



Diving Guide



FATHOM FIVE
NATIONAL MARINE PARK OF CANADA

TOBERMORY, ONTARIO

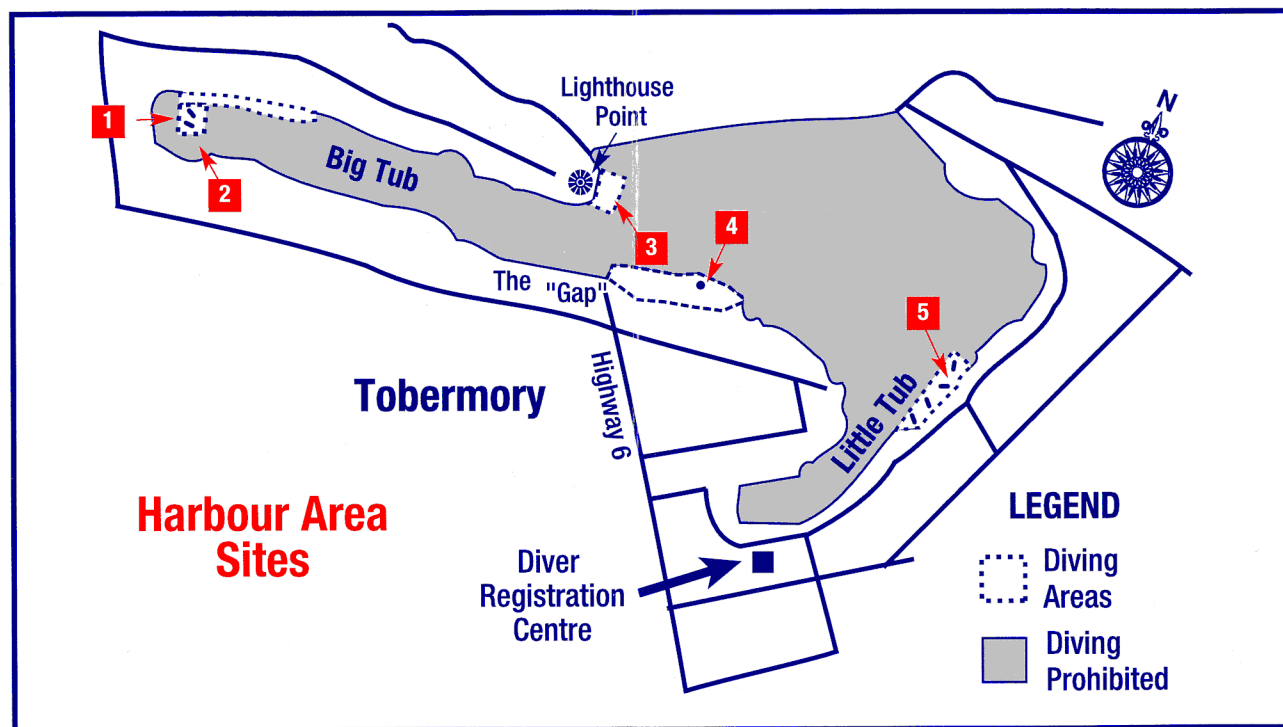
Harbour Area Sites

In the Tobermory harbours, diving is permitted only in the white areas indicated by numbers 1,2,3,4 and 5. Please respect the rights of private property owners near these dive sites.

There is considerable vessel traffic in the harbours. In order to ensure the safety of everyone, all diving must take place within 30 m (100 ft) of a displayed dive flag.

Tour boats do enter the Big Tub shipwreck area. Divers must follow the special operational policies for this site. A controlled access schedule is in effect for this site from the last Friday in June to the end of Labour Day Monday in September.

All vessel operators must register at the Parks Canada Visitor Centre before entering any of the designated diving sites. Please use extreme caution when operating near or within any of these areas.



