

Indonesia's Leading Dive Resort



Bunaken Oasis offers world-class luxury accommodation with world renowned scuba diving sites in the heart of Indonesia, Bunaken National Park in North Sulawesi. Five-time winner of Indonesia's Leading Dive Resort at the World Travel Awards

info@bunakenoasis.com
www.bunakenoasis.com



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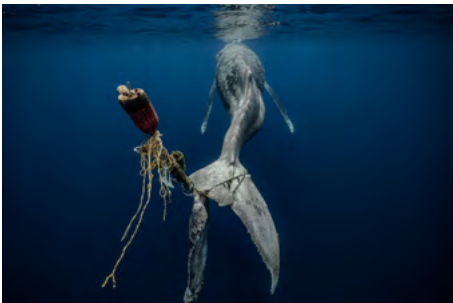


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A web magazine

UwP131 Mar/Apr 2023

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Cover shot by
Pete Atkinson

Underwater Photography 2001 - 2023

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Publisher/Editor Peter Rowlands

www.pr-productions.co.uk

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Editorial

Pool envy

At this time of the year, here in the south west of the UK, the sea state, vizibility and water temperature are usually not the most conducive for a two tank dive day intersperced with lunch afloat and a general catch up.

The reality is often quick trips out for a short dive from frosty gangways, with padded windproofs, caps with earflaps and snotty noses.

And then I saw Pete Atkinson's excellent front cover image and realised that I suffer from 'PE' at this time of year. It's a syndrome where I fantasise about a crystal clear, warm, freshwater swimming pool and preferably with a usefully deep, deep end.

Local authority cutbacks have seen an increasing number of leisure centres at risk and indoor pools are not ideal in terms of available light so I envy Pete and his pools in Phuket where he can start with a visually blank canvas with time to create in shorts, T shirt and a light weightbelt.

Roll on summer.

UwP Annual Survey

Many thanks to all those of you who completed our annual survey; the feedback you have provided both about equipment purchases and views on UwP content have been most helpful.

In terms of equipment purchases/movements, not much has changed really; about 10% looking to downsize from full frame/SLR and the same looking to move up from compact/4/3rds to a larger format. That's pretty much the same as in previous surveys.

The big difference is in readers' plans to purchase a major piece of equipment such as a lens/strobe etc and the even bigger difference is readers plans to travel. Both were up by around 20% to over 55% and 65% respectively so it looks like equipment manufacturers and dive resorts are in for a bumper time.

It also confirms my belief that no one wants to be the first to give up their underwater cameras and dive travel so let's hope that technology will come up with a solution to let us keep doing it.

iPhone Panos?

Patient readers can skip this if they're not into using smartphones underwater but, for those who are, I might, just might, have some exciting news for you about a housing and App combo which is promising to provide the ability to switch to 'Pano' underwater.

As patient readers still here will know, I have been a fan of the capability of the Pano function on smartphones for underwater imaging. It gives the ability to create space even in poor vizibility without the need for additional wide angle lenses.

In the past I have reviewed several housings and Apps - none of which (apart from the mechanically buttoned SeaFrogs housing) were able to provide the Pano ability.

I always assumed that Apple would not release 'the code' to allow App developers to open the Pano function but while messaging a new smartphone housing distributor they checked with the manufacturer and App developer and the reply came that they can and the next version of their App will have this facility.

More in UwP132...

Go to YouTube

In our fast advancing world, communication is now available in many forms; the most recent being YouTube aided by the availability of smartphones to self film presenters.

The quality standard and information imparted varies significantly but the beauty is that only the fittest survive. By that I mean that poor quality and information is not 'liked' or 'subscribed' and therefore dwindles. This leaves the well produced and presented Channels to survive and thrive. They are free, one to one tutorials and there is no better way of learning the in's and out's of underwater photography.

You can pause and rewind to go over something that didn't quite 'go in' or even pause and come back when it suits to continue the learning process.

Having listened to the theory, there are then plenty of workshops to go on to put your new found knowledge into practice.

The result must be better images all round.

Peter Rowlands
peter@uwpmag.com

www.uwpmag.com

News, Travel & Events

Mayotte International Underwater Image Festival

Registration for the 28th edition of the Mayotte International Underwater Image Festival is open!

The Mayotte FISM is expanding to new aquatic destinations to become the INTERNATIONAL Underwater Image Festival.

We look forward to meeting you from May 25th to 28th for this new edition at Place de la République!

As every year, the competition is open to amateurs and professionals. You will find the 4 main categories: still images, films, music and drawings.

New this year: School screenings on May 22/23 and public screenings on May 26/27 will take place at the cultural center of Chirongui.

It will be an opportunity to come and watch the films selected by the jury.

We look forward to meeting you for this 28th edition alongside our new president of the jury Nicolas Barraqué, whose portrait you can find by clicking here.

Please note: All competition registrations close on April 14, 2023



<https://soiresdelimagesousmarine.fr>



Underwater Photography Workshop Marsa Shagra, Egypt 4th - 11th November 2023

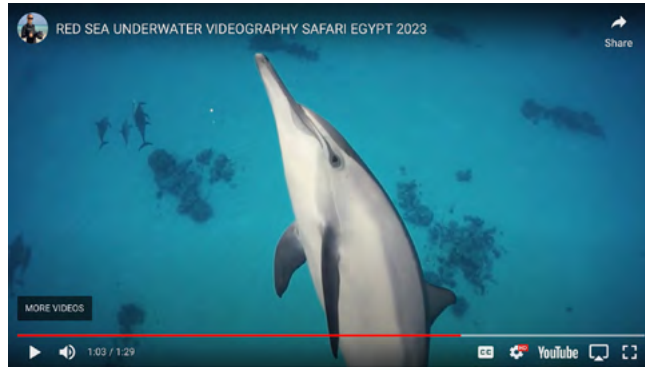
The goal of this workshop is to help you make the most of the photographic possibilities of Marsa Shagra. We achieve this by doing photography and film focused dives (time of day dives, dive site reviews, etc.), by giving you the necessary photo tips and information before the dives and by having group meetings where you can get advice, inspiration

and get feedback from the rest of the group.

Our workshops are characterized by the fact that you can learn from us as well as from the other participants. We have the best shots and also the best time when everyone has fun developing ideas together and implementing them!

<https://www.panoceanphoto.com/workshop-marsa-shagra>

Underwater Videography Red Sea Safari & Boot Camp 9 - 16th Dec 2023



Ever wanted to explore the Red Sea and learn how to capture your favorite moments?

Whilst visiting some of the Red Sea's most iconic and abundant dive spots, you will have the opportunity to develop and refine your underwater videography skills.

Theoretical and practical sessions, including aspects of conservation, safety, and wildlife protection, will allow you to apply your newly acquired knowledge on

underwater videography directly in the field, or should we say "directly underwater".

4 Days at the "Dolphin House"

The main focus of this Safari is to get you into the water to combine knowledge with hands-on practice in the wild.

Our goal is to motivate and encourage more people to get below the surface and record the wonders beneath for our generation and generations to come in order to create more visual awareness of a threatened ecosystem.

We are welcoming videographers of all levels of experience, so we customize the content of the course and adapt it to your profile.

www.uwlunatic.art



South Sulawesi with Roland Conrad March 22nd to April 5th 2024



From March 22nd to April 5th 2024 you can enjoy the reefs overgrown with soft and hard corals, gorgonians and sponges on the photo and film expedition to South Sulawesi. Together with tour guide Roland Conrad you can explore one of the greatest biodiversity of marine fauna.

Hours of driving to dive sites are not necessary at the Selayar Dive Resort, because the resort is not on the marine park, but in the middle of it. Fast boats take us to more distant diving sites in a maximum of half an hour.

The sea around the Indonesian island of Sulawesi is home to the greatest biodiversity of marine fauna under water. Diving in Sulawesi makes your heart beat faster. The reefs of Sulawesi are almost entirely



*Your tour guide: Roland Conrad
Photo Expert & Tour Guide*

covered with soft and hard corals, gorgonians and sponges. Diving there brings with it a very large variety of small fish species, but encounters with sea snakes, turtles, Napoleon fish, eagle rays and reef sharks are not uncommon. The water temperature is between 27° and 30°. A 3 or 5 mm suit is usually sufficient.

<https://www.panoceanphoto.com/sued-sulawesi-2024>



MantaFest 2023 August 26 through September 9, 2023



SDUFEX Underwater Film Festival Open for Submissions March 1 - June 15, 2023

The San Diego Undersea Film Exhibition (SDUFEX) is proud to announce plans for their 24th Annual Underwater Film Festival on October 6 & 7, 2023. The in-person event will be held at San Diego's state of the art Qualcomm Auditorium. Each evening, upwards of 500 attendees will enjoy a completely different lineup of films.

Films may be submitted in either the 5 Minute Maximum or 10 Minute Maximum categories but each

filmmaker is only allowed to submit 2 films in total.

The audiences' choice each night and judges' top pick will be awarded prizes of \$250 each! The festival will also be a hybrid event with films available on-line, so there are plenty of opportunities to see your film screened.

www.sdufex.com

Since 2006, our MantaFest program has brought underwater photographers, both amateur and professional, to this small island and its protected reef to compete for prizes, attend workshops, take tours of the island, and experience the unique culture of Yap, which is considered to be among the best preserved in the Pacific region.

Workshops are led by experts providing their knowledge of all things related to taking better pictures including, but not limited to composition, lighting, and photoshop. They also offer advice during sessions

with local models in settings that include the island's unique stone money banks and traditional dance performances.

Daily dive trips provide opportunities to dive with and photograph the manta rays, sharks, and the plethora of small, colorful tropicals such as the brightly colored mandarin fish and many more wonders of Yap's underwater world.

During the 16th MantaFest event, we will be joined by top U/W photographers like Andy Schumacher, David Fleetham, Frank Schneider, Ray Bullion, Steve Miller, and Tim Rock.

<https://www.mantaray.com/the-manta-ray-bay-resort/special-events-regional-partners/mantafest-2023/>



House of Underwater-Photography

PHOTO & VIDEO WORKSHOP

Are you ready for the next level?



