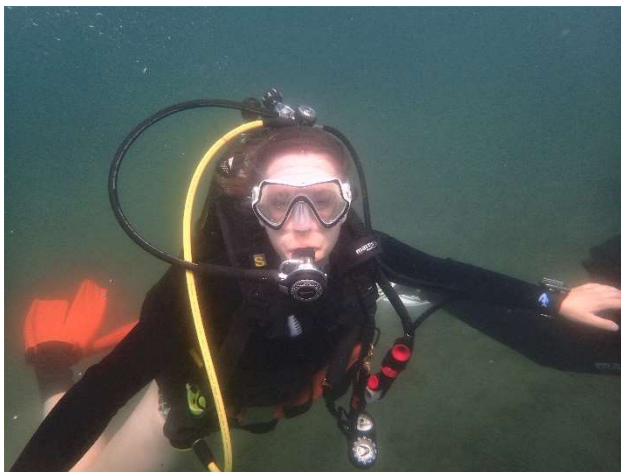
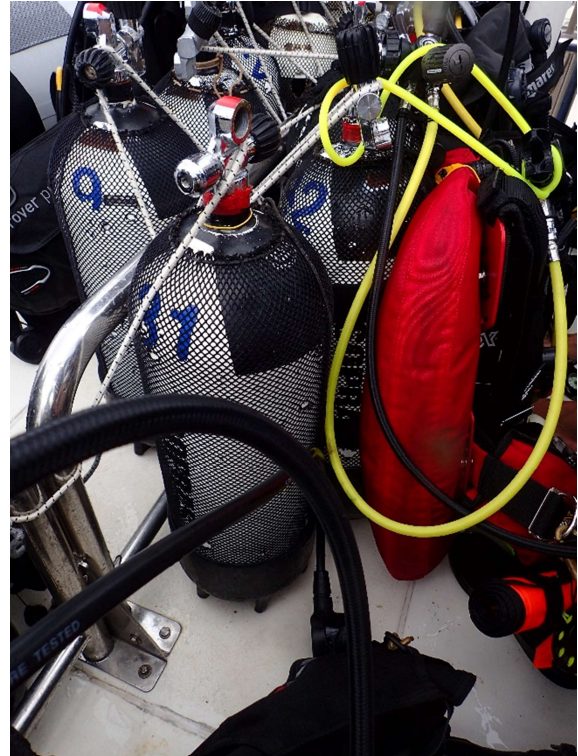


Location	
Location	Baia, Italy
Date(s)	July 9 (Tuesday)
Partner(s)	Kyle Finnegan
Total Number of Divers	9 divers on the boat
Trip Duration	9.15am arrival time, est. 11.15am boat time, est. 2.15pm departure time
Gear Notes	Rented BCD – My own Mares Abyss 22 regulators, Orange Apollo Biopro fins with booties, Mares XVision Mask, Patagonia long sleeved neoprene jacket, Steel 80 tanks and <b>10lbs of weight</b> (belted on) <i>Actually thought I might sink straight to the bottom and not be able to surface with that much weight!</i> , Olympus Tough Camera
Dive Operator	SuBaia – Campania Divers
Accommodations	AirBnB Naples
Tourist Attractions	N/A
Motto for the day	It was kind of a <i>"Guess this is happening."</i> kind of day!

Dive 1	
Site Name	Baia Site 1
Individuals Stats	Linsey Warren
GPS Coordinates	40°49'17.3"N 14°04'37.4"E
Dive Master	<i>I forget...</i>
Max Depth	11ft / 3.4m
Bottom Time	41 minutes
Start PSI	2910 PSI
End PSI	2226 PSI
Visibility	Okay (est. 10-12ft)
Conditions (Current etc.)	Calm
Water Temperature	<b>Max. **F / **.°C Min. **F / **.°C</b>
Outside Temperature	Man. 86F / 30C Min. 81F / 27C (Baia)
Surface Interval	First Dive – no interval before
Notes	Very shallow dive to see the historic mosaic floors. Visibility may have been better if so, many people were not all hovering close together to see the same things and kicking up sediment.
The Story	

