

SWIM AND SCUBA



LONG ISLAND
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GUIDE TO SHORE SCUBA DIVING

Spring 2015

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Old Ponquogue Bridge:

Hampton Bays, NY 11946

Directions: Sunrise Hwy (27) east to exit 65 South, which is route 24, South to Rt. 27A (at Hampton Diner); Make a left on 27A. East to Ponquogue Ave make right. Left at Shinnecock Rd. Right on Foster Ave. South over bridge. Make a left on south side of bridge and quick left to enter Ponquogue Marine Park.- **Parking Permit Required in Season**

Site Briefing: This dive is tide dependent and is best done at high slack tide. Plan to start the dive 30-45 min before predicted high tide. Enter the water at the little beach on east side of the Old Bridge. There is boat traffic so a dive flag is needed. Dive takes place under the Old Ponquogue Bridge. Head north as tide is coming into bay near start of slack as current becomes manageable. Then turn dive when tide shifts and head south to exit point as slack ends and tide begins moving to the East. There are 19 sets of pilings extending to the north and they are five across from east to west. Visibility varies greatly and can be 1 ft to 20 ft.

What To See: Starfish, crabs of several varieties, mussels, variety of local fish as well as tropical fish in late summer and fall.

Facilities: Porta Potty on site

Oak Beach Oak Beach, NY 11702

Directions: Meadowbrook or Wantagh Pkwy south to Ocean Pkwy east. Turn into Oak Beach parking lot. Take road heading west for ½ mile to small dirt parking lot on left.- No parking permit needed but lot closes at dusk

Site Briefing: There can be a current at times so be prepared for it. Dive is not tide dependent but there is more depth at high tide. From parking lot, walk over rocks to small beach on either side of parking lot. Dive flag is needed, there is boat traffic. Visibility is variable and can be 1 ft to 6 ft.

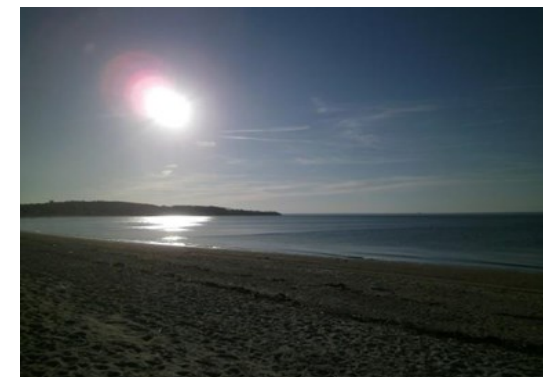
What to See: Bottom is sandy with grass near shore. Mussel bed can be found at 18 ft depth and runs east – west. There are lots of crabs, starfish, and various fish including large fluke. Can find bottles, sinkers, golf balls.

Facilities: None on site. Porta potty is located in Oak Beach parking lot.

Why I Like This Dive Site: Easy to get to. No parking restrictions. Fun to explore mussel bed. Can find various items like bottles and sinkers



Photo caption



Bayville Barge / Walls Wharf

18 Greenwich Ave. Bayville, NY 11709

Directions: Rt. 106/107 Oyster Bay, north, left on Lexington Ave. Left on W. Main St. Right on Bayville Ave. Left on Greenwich Ave. at Walls Wharf Restaurant sign. Park on street. If you park in restaurant lot go in and eat after dive.

Site Briefing: Enter water from the beach. Head North into bay. High tide is better for depth and visibility but is not required. No current present. Broken barge is at 20 ft depth in NW direction from beach. Boat traffic is possible so flag is needed. Depth can reach 25 ft. Visibility varies from 2 to 15 ft.

What to See: The bottom is sandy with crabs, horseshoe crabs, starfish, shells, flounder. Wreckage of barge interesting to explore.

Facilities: Located at restaurant for patrons

Why I Like This Dive Site: Exciting to find and explore barge. No current or tide restrictions. Good food at restaurant.



Prybil Beach

50 East Beach Dr. Glen Cove, NY 11542

Directions: Rt. 106/107 N Oyster Bay, Left on Cedar Swamp Rd., Continue on Glen Cove Rd., Continue on Glen Cove Ave, Rt on Village Square, Left on Dosoris La., Rt. on Lattingtown Rd., Left on E. Beach Dr.

Site Briefing: Dive is not tide dependent but there is more depth at high tide. Located in an enclosed cove so there is no current. Enter the water from the beach. Swim to the North. There is a pier located to the East that you can swim under and around pilings. Good location to practice navigation.

What to See: The bottom is sandy. There are shells, crabs, and starfish. Not as much marine life as other locations.



Mount Sinai Jetty - Mt. Sinai, NY

Directions: Depart I-495 / Long Island Expy. West at exit 63. Depart ramp for Express Dr N (0.2 miles); Turn right onto N Ocean Ave / CR-83 – Pass MOBIL in 0.4 mi (8.4 miles); Bear left onto SR-25A West / Route 25A (0.2 miles); Turn right onto Mt Sinai Coram Rd (0.8 miles) ;Bear right onto N Country Rd / CR-20 (0.8 miles); Bear left onto Pipe Stave Hollow Rd (0.8 miles); Turn left onto Harbor Beach Rd (1.3 miles); Follow Harbor Beach Rd. past Cedar Town Beach, all the way to the end at the fishing pier and jetty.

Site Briefing: Enter adjacent to the parking lot right at the end of the fishing pier. There is a lot to explore under the pier. When you get to the end it is possible to swim around the jetty and follow it to the little beach. You can exit at the beach or swim back around the way you came. Stay under the pier or next to the jetty. There is a boat channel with heavy boat traffic. Plan to have a dive flag. Parking fee is charged after 8AM so plan to arrive early.

What to see: Visibility can be good. There is the pier structure with a rocky bottom. There are some fish and lots of jelly fish.





Beach 8th Street

Far Rockaway, NY 11691

Directions: Southern State Pky west to Belt Pky. Take exit 24A/Francis Lewis Blvd. Turn right onto Laurelton Pky. Turn right onto Francis Lewis Blvd. Turn right onto Brookville Blvd. Bear left onto Rockaway Blvd. Continue on Rockaway Tpke. Bear right onto Nassau Expy. Take ramp onto Seagirt Blvd toward Rockaways. Turn left onto Beach 9th St. Turn left onto Seagirt Ave. Turn right onto Beach 8th St. Park at the end of the street.

Site Briefing: This dive is tide dependent and is best done at high slack tide for depth and visibility. Depth goes from 0 to 40 feet. Do not go into boat channel. Dive flag is needed. To start dive, head south out along wall or small jetty. If you follow the wall out, you will find a cable that will lead to several old lobster cages that you can swim around. Depth is 20 ft at this location. Visibility is variable and goes from 0 to 30 ft.

What To See: The bottom is sand and rocks with mussels and other marine growth. There are crabs, flounder, fish, lobsters in rocks and holes. Can find sinkers and other artifacts.

Facilities: Public restroom located at Beach 9th St. park.

Recommended Reading

Dive Like A Pro by Robert N. Rossier, 1999

Diver Down: Real World Scuba Accidents and How To Avoid Them, by Michael R. Ange, 2006

Guide to Shipwreck Diving New York and New Jersey, by Henry C. Keats, 1992

The Last Dive, by Bernie Chowdhury, 2000

Long Island Shore Diver, 2nd Edition, by Dan Berg

Scuba Diving the Wrecks and Shores of Long Island, NY, by David Rosenthal, 2008

Shadow Divers, by Robert Kurson, 2004