- 1 SWEEPSTAKES** (two-masted schooner)
Built: Burlington, Ontario, 1867 by John Simpson
Length: 36.3 m (119 ft)
Depth: maximum depth 7 m (20 ft)
The Sweepstakes was damaged off Cove Island, then towed to Big Tub Harbour where she sank in September, 1885. The hull is still intact, with the windlass and a portion of the bow rail still in place. For both safety and conservation, penetration of the wreck is not permitted. One of the most popular wrecks in the park, it is visited by divers, snorkellers and tour boat passengers.

- 2 CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS** (steamer)
Built: Grand Haven, Michigan, 1879 by Duncan Robertson
Length: 37.3 m (122.5 ft)
Depth: maximum depth 5 m (15 ft)
The City of Grand Rapids was an elegant passenger steamer until it burned and sank in October, 1907. Its charred remains now lie in shallow water about 30 m (100 ft) from the wreck of the Sweepstakes. Its rudder and propeller are displayed at the local museum. This site is suitable for both divers and snorkellers.



Controlled Access Schedule Big Tub Harbour Shipwrecks

**From the last Friday in June to the end of
Labour Day Monday, inclusive:**

REGISTERED DIVERS PERMITTED:

Monday to Saturday – 4:00 pm to 10:30 pm
Sunday – 9 am to 12 noon and
4:00 pm to 10:30 pm

VESSELS WITH PERMIT:

Monday to Saturday – 9 am to 4:00 pm
Sunday – 12 noon to 4:00 pm

In spring and fall, other restrictions are in effect. Full details are available at the Parks Canada Visitor Centre.

3 BIG TUB LIGHTHOUSE POINT

(Lighthouse was built in 1885 and automated in 1952)

Depth: maximum 23 m (75 ft)

Limited parking - access via brick walkway - a washroom is available. Please respect the rights of adjacent private property owners. An interesting wall dive. Look for numerous crayfish in crevices in the rock. For your safety, limit diving to the area inside the restricted boating area markers.

4 THE ANCHOR

Depth: maximum 21 m (70 ft)

This large, wooden-stocked iron anchor from an unknown vessel provides an interesting viewing opportunity. The site can be approached by boat or a long swim from the "Gap" access area. Stay close to the shore and please respect the rights of adjacent property owners.

5 THE TUGS

Depth: maximum 13 m (40 ft)

Wreckage of four small steam tugs (Alice G, Robert K, John & Alex, Bob Foote).

Access via walkway to wooden deck area. Please use caution when entering and exiting this site. This is a good site for divers and snorkellers as well as a popular site for open water check-outs. It is also great for those wanting to observe divers in action. Site plan maps are available at the Parks Canada Visitor Centre. Washrooms and parking are available.

Diving Safety Recommendations

Parks Canada encourages all divers to adhere to safe diving practices including:

- **Certification:** all divers should be trained and certified by a recognized organization;
- **Dive flags:** ensure your dive flag is visible at all times in all water conditions. Stay within 15 m (50 ft) of your dive flag;
- **Cold water:** all waters in Fathom Five are classified as "cold water." Plan your dives as if they are 3 m (10 ft) deeper;
- **Physical condition:** a pre-existing medical condition could affect your diving ability. Your fitness level should match your cold water dive plans;
- **Never dive alone;**
- **Always dive in pairs:** the even-numbered buddy system offers essential safety in the event of difficulty;
- **Alcohol and drugs:** the use of alcohol or drugs when diving can have disastrous effects;
- **Vessel channels and docking areas:** do not dive in vessel channels, docking areas or any of the prohibited harbour areas;
- **Night diving:** only experienced divers should engage in night diving. Each diver should be equipped with adequate underwater lighting. Dive flags should be illuminated in a suitable manner to alert vessels in the area.

For more information, contact :

Fathom Five National Marine Park of Canada

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**REMEMBER - you must obtain an annual diver registration tag
before diving in Fathom Five National Marine Park and Bruce
Peninsula National Park.**

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Fathom Five National Marine Park

Fathom Five offers some of the best freshwater diving opportunities in Canada. Clear, clean water, submerged geological formations (cliffs, caves, overhangs) and over 20 historical shipwrecks offer a variety of underwater experiences. Everyone, from the novice snorkeller to the most advanced diving enthusiast, can find lots to explore and enjoy.