We nearly doubled the GPS time just trying to get out of the city. It was pandemonium sprinkled with chaos. But we made it, and from then on getting to Baia wasn't so bad. At least from a navigational standpoint. We unloaded right outside of the storefront and then Kyle went and paid to park. *Always paying to park. I don't know if there is a space in Italy where you don't have to pay!* As he did that, I started to unpack and fill out the forms. I was keen to get going so we could enjoy the diving and hopefully get back to Naples before traffic got crazy, and in time to do the Underground tour. *Let's let at least a couple things go to plan! I'm running out of plans!* After everyone got there and equipment was put together, we were sat down for a little lecture on the site. And even though I didn't want to sit down for it, I did find the history behind the area very fascinating. Finally, we grabbed our kit and got loaded up. I was asked how much weight I needed, but it had been two years since I last dove, and I had no

idea. We threw out a figure to start with. *We'll see what happens!!* While the guides drove the collective gear down to the marina, we took the shortcut walk through the buildings to the dock. Gear was quickly loaded and off we went... or not. *False start!* The guide forgot his torch, so we quickly pulled the boat back to the dock and waited while he ran back for the kit. A few minutes later, torch now onboard, we were off. We were on a zodiac and it only took five or ten minutes to get out to the point and anchored. From there, it was a simple get your kit on in the crowded space. But during that simple movement, Kyle somehow managed to break the strap on his fin! The piece flew off somewhere, he thought... but with no time to really fuss Penny pulled out a spare pair of fins and he had to use those. Glad they had the spares though! And with that settled, it was just the backward roll into the water. I have to say I'm coming to really enjoy these backward slides back into the water but still I waited so Kyle would go. I prefer when he is in the water first. *I don't now if it is because I think maybe the mythological water creatures will go for him first, or if it has to do with the time I went first and the current nearly had me swept away before I resurfaced. Either way, he is my tester!* As he was getting ready, I reached over and tested his valve. I'm honestly not sure what compelled me to do it. I'd like to believe it was some deep-rooted safety consciousness, but it might have just been twitchy curiosity. Good thing I did though. His regulators were not turned on. I got kudos from Penny who told me I was a good dive partner. I'm not entirely sure if that is true, but I'm going to take it anyways. So once Kyle was *actually* ready and got in, I immediately rolled back and joined him.



Good thing too. The dive master just started going down right away. I was a little nervous because I hadn't dived in two years! *I can't believe it's been two years!* So, suddenly being back in and putting my face in the water was a bit odd. We were going to drop along the anchor line to the bottom. I could almost see the bottom, but the water was definitely on the murkier side. It took me a few breaths for my mind to calm and get back into the rhythm of it. I was glad this was going to be a shallow, easy dive. *I mean, that was the plan anyways.* Nice to have a buffer before jumping back into deeper dives. It was a quick and easy

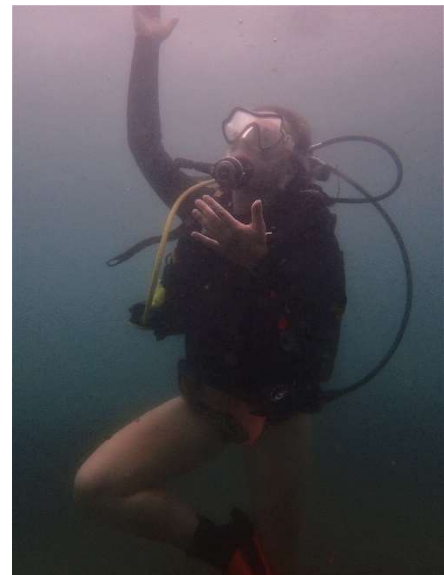
descent. Once we all were on the bottom and got situated, we followed the dive leader. I'll be honest, even though they showed us the pictures before we descended, I still had a hard time picking out what was what. Nothing was matching up with what we had been shown! *Haha, were we even in the*