4 - 11
Nov 2023

Upgrade your underwater photography at your own pace in the open house reef in

Egypt, Marsa Alam

organizer of the journey

BEHIND THE MASK

BOOK NOW

www.PanOceanPhoto.com



Beneath the Sea® Meadowlands Exposition Center Secaucus, New Jersey March 25 - 26, 2023

Every year Beneath the Sea delivers more than 200 booths and over 70 seminars and workshops on all aspects of scuba: equipment, destinations, medical issues, expedition planning, wreck plotting, conservation, fish behavior, environmental issues, exploration, leadership, dive safety, a marine careers day, underwater digital photography, and videography.

There will be a drawing for a grand prize - a trip to Fiji for two staying at Voli Voli Resort, travel on Fiji Airways LAX gateway -- and a silent auction filled with personal gear, dive trips to exotic places, and

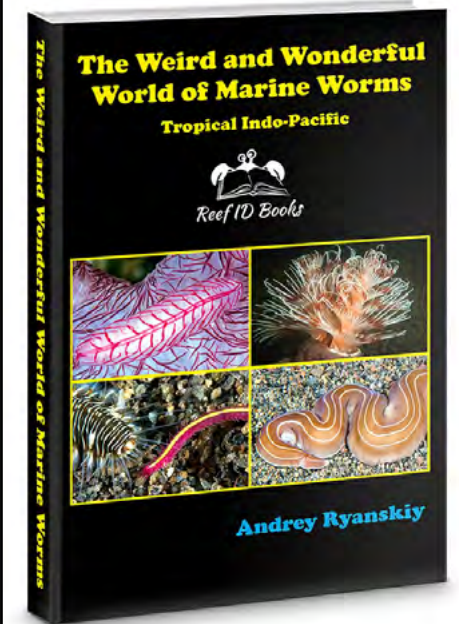
much more. Indeed, as of this writing, there is talk of bringing mermaids to the show.

Come and see all of it for yourself, be a part of the fun, festivities, and fellowship when Beneath the Sea 2023 convenes its 44th Exposition

March 25, 26, 2023 at the Meadowlands Exposition Center in Secaucus, New Jersey -- only 8 minutes from New York City.

Be there, make yourself a part of today's diving history, and a part of diving's future. Between now and then, keep your eye on our website:

www.beneaththesea.us



Treat your shelf with 1st in the world "Marine Worms for Dummies" class book!
Paperback, eBook, Apple iBook.
Direct download. 20% discount for UWP readers!

Niue Island

Photo trip with PanOcean Photo & Travel

14th – 28th August 2023

The only way to get to Alofi, the capital of Niue, is via a 3 hour direct flight from Auckland in New Zealand twice a week every Tuesday and Saturday. As you cross the international date line, you arrive in Alofi a day earlier. This means you have to take the Air New Zealand flight around 9am on Tuesday 15th August 2023 and arrive back in Auckland on Tuesday 29th August 2023. We will accordingly spend 14 nights on the island from Monday to Monday. (14th – 28th August 2023)

Meeting point for the trip will be in Auckland International Airport at the latest. Due to most flight connections, your guide will likely spend the night at a hotel near AKL Airport before flying to Alofi. Of course we can also organize your trip from your front door to the island including all flights and necessary overnight stays. A combination with New Zealand or at least Auckland would also be conceivable. However, at this time of the year it is winter there.

Upon arrival on the island, a minivan will be ready for the group and your guide will drive to the accommodation.



*Your tour guide: Roland Conrad
Photo Expert & Tour Guide*

Daily schedule:

A 25 minute drive along the coast brings us to our local partner: Niue Blue Island Adventures. For our whale watching trips and dives, a private boat will be available for the group with a maximum of 5 divers plus your guide, crew and captain from Niue Blue.

The whale trips take place either in the morning or in the afternoon and last up to 4 hours. Depending on the weather conditions and the decision



of the participants and the guide. You really can't say which time is better or worse. Nature is unpredictable here. Theoretically, diving would also be possible on the same day, but experience has shown that the snorkeling trips are very strenuous. 6 trips are planned and included. A double dive is planned for 3 days each. A guided island tour by Niue Blue will take place on one of the days off. So you still have 3 free days for further dives or your own activities.

Explore the island on an e-bike or hike along the beautiful coast.

Please note that all shops and companies are closed on Sundays. This is a traditional Tonga-like rest day. This local tradition must also be respected so please keep this in mind if you head out to explore the island on Sunday.

A maximum of 5 freedivers and your guide are allowed per boat. This ensures a maximum nature experience!

<https://behind-the-mask.com/dive-travel/groups/2023-08-niue-island-panocean/>

Mobulas & Orca, Baja, Mexico Nautilus Galant Lady With Aerial Support April 29-May 6, 2023



From April to July, hundreds of thousands of mobula rays gather in dense schools in the Sea of Cortez Mexico. Where there are mobulas, there are orcas! Join us on the luxury diving yacht Nautilus Galant Lady as we head out in search of this amazing natural event. We use dedicated aircraft support to maximize our encounters by quickly locating the mobulas and orcas along with whale sharks, blue and fin whales, dolphins, and much more!

This trip is predominately focused on snorkeling and freediving, but there will also be some scuba opportunities. The underwater photography will be mostly wide angle ambient light photo and video. There are also great topside photo opportunities of the orcas, leaping mobula rays, dolphins, birds, and other wildlife in the area. Be sure to bring your telephoto lenses as well.

Orcas (*Orcinus orca*) are commonly known as killer whales, but these large apex predators are actually giant dolphins by definition. Males can grow up to 30 feet in

length and swim over 35 mph, but the grandmas are the real bosses of the family. These fascinating and highly intelligent “resident” and “oceanic” whales often stay in tight family groups for their entire lives. “Transient” orcas are a little different and travel individually or in small groups of two or three animals maximum. The orcas that we hope to encounter are individuals from the Eastern Tropical Pacific population that is known to travel between Baja and Costa Rica.



MARSA NAKARI AND WADI LAHAMI WITH ALEX TATTERSALL

15 SEPTEMBER 2023



Award winning photographer Dr Alex Tattersall teamed with Oonasdivers back in 2010. We have hosted multiple workshops in Egypt, Indonesia & Philippines and the Gulf of California.

Alex's boundless enthusiasm for creatively capturing the underwater world and sharing these ideas and techniques with others has become the signature of his Oonasdivers workshops. He also has possibly the most extensive bag of underwater toys for all to play with including fluo filters, close up lenses, light shaping devices, laser snoots, and if you are nice to him he may even allow you to have a go on his magic ball!

ABOUT THE TRIP

I've been enchanted by Marsa Nakari since I first went all the way back in 2009. The resort has a very intimate and relaxed feeling, we are always well looked after, and the diving is so relaxed and exotic. This part of the trip will take us all on relaxed a journey together into the photographic marvels residing just below the waves. We will mostly be shore diving from the resort, jumping into the azure bay and local fringing reef (with its resident Indian mackerel schools) with the option of a couple of excursions (paid for locally) to some of the jewels in the crown of this beautiful area. Photo instruction will be a combination of group talks on aspects such as lighting, composition, creativity and art, exposures, subject selection, finding and approaching subjects, and more along with individual tutorial time and image critiques.



WADI LAHAMI EXTENSION

Our adventure will continue further south to Wadi Lahimi where we will apply many of the skills we have learnt in the Marsa Nakari section of the trip. This part of the trip is an optional extra and does require a level of adventurousness/physical fitness but the photographic rewards and diving experience from visiting the Fury Shoals reef system are endless.

Nakari Workshop 7 nights from £1395 – Lahami Extension from £725 – Flights £POA

Based on twin share deluxe chalets, 7 nights Nakari, 4 nights Lahami, 6 days diving Nakari, 3 days RIB Lahami, full board & selected soft drinks.

For full itinerary details contact Lydia at Oonasdivers - lydia@oonasdivers.com or call 01323648924

LEMBEH STRAIT

PHOTO WORKSHOP 2023

WITH THE UNDERWATER TRIBE AND DOUG SLOSS

BACK FOR THE 10TH YEAR!

at

NAD LEMBEH RESORT

JULY 22nd -29th 2023

- 7 nights / 17 dives
- 2:1 Guest to Guide ratio
- One-on-one underwater instruction

Looking for more diving?

Join us for an additional Photo Fun Week with no official instruction but a whole lot of fun and diving starting on July 17th.

Packages are available from the 7 night workshop up to a 12 night/32 dive package

Prices start at \$ 2,118 per person based on double/twin share poolside room. Seaview bungalows and single accommodation available as well as trip extensions.

Package includes:

- 7nights/17 dives
- 17 Nitrox tanks
- Return airport transfers
- All meals, coffee, tea, snacks
- In-water tuition, photo tuition and digital copies of presentations

For more information go to www.underwatertribe.com

Contact Us Today: info@underwatertribe.com
info@underwaterlightroom.com

Dec / Jan
2023/2024

9th HUGY CUP

International Underwater
Photo- & Video Contest

9th Hugycup, NAD Lembeh Resort December 2023 and January 2024

Finally we are almost all the way through the Covid Pandemie.

Traveling is possible again without too many restrictions.

It is finally possible ,after 4 years, to organize the Hugycup again.

The Hugycup is an underwater photo & video shoot-out with fantastic prizes.

But it's not just a competition.

Those who want to learn a bit more about underwater photography and/or videography will be at the right spot.

It is a place where experiences are shared, tips and ideas are passed on !

If you do not photograph yourself but you want to enjoy the fantastic wealth of the Lembeh Strait, North

Sulawesi, Indonesia, then that is also perfectly possible.

The 9th Hugycup will take place in the NAD Lembeh Resort in December 2023 and January 2024.

Everyone who comes to NAD Lembeh in December or January can participate.

In the NAD Lembeh Resort there is one diving guide per 2 divers. Super luxurious.

The camera room is marvelous and you'll have your own spot and charging station !

All info about the Hugycup, what can be won, what it costs for your stay (you can decide yourself how long you would like to stay there).... on

www.hugycup.com

www.uwpmag.com

New Products

Nauticam NA-R6II Housing for Canon EOS R6 Mark II



The Canon EOS R6 Mark II may look like its predecessor, but it offers a lot of new features attractive to underwater image makers. It has a new 24MP full frame sensor, it is capable of recording UHD 4K/60p without any crop factor internally and also supports ProRes RAW recording up to 6K to an external recorder such as the Ninja V.

