

Gemini Training weekends.

Where to go:

We generally dive both Saturday and Sunday of a weekend, hopefully using the club boat Gemini unless the weather is really horrible in which case it'll be Newton's Cove or Chesil Beach. The directions on how to find Gemini and what to take with you are on the next page.

The aim for these weekends is to get as many people as possible through as much training as possible. We'll be trying to make sure that the dive sites are suitable for the maximum number of people but we need to know well in advance what kind of training people want. That means please let the Dive Managers know what your requirements are.

For those who have new wet/ dry suits to try out make sure you get hold of a weightbelt and enough weights to make sure we can get your buoyancy right. Ideally take your suit and gear to the pool and try out weight combinations on a Friday before coming to Weymouth. If you can't do this don't worry we can probably guess the right weights and add trim if required on the day. Do remember to get weights from the Kit Store though.

If you can, try to get all your diving gear into one bag: There is a limited amount of space on the boat, having one bag to keep it all secure is big help. Often drysuits come in their own bags which is fine as they are light and easy to store.

Onboard Gemini we try to keep the cabin reasonably dry so do try to avoid wandering down there with wet suits on. There's usually someone dry about to go get your flask/lunch/towel/socks etc if you are all wet.

Do take the admonition about seasickness seriously – it's a very big downer to go out for the day on a boat and spend the whole time being sick over the side.....

Happy diving....

-OWTO

How to get to Gemini 2

The easy route (2-2.5 hours)

From Oxford

Head south on the A34 through Newbury towards Southampton.

Join onto the M3 following signs for Southampton.

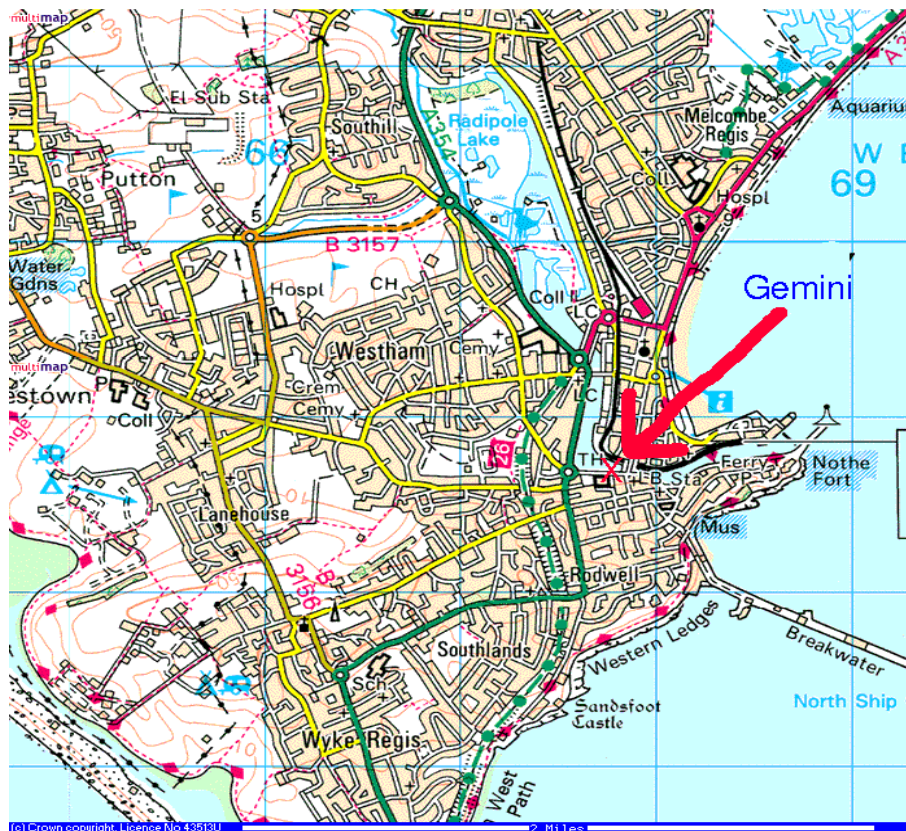
From the M3 follow signs for the M27 WEST.

The M27 becomes the A31. Follow this heading for Ringwood.

Stay on the A31 from Ringwood heading for Dorchester.

At Bere Regis the A31 becomes A35 – continue following signs to Dorchester.

Stay on the A35 at Dorchester until signposted for Weymouth on the A354 – take this road.



Stay on the A354 to Weymouth and at Weymouth follow signs for the old harbour. You will travel via several roundabouts and come across a marina. Gemini is here. At the roundabout on the corner of the Marina (next to the fire station) take a left. You should see a gate to the pontoons on the left (opposite the ugly council offices building on the right). This is the mooring for Gemini. When you arrive it's best to park on the left, next to the dock entrance to unload your gear. There is a carpark across the road to move the car to afterwards Car parking for the full day here costs **£6.00 in £1 coins**. Alternatively free parking is to be had in the streets behind the magistrates court and the supermarket.

Checklist for Dive planning on Gemini

Things to take with you:

(Just suggestions and not a comprehensive list)

- **Lunch !** – always important
- **Seasickness drugs** (e.g Stugeron) – remember to take 2 hours before the trip otherwise the skipper gets to eat your lovingly prepared lunch.....
- **Fresh water to drink** – the sea is very salty and dehydration is a real problem for divers.
- **Flask of something warm**
- **1 bag for dry gear** -> assume the worst your drysuit might leak – take a change of clothes.
- **1 bag for dive gear** (or barrel if you prefer) + 1 suit bag
- **Weight belt** (surprisingly often forgotten)
- **Strong shoes** for wearing on the boat – crushed feet can really spoil your day.
- **1 short bungee cord** to tie your gear onto the lashing eyes.- cylinders falling on your feet really hurt!
- **Spare 'o' rings** – they are pretty much a consumable.
- **Painkillers** -diving is stressful and you can get headaches just from the engine noise sometimes.
- **Mints, chewing gum, boiled sweets....** – better than tasting the seawater.
- **Sunblock** – it's hot out there.
- **A hat** – see above.
- **Wet wipes** – there's no running water on the boat – and no soap either.
- **Waterproof coat** - see comments about the general wetness of the sea.

Things to do beforehand.....

- Get air.
- Fill out the diver information form.
- Make sure the marshal or skipper knows your mobile number....
- Make sure you know their numbers....
- Pack your gear carefully – make sure it's all there.
- Check the batteries in your torch / camera.
- Make sure your kit works if it's not been used for a while.
- Arrange car sharing and lifts.
- Arrange accommodation if staying overnight.(try search on Internet or talk to a Marshall – if desperate you can sleep on the boat.....)
- Go to the dive briefing on Wednesday night!!!!

Diver information form

Name	
Address	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Phone number	
Next of kin:	
Next of kin address and contact	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Training preferences	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Any diving relevant medical conditions ?	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
Any other relevant information	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

NB. This form should be filled out and handed to the Dive Manager (Chris) before the first day's diving. It will only be kept during the trip and all forms will be destroyed after the end of the expedition.