



DIVER PROFILE



Iain and Lorraine Graham lead busy lives as doctor and dentist respectively. It took a while but **SCOTTISH DIVER** finally managed to catch up with the two of them - no mean feat when the nation's health and the underwater world come first! So here they are - our very first double diver profile ...



■ WHERE DID YOU LEARN TO DIVE?

● We did a referral course with PADI, doing the theory and pool sessions in Glasgow and finishing the open water part in the Maldives on our honeymoon. After doing holiday diving for a couple of years, we met a group of divers from West Lothian SAC and did cross over training to join ScotSAC

■ WHAT TYPE OF DIVERS ARE YOU?

● We are both sport divers and generally try to get out diving as many weekends as we can.

■ WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE PIECE OF KIT?

● *Iain* > My camera is my favourite piece of kit as it allows me to record what I see on a dive and identify unusual creatures afterwards. I am so used to diving with it now, I wouldn't know what to do with my hands if I didn't have it.

Lorraine > My kit transporter - otherwise known as Iain!

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

● Each other. It's great to dive with someone you know so well and to share the same experiences with them.

■ FAVOURITE DIVE SITE?

● *Iain* > Elphinstone in Egypt. It takes a lot to beat an hour of diving with oceanic white tips.

Lorraine > The cenotes in Mexico were a great dive as they are so completely different to anything I have ever dived before and since. The fossils in the walls, the stalagmites and stalagmites were really spectacular. The whole experience of diving a cenote in the middle of a jungle made me feel like Lara Croft.

■ BEST COUNTRY VISITED?

● *Both* > Obviously we have a soft spot for the Maldives but to drift along a wall and see Manta and Eagle rays along with sharks so early in our diving career really was unforgettable.

■ WHAT MOTIVATES YOU TO GO DIVING?

● You never know what you are going to come across on any site you dive - there is always something you see that makes the dive interesting.

■ DREAM DIVE BUDDY?

● *Iain* > The dive guide I had on my last holiday. I spent an hour with him finding progressively smaller and rarer creatures that I would never have otherwise seen then he waited for me to photograph them.

Lorraine > Any one who's enthusiastic, good at spotting and is considerate really. If they happen to look like Johnny Depp, well that's just a bonus really.

■ DREAM DIVE DESTINATION?

● Indonesia - we have heard so much about this area from other people and it sounds spectacular. To see pygmy seahorses and mimic octopi would be truly incredible.

■ BEST DIVE BOOK EVER READ?

● *Iain* > 'The Art of Diving' because the photos are stunning and appeal to my simple mind.

Lorraine > Yes, the photography is really superb.

■ WHAT BUGS YOU MOST ABOUT DIVING?

● *Iain* > The macho attitude of some divers. We are all there to see things and all have different interests.

Lorraine > In Scotland it would have to be the mountaineering you have to do at some sites to get in and out of the water. I've only got little legs! Abroad, I would have to say, leaving to come home.

■ HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE DIVING TO NON-DIVERS?

● *Iain* > The feeling of excitement you get when you see something new and unusual is fabulous.

Lorraine > Diving can be so many things - relaxing, exciting, challenging but always interesting. It just feels amazing to see things that most people will only ever see on TV or in books.



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