The NA-R6II underwater housing follows suit with Nauticam's drive for innovation and it supports both the Canon EOS R6 and R6 Mark II. A conversion kit is required for the original R6 and will be provided upon request.

Like its predecessors, the NA-R6II presents shooters with the ability to use both the available legacy EF lenses via an adapter in addition to

their native RF optics. To support both the legacy and native lenses, Nauticam has integrated the NA-R6II into the N120 port system. Canon's EF to RF mount adapters can be affixed to the camera before insertion into the housing. When using the EOS R6 Mark II inside the housing with the adapter and a supported EF lens, the port and extension ring arrangement will be identical to the same setup on a Nauticam Canon N120 DSLR.

With the ever growing RF lens lineup, you can also follow the dedicated N120 Canon RF port chart that is being updated and expanded with each new lens release. Please note that the Canon Control Ring and Drop-in Filter EF to EOS R adapters are not accessible within the housing.

Flash triggering is achieved via

one of two optional Flash Triggers, a manual LED trigger (PN 26305) or a TTL Flash Trigger (PN 26321 currently unavailable) that use the built-in fiber optic bulkheads with optional fiber-optic cables to trigger supported strobes. For controlling strobes that do not support fiber optic flash triggering, a variety of legacy hot-shoe flash control bulkheads are available.

Model Number: 17339

AUD Retail Price: \$5,593 (inc. GST)

CNY Retail Price: ¥23,003

Euro Retail Price: €3,813 (inc. VAT)

GPB Retail Price: £3,324 (inc. VAT)

HKD Retail Price: \$26,196

USD Retail Price: \$4,042

Port Opening: N120

Depth Rating: 100m

www.nauticam.com

Seacam Achromat 4.0 Supermacro Lens and Flip System





Seacam is now shipping its new Achromat 4.0 Micro lens and flip system. The supermacro lens achieves an impressive magnification of 4:1—double the magnification of the company's original Achromat 2.0. Like the original lens, the 4.0 MICRO LENS features a standard 67mm thread and is designed for use with Seacam's MIP 60 microport and MIP 80 microport.

Available now from Seacam retailers, the Achromat 4.0 MICRO LENS costs \$1,185, while the Single Flip Adapter Base and the Dual Flip Adapter Extension cost \$430 and \$225, respectively. Seacam's MIP 60 microport and MIP 80 microport both retail for \$460, while the Achromat 2.0 retails for \$480.

www.seacam.com

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THE BEST BANG FOR YOUR BUCK

OLYMPUS E-PL10

Ikelite Sony a7 IV & Sony a7R V Housing DL200

A full-featured and durable waterproof housing for Sony Alpha IV full-frame mirrorless digital cameras. Suitable for scuba, snorkel, surf and pool.

This housing features Ikelite's robust Dry Lock (DL) port system. "Dry Lock" refers to the placement of the o-ring on the outside of the port mount. This improves visibility and reduces the chances of water dropping onto your precious camera sensor. DL ports are the lightest on the market, yet robust and capable of standing up to rough surf. Attachment is quick and secure. A system of extensions can accommodate a huge variety of lenses with ease.

Most popular zoom lenses and select lens focus rings can be engaged using simple gearing that puts adjustment right at your fingertips. A large, soft-touch knob on the side of the housing makes fine-tuned adjustments a breeze. Zoom and focus gears differ depending on which lens you are using. Zoom gears are sold separately.

A vacuum valve is installed standard on the side of the housing.



Housings produced before January 2023 (serial number 77880 and below) require an Update Kit for use with the newer Sony a7RV camera.

www.ikelite.com
www.backscatter.com

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DJI Osmo Action 3

Its separate color temperature sensor below the lens makes it the perfect actioncam for underwater use.

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INON

**X-2 R5 Housing
for Canon EOS R5**

Equipped with the „Quick Shoe System“
for quick change between horizontal
and vertical camera position.

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www.PanOceanPhoto.com

Weefine WFS07 strobe light



The WFS07 strobe light is a multiple function light that not only supports underwater photo but also underwater video shooting, which utilize Ring shape strobe tube with large capacity and high rate lithium battery. The maximum guide number is GN22 and Flash beam angle is 140°. The number of flashes with full charged batteries is more than 600 times. What's more, there is an integrated LED light source in the center of the Ring tube with max. 3000 lumens and CRI Ra90.

WFS07 can be used either as a focus light for the strobes or as an independent video light. When used as a focus lamp, it will automatically

turn off for 1.5 seconds when a flash is detected. Then the focus lamp function lights up again at the set brightness.

The strobe has multiple safety protection functions, including overheating protection, internal air pressure protection, battery safety protection and waterproof protection.

www.weefine.com

www.uwcamerastore.com

www.panoceanphoto.com

www.backscatter.com

BACKSCATTER
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Issue 131/14

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EUROPE'S NR. 1
UNDERWATER CAMERA STORE



**IKELITE FOR
SONY A1**

**ISOTTA FOR
SONY A1**



**NAUTICAM FOR
SONY A1**



WE ARE UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHERS... JUST LIKE YOU.

Backscatter Mini Flash with Olympus TG-6



With the Mini Flash 2 having become rather a sophisticated strobe, Backscatter has anticipated that folks will likely need a little help setting up the MF-2 with their camera and using the strobe in different shooting scenarios, so they are hard at work producing a handy how-to guide for new users. The guide is divided into parts, and the first part, which is out now, is all about using the Mini Flash 2 with that most popular of compact cameras, the Olympus TG-6.

Helmed by Media Producer Robin Dodd, the excellent new video covers everything TG-6 shooters need to know about hooking up and shooting with an MF-2 (or two)—from simple macro shots to creative work using backlighting and side-lighting,



snoots and colored filters. Robin throws in some handy “pro tips” along the way and also highlights the various accessories you can add to your system to achieve the coolest effects. The video nicely demonstrates how Backscatter has managed to produce a strobe with advanced features that is still easy to use.

www.backscatter.com



Nauticam NA-R5C housing for Canon R5 C



“Cinema Mastery”

The excellent Canon R5 has lots of fans, but serious video shooters sometimes felt a bit throttled by the built-in limitations of that camera. Canon’s answer is the R5C. All that was great about the R5 has been fully unleashed.

You get Canon best-in-class white balance and AF and simply stunning image quality. Nauticam rose to the challenge with exceptionally elegant engineering incorporating full cinema zoom and focus in a compact form factor that inspires confidence from the very first use. Underwater cinema work has never been this easy.

www.reefphoto.com

EUROPE'S NR. 1
UNDERWATER CAMERA STORE



WEEFINE WED-5 5 INCH MONITOR



WE ARE UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHERS... JUST LIKE YOU.



Issue 131/16

Nauticam NA-XT5 Housing for Fujifilm X-T5



The X-T5, Fujifilm's latest APS-C mirrorless hybrid camera, adds a list of significant upgrades when compared to its predecessors. Some of the most noticeable improvements are a new 40.2MP sensor with a processor 2x as fast as the X-T4. The Fuji X-T5 offers a high-resolution camera that can record internal 6.2K 10 bit 4:2:2 video or 12 bit ProRes RAW externally over HDMI in addition to shooting an impressive 20fps of continuous stills.

Nauticam has supported all the previous X-T cameras and continues to create innovative and ultra-functional housings for this line with the NA-XT5.

It is designed with our Mission Control concept of placing the most important camera controls as close to the handles as possible to facilitate effortless and quick camera operation to ensure you don't miss the shot.

The NA-XT5 features thumb levers near both handles, with the left thumb lever actuating playback

and the right thumb lever AF-ON. The housing includes two M14 and one M24 bulkhead openings to accommodate a variety of accessories.

The NA-XT5 uses the N100 Port System shared with the Fujifilm XH1, XT3 and XT4 system.

Model Number: 17159

USD Retail Price: \$3163

Euro Retail Price: €3,014 (inc. VAT)

GBP Retail Price: £2,605 (inc. VAT)

AUD Retail Price: \$4,588 (inc. GST)

HKD Retail Price: \$20,499

Depth Rating: 100m

www.nauticam.com



Nauticam NA-A1 housing for Sony a1



"Do-Everything Powerhouse"

Sony has reconceived what a pro camera should look and feel like with the Sony a1.

Sony maintained the form factor of the A7 series, but loaded it with state-of-the-art technology that provides superior stills and video performance. 4K 120p, 8K Video, 50MP @ 30FPS, 9M dot EVF and more breaks new ground in this class. If you can dream it, the a1 can do it.

Married to the Nauticam NA-a1 housing with its superior ergonomics, the underwater possibilities are near limitless.

www.reefphoto.com

www.uwpmag.com

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GN:UW32 Max output : 250 watts
 Connection : optical cable / 5 pin syn cord/slave mode

Beam angle : 120 degree

Recycle time (full) : 0.5s

Battery : 4x 18650 lithium batteries pack

Number of flash (full) : 750 flashes

15 frames high speed continuous shooting at 1st mode. 12 frames at 2nd mode.

Colour temperature : 5300K

Focus light : 5W / 500 lumens center focus

Depth rating : 60m/200 ft

Weight:120g(underwater) 1195g (land without battery)

1. Instant recharge: recycle time at 0.1-1.1Sec. Beam Angel:150 degree

2.Continuous Unlimited flash Sync with 10 flashes/sec at first mode.

3.Battery capacity to fire up to 3000 flashes(first power) and 500 flashes (full power).

4.Battery Compartment Sealed

www.scubalamp.com



**Nauticam NA-A7RIV
 for Sony a7R IV**



"Resolution Rethought"

Sony, has come up with yet another addition to their a7 line that is sure to impress. This fourth edition of the a7R sees the inclusion of an updated 61MP

Exmor R BSI CMOS sensor and enhanced BIONZ X image processor. Despite its high resolution, it can shoot at up to 10 frames per second with full autofocus and shoot 4K video either from the full width of its sensor or from a Super 35 crop. The NA-A7RIV underwater housing provides fingertip access to all key camera controls in a rugged and reliable aluminum underwater housing. Ergonomic camera control access is one of the defining strengths of a Nauticam housing, and the NA-7RIV continues this tradition.

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ProShot iPhone Dive Case



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The ProShot Dive Case is compatible with EVERY iPhone Including all four new iPhone 14's, all four iPhone 13's, the 12 Pro Max, 12 Mini, plus more.

