



# Instructor Development Course

## Cozumel Mexico

2026

<http://cozumeldiveschool.mx/idc>

Ver 5.3

## **PADI Platinum Course Director James "Jim" Hutchinson**



Jim learned to dive in 1990 on Australia's world-famous Great Barrier Reef, an experience that truly changed his life and sent him down the long and amazing road of Professional Scuba Diving.

Jim hails from England, and shortly after completing his B.A in History and Political Science decided to pursue his new passion of SCUBA diving and enrolled in a Commercial Diving program in England's South East. Diving in sewage plants, paper mills and even giant vats of milk was an education, but the call of warmer, clearer tropical waters was too strong to resist, and Jim left for South America with the goal of teaching SCUBA diving somewhere warm, beautiful and exotic.

Jim eventually landed in Honduras where he became a PADI Instructor and spent the next 10 years earning a reputation as a true professional Pro. Known for fun, thorough and professional teaching, Jim was soon rising up the PADI ladder and was certified a PADI Course Director in 2003.

Jim went on to work for PADI 5 Star CDC centers in Honduras, Thailand, Australia and Mexico. In 2007 he was recruited by PADI as Regional Manager for north Australia and Papua New Guinea working with over 90 PADI Dive Centers and resorts to achieve their goals and grow their business. This experience has been a huge benefit to all who worked with and learned under Jim over the following years.

Now in Cozumel, Jim has teamed up with Cozumel Dive School with the mutual goals of establishing one of the greatest PADI 5 Star CDC centers in the Caribbean, and the world.

## **PADI Platinum Course Director and Tec Instr Trainer Kenneth "Ken" Strömberg**



A Swede who decided to turn his career from Swedish Armed Forces and Construction Engineering into a diving instructor profession on a Caribbean island of Cozumel.

His adventure with diving started in 1998, in Phuket, Thailand and continued through the waters of Cambodia, Jordan, Egypt, Croatia, Spain, Sweden, Bali, Australia, Costa Rica and Jamaica until 2011, when on Maldives he heard about Divemaster Internships in Cozumel.

'I knew it was the right program for me. I packed up and flew to Mexico, where I completed my Divemaster and Assistant Instructor training. I came back to Sweden but couldn't really adjust back to what they call a 'normal' life. I returned to Cozumel and became a fully certified PADI Instructor in 2014. While working on Cozumel, Ken decided to create his own dive school and Cozumel Dive School was born in May 2015. My passion is technical diving: in 2016 I went to Dahab in Egypt to reach the depth of 100 m. I am full Cave Diver, Trimix Diver and TecRec Deep Instructor and I have recently started another exciting adventure: diving with a rebreather.

Ken's Dive School has 3 professional training programs: Divemaster Internships, GoPro Cozumel & Instructor Mentor. Cozumel Dive School is the only dive center on Cozumel with the highest PADI dive shop rating, PADI Career Development Center with two Platinum Course Director, that runs Instructor Development Courses on the island.

### **To qualify for PADI Instructor Development Course, you'll need to:**

- Be certified As a PADI Divemaster or leadership level with another recreational diver training organization.
- Be at least 18 years old.
- Have been certified as a diver for at least 6 months.
- Medical clearance attesting to dive fitness signed by a physician within the previous 12 months.
- Have completed and logged at least 100 open water dives with experience in night, deep and navigation.
- Emergency First Response Primary and Secondary Care course completion (or qualifying training) within the last 24 months.
- PADI Certification Cards (from Open Water to Divemaster)
- Copies of all non-PADI certifications (NAUI, SSI, CMAS, BSAC etc.)

### **Required Material:**

Full Scuba Equipment (including computer, cutting device, whistle, safety sausage, compass). **Rental equipment is available if pre-ordered.**

### **The PADI Instructor Development Course program consists of:**

- Formal training conducting PADI programs and experience programs.
- Independent study assignments.
- Practical application sessions.
- Written examination.

### **Accommodation:**

For early bookings a bed in a shared bedroom is provided during your IDC **Gold** and IDC **Platinum** package. We have 5 beds in our IDC apartment, and first to pay deposit gets a bed. When all the beds are taken, we can only offer IDC without accommodation. For an upgrade cost of **USD 100** per week a private studio can be booked. Studios first come first serve and studio cost needs to be paid when booking the IDC. Studio cost is nonrefundable.

### **Ratio:**

Our ratio in the IDC is 4:1, with more than 4 IDC candidates we will add another Course Director or IDC Staff Instructor. We accept max 8 in our IDCs.

### **2026 Schedule:**

We run 6 IDCs per year, January, March, May, July, September and November. Details schedule can be found [HERE](#) on our website.

### **Language:**

All our IDCs are taught in English; there is a possibility to have some (not all) of the exams in other languages. We cannot guarantee that your language is available and that we can explain something to you in other languages than English. We highly recommend that you do your eLearning in English since this is the language we will use during the IDC and IE.

### **Fun diving:**

If you want to go fundiving, you have a discounted cost for dives. USD 70 for 2 tank boat dives.

## **The IDC and IE**

### **Pre IDC (recommended 2 weeks)**

Prior to IDC you need to complete the IDC eLearning and study dive theory. We recommend 2 weeks for your IDC eLearning and to learn the theory. Focus will not be on dive theory during the IDC and we presume that you know your theory.

### **IDC prep (2 days)**

The IDC Candidate arrives a few days prior to the IDC start date and can participate in the non-mandatory 2-day skill practice and theory review.

Review Dive Theory using the Diving Knowledge Workbook, Encyclopedia of Recreational Diving and IDC prep Exams.