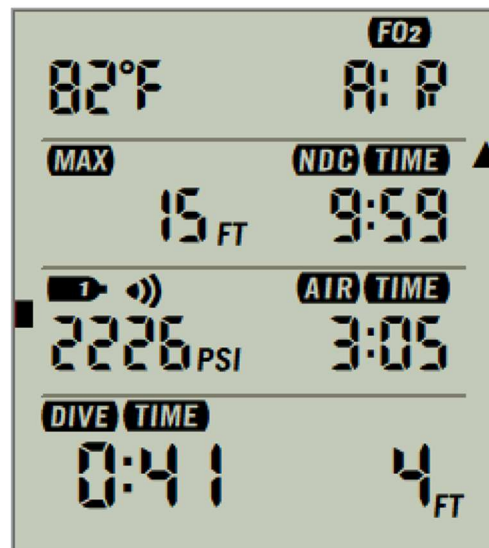
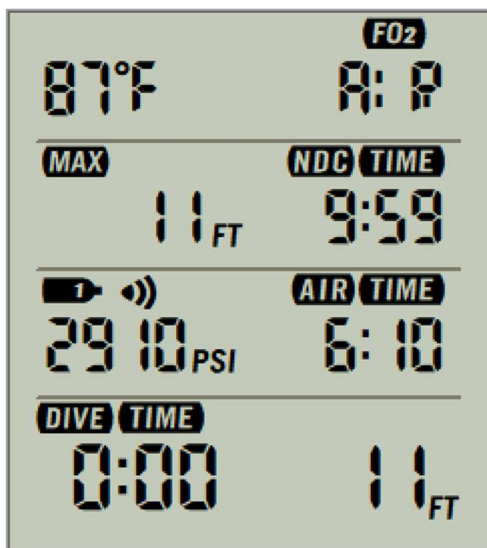
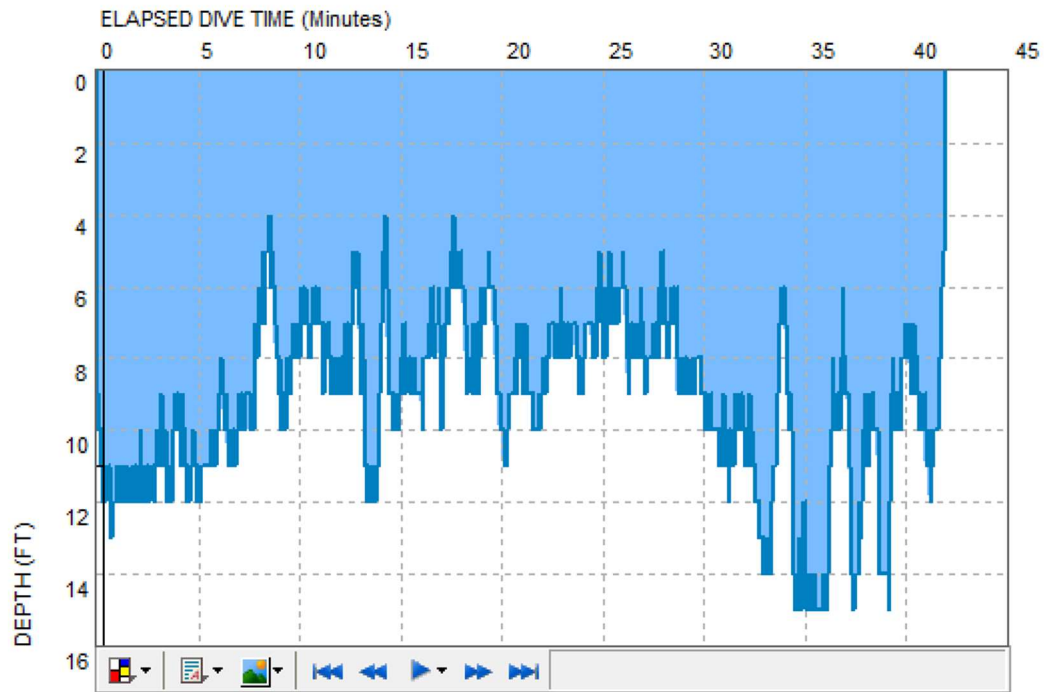




*archeological park?! Haha, would anyone even know if we weren't?* Well... When the guide started to uncover the first mosaic, I had to believe we were in it. It was a shame the visibility was so low, but seeing the mosaics were very cool, and also, a little surreal. To be swimming above what would have been a living space a couple thousand years ago. It makes me wonder where I've been now that might one day be completely transformed and seen through a different lens by future tourists. Also, it made me want to have mosaics in my home! They are so incredibly beautiful in a mesmerizing way. The bigger picture capture by all the smaller details.

