



## Empress of Ireland

### August 11 - 16, 2008 Expedition



To: Dive Team Members

Greetings everyone,

The following is information you'll require for your Empress of Ireland expedition. If you have any questions after reviewing this, either call me or drop me a line and we'll get the answers you need.

### ITINERARY

**Arrive** in Rimouski on August 10, 2008 late afternoon or early evening (check-in time is 2:00PM). Go through orientation, complete provincial permits, review waivers and releases, review gear, and set dive plan for next day.

**Dive** from August 11<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> (6 days of diving, weather permitting)

I would not recommend leaving to return home after diving on the 16<sup>th</sup> for two reasons. Firstly, you're going to be tired, and secondly, (and this is the best part) it's customary to celebrate a successful expedition by participating in a celebration and raising a glass to your new friends, team members and of course, the Empress of Ireland.

**Leave** to go home on the morning of August 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Accommodations:** I have arranged accommodations from August 10-16 (7 nights). These are excellent accommodations with full kitchen facilities and lots of space. There is a BBQ and fire pits that you can enjoy as well. We are only a few minutes away from the marina where we'll be departing from. You will be overlooking the St. Lawrence where the sunrise and sunsets are spectacular. The price of accommodations is included.

**Meals:** All meals can be prepared where we are staying, but generally groups want to experience some of the area restaurants for a few of the dinners. This is a personal decision



that each of you can make. Meals are not included in the price but what has worked very well in previous years is to buy groceries as a group and split the cost. There are several major grocery stores and seafood markets in the area where supplies can be purchased. There is incredible seafood restaurants open during the summer months and I'll be more than happy to make recommendations if you are interested.

**Charter:** The charter has been confirmed and is included in the cost.

**Waivers and Releases:** You will be required to complete and sign waivers, releases and affirmation of experience forms each day prior to diving.

**Gas Fills:** Any gas fill you are interested in can be arranged. We supply a Haskel booster pump to ensure you get the fills you want. If you want trimix (must be certified as a trimix diver) this can be arranged as well, but we must know in advance and there will be an additional charge. All breathing gas other than trimix is included. Argon is also included.

**Dive Courses:**

The following courses are being offered during your expedition date;

1. TDI Nitrox Gas Blender
2. TDI Advanced Gas Blender
3. TDI Advanced Wreck Penetration
4. NAUI Technical Wreck Penetration
5. TDI or NAUI Entry Level Trimix

If you are interested in any of these courses, please contact me to discuss pricing and further details.

**Note:** Divers are required to have a base level of training that includes Advanced Nitrox AND Decompression Techniques to be eligible to participate in any of the above Expedition dates. It's also strongly advised that DAN Master Insurance be in place.

**Guided Orientation Dive:** All first time divers will receive a guided orientation dive on the bow section of the ship. The purpose of this dive is to assist new Empress divers with the layout of the ship and point out several interesting sites. This dive is included in the price.

**Provincial Permits:** All provincial permits required to dive this site are included. You will each need to provide photocopies of a technical certification card (front and back) and photocopies of 10 logged dives within the last 12 months. These dives should be of a technical nature and must be incident free. Bring these photocopies with you and I will issue these permits on the night you arrive.

**Empress of Ireland Museum Tour:** There is an excellent museum dedicated to the Empress of Ireland. The cost of this tour is included.



**Expedition Celebration Dinner:** Once diving operations have concluded on the final day, we will enjoy a celebration dinner. This has become one of the highlights of the expedition and is included in the price.

**What Isn't Included:** Restaurant meals, groceries, drinks, additional guiding on the wreck for those who are interested, any diving courses that are being taken, and any other personal expenses.

**Clothing:** The weather is very unpredictable so you will want to make sure you bring rain gear and warm clothes in addition to your regular summer clothing. We will have access to a washer and dryer, so you can pack light but make sure you have some warm clothing too. Also bring a winter hat and gloves for the trip out to the site.

**Dive Gear:** Bring all of your personal gear and a well stocked spare parts kit. Each diver should also bring a strobe that has your name clearly marked on it. Two dives can be done on a set of doubles if they are properly planned. Don't forget to bring a stage bottle, and reel (even if you are not planning penetration).

The water temperature will likely be somewhere in the 38 – 48 degree range on the surface and 34 – 38 at depth. Bring adequate underwear and you may want to consider an extra pair of gloves or liners.

**What to Expect:** Diving on the Empress of Ireland is a unique experience. I'm often asked what a "typical" day of diving is like, and that's what I'll try to provide some information on here.

The typical day of diving starts the day before with monitoring the weather forecasts and tidal charts. We will then begin checking conditions 2 or 3 hours prior to our planned dive time, this can be as early as 4 or 5 in the morning, but don't worry we'll take care of this while you're enjoying a good rest. Once the decision to dive has been reached, you will be awakened and then likely have time to get breakfast. We will meet at the launch point, load the boat, get suited and then head out to the site. The trip out will generally take less than 30 minutes. Once at the site we will choose a mooring and tie in. Generally teams of 2 will go in together. Once the first dive is complete and after a surface interval of approximately one hour, we're ready for our second dive. The vast majority of divers try to limit their bottom time to 20-30 minutes. This will give you minimal deco obligation and usually a total dive time of 30-45 minutes. Having spent this amount of time in the water, most divers are more than ready to get out and warm up. A 27-30% nitrox mix is ideal for most dives on the Empress. Deco gas is usually 100% oxygen. The depth ranges from about 90 to 150 feet. It's the water temperature that will be the limiting factor on the dive. If you want to plan longer dives, there's no problem, as long as they are safely planned.



After the second dive we head back to shore, have lunch, rinse our gear and take tanks for fills. It is a good idea to have your gear set-up and ready to go for the next day in case we have a very narrow window of opportunity.

The evening is usually spent relaxing and sharing details of that day's dives and planning for the next day. There are many good restaurants, bistros and pubs in the area. The native language in this area is French, but a simple "bonjour" (good day) from you and they will bend over backwards trying to help you.

**Miscellaneous:** I would encourage you to bring a camera since we will very likely see whales, seals and porpoises on the surface at the dive site. There are also some very interesting museums in the area. We will tour the Empress of Ireland museum and that is also included. I would strongly recommend that each of you have DAN insurance coverage at the "Master" level or the equivalent and please bring emergency contact information.

**Payment Schedule (Tax Included)**  
**CANADIAN FUNDS**

Date	Amount
At time of booking	\$500.00
May 1, 2007	\$500.00
June 1, 2007	\$990.00
Total Payment	\$1990.00

**VISA, MasterCard and Personal Cheques Accepted**

**Cancellation Policy:** All deposits are non-refundable. If however, we are unable to complete our trip obligation to you we will refund all payments received. If the payment schedule is not adhered to, we reserve the right to offer your place to other qualified divers.

I can be reached at the following coordinates;

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I'm looking forward to sharing a fantastic expedition with you!

Tyler Bradford