All Cases come with our free Underwater Camera App, "ProShotCase", for all underwater photography. Our 'ProShotCase' app includes a photo editing feature.

As soon as you go underwater, touch screens are not able to react to your touch anymore, so we created a camera app specifically to use with our case in the water. Our app will change your phone's volume buttons into camera controls and provide you with full camera access & functionality

in the water!

The ProShotCase has an exterior mounting bracket and comes with a floating hand grip accessory that keeps your case & iPhone afloat when attached. ProShotCases are compatible with all GoPro mounts as well.

iPhone Protection Guarantee

All ProShotCases come with our iPhone Protection Guarantee, which states if anything unlikely happens to your phone due to a manufacturing defect while in our case, then ProShot will cover the cost to repair/replace your phone.

Please make sure that you follow the steps on the instructions page to ensure your iPhone is protected and covered within our iPhone Protection Guarantee.

www.proshotcase.com

www.uwpmag.com



UPY

Category Sponsor

Marelux Wide Angle
Marelux Macro

Photo by
Kazushige Horiguchi, @UPY



MX SOFT Pro

Smart Optical Flash Tube

STROBES

INON/Sea&Sea/Ikelite/
AOI/Retra/Seacam/
Supe/Weefine/Kraken

SOFT Pro can be used with various popular strobes to narrow down the beam coverage. Lighter and shorter than the original version, SOFT Pro features a user adjustable red and white built-in aiming light. The aiming light will automatically switch off when it detects the flash from the strob and the delay in-between is user adjustable too.

CUSTOM COLORS

- Black
- Silver Grey
- Olive Green
- Yale Blue
- Burgundy

MODELS

MX-R5	MX-R5C	MX-R6	MX-R6II
MX-A7RIII	MX-A7RV	MX-A7RV	MX-A7IV
MX-A7SIII	MX-A1	MX-FX3	MX-26II/Z7II

Best-in-class design, Compact and lightweight. Made by uniquely anodized aluminum, Superb scratch resistance with multiple color options.

MX Housing

Mirrorless Camera



180 Degree
ViewFinder



MX Viewfinder

180 Degree Smart Viewfinder
with built-in indicators of current depth,
ascent rate and dive time.



45 Degree
ViewFinder

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Sea Frogs SF-S-FX3 Sony Cinema FX3 housing



The waterproof case Sea Frogs SF-S-FX3 is specially designed for Sony Cinema Line FX3. It allows your Sony FX3 camera shooting underwater down to 40 meters (130 feet) to discover the world of the underwater. With this special design case, every key of the Sony can be pressed to control freely as you want. Ready to mount the optional vacuum leak check circuitry and valve, use the included pump to secure your housings against leaks before your dive.

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Leak Insure sachets contain highly absorbent granules that can hold 400 times their own weight in freshwater.

The granules we use are fast acting, ideal for soaking up leaks quickly. The sachet has been designed to hold approximately 40ml of water without the sachet splitting. However if the sachet does split it should not have any detrimental affect on you camera.

Leak Insure sachets not only protect your camera if your underwater case leaks, they also act as an excellent desiccant, even better than silica gel.

During your dive the Leak Insure sachets will reduce fogging caused by condensation in your underwater case.

Keep a sachet in your underwater camera housing when not in use to make sure it stays dry

www.leakinsure.com

www.seafrogs.cn

www.uwpmag.com



NA-A7RV Housing FOR SONY A7R V CAMERA 17433

N100 Port System



EMWL
Converted FOV 60° / 100° / 130° / 160°

Under the Surface with Lexi Laine



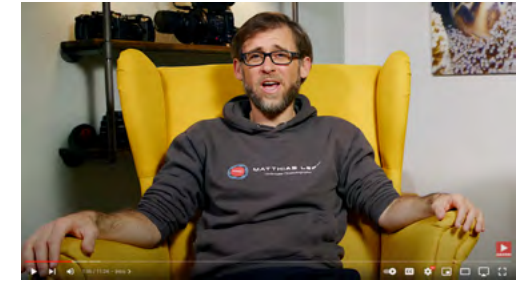
Lexi Laine is a British artist working in the medium of photography.

Based on the south coast of the UK, Lexi specialises in creating ethereal underwater scenes in some of the most unique and pristine locations around the globe. She has spent several years training as a freediver in order to extend the amount of time she can stay underwater.

Rather than using scuba equipment, Lexi chooses instead to undertake all of her work on a single breath hold. More often than not her photographs depict a single female or multiple women, featuring highly skilled freedivers as the subjects.

www.youtube.com
www.lexilaine.co.uk

5 Tips for better Underwater Smartphone Footage



Use the time code for navigation:

- 0:00 – Intro
- 01:29 - Tip #1 - Video lights
- 01:57 - Tip #2 - Dedicated camera app
- 03:20 - Tip #3 - Find the right housing
- 05:05 - Introducing “Ocean Waldo”
- 08:21 - Tip #4 - Tray
- 09:00 - Tip #5 - Red filter
- 10:08 - Mini course about filming with smartphones

www.youtube.com
www.matthiaslebo.com



Immerse Yourself in the World of Underwater Imaging

NEWS

Keep up to date with everything that matters to underwater photographers, from the latest gear and gadgets to the newest developments in marine research

TECHNIQUES

Learn the fundamentals of underwater photography and progress to the latest, most innovative techniques taught by the top pros in the industry

ARTICLES

Discover the world of underwater imaging through compelling features from photographers, filmmakers, ocean scientists, industry experts, and more

TRAVEL

Read about the experiences of accomplished shooters as they visit the world's most iconic dive spots, and get inside tips on maximizing your dive vacation

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Use our comprehensive underwater photography and videography gear guide to find the best camera, lenses, housing, lighting, and accessories for you

CONTESTS

Submit your best underwater images and short films to our annual contests, including the prestigious DPG/Wetpixel Masters Underwater Imaging Competition

DIVE PHOTO GUIDE

www.divephotoguide.com · contact@divephotoguide.com

The Weird and Wonderful World of Marine Worms

Marine worms are recognized world champions in biodiversity. This book is the first photo guide to these secretive and often strange animals. The book is based on photographs taken by the author, as well as his friends – citizen scientists and professional marine biologists.

It is designed for the general public interested in marine life. The book is also of interest to scuba divers and underwater photographers interested in identifying their underwater finds.

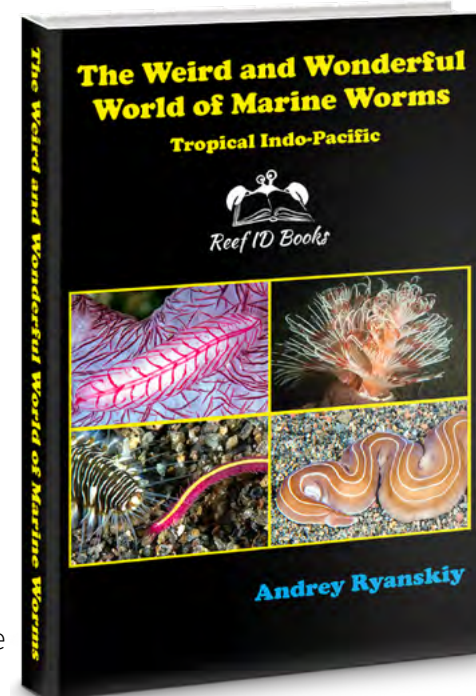
This photo guide should also assist marine biologists and students in the initial identification of collected marine worms.

The book covers the region from the Red Sea, East and South Africa to Hawaii, Marshall Islands and Guam.

Inside the book:

- Over 820 full color photographs of 440+ species;
- Particular attention was paid to color variations, for some species up to 10 photos were added;
- Live photographs of most of the species have never before appeared in field guides or popular books.
- Convenient pictorial guide at the beginning and general index at the end of the book.

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SONY A7 IV underwater camera review

By Jim Decker

The Sony a7 IV boasts an all-new sensor and other significant performance upgrades from the previous Sony a7 III camera. The “middle” child of the a7 series, the base model has often been looked over. But at 33MP resolution, it’s knocking on the door of being called a hi-res camera. Can this be a Sony a1 on a budget that deserves a second look?

Probably the biggest headline for this camera is the price point. At the time of writing this camera comes in at \$2499, which is a bargain compared to the \$4000 more you’ll spend on a Sony a1.

The Sony a7 IV and Sony a1 are extremely similar in terms of size and control layout, but are completely different cameras under the hood. Luckily some of the good tech advancements of the Sony a1 has made it into the Sony a7 IV.



Previous a7 base models lacked some specs and performance when compared to their S or R model siblings. While there was a price difference for the base a7 models, in the grand scheme of things by the time a complete underwater camera system was put together, it just didn’t seem to make sense when the only difference in the cost of the underwater camera system is just the camera body, and a lot of times it amounted to \$1500 or less of a difference. Most of our customers at Backscatter wound up going either to the S or R models, and as a result, we had very few takers for the base a7 model cameras.

www.backscatter.com/reviews/post/Sony-a7-IV-Underwater-Camera-Review

www.uwpmag.com

Dive Maldives A Guide to the Maldives Archipelago

by Tim Godfrey

This new edition of Tim Godfrey's popular book has been updated for 2023 release in paperback.

Dive Maldives: A Guide to the Maldives Archipelago is a detailed guide to diving the atolls of the Maldives with information on over 350 dive sites. The book is based on the author's personal research over 25 years.

A comprehensive overview of island history, Indian Ocean maritime history and famous shipwrecks of the Maldives the book includes a useful diver information section as well as an index of fish, invertebrates and dive sites.

The atoll maps show more than 200 resorts. This edition adds new resort names and updates island information.

