

Dolphin Beach

How to dive it and how to get there.

Driving directions from Nanaimo

Just follow Hwy 19 north from Nanaimo to Northwest Bay Road and turn right. Then follow this winding road for a few kilometers and make another right at Stewart Road.

Stay on this road and it will naturally turn into Dolphin Drive, continue on and watch for Blueback Drive on your left (water side) and turn left here.

Follow Blueback Drive a short distance and after you make a sharp/blind right turn and down a little dip, there is an opening on your left where you can park a few cars and access the beach.

Driving time is approximately one half hour from Nanaimo.

A quick note about this dive site is that you need a minimum of a 10 foot rising tide (higher is even better) to make for an easier entrance/exit. It is a rocky beach so watch your step!

Don't let me dissuade you though, this is an excellent dive site.

Away from the beach at zero degrees and continue on this course.

You will gradually work your way deeper as you swim along some rolling terrain for about an 8 to 10 minute swim which will get you to the top of a wall (60fsw) that drops to a depth of 100 fsw plus.

There are lots of urchins on the swim out, beautifully coloured in purples and reds, and a nice variety of fish. We have also come across fairly large puget sound king crabs at Dolphin Beach as well as huge ling cod, octopus and wolf eels.

As you drop over the wall swim to your right (East) and explore along the walls many cracks and fissures. In this direction seems to be best.

When ready to turn back a heading of about 210 to 230 degrees will be your return bearing.

Depending on the time of year, (late spring, summer, and early fall) there can be some kelp to swim through at Dolphin Beach.

With a little current the kelp is beautiful, but it will try to grab you, so pick your way through carefully. If you need to be reminded, always carry a knife.

A cool variation to this dive is to pick a day with a large, rapidly ebbing tide and then simply ride the mild current a few tenths of a km east to the dive site at Tyee Cove and exit there.

We would suggest you stay around 50 to 60 feet in depth and just follow the natural contour.

It's a short walk back to Dolphin or you can bring two vehicles!

Note: If you get to the site and the wind is really blowing or the tide is too low for a decent entry, another minute further down the road is the Tyee Cove dive site.

Cheers and safe diving!

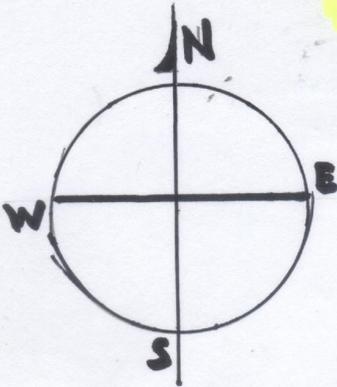
www.vancouver-island-dive-sites.com

Dolphin Beach Dive Site

100' fsw +

East at Drop Off

60' fsw
Top of
Drop Off



8-10 minute
Swim

210°-230°
Return

Bull
Kelp
20'
fsw

0'
out

Rock

Rock



Tyee Cove
Dive Site

Blueback Road

Parking

www.vancouver-island-dive-sites.com

