

Fling Charters, Inc. 2021 Diving Policies

Please read this!
You are responsible for relaying this information to your customers!

The lawyers tell us we must say this:

Fling Charters, Inc., its owners and employees, reserve the right at our sole discretion to refuse service to anyone at any time for any reason.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Trip Leaders: we will continue to operate using the trip leader system as before. All dive shops may send one trip leader who is a certified insured divemaster or instructor for each 10 divers booked through that shop at no charge to the shop. If you have filled 8 or more of your 10 spots, **please** send a trip leader at no cost. Please remember, your trip leader represents your shop to people that may have had no other contact with the shop than a phone call to book the trip. The trip leader is also the in-water supervisor of diving activities. That is a lot of work for a trip leader to do, so strong individuals are called for.

Tank Fillers: we will try to furnish a tank filler for each trip, but if we are unable to, the tank filling duties will once again be the responsibility of the **trip leader**.

Boarding: boarding will start at 7:30PM but everyone must be at the dock no later than 8:30PM. Please ask your customers to arrive around 7:00 pm to unload gear, park their cars and get ready to board. Bunks are on a first-come, first-serve basis at boarding time. Departure is immediately following boarding, approximately 9:00 pm.

Diver age: minimum age for passengers aboard the Fling is **12 years old**. All divers between the ages of 12 and 15 **MUST** dive with either a parent or dive supervisor. Non-diving minor children will not be allowed unless there is a parent aboard to supervise them at all times, including during dive windows. The crew is not available for babysitting.

Unaccompanied minors: minor children coming without a parent or legal guardian upon boarding must provide the crew with an **originally signed and notarized** Fling Charters release and authorization for medical treatment with photocopies of the parent's medical insurance information. **Please note, each individual sheet of paper must be signed and notarized.** We will gladly fax these documents to your store for the parent to complete. Forms are also available on our website. Minors without completed release forms and medical treatment consent forms will not be taken offshore.

Minimum certification: open water or junior open water diver.

Non-divers: non-divers are always welcome at full price. Snorkeling is allowed.

Medical Conditions: any diver with a medical condition which is a contraindication to diving, must, upon boarding, provide the crew with an originally signed and dated letter from their doctor on the doctor's letterhead stating that the doctor understands the consequences of diving with the diver's specific

medical condition and that the diver is medically fit to dive. **Standard medical release forms alone will not be accepted.** Please contact Divers Alert Network about your medical condition.

Snacks: meals and snacks are provided from 6:00 am until midnight. For sanitary reasons, food and drinks are not allowed below deck. Please encourage your customers to not bring food or drinks to the boat. **Personal ice chests, sodas, beer, and glass containers are not allowed on board at all.** The coolers and freezers are fully stocked for the charter, so there is no room for anything that needs to be refrigerated or frozen. Anyone on a very strict diet, like vegan or kosher, needs to call our office and make special arrangements.

TANKS AND EQUIPMENT

Scuba equipment: all divers should arrive at the boat with a complete set of scuba gear, including but not limited to: mask, snorkel, fins, buoyancy compensator with inflator, regulator with octopus and gauges or dive computer, timing device, weight belt and weights, and appropriate thermal protection. **Dive computers are HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.**

***Tanks:** We will allow divers to bring personal cylinders on the boat. However, the boat prefers to provide an aluminum 80 for any diver requesting one. New Nitrox prices for larger tanks: All tanks up to 80 will remain the same as last year. Tanks over 80 to 100 will be 1 ½ times; tanks over 100 will be double. The boat has one adapter to fill high-pressure din valves, but will only fill to 3000 psi. The boat does not provide high-pressure fills. Doubles are not allowed. Please let us know your customers' tank needs when confirming your spots for the trip.*

Pony Bottles: pony bottles in use aboard the M/V Fling are considered redundant safety equipment for emergency situations only. Pony bottles equipped as a redundant gas supply with first and second stage regulators will be filled once at the beginning of the charter and as needed. Nitrox fills for pony bottles are \$10. Use of pony bottles to extend dive time will **not be permitted.** Divers may lose dives if they use pony bottles to extend dive times.

Rebreathers: Will not be allowed on the Fling.

Scooters/DPV's: diver propulsion vehicles **will not** be allowed on the Fling.

Signaling devices: all divers are required to carry visual surface signaling devices. Divers arriving without a visual surface signal will be issued an inflatable surface signaling device. We will retain the diver's certification card as a deposit for the signal and return the card upon the return of the signal at the end of the trip. There is a \$20 charge for any lost signals. Audible signaling devices are highly recommended, but they do not take the place of a visual signal.

Lights: we require a minimum of 3 lights per buddy team--primary light for each diver and backup light between the two--as well as a tank marker light for each diver. The tank light can be battery powered or a chemical light (cyalume) but **cannot be a white strobe.** The boat has cyalumes for sale but does not rent lights.

DIVING RULES

Depth limits: 130 fsw is the absolute maximum depth allowed on any dive. Each diver is required to dive within his/her training and certification guidelines as specified by the diver's certifying agency. If a diver's agency requires a more shallow maximum depth for the certification held, the diver may not descend below that level. Violating the maximum depth limit, regardless of the magnitude, is a serious offense. When and if an offending diver is allowed to participate in further diving is at the sole discretion of the Captain.

Computer/Dive Table violations: we will continue to take a dim view of violating decompression status on computer or dive tables. Any diver found in decompression violation of either their computer or dive tables will need to follow the omitted decompression steps of their computer or tables. This usually involves a 12 or 24 hour extended surface interval. The only exceptions are: (1) in the case of a diver wearing 2 computers, the more conservative one is in DECO, or (2) the obvious failure of a computer, in which case the diver must switch to tables for the remainder of the trip. Failure to turn on a computer prior to entering the water or failure to correctly set the breathing gas is not considered failure of the computer. In this case, the diver will be required to switch to dive tables for the remainder of the dive day. The boat divemasters are required to visually inspect each diver's computer at the time the diver returns to the boat and obtain the diver's profile for the dive.

Out of air: we feel that running out of air is a failure completely within the control of the diver. Barring equipment failure, any diver in an out of air situation in their primary cylinder will be required to sit out the next dive. Then the diver's return is at the sole discretion of the Captain. Out of air is defined as the diver not being able to take an effective breath on their regulator while standing on the dive platform.

Buddy diving: every diver must dive with a buddy, maintaining contact throughout the dive. They must enter the water together and return to the boat together with similar dive profiles. Buddy separation is not cause for sitting the divers out, but for a review of the proper attention to safe diving practices. Solo diving is allowed by properly equipped and certified solo divers.