

OJAMO MINE, LOHJA, FINLAND



Welcome to Ojamo, a truly unique dive site. This flooded limestone mine is situated in the town of Lohja, some 65 km west of Helsinki and 130 km east of Turku. The mine offers excellent overhead diving and suits cave divers with various levels of experience.

The dive operations at Ojamo are run on a voluntary basis. All dive events are supervised by a surface manager, whose responsibility it is to oversee that the diving runs safely and smoothly.

Safety

The on-site dive safety is ensured by a surface support organization. During diving, there is always a safety diver on 1 minute standby. The surface manager coordinates and schedules the dive teams and leads the surface activities in case of an emergency.

Please be prepared to act as safety diver if so requested by the surface manager.

While the surface manager dives, appointed stand-ins assume the roles of surface manager and safety diver. A first-aid kit and an oxygen administration system are present at the site at all times.

Guides

Local guides will be arranged for our guests. One guide leads a maximum of three guests per dive. The dives are planned together with the guide to ensure that the guests' expectations and necessary safety measures are met. The surface manager has the final say regarding the plans and is entitled to modify them according to his /

her judgment in the interest of dive safety.

All guests are required to dive with a guide. Special requests such as filming, DPV use, etc are to be agreed on in writing prior to arrival.

Dive planning

Usually, our guests like to do two dives per day. First-time guests will acquaint themselves by doing their first dive into the shallowest level of the mine at 28m with a bottom time ranging from 20 to 50 minutes depending on the guests' gas supplies, dive experience and expertise. Suitable EANx for bottom gas as well as O2 for decompression is recommended. The water temperature in the mine system is a constant 4C.

For a snack during the surface interval, an outdoor grill as well as a microwave oven are at the guests' disposal on-site.

The second dive is usually done in the 42m level, with a bottom time between 20 and 40 minutes. In the interest of dive safety, the local practise requires that Helium bottom gas mixes are used at this level as well as EAN50 (and O2) for decompression, assuming naturally the required certification and experience in the use of these gases.

For returning guests to Ojamo, other diving alternatives can be discussed with our staff.

All dive plans must be approved by the surface manager. No DPV, bottom-mix stage use nor dives deeper than 42m are allowed for first-time guests, regardless of experience or certification level.

Costs

The diver's entry fees are used exclusively to maintain and improve the facilities and services at the dive site. The entry fee (for one day of diving) is 7.00EUR, disregarding of how many dives you decide to do during the day.

The entry fees will paid to the Ojamo bank account (IBAN FI7980002917359993, Swift code PSPBFIHH, please mark "Kaivossukeltajat/Ojamo" as recipient as well your name in the message field upon payment). We cannot accept cash payments for entry fees and do not maintain a cash register on-site.

The surface manager will inspect the payment receipts prior to diving.

In addition to the entry fee, the only direct cost for the guests will be covering the guide's entry fee and breathing gas expenses, which are, for the example dives mentioned above, usually between 40 and 60EUR / day / guide. Unlike your own entry fee payments, the guide's gas expenses and entry fee will be paid in cash directly to the guide after the dives.

Things to keep in mind

We hope you use a wing and a backplate and that your gear is rigged in a way that usual cave-diving related redundancy points are covered. In order to make diving

run smoothly, we'd like you to rig your gear and make yourselves ready so that you can enter the water approximately 60 minutes after entering the site. This way, we are able to ensure that everybody has ample time to do the dives planned for the day. Prior to any diving on a given day, the surface manager will do a short presentation of the Ojamo diving operations. As it is not permitted to run a compressor on-site at Ojamo, we expect you to bring all the gases you need for your stay. As for all diving trips, it is wise to bring a sufficient number of spare parts to cover potential equipment failures.

If you are not used to the cold conditions of the Nordic waters, please consult your host regarding equipment requirements and exposure protection. A dry suit is required and we strongly recommend using Argon for suit inflation.

As the guest arrangements will take at least a month to organize, we wish you will contact us well in advance.

In your communication, please include a presentation of the guest's certifications, names of instructors and overhead diving experience during the last 12 months.

As the entire operation is run on a voluntary basis, it is good to keep in mind that we are, unfortunately, not able to provide the same level of service as a commercial diving centre. Due to limited resources and limited spare time, we are not able to fulfil all visit requests, so please be patient and flexible.

Accommodation

The town of Lohja offers some hotels and hostels, Hotelli Lohja and Gasthaus Laurinportti, both of which you can find information on under the Lohja Tourist Service Centre website below.

<http://tinyurl.com/2jtpqm>

Driving instructions

Below you can find Google Maps instructions for reaching Ojamo from the cities of Helsinki and Turku.

Helsinki – Ojamo (Lohja)
<http://tinyurl.com/3y3gy3>

Turku – Ojamo (Lohja)
<http://tinyurl.com/3yvov5>