

# Interview with Ruben, pro wakeboarder

## What motivated you to start wakeboarding?

I've always been practising water sports, I was addicted to Kite surf. What made me start wakeboarding is the fact you don't need specific weather conditions to wakeboard, unlike surfing, kitesurfing or windsurfing you don't need specific weather and sea conditions to plan your session, with the wake cable you don't need to worry about the weather, it's always open, so all you have to do is plan what time you're going to go. Also, wakeboard is a sport that you practice amongst friends, there is no competition, you feel part of a family, and everyone enjoys watching everyone else improve. In the end that's what I love the most, self improvement, and having a laugh with friends.

## What difficulties do you have doing it?

To be honest I didn't find it difficult. The initial progression is quite simple, and the learning curve is really satisfying, every day you go to the wakepark you feel like you learn something and you go home happy. In my experience as an instructor in this sport I have lived thousands of experiences with thousands of different people, everyone with their own specific difficulties, mentally or physically, and I should say that they all learnt wakeboarding in a simple and easy way, sometimes adapting the teaching techniques. In the end, everybody manages to learn if they want to and fight for it.

## What do you earn from wakeboarding?

I have a sponsorship that provides me with wakeboarding gear when I need it.

## What is your proudest moment?

My proudest moment is that I've got to the point in wakeboarding where my love of the sport is so infectious that people that are just starting the sport dedicate themselves to it and share my enthusiasm for it.

Students note (Marcus): He's the reason I love the sport so much.



Photo of students Pedro Gallardo (left) and Marcus Rysdale (middle) with Ruben (right)

What is wakeboarding?

Wakeboarding is a water sport in which the rider, standing on a wakeboard (a short board with foot bindings), is towed by a boat or a cable and they do tricks in all sorts of ways.

Photo of someone doing a trick while wakeboarding:

