



St Abbs

The Essential Facts

Alison Fuller-Shapcott

■ ABOUT ST ABBS

ST ABBS Head and its small harbour, on the Berwickshire coast, is the gateway to Scotland's only voluntary marine reserve. It is easily one of the top dive sites in Scotland and because of its relative closeness to the English Border and the A1, attracts divers from all over

the United Kingdom. The reserve, which was opened in 1984 by David Bellamy, has a stunning underwater topography of pinnacles, caves, gullies and tunnels which are home to a fantastic diversity of marine life. The dive sites are plentiful and there is ample variation to satisfy both novice and experienced divers.

The Harbour Master is Lenny Crowe (07881767587) and the cost of launching a rib is £10 per day, payable to him. If he isn't around, carry on with your launch (the barrier isn't locked) and pay him later.

The inner part of the harbour and slip dries out at low tide, so the best time to launch is between 2 hours before and 2 hours after high tide. There is space to park trailers on the slip, but the towing vehicle will have to be parked in the car park at the normal parking charges.

Parking is an ongoing concern at St Abbs, mainly because there isn't very much of it. There are three small car parks. Firstly there is the Harbour Trust car park which is at the front of the harbour and this charges £5 per day for Saturday, Sunday and Monday during the summer months.

At any other times it's 'donation only' and there is an honesty box at the Harbour Master's office. The local council car park is in the middle of the harbour, and the charges vary depending on the length of your stay and time of year. The maximum charge is £10 per day for Saturday, Sunday or Monday. There is also a small amount of parking on the top road overlooking the harbour which is free.



Image left: Cathedral Rock - one of St Abbs' most popular dive sites

■ THE BEST DIVE SITES

There are plenty of sites to choose from, but the tides can be quite fierce off the head. Further information and advice on individual dives sites is available from various dive guides of the area. Slack water occurs approximately 3 hours before and 3 hours after high water at Eyemouth.

● Shore Dives

- > Cathedral Rock
- > Big Green Carr and the Amphitheatre
- > Broad Craig
- > Seagull Rock

● Boat Dives

- > Wuddy Rocks
- > Black Carrs
- > Ebb Carrs & the *Alfred Erlandsen* wreck
- > Tye's Tunnel
- > Skelly and the Barnyard
- > The *SS Glanmire* wreck

■ HARDBOATS

There are four hard boats that work out of St Abbs and a slip for launching ribs. Due to the layout of the harbour, low tide can often result in the hard boats being restricted to two berths near the harbour entrance and therefore some departure delays may be encountered.

● *MV Alikai*

Skipper: Billy Aitchison
Rock House Diving
www.rockhousediving.com
018907 71288

● *MV Topline*

Skipper: Paul Crowe
www.divestabbs.info
paul@divestabbs.info
01890 771945
07710 961 050

● *MV LazyG-Diver*

Skipper: Alistair Crowe
018907 71412
Ring Mon & Tues Evenings 7-9pm only

● *MV Selkie*

Skipper: Peter Gibson
petergibson@stabbs.com
01890 771681
07702687606

■ PLACES TO EAT & STAY

● *Rock House Diving*

The Harbour St Abbs TD14 5PW
Bed and Breakfast and bunkhouse accommodation
Day time snacks also available
www.rockhousediving.com
018907 71288

● *Springbank Cottage*

The Harbour, St Abbs TD14 5PW
Bed and Breakfast
Light snacks and refreshments available (outdoor seating only)
01890 771477



Keep an eye open for this chap at St Abbs - wrasse

■ AIR & SERVICES

● *Scoutscroft Diving Centre*

St Abbs Road, Coldingham
Compressed air to 300bar
Nitrox (partial pressure)
Dive shop, suit repairs, equipment hire, guided dives and training.
www.scoutscroft.co.uk
divescoutscroft@yahoo.co.uk
018907 71669

● *Rock House Diving*

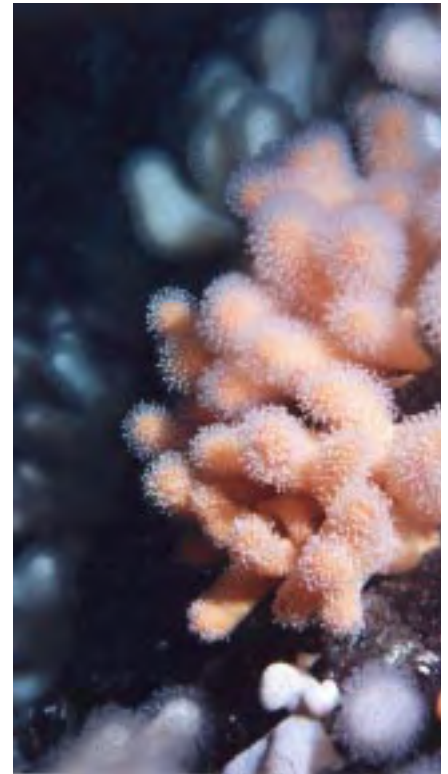
St Abbs
(on the harbour front)
www.rockhousediving.com
018907 71288
Air to 300bar

* *Web site has a link to a web cam at St Abbs*

● *Aquastars Dive Centre*

New Harbour Buildings, Eyemouth
Compressed air to 300 bar and Nitrox (membrane system)
Dive Shop, guided dives, training and equipment servicing
www.aquastars.co.uk
info@aquastars.co.uk
018907 50904

* *Web site has a link to a web cam at Coldingham Bay*



Dead Men's Fingers

● *Castle Rock Guest House*

Murrayfield, St Abbs, TD14 5PP
Bed and Breakfast
01890 771520 / 01890 771715

● *Scoutscroft Holiday Centre*

St Abbs Road, Coldingham
Camping and touring caravans
018907 71338
www.scoutscroft.co.uk
holidays@scoutscroft.co.uk

● *Ebb Carrs Café*

St Abbs Harbour
Serves a selection of hot and cold drinks, light meals, cakes and is licensed.
Eat inside or outside, or take away.

■ DIVE GUIDES

● St Abbs and Eyemouth Voluntary Marine Reserve
www.marine-reserve.co.uk

● Dive St Abbs and Eyemouth by Lawson Wood
Underwater Publications