Solo Cave Diving Survey

Where do you make most of your cave dives?
Number of responses: 110

"Other" text answers:

- Asia
- Belize
- Australia
- Finland
- Europe
- South Africa
- GB
### What percentage of your cave dives are solo cave dives?

Number of responses: 112

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Answer</th>
<th>Times Chosen</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than 10%</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>31.25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10%-25%</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>15.18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25%-50%</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>18.75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than 50%</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>16.07%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nearly all of them</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>18.75%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
What is your primary reason for cave diving by yourself?

Number of responses: 111

I prefer to be by myself: 31x chosen (27.93%)

No buddies available when I need them: 43x chosen (38.74%)

Other: 37x chosen (33.33%)

"Other" text answers:

Safety - frequently in less than desireable

I suppose both of the above. If I am diving in a team it with other divers I know and trust. If they are not available I enjoy solo diving in the front part of the cave—penetrating to the distance that one of my bailouts (I always have two on solo dives) will allow.

Planned operational need

Other

No buddies available or at my level of certification.

Available buddies are not experienced enough to make some of the dives I want to. I work with them to build that experience but sometimes I don't want to worry about them.

Explore/Survey

Task logistics

Project necessity
Nature of the passage makes it safer

survey work on tight caves, buddy is a danger

Special mission

Project Related (Like doing surveys or doing video)

Buddies want to explore an area I'm not ready for. I've stayed at jump exit.

Exploration

Other

No buddies at same level or "buddies" don't have the same gas consumption and they "steal" diving time

Safer

I don't solo cave dive

Exploration. Odd diving times. Spontaneously diving.

Rather be by self then with someone with too different a skill level.

Usually dictated by the site and goal

Some exploration is more sensible solo

Genuinely enjoy the challenges and rewards (solitude, tempo, freedom, convenience) of solo caving. Enjoy going with solid and like minded team members, too... it's just two different experiences.

only a few people I will dive with and infrequently available

Safety

small passage and poor vis
The majority of dives I do in the UK are in small low visibility sumps where another diver could/would hinder me.

UK conditions aren't suited to buddy diving.

The caves of the UK aren't generally suitable for 'team' diving.

Setting up

Easier for exploration.

Some passages and sections of cave are too tight for 2 divers, (the second diver backs out). So solo is a choice.

Combination of lack of buddies or passages being safer solo for sidemounting. Sometimes it is nice to just dive solo though.

UK sumps. Generally safer solo.

Less risk of problems in mission-specific dives.

Most of my cave diving buddies no longer dive. However, early on (23 years ago) I either dived solo or would not have been able to dive as my buddies did not have the amount of time of that I had so they were not available.
Do you generally feel safer cave diving with a buddy or without?

Number of responses: 112

- **Safer with a buddy:** 36x chosen (32.14%)
- **Safer without a buddy:** 25x chosen (22.32%)
- **It makes no difference:** 51x chosen (45.54%)

How do you guard against catastrophic loss of breathing gas?

Number of responses: 111

- I sidemount: 52x chosen
- I carry a buddy bottle: 17x chosen
- I carry additional open-circuit bailout gas for CCR: 29x chosen
- I turn the dive long before reaching Thirds: 10x chosen
- I don't do anything special: 3x chosen
In the area where you do most of your diving, are their sites which prohibit solo cave divers?

Number of responses: 111

- **Yes**: 48 times chosen
- **No**: 63 times chosen

Have you ever been in a situation while solo cave diving, such as getting stuck in a restriction, where you felt having a buddy to help you might have proven essential for survival?

Number of responses: 111

- **Yes**: 2 times chosen (1.80%)
- **No**: 109 times chosen (98.20%)
When you were learning to cave dive, how did your instructor(s) and/or course materials treat the subject of solo cave diving?

Number of responses: 112

- They were adamantly opposed to solo cave diving: 10x chosen (8.93%)
- They acknowledged it was something some divers choose to do, but at the cost of substantially increased risk: 35x chosen (31.25%)
- They implied that, with the right equipment, the risks inherent in solo cave diving might be manageable: 52x chosen (46.43%)
- The subject never came up during training: 15x chosen (13.39%)