



### Information for bringing your own snorkelling equipment

People often ask us about bringing their own equipment and many have come totally unprepared for the conditions we experience.

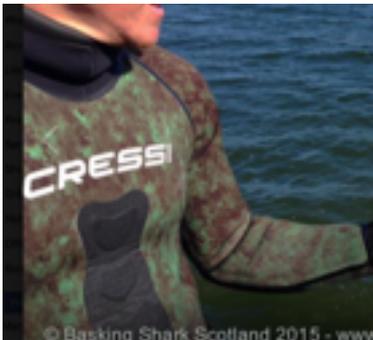
We have carefully selected our hire gear to be suitable for our Atlantic adventures through a number of years of operation and we have learned what works and what doesn't work. Given our tours are all about being in the water, not having the right kit and shortening your enjoyment of the tour through being cold isn't the best idea.

For all of our Hebrides wildlife tours, whether this is seals, sharks or a mixture then the **minimum kit list** and specification is as follows;

- **7mm Full Wetsuit**
- **5mm Hood**
- **3mm Gloves**
- **Mask & Snorkel**
- **Open Heel Boots**
- **Open Heel Fins with Straps**

Any suit of your own, must be in good condition and fit well. If they are loose then they won't trap the water to warm you up and are not suitable. You should check this prior to coming on the tour. **Your gear should be packed in a soft mesh or duffel bag as space on board is limited.**

We see a number of styles of wetsuit that people bring and have attempted to discuss some of them below.



#### **Free diving wetsuit - Open Cell**

Our guides use two piece 7mm open cell suits. These are the best suit you can have on our tours. In peak summer 5mm open cell will be ok, but otherwise 7mm is the best. If using full foot fins and socks, please be aware we will be walking over beaches and rocks which can be hard on the soles of the socks.

#### **Surfing/Water-sports Suits**

Some people have hooded 6/5/4 suits which have been ok. People used to cold water and bringing a neoprene vest and thick hoods may get away with a 5/4 but it's not ideal.





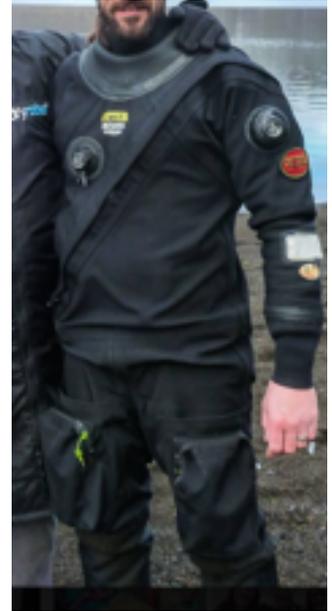
## Open-Water Swimming Suits

We see a lot of open water swimmers bringing these suits. They are designed for fast swimming, for optimal buoyancy in competition and minimal thermal insulation. If you are very used to cold water then they may be ok for sharks, but most people get cold as they are not designed to insulate you! Latex swimming hats are open water swimming fashion but trust us, latex does not insulate you - thick neoprene does - you need a full hood as your head is where you lose most of your heat.

## Drysuits

Although this is a diver's favourite, they are completely useless for being in with sharks. They are baggy, have lots of drag and floaty. If you need to be able to swim in a certain direction with any urgency to try and see the shark, wearing a driesuit is not how you will do that.

Drysuits are great for diving but not for sharking. For seal trips they can be ok but again not ideal. For our Week trips, then if you have a lot of room and are bringing a car then a driesuit would be good to have for an evening dive, whilst having a wetsuit for during the day.



## Shorty Style Wetsuit

They are great for the tropics not for the north east Atlantic. However they can work to complement a thinner suit. A compromise for example with a 5mm surf suit or swimming and a 5mm shorty makes a temporary solution. We do hire out a small amount of these so this can be option for those with a thinner wetsuit. However this would only be a workaround rather than a good solution.

These full face snorkelling masks are totally unsuitable - **please do not bring them!** There are growing safety concerns about them in the diving and snorkelling community.



## Basking Shark Scotland Hire Gear

We have 7mm one piece and 8mm one piece (integrated hoods) suits which are very good as hire equipment. These are well tried and tested in all conditions. The 7mm suits are preferable for sharks and full summer, outside of this time the 8mm is the winner.

In addition to suits and full hire gear we also have a set of individual items which you can hire for the trips.

We do carry some spares on board to pay for on the day but items generally need to be booked prior to the trip. Please see below for the prices and [more on our dedicated hire gear page](#).

Equipment	1 Day	3-4 Days	5-8 Days
Single Item - mask, snorkel, fins, hood, gloves, boots	£3 (per item per day)		
7mm Wetsuit	£15	£40	£50
8mm Semi-Dry Suit	£20	£50	£60
Shorty over suit	£5	£15	£20
Full Snorkelling Gear with 7mm Wetsuit	£25	£60	£80
Full Snorkelling Gear with 8mm Semi-Dry Suit	£30	£65	£90
Kayak/SUP & Equipment (Included in cost of Seal Tour Hire Gear)	£20	£40	£50
Kids' Snorkelling Gear	£15	£40	£50
GoPro (£10 extra/day)	£30	£50	£60
32 GB Class 10 Micro SD card	£20		

## Weights & Weight Belts

We do not routinely carry these on-board but for those that are experienced then you can hire them from us with prior notice. We suggest 4-6kg for a thick 7mm suit or 8kg for shallow water.

## Multi-Day Tours - Scuba Diving

If you are coming on our longer tours and opting to scuba dive in the evening then the best option for you would be to bring a drysuit for the evening dive. If this is not a possibility then a 7mm 2 piece free dive suits or the equivalent of our 8mm hooded wetsuit would be the next best thing.

## Scuba Gear

We have 10 & 12l tanks for hire which can be A-Clamp/Yoke or DIN fitting. If you wish to bring your own tanks we have a double-filtered 5cfm compressor which fills to 300bar. Your tanks must be in test for them to be filled. We also have BCD's and regulators for hire for those travelling a distance.

Equipment	Price Per Diving Day (£)
Tank Hire (inc fill) per tank	£10
Weights	£10
BCD	£10
Regulator	£10
Torch (2500 Lumen)	£20
Full Basic Dive Kit (BCD,Reg, Tank, Weights)	£40
Full Dive kit with 8mm Semi-Dry Suit, Torch & Basic Kit (1 tank)	£80

## Air Fills

Fill	3 Litre	7 Litre	10 Litre	12 Litre	15 Litre	Twins
Air Fill 232	£3	£3	£5	£5	£6	£10
Air Fill 300	£4	£4	£8	£8	£8	£15

All tanks must be in current visual and hydro test