

THE WRECK OF THE SS DORIS

THE FACTS

STAR RATING : 5 star

SIZE : 1,381 gross tons
BUILT : Wood Skinner & Co. (Newcastle)
DIMENSIONS : 85m X 12m X 5m
SANK : July 12th, 1909
CAUSE : Ran aground in fog
LOCATION : South side of Neist Point
WRECK DEPTH : 6-30 metres
CONDITIONS: Take care in SW, W, NW winds
TIDES: Slack water essential
SEABED: Black rock reef onto coarse white sand
LAUNCH SITE: Meanish Pier

VESSELS HISTORY : [\(download\)](#)

WRECK AT PRESENT : [\(download\)](#)

MAGAZINE FEATURE : [The Doris wreck tour](#)

Also features in many of the other Magazine reviews about diving with us.

THE HISTORY OF THE VESSEL

The 'SS Doris' built in 1900 by Wood Skinner and Co. was registered in Christania, Norway. Sailing from Liverpool to Stettin carrying a general cargo, she encountered a fateful combination of a bad weather, thick fog, strong tides and navigational error leading to her dreadful demise. Looming out the sea immediately ahead was the treacherous rocky promintory, Neist Point, where she ran violently onto the jagged rocks, south of the lighthouse. The captain, with his vessel in a precariously dangerous position and first hold flooded, was faced with no alternative but to abandon ship! The 14 crew and passengers escaped in lifeboats unharmed. However within two weeks the stricken vessel had succumbed to the ravages of Skye's weather and sank below the waves into deeper water where she still lies today.

THE WRECK AT PRESENT

She lies close inshore and within a steep gully, the shallowest point being 6 meters and sloping down to the propellers at around 30metres. Although the wreck is well broken up and scattered the skeleton of the wreck is still very clear, the boilers are still intact and other large sections are well spread out. Excellent visibility and prolific shoals of fish on the wreck add sparkle to this unusual site, making it an exciting dive. The gully that contains the bow section of the wreckage, and the undulating reef forms around it are carpeted with colourful kelp, anemones, sponges and deadmens fingers. These rocky areas also provide safe haven for a numerous other creatures. Launching for this site is at Meanish Pier, where the jetty is ample, except at low water springs. The tidal streams at the site of the 'SS Doris' can be very strong and should definitely be dived at slack water. An SMB or preferably a delay decompression bouy is strongly recommended for this dive!