How to Complete a PADI Open Water Diver Course Referral

So, what is a **PADI Open Water Referral Course? Just as in the PADI Open Water course, there are three phases.** During this alternate route to certification, you'll complete the first and the second phases of the course locally. The 3rd and final phase is done elsewhere. Here's how to do it:

1. Contact the dive centre, to let us know you want to complete a **PADI Open Water Referral**
2. You have the choice of using paper or digital training materials.
3. Download the PADI APP and create an account.
4. All diver certifications are now in the form of Ecards and will be visible in your PADI Account.
5. Once you're signed up, if opting for digital training materials, we will send you an email providing access to the PADI Open Water Diver Course eLearning® The paper manual has the same content, along with codes to access the accompanying videos and computer simulator (Phase 1).
6. Work through the knowledge development, reading the information and completing the knowledge reviews and tests along the way (if you have any questions or issues, don't hesitate to contact us to speak with an instructor.)
7. Once you have completed your theory, you will then attend the centre for one day with one of our experienced instructors, go through some presentations, learn how to put dive kit together and do buddy checks. Then you will move onto the confined water skills (phase 2).
8. Choose suitable dates from [Training Dates 2024](#) to complete your in-water skills.
9. Once phase 1 and phase 2 are complete, we will provide you with your PADI Open Water Diver Course Referral form. Now you can take this form to any PADI dive centre across the world within 12 months to complete the remaining part of your scuba course, Phase 3. The open water dives, the final portion of the course typically takes a day and a half to complete.
10. Once certified, you can use the rest of your holiday time exploring and gaining additional dive experience.

PADI Open Water Referral FAQs
Still have queries regarding the PADI Open Water Diver Course Referral? Check out these commonly asked questions to see if the answer you're looking for is here:

How long do I have to finish the course?
An open water referral is valid for up to 12 months. However, it is better to complete your training as soon as possible after taking the theory and confined water sessions so your knowledge and skills are still fresh in your mind.

What if I run out of time to complete all theory and swimming pool sessions before traveling?
No problem. Your local PADI Instructor can fill out an official student referral form and check which skills you've completed and the date. You can give this form to any PADI Instructor worldwide and pick up where you left off.

Is [PADI eLearning®](#) the same as a referral?
PADI eLearning® allows you to start your knowledge development online, whether you plan to do a referral or complete your course from start to finish in the same place. This is an excellent idea if you plan to learn to dive as a family – you can study together at home and support each other as you progress.
Although eLearning® is the most popular option for knowledge development. You can also study with a book and DVD while attending classroom sessions if you want to.

Will I have time to practice before going into the ocean?
Yes, absolutely! The instructor at the receiving dive centre will have you gear up and review scuba skills in a pool (or pool-like environment) before taking you to open water. Let the instructor know if you have any questions or aren't feeling comfortable.

How many dives will I do in the ocean in one day?
There are four dives to complete in open water before certification. Your instructor might do two dives per day, or possibly 3 dives one day and the final dive the following day. As a PADI standard, you are not allowed to do more than 3 training dives in one day, and no two dives may be combined into one dive.