Tim Godfrey has been researching the atolls of the Maldives since 1986 when he started work as a dive instructor and guide on safari boats. He started Atoll Editions in 1996 and has since published a range of titles, many of which are available



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www.Divedup.com

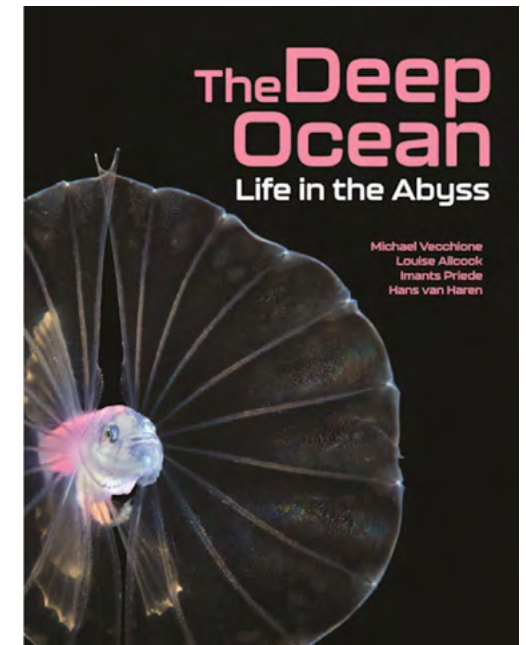
The Deep Ocean Life in the Abyss

by Michael Vecchione, Louise Allcock, Imants Priede, and Hans van Haren

An epic excursion into one of the last great frontiers on Earth

- Features a wealth of breathtaking photos, illustrations, and graphics
- Gives a brief and accessible history of deep-sea exploration
- Explains the basics of oceanography
- Covers a marvelous diversity of undersea organisms
- Describes habitats ranging from continental slopes to hydrothermal vents and abyssal plains
- Discusses humanity's impacts on the deep ocean, from fisheries and whaling to global climate change and acidification
- Written by a team of world-class scientists

The deep ocean comprises more than 90 percent of our planet's biosphere and is home to some of the world's most dazzling creatures, which thrive amid extreme pressures, scarce food supplies, and frigid temperatures. Living things down here behave in remarkable and surprising ways, and cutting-edge technologies are shedding new light on these



critically important ecosystems. This beautifully illustrated book presents the deep ocean and its inhabitants as you have never seen them before.

Michael Vecchione is a zoologist in the NOAA Systematics Lab at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History in Washington, DC. Louise Allcock is professor of zoology at the University of Galway. Imants Priede is professor emeritus of zoology at the University of Aberdeen. Hans van Haren is physical oceanographer at the Royal Netherlands Institute for Sea Research (NIOZ).

£35.00

<https://press.princeton.edu/books/hardcover/9780691226811/the-deep-ocean>

Underwater Photographer of the Year 2023

and Up & Coming Underwater Photographer of the Year 2023

An eye-catching photo of a pink river dolphin breaching the surface of the Amazon river sees Kat Zhou from the United States named Underwater Photographer of the Year 2023.

Zhou's photograph triumphed over 6000 underwater pictures entered by underwater photographers from 72 countries.

Zhou's photo 'Boto Encantado' perfectly frames this endangered species, whose numbers are falling year on year, by photographing it simultaneously above and below the surface, at sunset. *"There's a legend among locals that river dolphins, or 'botos,' can transform into handsome men known as 'boto encantado' to seduce women,"* she said. *"Though I did not witness the transformation, I was enchanted by these beautiful mammals in a different way. After seeing how botos would sometimes bring their beaks above water, I knew I want a split shot at sunset. Though the water was so dark that I was shooting blind, this dolphin gave me a perfect pose and smile!"*

"As more people have settled the Amazon, river dolphins began living in closer proximity to human populations, even making use of food scraps," continued Zhou. *"many river dolphins*

have also been killed for use as fish bait, drowned in gill nets or poisoned by mercury pollution. I fear that one day botos will truly become no more than mythical creatures."

Chair of the competition judges, Alex Mustard, commented, *"at first glance simple, then simply perfect. In dark, tannic waters, Kat has created a striking composition capturing this rarely photographed and endangered species at the perfect moment. This is by far the best image we've ever seen of this species, whose numbers are declining at an alarming rate and whose IUCN's Red List status was worryingly increased to Endangered in 2019."*

"It is appropriate that the Amazon, as the world's mightiest river, has produced our overall winner," commented judge Mustard. *"The Underwater Photographer of the Year contest aims to celebrate underwater photography in all its diversity and we are delighted that this year's awarded images come from the poles to the tropics, from all corners of the ocean, and from renowned freshwater bodies like the river Amazon and Lake Baikal. We even have winners taken in swimming pools."*

Nikon, D850, Nauticam D850, Nikon 8-15mm fisheye with Kenko 1.4x teleconverter, iso 400, f/13, 1/160, 2 x Inon Z330



www.underwaterphotographeroftheyear.com

British Underwater Photographer of the Year 2023

The Underwater Photographer of the Year contest is based in the UK, and Ollie Clarke, an Englishman now living in Australia, was named as British Underwater Photographer of the Year 2023 for his image “The Swarm” showing a whale shark, the largest fish in the world, hidden within a bait ball of smaller fish.

“The whale sharks on the Ningaloo are often accompanied by bait-balls like this one, where the small fish use the shark as a floating shelter. However this one was huge, much denser and with a lot more fish than usual, so I was really excited to photograph it. The shark almost looked as if it was getting fed up with the small fish and it was attempting to shake off the swarm. It would make steep dives and then ascend again right away thrashing its tail, but the fish would just swirl even more densely around the poor shark, who would have barely been able to see through the bait-ball! I was hoping to spend a bit of time photographing this shark, but after some ups and downs, he disappeared into the depths of the Indian Ocean, an encounter I’ll never forget.”

Ningaloo Reef, Australia

Sony, A7Riii, Nauticam NA-A7Riii,

Sony 28-60 with Nauticam WACP-1 ,
iso 400, f/8, 1/250, Natural light



Judge’s comment:

For me this is predator and the prey. Whale sharks are sometimes mis-labelled as plankton feeders, but they are also active predators of schools of small fish. Ollie’s stunning image is perfectly timed as the shark pounces, switching from benign escort to hunter, mouth gulping down its prey.

Alex Mustard.



www.underwaterphotographeroftheyear.com

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Most Promising British Underwater Photographer of the Year 2023

**British Waters Wide Angle
CATEGORY WINNER**

'AN ISLAND'S WILD SEAS'

Theo Vickers, United Kingdom

Sunlight beats down through a marine jungle of Himanthalia algae on the chalk reefs of the Needles Marine Conservation Zone. The purple-tipped tentacles of snakelocks anemones (Anemonia viridis) rising up from the forest floor. Striking rock formations, the Needles on the Isle of Wight attracts close to 500,000 visitors annually. Yet, like many of Britain's marine habitats the beauty and biodiversity of the island's chalk reefs that lie below, from nudibranchs and rays to cuttlefish and cuckoo wrasse, are largely unknown to most. Exploring the shallower reefs on a summer evening, my mission was to capture a wide angle image that documented this stunning local habitat, combining both the towering forests above and the anemones that rule the chalk seabed below. After several unsatisfying attempts I stumbled upon this gully packed with snakelocks, and sinking into the forest beneath, found the composition I had been seeking.

Needles Marine Conservation Zone, Isle of Wight, United Kingdom

Sony , A6400, Fantasea FA6400, Sony 16-50mm, iso 500, f/10, 1/160, Natural Lighting

Judge's comment:

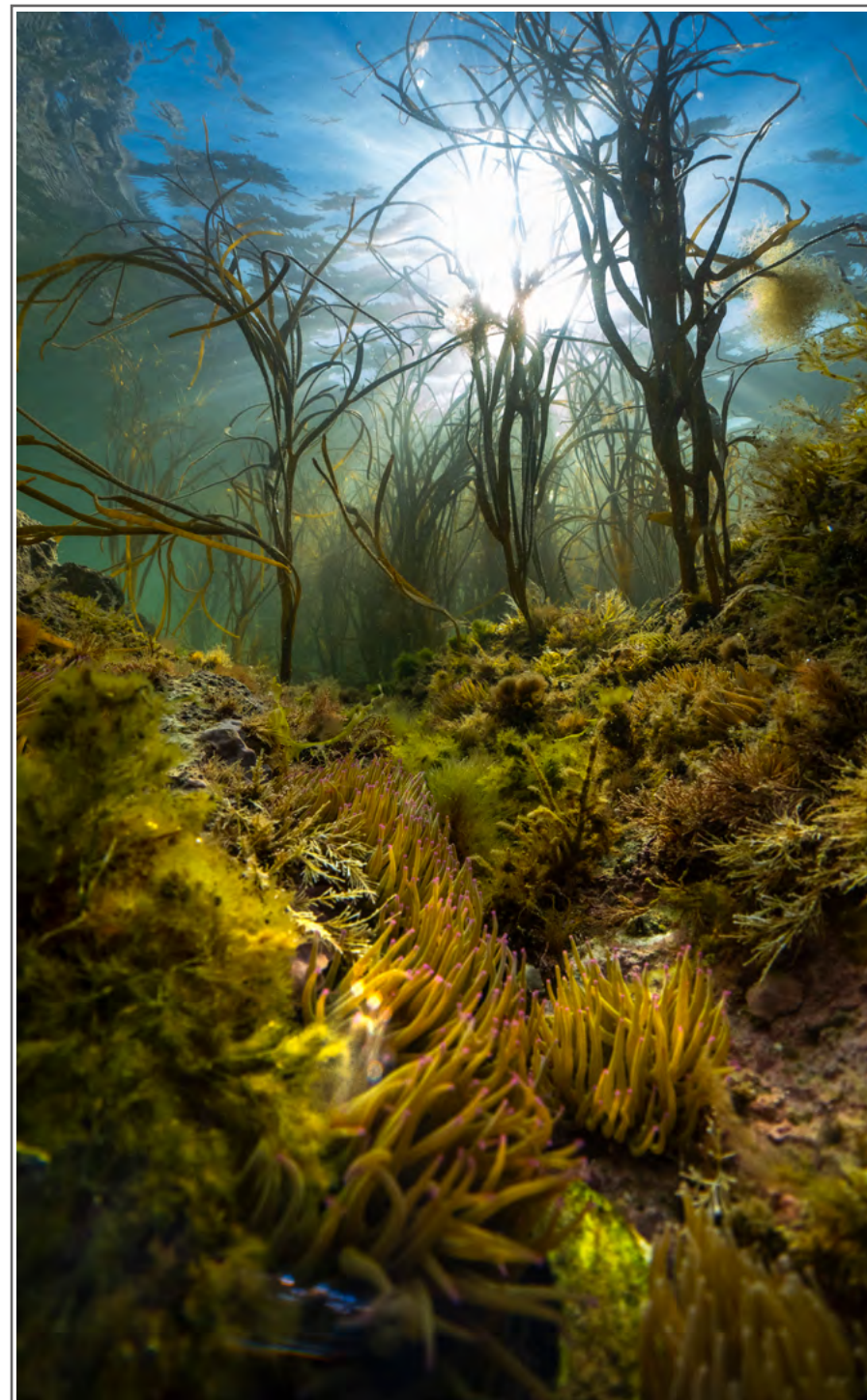
What a stunning image ! This magical and mystic atmosphere is just blasting. A very good example of what you can achieve even with a small camera and an artistic and good eye! The blurry foreground even gives you the impression that you are in a small, tiny world, looking up into the weed. Very well done! The only little, little downside is the sunburst, which is a bit too bright. :-)