The Parks Canada Visitor Centre, located in Tobermory, offers diving exhibits, GPS coordinates for dive sites and up-to-date information while you register to dive.

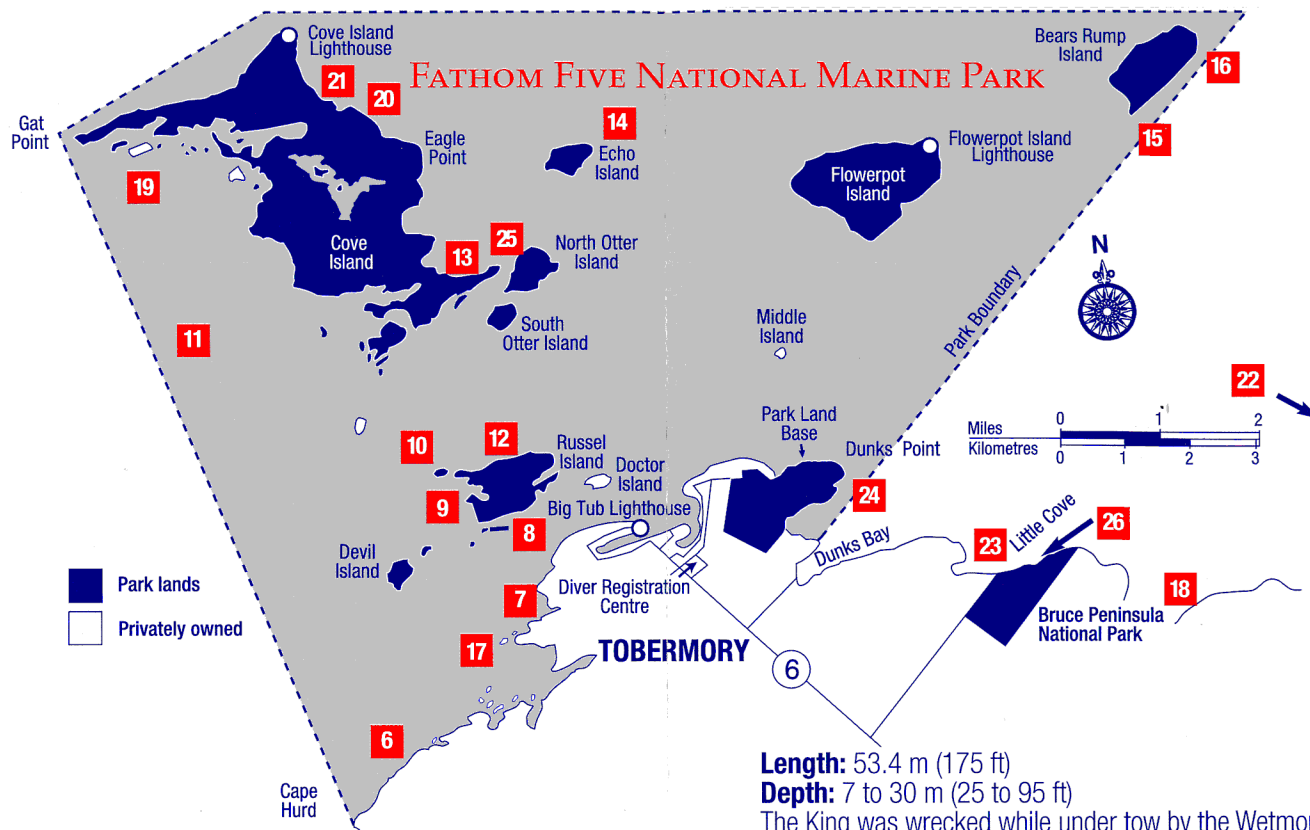
Park Rules and Regulations

Regulations are enforced to ensure resource protection and visitor safety. Please be aware of the following:

