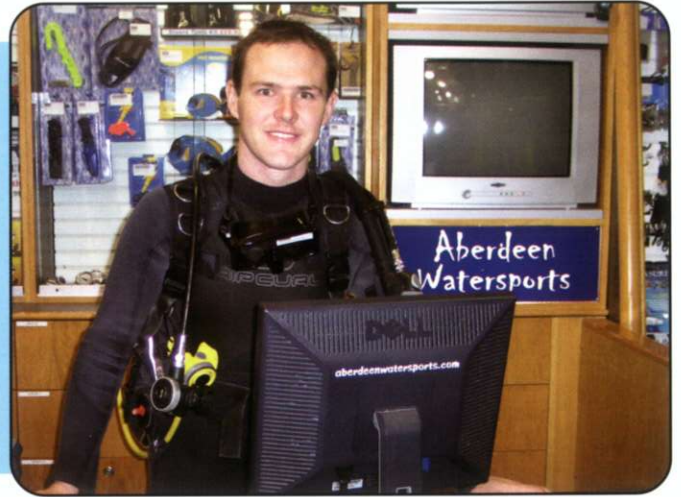




# DIVER PROFILE



**Up for interrogation this time is Australian Mat Gouldstone, a young but experienced scuba instructor travelling the world and living the life that most of us only dream about. At the moment Mat is an instructor for Aberdeen Watersports on the east coast of Scotland.**



■ **WHERE DID YOU LEARN TO DIVE?**

● I learned to dive in Nha Trang which is in Vietnam - 12 miles north of Ho Chi Minh city. I was backpacking at the time and this was one of the main places I stayed during my travels. I was there for three months while I did my dive master training.

■ **WHAT TYPE OF DIVER ARE YOU?**

● A recreational diver I suppose. For me diving is all about having fun and discovering new things - I don't care how deep I am as long as there is something to see!

■ **WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE PIECE OF KIT?**

● That would definitely be my passport - strictly speaking I guess it isn't actually a piece of dive kit! But without it I wouldn't have been able to travel and I probably wouldn't have started diving never mind been able to travel to all the places I have dived in since qualifying.

■ **DIVE BUDDY - WHO DO YOU ENJOY DIVING WITH MOST?**

● No one in particular - but I do enjoy diving with students who have just turned a corner with their diving and are starting to have fun and enjoy their new found confidence in the water.

■ **FAVOURITE DIVE SITE?**

● Can I answer this one in jest? If so - I would say Stirling Hill quarry in 4°C water with rain and sleet and a nice gale blowing too - what more could I want?

■ **BEST COUNTRY VISITED?**

● I have dived all over - but I have definitely seen the most cool stuff in Thailand, that said I have learnt more about my own personal diving in Scotland than I have anywhere else.

■ **WHAT MOTIVATES YOU TO GO DIVING?**

● The fact that it is an adventure every time you go out - things are always changing and you never know quite what to expect. No two dives are ever the same!

■ **DREAM DIVE BUDDY?**

● Can it be Dream Dive Buddies? 'Cause I would say that for me a dream dive would be with a couple of sharks, a few turtles, loads of marine life and my old man.

■ **DREAM DIVE DESTINATION?**

● Like many others, I would love to go to the Galapagos Islands. The main reason being so that I could visit dive sites that are properly protected and remain as nature intended - completely untouched! The abundance of sea life and the heat would be an added bonus!

■ **BEST DIVE BOOK EVER READ?**

● I am too busy reading the Encyclopaedia Britannica to find time to read any dive books!

■ **WHAT BUGS YOU MOST ABOUT DIVING?**

● I guess it would be people not respecting the environment in which they dive.

■ **HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE DIVING TO NON-DIVERS?**

● It is a skill that once gained you will do for the rest of your life and in the process meet some really cool people and see some really cool things!

**Lochaline Dive Centre**  
At the heart of the Sound of Mull

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