

# Raptor Trip Protocols

In order to make your diving experience as enjoyable and stress-free as possible (especially for first-time divers on our boat)

the captain and crew of the Raptor have found it to be quite helpful to provide the following information about dive-boat protocols and procedures.

Here are a few pointers and/or suggestions that seem to be useful to know prior to arriving at the harbor for your trip aboard the Raptor:

- Be sure to arrive one hour prior to the scheduled departure of the Raptor
- Physical address (for MapQuest people) is: 1559 Spinnaker Drive Ventura CA 93001
- From SB: 101 south / Exit Seaward and turn LEFT on Harbor Blvd. Two miles to Spinnaker. Turn RIGHT on Spinnaker and proceed ½ miles. Look for large blue sign (on two short telephone posts) on the right... it says Ventura Harbor Village and has a 1 at the top. Bldg 1559 is a two-story building and the Raptor is docked right in front of Milano's Italian Restaurant.
- It is Ok to pull up to sidewalk near the water's edge, unload gear and transfer it to the boat... then return to move car out of the "3-hour only parking" zone and move it 50 yards back to the all-day, free parking area.
- Phone number for Raptor Dive Charters (if running late or they need assistance of any kind): 805 650 7700
- Divemaster will greet the divers, assign a dive station number to them and show them where the station is.
- Each station has a storage crate located beneath the bench with a number on it... that is their number for the day.
- Each crate also contains a heavy-duty hanger for the diver to hang their wetsuit or drysuit on, in the designated area for suits (amid-ship.)
- After the diver hangs up their suit, they should place their BCD and regulator on one of the tanks which are at their station, turn on the air and test the function of their second stages and inflator, then close the valve and bungee the tank securely into place.
- Divers then place their weights, booties, gloves, etc into the crate and fold up their dive bags and place them next to their crate in the open space.
- Their fins are to be placed in the fin-rack located just behind their tanks. This minimizes tripping hazards on the deck of the boat.
- If the bags are the large, roller-type, they will need to leave them on the dock for transport by our staff to a secure storage area. They will be brought back down to the dock just before the boat returns from the trip
- Once settled in, the divers will check back with the DM and complete a release form. **All divers will be required to show proof of certification.**
- At this point, they are welcome to have a doughnut and a cup of coffee and wait for the pre-departure safety briefing.
- Coffee, hot water (for hot chocolate or tea,) ice-water and sodas are provided, as are snacks, sliced fruit, a veggie platter (w/ dip) and a hot main course of some type... usually pasta, chili, minestrone soup or barbequed pulled pork sandwiches. An assortment of sandwiches are offered as well.

- Unless otherwise noted, the 2-tank trips depart at 9 AM and return around 2 PM. 3-tank trips depart at 8 AM and return around 3:15 PM
- A general dive orientation is provided at the first stop of the day and a dive-briefing is conducted at each dive site.
- Role-call is conducted prior to leaving the dock and before moving the boat after each dive. The divers need to listen for their name and number and respond clearly with a “HERE” each time the role is called.
- The heads (marine toilets) on the boat are flushed by holding down the black button on the bulkhead (wall) directly behind the fixture. Please use only the toilet paper provided in the heads, as anything else will plug them up and cause great hardship for the remainder of the trip.
- Encourage the divers to be cognizant of other divers and to make room for others trying to get past them in the aisle ways.
- The crew of the Raptor does everything possible to ensure the divers have an enjoyable, safe trip. It is customary (and greatly appreciated) for the divers to reward the crew with a gratuity. Most divers leave \$10 as a minimum and many leave twice that if they feel they received outstanding service.

We provide these pointers only as a way for you to make your experience as positive and enjoyable as possible. Feel free to call or e-mail us with any questions you may have or to discuss anything at all.

We look forward to seeing you aboard the Raptor

Best regards,  
The captain and crew of the Raptor