While everyone took pictures and hovered around, I started playing about. I got Kyle's attention and was trying to pretend to be a statue underwater. I'm not really sure if he got it or not, and I could only hold it so long before I'd tip in one direction. As we moved, the guide would periodically uncover something or point to stonework for us. All in all, it was a very straight forward dive! Once we surfaced, we had to climb up a ladder on the backside of the zodiac. I managed to get my fins off and hand them up and then I climbed aboard with the rest of the kit. It was not graceful, but I got on! As we all settled into our spots to move to the next dive site Penny handed out glasses of iced tea. Most of the others only spoke Italian, but two other ladies spoke a little English and she pointed to the only two matching cups and told us, since we were a couple, we should have those because if we mixed up cups it wouldn't matter. *Good point! I mean, if he has cooties, I probably already have them!* And that is the story of how Kyle and I got yellow cups!







Dive 2	
Site Name	Baia Site 2
Individual Stats	Linsey Warren
GPS Coordinates	40°49'35.4"N 14°05'37.6"E
Dive Master	<i>I forget...</i>
Max Depth	16ft / 4.9m
Bottom Time	44 minutes
Start PSI	2164 PSI
End PSI	1556 PSI
Visibility	Okay (est. 10-12ft)
Conditions (Current etc.)	Calm – surface weather deteriorating though.
Water Temperature	Max. **F / **.°C Min. **F / **.°C
Outside Temperature	Man. 86F / 30C Min. 81F / 27C (Baia)
Surface Interval	Approx. 10-15 minutes. <i>The time it took to get to the next dive and have a quick sip!</i>
Notes	Still shallow depth and quite a lot of sediment being kicked up.
The Story	

Since we didn't use all that much oxygen on the first dive, we were able to use our tanks again on the next dive. Hooray for not having to switch tanks. And by that, I mean it was good news for Kyle, since he didn't have to set up both of our rigs again. *Note to self. I really should get more practice with that.*

Again, we kitted up and rolled out. *Literally.* This time we went a little deeper, but not by much. We followed the anchor down again, and once we had all assembled on the bottom the guide took off, randomly pointing at things – I could see sometimes and not others. I was happy to just float along and take in what I could, but it was kind of odd diving in such close formation to other people. I felt like I was constantly running into people. Later, Kyle and I would have a good laugh about how many times we got