- Prior to diving in the park, each diver is required to register annually at the Parks Canada Visitor Centre. There is a fee for registration which helps support our mooring float system, emergency response services, underwater research programs and the Tobermory Hyperbaric Chamber;
- A dive flag must be displayed at all times and within 30 m (100 ft) of all diving activity. Vessels use the blue and white code signal "Alpha" flag. Towed or anchored floats must display the red and white divers' flag;
- Removal, damage or disturbance of any natural or cultural feature, or on-site equipment is prohibited;
- Vessels entering designated restricted boating areas must have the required permit (purchase at the Visitor Centre). No anchoring is permitted into any shipwreck site; use a mooring buoy or the natural lake bed;
- Never leave a boat unattended when used for diving. At least one person must be left on board when the boat is anchored or moored;
- In Fathom Five, camping is permitted only in designated areas on Flowerpot Island.

Site Descriptions

- 6 CASCADEN** (schooner)
Built: Southampton, Ontario, 1866
Depth: maximum 6 m (20 ft)
 Wrecked in October, 1871, the vessel is badly broken up and spread over a large area.
- 7 CHINA** (two-masted schooner)
Built: Port Robinson, Ontario, 1863 by J. & J.E. Abbey
Length: originally 38.1 m (124 ft) then lengthened to 41.8 m (137 ft)
Depth: maximum 3 m (10 ft)



Wrecked on China Reef in November, 1883, it is badly broken up. The main portion is close to shore; the rudder is about 100 m (330 ft) northwest of the main wreckage.

- 8 JOHN WALTERS** (two-masted schooner)
Built: Picton, Ontario, 1874 by William Redmond
Length: 32.9 m (108 ft)
Depth: 5 m (15 ft)
 Wrecked in November, 1883. Limited wreckage remains. Items of note: heavy keelson and centreboard box and glacial scours. Suitable for novice divers and snorkellers.
- 9 W. L. WETMORE** (steamer)
Built: Cleveland, Ohio, 1871 by Quayle & Martin
Length: 65.1 m (213.7 ft)
Depth: 7 m (25 ft)
 Wrecked during a storm in November, 1901. A large amount of timber. Look for the impressive boiler, anchor, chain and rudder. Interesting bedrock features. Suitable for divers of all levels of experience and snorkellers.
- 10 JAMES C. KING** (originally a three-masted barque, later converted to a schooner rig, and lastly a barge)
Built: East Saginaw, Michigan, 1867 by Samuel J. Tripp

Length: 53.4 m (175 ft)

Depth: 7 to 30 m (25 to 95 ft)

The King was wrecked while under tow by the Wetmore in November, 1901. The rudder may be found in the shallows near the bowpost. This site is suitable for advanced divers only.

- 11 NEWAYGO** (steam barge)
Built: East Saginaw, Michigan, 1890 by Alexander Anderson
Length: 59.7 m (196 ft)
Depth: maximum 8 m (25 ft)
 Wrecked in November, 1903. Scattered wreckage. The main portion lies flat on the bottom. Note the massive timbers used during construction. Excellent for all divers. The site's open conditions require suitable weather.
- 12 PHILO SCOVILLE** (originally a two-masted schooner, later converted to three masts)
Built: Cleveland, Ohio, 1863 by Quayle & Martin
Length: 42.5 m (139 ft 6 in)
Depth: 7 to 30 m (25 to 95 ft)
 The vessel was wrecked during a storm in October, 1889. The bow, including the bowsprit, can be found at the deeper depths and the anchors are located about 30 m (100 ft) east of the main wreckage. This site is recommended for advanced divers only.

13 CHARLES P. MINCH (three-masted schooner)
Built: Vermilion, Ohio, 1867 by Isaac W. Nicholas
Length: 47.2 m (154.7 ft)
Depth: 6 to 16 m (20 to 50 ft)
The Minch was driven onto the rocks in October, 1898. The wreck is spread over Tecumseh Cove, Cove Island. The main wreckage is found close to shore near the head of the cove. Of note are portions of two rudders. The second (situated west of the inner mooring buoy) is likely from the schooner Tecumseh, which was wrecked in the area in 1882. The Tecumseh was 33.8 m (111 ft) long and built in Goderich, Ontario in 1862 by Henry Marlon. This is a good site for all levels of experience.

