

## **‘The Infiniti’ live-aboard authorised to issue PADI diving certifications**

*Becomes India’s first luxury live-aboard to be authorised by the **Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI)** to teach scuba diving and issue certifications onboard*

**Mumbai, 27<sup>th</sup> August 2013:** The Infiniti, India’s first scuba diving live-aboard vessel, has also become the country’s first luxury super-yacht to be authorised by the **Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI)** to teach diving and issue certifications on its behalf. A **PADI** certification enables a scuba diver to dive anywhere in the world, and is valid for the diver’s lifetime. **Karina Tourism & Adventures**, the **Infiniti’s** owner, announced that the five-day teaching-cum-certification process would take place in the waters off the Andaman Islands. By offering the prestigious **PADI** certification, the company hopes to draw scuba diving enthusiasts from all over the world to learn diving in the many pristine and unspoilt underwater spots dotting the Andaman waters.

**PADI certification** is a three-stage process, including knowledge development, confined water training and open water diving. While the first step entails imparting of practical and theoretical knowledge of diving to the learner, the second stage, i.e. confined water training, will be done in the shallow, calm lagoons in the Andamans. This will enable new divers get comfortable with the experience. Open water diving will take place in deeper, crystal-clear waters, where divers will gradually learn to explore the beautiful marine life, coral gardens and underwater formations. The trainers will guide students at every step of the way, and each student will do at least 8 dives as part of the course. Since the Infiniti is completely self-sufficient, arrangements will be made for the guests’ stay, sight-seeing and food for the entire duration of the five-day course.

**Sunil Bakshi, founder of Karina Tourism & Adventures** said, “Worldwide, a **PADI certification** is considered a ‘must have’ by those who enjoy scuba diving. By offering **PADI-certified courses**, we are inviting those who haven’t been introduced to the experience yet to join us in getting their passport to a lifetime of diving adventures – and that too, in an environment designed to be extremely safe, comfortable and memorable. This would be the best way to get your certification and add a new dimension to your holidays. To learn diving from a live-aboard in the pristine Andaman islands is a special thing for sure! “

**Karina Tourism & Adventures** also announced that **Infiniti** will be offering special deals on PADI certifications for the months of **September** and **October**. By offering attractive pricing schemes and tie-ups with leading local dive clubs in **Mumbai, Pune and Bengaluru**, the company plans to create increased excitement around scuba diving as an adventure sport.

The **IACS class** and **RINA-certified Infiniti** is the only Indian scuba diving live-aboard currently operating in the Andaman Islands. A symbol of flawless engineering, the vessel combines unmatched comfort and luxury with the highest safety standards. Guests keen to avail of **PADI certification** will

be trained by an expert team of dive instructors and dive masters on board the vessel. The Infiniti is fully equipped with **PADI** materials, state-of-the-art scuba equipment including onboard compressors for clean air, RIBs and a spacious dive platform. In addition to the beginner level '**PADI Open Water Certification**', the Infiniti will also offer advanced PADI courses in accordance with the guest's expertise level and desire to learn.

### **About INFINITI Live-aboard**

The **INFINITI** is a high end, world class live-aboard with all premium attributes— gorgeous aesthetics, unmatched comfort, uncompromising safety and exacting engineering. Owned by **Karina Tourism & Adventures Pvt. Ltd.**, it is India's first live-aboard, and one of the finest in Asia. At nearly 130 feet, the **INFINITI** is huge; however, it is also exclusive. The number of guests sailing on board the **INFINITI** at any one point of time will be limited, so as to keep the experience special and intimate. Scuba diving enthusiasts will find the **INFINITI** a once-in-a-lifetime experience, as it takes them to exotic underwater kingdoms resplendent with beauty and life.

For more information, you can also visit: [www.INFINITILiveaboard.com](http://www.INFINITILiveaboard.com) or follow us on [www.facebook.com/INFINITILiveaboard](https://www.facebook.com/INFINITILiveaboard) and twitter: @InfinitiDiving

### **About Karina Tourism & Adventures Pvt. Ltd.**

**Karina Tourism & Adventures Pvt. Ltd.** is a Mumbai based company with a mission to offer interesting and innovative opportunities in India's travel & tourism sector. The company aims to open new ways to explore all that India has to offer to domestic as well as international tourists.

While India has a lot to offer to travellers, domestic & international, there has not been enough fresh thinking and creative initiatives to really tap into the country's potential. Indians are going abroad for "active" holidays and even the international tourists are choosing destinations such as Thailand over India. **Karina Tourism & Adventures** aims to bridge that gap by introducing innovative initiatives in active holidays such as diving, surfing and more.

### **About Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI)**

The **Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI)** is the world's largest recreational diving membership and diver training organization founded in 1966 by John Cronin and Ralph Erickson. Cronin was originally a NAUI instructor who decided to form his own organization with Erickson, and to break diver training down into different courses instead of the single universal course then prevalent.



**PADI courses** range from entry levels (such as "Scuba Diver" and "Open Water Diver") to "Master Scuba Diver" and a range of instructor certifications. Under their PADI TecRec brand, PADI also offers various technical diving courses, including decompression diving, trimix diving and gas blending. PADI is a member of the following member councils of the World Recreational Scuba Training Council - the United States RSTC, the RSTC Canada, the RSTC Europe and the C-Card Council (Japan).

*For more information, you can also visit: <http://www.padi.com/scuba/padi-courses/>*

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