gets its name from the vessel's lead ballast which came from the San Andrés mines.



### Anchoring boats to be used for underwater activities:

To help preserve the seabeds in el Parque Natural del Estrecho, the anchoring of boats outside designated places in **Zone A** and at depths of less than 20 metres in **Zone B** is strictly prohibited.

**A Zone** (Orange)  
**B Zone** (Blue)  
**A1 Zone** (Red)

The anchorages have been co-financed by **MedPAN NORTH** project and have been adapted to the seabed with an ecological design.



Sixto García

To facilitate sustainable scuba diving in el Parque Natural del Estrecho there are designated buoyed areas for the exclusive use of boats taking part in underwater activities. Please note:

- Authorization** from el Parque Natural del Estrecho is required
- A **maximum** of 2 boats per structure is permitted on a first come first serve basis.



Gustavo Maqueda



Rafael J. Sánchez



Manuel Pérez



**Anchorage ALGECIRAS**

Anchor point (WGS 84)  
Longitude  
Latitude  
Depth (m)

### Algeciras

Two different types of shoreline are discernible on either side of the Island of Tarifa. The coast that stretches to Punta Carnero is formed by rocky cliffs where

you can find arenose-loamy flysch formations from the Quaternary period and characteristic abrasion platforms. Attractive spots in this area to scuba dive include:

### Bajo del Bono

A gravel bed leading up to a rocky outcrop or peak. Well worth observing are the coral colonies on the rocky walls as well as the numerous shoals of fish.

### Punta San García

While the seabed is principally rocky, you can also find sand and gravel accumulations in certain areas. Here the sealife is abundant and the great variety of gorgonian colonies with their different tones make this spot particularly beautiful.



Manuel Pérez