Tobias Friedrich



www.underwaterphotographeroftheyear.com

 Issue 131/26



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British Waters Living Together winner 2023

WINNER

'PIPE REEF'

Dan Bolt, United Kingdom

*We were initially interested in this site in Loch Fyne for the fields of Firework Anemones, but of equal interest was an old pipe that had this patterned concrete protective covering along its length. This shallow artificial reef was home to many different species, including some large Langoustines (*Nephrops norvegicus*) who were seemingly unperturbed by my presence.*

Loch Fyne, western Scotland, United Kingdom

Olympus , OM-D E-M1, Aquatica A-EM1, Panasonic 8mm fisheye, iso 1250, f/5.6, 1/30, 2x Sea & Sea YD-D1

Judge's comment:

A seabed structure provides the perfect habitat for marine life, and a great recreational dive site for people. The composition balances perfectly the langoustine with the diver, as it scuttles across the intriguing structure.

Alex Mustard



www.underwaterphotographeroftheyear.com

'Save Our Seas Foundation' Marine Conservation Photographer of the Year 2023



'HOPELESS' Alvaro Herrero, Spain

A humpback whale dies a slow, painful and agonizing death after having its tail entangled in a ropes and buoys, rendering its tail completely useless. A reflection of what not only our oceans are suffering, but also our planet, the product of man's selfishness and lack of responsibility. Taking this photograph was, for me, the saddest moment I've experienced in the ocean. Especially because I have spent so much time with humpbacks underwater, experiencing eye contact, interactions, and seeing with my own eyes how they are sentient and intelligent beings. But I'm "happy" to being able to capture that moment and show the world what is happening, what we are doing. I really hope this image make us aware, open our eyes and drive us in to make real changes.

Baja California, Mexico
Nikon , D500, Isotta D500, Sigma
10-20mm f4-5.6, iso 200, 6.3, 1/320,
Natural Light



Judge's comment:

What a stunning image and what a message that it delivers. I can't imagine the sadness when this poor whale has been discovered, but also a good decision to take a few images to actually get a message of awareness out to the public. For me it was clear from the beginning that this image is the winner of the category. Well done.

Tobias Friedrich



www.underwaterphotographeroftheyear.com

www.uwpmag.com

DPG/Wetpixel Masters 2022 Winners

DivePhotoGuide (DPG) and Wetpixel are proud to announce the winning images and short films in the 2022 edition of the DPG/Wetpixel Masters Underwater Imaging Competition.

Once again, thousands of photographers and filmmakers from dozens of countries competed in what has become known as the “World Championship” of international underwater imaging events.

Created by DPG and Wetpixel, two of the largest online resources for underwater shooters, the competition invited submissions to five image categories and a video category, with entries evaluated by a panel of award-winning photographers: Kurt Amsler, Renee Capozzola, Erin Quigley, Marty Snyderman, Tom St George, and William Tan.

Incredibly, for a second year running, Martin Broen received the “Best of Show” prize for his 1st place in the Black and White category.

The 1st place winners in the other categories were Renata Romeo (Traditional), Nicolas Remy (Macro), Raffaele Livornese (Wide Angle), JillAnne Ward McCarty (Over-Under), and Alex del Olmo (Short Film).

In a joint statement, DPG Editor-in-Chief Joseph Tepper and Wetpixel Publisher Adam Hanlon said: “The winning entries in this year’s DPG/Wetpixel Masters competition once again showcase the amazing talent that exists in our community of underwater shooters. By receiving the ‘Best of Show’ accolade for the second consecutive year—a first for the Underwater Competition Series—Martin Broen has demonstrated the irresistible allure of an exceptional image shot in an extraordinary environment. An amazing achievement!”

The organizers are pleased to announce that 15 percent of entry proceeds will once again be donated to marine conservation efforts.

www.underwatercompetition.com



Martin Broen “Best of Show” prize for his 1st place in the Black and White category. © Martin Broen | UnderwaterCompetition.com

Renata Romeo (Traditional). © Renata Romeo | UnderwaterCompetition.com



Marelux SOFT Pro

by Kate Jonker

As an underwater photographer, I am constantly on the lookout for new equipment that can help me capture the beauty of the underwater world in new and exciting ways. So, when I heard about the Marelux Smart Optical Flash Tube (SOFT) Pro, I was immediately intrigued.

The SOFT Pro is the latest snoot from the relatively 'new kid on the block' Marelux. Already producing high-quality underwater housings for mirrorless and video cameras, Marelux has added snoots, viewfinders, vacuum systems, flash triggers, hydrophones and monitors to its innovative stable.

Marelux introduced its first flash tube, the SOFT to underwater photographers towards the end of 2021 and has recently released the Marelux SOFT Pro, a more compact and feature-rich model, onto the market.

I was very lucky to get my hands on one recently and have been putting it to the test on dives in my hometown of Gordon's Bay, just outside Cape Town, South Africa.

Marelux products are incredibly well made, beautifully finished and robust, and the Marelux SOFT Pro is no exception.

I was pleasantly surprised to discover how much smaller the SOFT Pro is compared to its predecessor.

For those who are familiar with the SOFT, the SOFT Pro comes in 5.5cm shorter and is 182g lighter than the SOFT which is 210cm in length and weighs 972g on land.

The SOFT Pro is made from scratch-resistant, black anodized aluminium, depth rated to 100m. It comes with a thick neoprene sleeve which fits snugly over the flash tube, adding extra buoyancy underwater.

The SOFT Pro has a diffuser that

The Marelux SOFT Pro can adequately light larger subjects, such as this small common octopus, by moving it further away from the subject and using its widest aperture and strobe on a high setting.

*Camera: Canon R5. Housing: Marelux MX-R5 housing. Lens: Canon EF-100mm macro Lense. Strobes: Inon Z240 with Marelux SOFT Pro
Aperture: f/20. Shutter Speed: 1/160. ISO: 160*



The Marelux SOFT Pro with optional extras (filters and filter holder) and the extension lens.

softens the light of the strobe, before it is narrowed and channelled down the flash tube. Optical lenses inside the flash tube condense the light, producing a bright, snooted light of excellent quality.

To attach the SOFT Pro to your strobe, you will need to purchase a SOFT Dock designed specifically for your model of strobe. This costs extra, but does mean that if you change strobes, you will only need to purchase the SOFT Dock for your new strobe, and not a new SOFT Pro.

The SOFT Dock is also made from black anodized aluminium and fits securely onto the front of the strobe. The SOFT Pro attaches to the dock easily by aligning two dots and turning until the lock on the dock clicks. This is incredibly secure and the chances of losing your SOFT Pro once attached are virtually zero. The SOFT Pro can easily be removed by pressing the lock and twisting the SOFT Pro.

As the SOFT Pro has its own



focus light, it requires an 18350 battery which is not included. This is not a common battery size in my country, and I had to order some online. If you want to use this snoot as soon as it arrives, make sure you order batteries well in advance if they are not easy to find in your local shops.

Features at a glance

- White aiming light with adjustable brightness
- Red aiming light with adjustable brightness
- Aiming lights automatically switch off when the strobe fires
- Length of time that the aiming light



This Cape dorid was photographed in very shallow, bright water, and with the very bright aiming light, I was able to see it and get the Marelux SOFT Pro to light exactly where I wanted it to. Camera: Canon R5. Housing: Marelux MX-R5 housing. Lens: Canon RF 35mm macro lens. Strobes: Inon Z240 with Marelux SOFT Pro Aperture: f/22. Shutter Speed: 1/200. ISO: 100

stays on for when the strobe fires can be adjusted

- Neoprene buoyancy cover for the flash tube
- Ball mount attachment with screws, washers, and Allan key
- Comes with spare o-rings for the battery compartment
- Sturdy rubber protection cap for the end of the snoot
- Several optional extras for creative lighting are also available for purchase

In the water

In water, the compact size of the SOFT Pro made it an absolute pleasure to use. I am quite petite and have short arms, so reaching the end of the snoot to move it into position was easy. It is still a little heavier than most regular snoots and I attached it, using the provided ball mount, to a jumbo float arm to assist with balance and buoyancy.



I enjoyed using the Marelux SOFT Pro at different angles and found it a great help when photographing fish such as this Longnose pipefish, as the sea fans they live in can often block out the light with traditional downward-facing snooting.

*Camera: Canon R5. Housing: Marelux MX-R5 housing. Lens: Canon EF 100mm macro lens. Strobes: Inon Z240 with Marelux SOFT Pro
Aperture: f/20. Shutter Speed: 1/200. ISO: 320*

Aiming the SOFT Pro

Most other snoots make use of your strobe's focus light to show where your strobe light will fall. However, if your strobe has a dim focus light, or you are diving in bright water, finding the focus light is virtually impossible. Additionally, many fish don't like the constant white light of a focus light and tend to swim away before you can even focus on them.

And this is where the in-built aiming light of the SOFT Pro shines.

I found that activating the aiming light was simple, and just required a firm, 2-second press of the power button. By rotating the dial of the power button, you can adjust the intensity of the light. On my deeper dives, the minimum brightness was sufficient and on my shallower and brighter dives, turning the button to its full brightness made it easy for me to see where the aiming light was pointing, and where the strobe light was going to fall.

One of the game-changers is that the aiming light can be switched from white to red light by briefly pressing the power button. This is a huge bonus, especially when photographing timid

fish who tend to be frightened away by constant white light before you can take the shot. The intensity of the red light can also be increased or decreased by rotating the power button.