14 ARABIA (three-masted barque)
Built: Kingston, Ontario, 1853 by George Thurston
Length: 40.1 m (131.6 ft)
Depth: maximum depth 37 m (120 ft)
Foundered off Echo Island in October, 1884. The wreck is in good condition. The bow section with bowsprit, windlass and anchors, is particularly impressive. This site is only recommended for advanced diving groups under the direction of a divemaster. There may be strong currents. Weather conditions must be considered.

15 MARION L. BRECK (schooner)
Built: Kingston, Ontario, 1863 by Calvin & Breck
Length: 38.7 m (127 ft)
Depth: the major portion is at 28 m (90 ft)
The Breck served as a temporary troop ship during the Riel Rebellion. The vessel struck the rocks near Bears Rump Island and broke up in October, 1900. The main portion lies in deeper water. Scattered wreckage, a capstan and an anchor may be found in the shallows.

16 FOREST CITY (originally a three-masted schooner, later converted to a steamer)
Built: Cleveland, Ohio, 1870 by E. M. Peck
Length: 66 m (216.7 ft)
Depth: 18 to 46 m (60 to 150 ft)
The ship struck the east side of Bears Rump Is. in the fog and sank in June, 1904. The bow lies at about 18 m (60 ft) while the stern is at 46 m (150 ft). Suitable for highly advanced divers only.

17 AVALON VOYAGEUR II (motor ship)
Built: Clarenville, Newfoundland, 1947
Length: 41.2 m (135 ft)
Depth: maximum depth 8 m (25 ft)
The Avalon served in the Newfoundland fish trade for 30 years and was then used as a floating restaurant in

Kincardine. In October, 1980 while on a relocation trip to Owen Sound, she was stranded and subsequently burned by vandals. Only the bottom portion remains but there is quite a bit of machinery. A good snorkel site.

18 CAROLINE ROSE (schooner)
Built: Lunenburg, Nova Scotia, 1940
Length: 39.6 m (132 ft)
Depth: maximum depth 16.5 m (55 ft)
The Caroline Rose was towed to Driftwood Cove on the Georgian Bay shore by a group of sport divers and sunk as a dive site in late August, 1990. Located outside the park. There are a variety of tools and fittings on site.

19 20 21 UNIDENTIFIED WRECKS
Widely scattered material of limited interest to the average sport diver. Depths vary to a maximum of 29 m (90 ft).

22 THE CAVES
Depth: The submerged grotto entrance is 6 m (20 ft) deep. Located along the Georgian Bay shoreline about 19 km (12 mi) east of Tobermory. Trail access for hikers from Cyprus Lake Head of Trails. Explore the hidden passages leading from inside the Grotto to the open waters of Georgian Bay. Recommended for all levels of diving experience and snorkellers. Diving access via boat from Tobermory.

23 LITTLE COVE (Dave's Bay)
Depth: 13 m (40 ft)
Popular area for open water check-outs. Look for geological formations such as pitting, glacial erratics and bedrock layering. Limited parking. Please respect the rights of adjacent private property owners.

24 DUNKS POINT
Interesting geological formations, including good examples of "pitting". A wooden-stocked anchor and chain lie just off the point in about 18 m (60 ft) of water.

25 NORTH OTTER WALL
Depth: maximum 13 m (40 ft)
Popular geological dive site featuring steep walls, overhangs, a small cave and pitting features. Suitable for all levels of diving experience.

26 NIAGARA II (tanker, then a sandsucker)
Built: Haverton Hill-on-Tees, England, 1930
Length: 55.5 m (182 ft)
Depth: 28 m (90 ft)
Deliberately sunk by the Tobermory Maritime in May, 1999 as a dive site. Located outside the park. Commemorative plaques and lots of machinery.