



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.

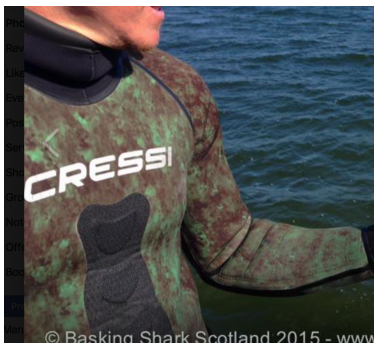
For all of our tours the **minimum kit list** is as follows;

- 7mm full wetsuit
- 5mm hood
- 3mm gloves
- Mask & snorkel
- Thick boots or fin socks
- Open heel fins with straps/ freediving fins

Bringing your own wetsuit

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.



We do NOT recommend the following:



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 drysuit is not going to work.

Drysuits are great for diving but not for sharking. For seal trips they can be ok but again not ideal. For our longer trips, then if you have a lot of room and are bringing a car then a drysuit 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.

Full face snorkelling masks

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



If you are worried that your gear is not suitable you can hire everything you need from us!