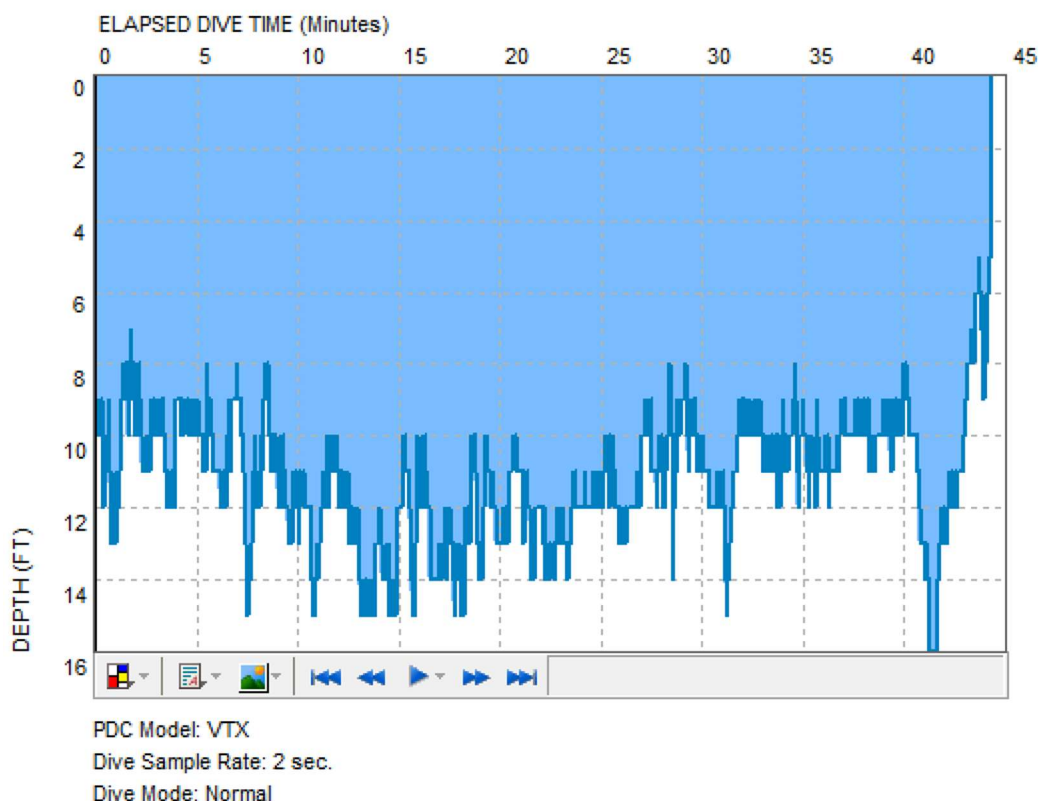


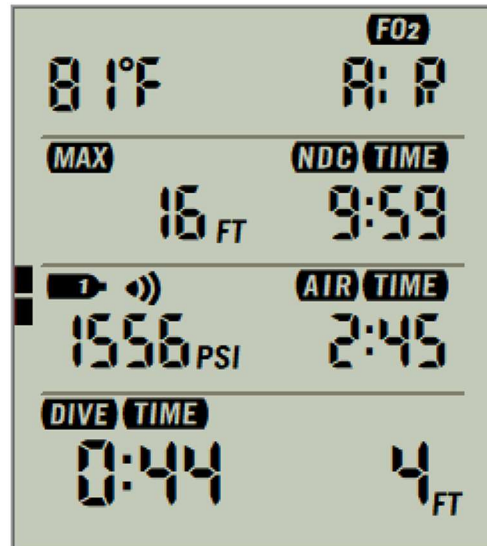
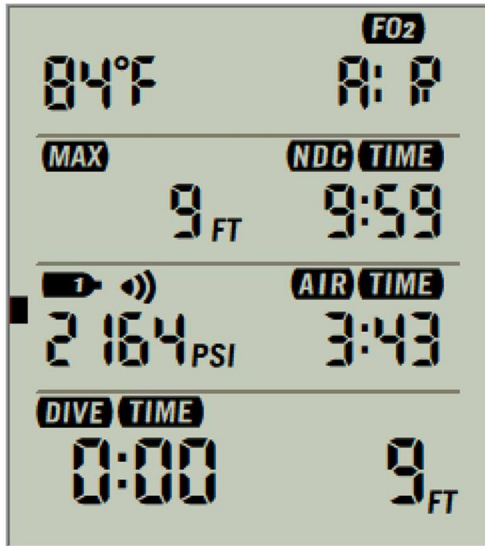
kicked or shouldered while we were diving. He thought it was brutal! I'm not sure if it was brutal, but it was occasionally annoying. Not enough for either of us to get too worked up over though.

We floated around looking at a couple more mosaics and some underwater brick work before we resurfaced. All in all, nothing crazy happened during the dive. But, while getting out, Kyle somehow managed to cut his finger open on the ladder. It was bleeding a fair amount, although it probably looked worse because the water was drawing the blood all over the place. *My wee bumble!* Poor Penny had to be wondering how that could happen! Luckily Kyle didn't seem overly concerned and we weren't too far from the dock. I mean like five- or ten-minutes tops! We motored back over, and Kyle and I stuck around to help unload some of the kit with the crew and give him a chance to look for the pin that may have popped out of his fins. We did not have any luck finding it. *Alas, we hauled useless fins to Italy!*

As we got all the kit inside and dunked it in the water tubs to rinse it, the skies darkened dramatically, and a storm moved in! I mean, it was really thundering and just dumping buckets out! One of the cracks felt like it was right overhead. It made me jump in surprise! Well, it was probably good we weren't diving anymore. I then popped into a little curtained section that looked like a changing room and some guy walked in and said it was his space and he'd paid for it or something. *What?* He then said I could change there. *Okaaaaay.* That's good because I was pretty much done changing. *Still... kind of weird.* You have to pay to change? Kyle went to grab the car while he was still in his swimsuit because it was just pouring out and he would have been soaked to the skin if he went in his clothes. While he was doing that, I started the payment process.

The sweet older Italian ladies who told us to use the yellow cups exchanged e-mail addresses with us in the hopes of sharing photos. After that, we got the car all loaded up and headed off towards Naples and an afternoon in the city! Overall, I enjoyed it from a historical perspective, but the diving was only okay.





#### Lessons Learned

1. Checking your partners gear is actually a good idea!
2. Underwater sightseeing is hard to do – get kicked loads!