

Diving with Oceanic Whitetips

Pre-Dive Information for Guests

1. Oceanics are self-confident & inquisitive wild predators, that need to be respected.
2. NO swimming or snorkeling with oceanics.
3. Most important behavioural rules underwater:

Avoid behaving like potential prey: Stay calm, avoid erratic movements, stay alert, control your buoyancy, keep your eyes on the shark(s) & limit the time on the surface.

When closely approached by a shark, take a vertical position.

If necessary, calmly get a buffer (camera, fin, shark stick) between you and a closely approaching shark to avoid physical contact, or push a water wave towards it (ideally towards the gill area) from close range.

If necessary, gently guide a shark away from you without being overly aggressive.

If you notice a change in shark behaviour (getting 'excited' or 'agitated') or food in the water, keep your distance, or leave the area/water in a calm and orderly fashion.

Stay close to your buddies/group.

Staying close to the reef minimises the chances for close encounters with oceanics.

4. Procedures to safely enter & leave the water.

Check for oceanics before jumping off the boat or rolling of the zodiac.

Descend to a minimum of 5 metres as quickly as possible after entering the water.

For a zodiac pickup, be efficient and, if necessary, surface singly or in buddy pairs, while the rest of the group hovers on safety stop level.

If necessary, inflate your BCD on the surface next to the zodiac, get yourself in the zodiac, and then pick up your scuba unit.

Do not ask to be pulled back to the boat by zodiac.