Skill circuit review of the 24 skills from your Divemaster course.

### **Instructor Development Course (14 days)**

This module includes Assistant Instructor Course, Open Water Scuba Instructor and EFRI (CPR and First Aid) Instructor. Free O2 Provider Instructor\*, AWARE Shark Conservation Instructor\*.

\*PADI fees of \$92 USD for O2 Provider Instructor not included, AWARE Shark has no PADI fees (\$ 30 USD donation to Project AWARE is recommended)

This program will build upon your abilities to organize and supervise dive activities, while concentrating on developing teaching skills. Through independent study, classroom sessions and practical applications, candidates learn to construct effective teaching presentations and conduct PADI programs. To help you through the program, PADI has developed an array of learning tools.

During the IDC you will use the latest teaching techniques, the complete system of PADI support materials, and will be continuously assessed on your teaching and presentation skills. You will be required to give additional teaching presentations beyond that of the usual IDC Program. This gives you an added advantage not only during the final Instructor Examination (IE), but it also prepares you for a future career as a diving professional. Upon successful completion you will be awarded an IDC completion form, which is your passport to the IE.

### **PADI Instructor Exam (3 days)**

Instructor Examinations (IE) is conducted on Cozumel for over 3 days with PADI Examiners from PADI Americas. The IE includes evaluation of Dive theory, Standard and Procedures, Academic, Confined and Open Water presentations and Rescue Skill #7 from the PADI Rescue Course. PADI reserves the right to merge Cozumel & Playa IE. If the IE is moved to Playa del Carmen any extra cost associated with an IE in Playa del Carmen is not included in the cost paid to Cozumel Dive School.

Dive Theory – 5 multiple-choice exams of 12 questions each in Physics, Physiology, Skills & Environment, Equipment and RDP - 75% pass on each topic.

General Standards & Procedures – Open book Exam of 50 multiple-choice questions – 75% pass

1 Classroom prescriptive teaching presentation (5-8 minutes)

1 Confined Water teaching presentation of 1 skill

1 Open Water evaluation presentation of 2 skills

Demonstration of 5 skills from the 20 from the Open Water course

Rescue Assessment – Rescue Course Skill #7, demonstration quality

The ability to easily pass an IE is a natural progression when passing our IDC. You will have several opportunities during your IDC to practice these assignments and will do a mock IE before the real PADI IE. We are proud of our 100% pass rate at the PADI Instructor Examinations and the quality of PADI Instructors that have come out of our programs. In the unlikely event you passed your IDC and did not pass the IE, you can **FREE OF CHARGE** retake one more IDC with Cozumel Dive School.

In the unlikely event that you fail the IDC, you may be granted a **FREE** retake of our IDC, individual conditions apply. Mandatory pre-IDC tests (theory and water skills) are required before attending another IDC. Cozumel Dive School maintains the right to deny students to retake the IDC if their theory or water skills are not sufficient to pass a retake.

### **After completing the IDC and IE**

#### **Master Scuba Diver Trainer Prep (3 days - 1 week)**

Lead by our Course Directors you can earn your Specialty Instructor rating before you have certified 25 students. During the week you will get 5 specialties such as Enriched Air Instructor, Deep Diver Instructor, Self-Reliant Instructor, Sidemount Instructor, Wreck Instructor, Night Instructor, Full Face Mask Instructor, Equipment Spec Instructor and more.

#### **Instructor Mentor Program (1 month with possible extension of 1-2 months)**

To qualify as Master Scuba Diver Trainer, you need to have 5 specialties and certified 25 students. Work with our instructors to gain experience. The training is built up in different steps.

- Shadow an experienced instructor to learn how they teach.
- Team-teaching with one of our experienced instructors.
- Teaching courses directly supervised by an experienced instructor.
- Teach courses under the indirect supervision of an experienced instructor.
- Teach courses by yourself under the direction of an experienced instructor.

Application process applies and number of Instructor Mentor students are limited. Accommodation is not included in Instructor Mentor program. There is no guarantee that you will reach 25 certifications.

# Prices

## **IDC Gold package (more packages available on the website)**

IDC incl three weeks shared accommodation	\$1350 USD
EFR Instructor	\$150 USD
O2 Provider Instructor training*	FREE
AWARE Shark Conservation Instructor training**	FREE
IDC eLearning & IDC crew pack	\$550 USD
EFR Instructor eLearning	\$150 USD
Total IDC & PADI material cost	\$2200

## **PADI Fees**

PADI Instructor Examination (IE)	\$825 USD
Instructor Application fee	\$235 USD
EFR Instructor Application fee	\$152 USD
Total PADI fees	\$1212

Total cost IDC, material and PADI fees (202%) \$3412

\*free O2 Provider Instructor training (PADI fee of \$92 USD not included).

\*\* no PADI fees for Shark Conservation Instructor

## **IDC payment:**

To reserve your spot in our IDC, a deposit of \$1000 is required. Payment can be made in cash (USD or pesos) with bank transfer or via card payment. Bank transfers can be done if you have a bank with USD, EUR, GBP, CAD, AUD, bank transfers fees are 1.15%. Card payment (VISA, Mastercard & American Express) has a fee between 3-5%, dependent on your card. Deposit is nonrefundable.

Final payment is due on start date of your IDC.

## **PADI fees:**

The fees to PADI are paid via debit/credit card and charged directly by PADI when you sign up for your Instructor Examination (not when you sign up or take the IDC course).

## **Contact Information:**

**Cozumel Dive School**

**Website:** <https://www.cozumeldiveschool.mx/idc>

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