Horned blennies and Cape triplefins are very shy subjects and I've always found snooting them near-impossible as they hate white focus lights and dart away even before you can focus on them. However, whilst using the red aiming light, they seemed not to notice me, and I was able to grab some great shots.

The aiming light of the SOFT Pro shows precisely where the light of the strobe will fall, and exactly what size the spot will be. This means you know exactly what your photo will look like before you press the trigger. I was able to take home many more keepers than usual with the SOFT Pro, which made me very happy, as time underwater is always too short.

Marelux certainly had the creative underwater photographer in mind when they designed the SOFT Pro. Photographers can choose



To show the different size apertures, I photographed this very small Silvertip nudibranch with the largest aperture (left), then turned it halfway (centre) and then to the smallest aperture (right). Camera: Canon R5. Housing: Marelux MX-R5 housing. Lense: Canon EF-100mm Lense. Strobes: Inon Z240 with Marelux SOFT Pro Aperture: f/22. Shutter Speed: 1/200. ISO: 320

whether to keep the aiming light on for 0.2s or 1.2s after the strobe has fired, which is a huge plus for photographers who enjoy shooting at slow shutter speeds.

Adjusting the size of the beam

As subjects vary in size, the beam diameter needs to change accordingly to ensure only the subject is lit. To achieve this, most snoots require masks with varying size holes. These need to be slotted into the snoot, and changing masks often results in the snoot being moved out of position and the often frustrating and time-consuming process of snoot positioning needs to be repeated.

This is where the Marelux SOFT Pro is spot on. Instead of masks, the SOFT Pro makes use of an internal aperture that can be adjusted by turning a dial. This regulates the diameter of the beam of light being emitted. At the working distance of 150mm between the end of the flash tube to the subject, it can produce a spot of between 50mm and 3mm.

That is impressive!

On my dives, I was easily able to turn the dial with my right hand whilst still looking through my viewfinder. This meant I could control the size of the beam without moving my head, let alone the SOFT Pro. Additionally, without the need to change masks, my snoot stayed firmly in position throughout the dive except when I needed to bring the end of the SOFT Pro closer to the front of my housing when using a diopter.

Optional accessories

For the creative underwater photographer, several optional-extra accessories can be purchased and attached to the dock when not using the SOFT Pro. These include colour filters for creative lighting, diffusers, and a dome diffuser. There is also an extension lense that attaches to the front of the flash tube, increasing the working distance of the snoot for subjects that are hard to reach.

Pros:

- In-built aiming light makes positioning easy.
- Ability to adjust the brightness of the aiming light according to the environment.
- Red aiming light does not scare timid fish away.
- Changing of beam size with aperture knob – no need for masks.
- Adjusting delay-off of aiming light for creative photography.
- Optional extra accessories for creative underwater photography.

Cons:

- Despite its compact size, it is still one of the heavier snoots on the market and using a good float arm helps.
- Need to purchase a 18350 battery that can be difficult to find in some countries.



This Gasflame nudibranch was beautifully lit with the excellent quality of light produced by the Marelux SOFT Pro. Camera: Canon R5. Housing: Marelux MX-R5 housing. Lens: Canon EF-100mm macro Lens. Strobes: Inon Z240 with Marelux SOFT Pro. Aperture: f/22. Shutter Speed: 1/200. ISO: 320

Conclusion

With its Soft Pro, Marelux has waved a magic wand, giving underwater photographers everything they could wish for – and more – in a snoot. Not only is it future-proof, rugged and well-made, but it is also easy to travel with and simple to use, increasing your snooting success rate on every dive. After using the SOFT Pro on several dives, I can confidently say that if you invest in a Marelux SOFT Pro, you probably won't need to buy another snoot ever again.



Kate Jonker

<https://katejonker.com>

www.marelux.co



live!

WETPIXEL

Over 200 episodes of discussion, news and information for underwater image-makers
<https://www.youtube.com/c/Wetpixel-live>

Sony strobe triggers

by Massimo Franzese

When I got my Sony A1 I looked at strobe triggering together with lenses, housings and ports as for photography you will be mostly shooting with underwater strobes.

I use rear curtain on certain shots so I went on the lookout for a trigger that would support it that was not TTL.

I do not want to open a discussion on manual vs TTL however I shoot flash top side and even there I never use TTL unless I have to do a documentary/product shot and I have no time to prepare.

Strobe Trigger Options for Sony

I went on the lookout for options and my research included the following manufacturers:

- Nauticam
- UWTechnics
- TRT Electronics

Only Turtle triggers seemed to offer all the features I was looking for so I contacted Turtle electronics technical team who did some remote tests for me on an A1. The A1 can trigger flash with electronic shutter and this is something I was looking for.

Turtle Manual vs TTL

The Turtle TTL trigger has all the

feature of the Manual in addition it offers TTL of course and a cool feature called multishot.

I personally do not have any interest in TTL but my main issue with this product is that in order to change for example from front to rear curtain you need to reprogram it.

I wanted a solution with no computer where I could control all settings from the camera and is not TTL. This is achieved only by the Manual Turtle Trigger.

The Turtle Manual Trigger is really a joy to use and is extremely well built.

The first consideration is that it is housed with no electronics showing so an occasional drop of water is not going to fry it. The second is that the battery is rechargeable. I have experience with Nauticam trigger that suddenly my strobes would stop firing consistently as the battery was low without warning. The fact that you can recharge the trigger each day or whenever you like is a great feature.

Finally the version I got had a convenient rubber part to insert in the housing strobe trigger sockets. This is a part from the TTL trigger that will allow you to fire with cheaper cables and does not come as standard



Brand	Model	Price (€)	TTL	Rear Curtain	HSS	Burst	Multishot	Power	Programming required
<u>Nauticam</u>	Mini Flash Trigger	294	No	No	No	Yes	No	Battery	No
<u>UWTechnics</u>	11075-HSS/TTL Converter	485	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Battery	No
Turtle Manual	Turtle Manual	299	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Rechargeable	No
Turtle Smart TTL	Turtle Smart	387	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Rechargeable	Yes

on the manual trigger, you need to request an upgrade which I warmly recommend.

The good news is that there are no controls; everything is set in the camera menu. Here are the steps for my A1 but all Sony cameras are pretty much the same.

1. MENU → (Exposure/Color) → [Flash] → [Flash Mode] → desired setting.

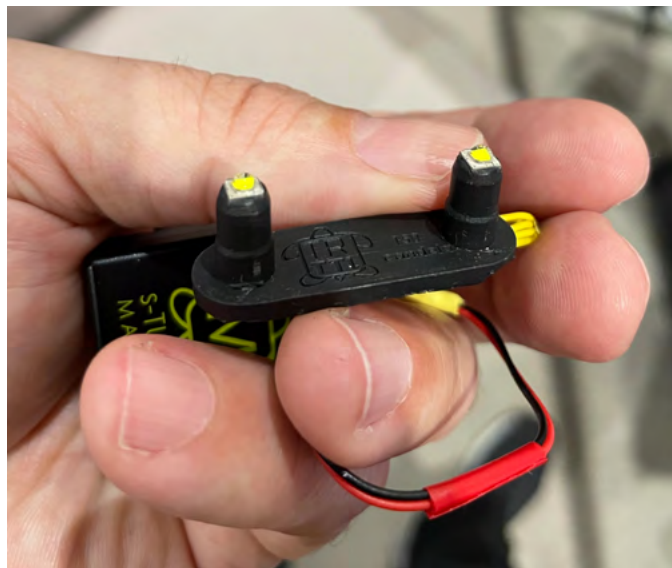
Menu item details

Flash Off: The flash does not operate.

Fill-flash: The flash works every time you trigger the shutter. (Front Curtain)

Slow Sync.: The flash works every time you trigger the shutter. Slow sync shooting allows you to shoot a clear image of both the subject and the background by slowing the shutter speed.

Rear Sync.: The flash works right



before the exposure is completed every time you trigger the shutter. Rear sync shooting allows you to shoot a natural image of the trail of a moving subject such as a moving car or a walking person.

This means I can set the flash mode each shot if I want to without changing any settings on the strobe or elsewhere.

In order to access the HSS mode you need to turn wireless mode on

1. MENU → (Exposure/Color) → [Flash] → [Wireless Flash] → [On].

This is not wireless mode but the trigger tells the camera HSS is supported and you get a indicator WL HSS. Your shutter speed is not capped anymore.

Unless you have an HSS capable strobe this setting should be left Off otherwise your photos will have the shutter in the image. I do not have HSS strobes but if you own Retra this is very useful.

Other positive points of the Turtle trigger:

- Supports electronic shutter (only applicable to A9/A1 series)
- Supports Speed priority with A1 (1/400 on

mechanical shutter)

- It works with SINGLE core and cheap cables when used with the upgraded LED unit

I had sourced two expensive multicore Nauticam fiber cables after my Nauticam trigger refused to shoot consistently and now with the Turtle I am back at shooting my 15 years old Sea and Sea cables.

Probably the only limitation for me is the burst speed. With electronic shutter the A1 goes at 6 fps the trigger would only fire once probably a limitation of the internal LED recharging circuit.

However in mechanical shutter it would work with the Low speed setting of 3 fps.

Take into account that the strobe will deplete its charge when you shoot continuously and the recharge times that are typical mean that when the capacitor holding the charge is empty the strobe will stop firing or fire at much lower power.

With Sea and Sea YS-D2 maximum power 32 maximum sustained burst rate 32 – 2 stops = 16 this is the maximum you can fire your strobes at.

Realistically you are not going to be able to shoot smaller aperture than f/11 with a diffuser before the strobe starts losing power in the following shots unless you increase your ISO. This however is plenty for me and frankly it was more academic.

Massimo Franzese
www.interceptor121.com

www.trt-electronics.com
www.backscatter.com
www.onderwaterhuis.nl
www.panoceanphoto.com

Don't settle for 2nd best



Film - No Filter No White Balance



Digital - No Filter Manual White Balance



Magic Filter Manual White Balance

Digital cameras have opened up new possibilities to underwater photographers. For available light photography manual white balance is an invaluable tool for restoring colours. But when you use it without a filter you are not making the most of the technique. You're doing all the hard work without reaping the full rewards. These three photos are all taken of the same wreck in the Red Sea. The left hand image was taken on slide film, which rendered the scene completely blue. The middle image is taken with a digital SLR without a filter; using manual white balance. The white balance has brought out some of the colour of the wreck, but it has also sucked all the blue out of the water behind the wreck, making it almost grey. The right hand image is taken with the same digital camera and lens, but this time using an original Magic Filter. The filter attenuates blue light meaning that the colours of the wreck are brought out and it stands out from the background water, which is recorded as an accurate blue.

Great White Highs And Lows

by Nigel Marsh

I enjoy leading photography groups to great dive destinations in Australia and overseas. You can always guarantee a wonderful range of subjects for divers to photograph on these trips. And everyone generally comes home having improved their photography skills, and hopefully with some amazing images. But when it comes to a great white photo trip to the Neptune Islands off South Australia you can never guarantee good photos or even any photos at all!

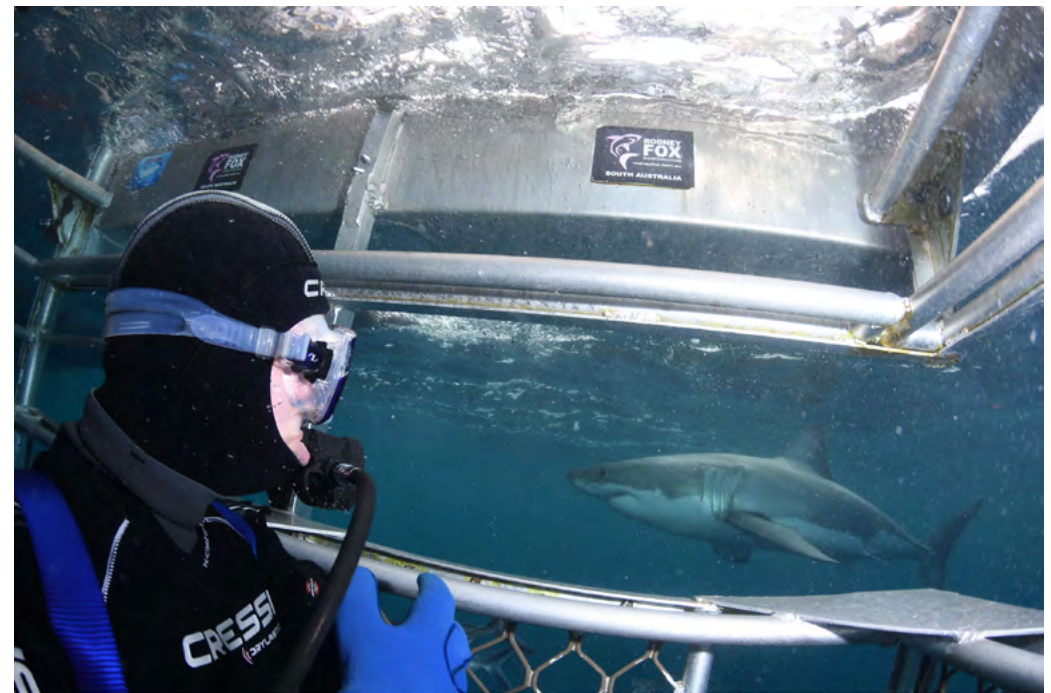
I have travelled to Port Lincoln four times over the last thirty years to photograph great white sharks and Australian sea lions. The photographic challenges on these trips are immense and always keep you on your toes, and often leave you wanting more, or in some cases anything.

On my first trip we had perfect weather, but no sharks, even after four days of throwing smelly burley off the back of the boat. We even had to take turns doing this stinky chore, even at 2am, as it was a very budget trip. And while I have seen sharks on subsequent trips, I have never got what I considered to be a great 'great white' photo, as the sharks were either shy, staying clear of the cage, or

obscured by masses of silver trevally! My photography attempts with Australian sea lions were even worse, as I simply had never had a chance to get in the water with them, due to rough weather or the dive operator saying there wasn't time.

So, leading a fresh group of budding photographers on my fourth trip in November 2022, I knew I couldn't do any worse than my previous photography attempts - things could only get better, I hoped. For this trip I booked our group on a three-day voyage with Rodney Fox Shark Expeditions, heading out to the Neptune Islands on their great vessel MV Rodney Fox. I hadn't been on this new boat and found it to be well layout and very comfortable. The vessel is 32m long and accommodates 18 guests in either twin or double cabins.

Before boarding the vessel, I led half our group on a photography side trip, a special day tour around Port Lincoln organised by Untamed Escapes. This wonderful wildlife tour saw us exploring the Port Lincoln National Park, the rugged coastal cliffs and visiting the wildlife sanctuary at Mikkira Station. The



Helen Rose watching the sharks. Nikon D500, Tokina 10-17mm lens, Isotta Housing, single Inon Z330 strobe, ISO 200, f9, 1/200

The Neptune Islands



wildlife encounters included fields of Cape Barren geese, emu fathers with their family of chicks, black-faced kangaroos feeding, Port Lincoln parrots, scorpions, a shingleback lizard and an incredible number of

MV Rodney Fox



koalas. The tour also included a great seafood lunch and we finished it with some wine tasting at the Boston Bay Winery. Everyone had a great time, so we will include this side tour on future trips.



A great white shark lunges for the bait. Nikon D500, Nikkor 18-300mm lens, ISO 200, f7.1, 1/320

Boarding the boat at 7pm, we met the crew, sorted paperwork, and sat through the safety briefs before getting underway. It was only a three-hour run to Thistle Island, where we sheltered for the night. Early the next morning we pushed through a 3m rolling swell, fortunately with no wind, to journey another three hours to the Neptune Islands.

Once anchored, the surface cage was deployed and the chum started. For weeks before the trip Andrew Fox had been giving me regular updates, telling me about all the feisty sharks coming very close to the cages. Andrew added it was the best start to a summer season they had experienced in eight years, and I couldn't argue the point when the first shark turned up after only five minutes of burling. That one was quickly followed by another three. Four sharks in the first half hour, and the best thing was they were coming very close to the cage.



Australian sea lions at Hopkins Island. Nikon D500, Nikkor 18-300mm lens, ISO 200, f8, 1/640

This was going to be good.

The only problem I could see for photography was the bouncing surface cage from the ground swell rolling into the bay at North Neptune Island. There were also a few silver trevally about, but not the numbers that I had experienced last time.

Before the trip I had warned everyone not to expect documentary style action, as the sharks are wary at times and often only come close to the cage when following a bait. Well, that advice was mostly ignored by this group of sharks that were closely inspecting the cage, often when no bait was even in the water.

The best photography advice I could give to everyone was video is easier when the cage is bouncing around, as holding a camera steady out of the gap between the bars for still images is a nightmare at times. Fortunately, the group took my advice. However, as I only shoot stills, I didn't follow my own advice.

The action from the surface cage was incredible, the best I have seen, and at times I



Two sharks at the cage. Nikon D500, Tokina 10-17mm lens, Isotta Housing, Inon Z330 strobe, ISO 200, f13, 1/250

could see four sharks swimming around in the 12m visibility. And the sharks were coming very close, checking out the cage, and its occupants, every few minutes. But still photography was hard work.

I use a DSLR in an Isotta housing, so not a small housing, and I found pushing the housing between the gap in the bars very difficult, as I barely had 2cm clearance top and bottom. And with the cage constantly bouncing up and down, throwing me around, there were times when I simply couldn't take photos, to avoid smashing the housing into the cage. One saving grace was my 6 inch mini dome, as on previous trips I had struggled to push an 8 inch dome between the gap!

Also because of the bouncing, I couldn't look through the viewfinder, but had to blindingly push the housing forward and snap images as the sharks cruised by. So there was a great deal of hit and miss framing. The final photographic complication was the masses of silver trevally, they may not have been as numerous as my last trip, but they were still

bad, getting in the way of the camera on numerous occasions. These fish were lucky the Neptune Islands are a marine sanctuary as the little buggers were driving me crazing at times.

But even with those challenges I still got my best great white images, as with so many sharks coming close it was hard to miss. The bouncy conditions meant the crew couldn't deploy the ocean floor cage on the first day, but fortunately the swell dropped over night so we could use this special cage on the second day.

Photography from the ocean floor cage is so much easier, except when the silver trevally swarm. And watching the sharks cruise across the bottom and circle overhead is simply breath-taking. I probably didn't get the two best runs in the bottom cage, with only two close passes from the sharks, but the others had some incredible action with three or four sharks circling the cage.

Over our two days we had six different sharks each day. Three very feisty females were our favourites, all around 3.2m long and we nicknamed them Rudolf, Cat Lady and Tag Girl. We also saw some larger males, including a 4m long one that briefly visited the ocean floor cage. But the biggest shark we saw was the 4.5m long giant Scarface. He was an impressive sight, but unfortunately didn't come close to the cage.

After two prefect days with the great white sharks, we headed back to the mainland in the late afternoon, so we could have the final day with the Australian sea lions. And the weather gods were finally kind enough to let me swim with these amazing mammals.

In the morning we anchored in shallow water off Hopkins Island, a popular haul out spot for the sea lions. On the beach we could see about fifty



Rudolf on patrol. Nikon D500, Tokina 10-17mm lens, Isotta Housing, single Inon Z330 strobe, ISO 200, f13, 1/250

sea lions, while a dozen more were frolicking in the shallows. A small swell was rolling in, stirring up the sandy bottom, not ideal conditions for photography, but there was no way I was going to miss out after a thirty year wait!

Half our group decided to snorkel, and the other half dive. With a maximum depth of 3m you didn't really need scuba, but it is just easier to take images. I rolled into the water and headed over the sand. The visibility was only 5m, but that didn't

deter me, especially when the first two sea lions swam straight up to me and started to perform.

For the next forty minutes I was in heaven photographing these playful sea lions as they swam circles around us. But my favourite moments were when they settle down, and simply rested on the bottom and stared at me with their lovely puppy-dog eyes. At one point I had six sea lions crowded in front of me, three of them in a pile. It is sad to think that these wonderful Australian sea lions are



Sea lion in the seagrass. Nikon D500, Tokina 10-17mm lens, Isotta Housing, single Inon Z330 strobe, ISO 200, f14, 1/200

endangered, and their numbers are still in decline.

After lunch we snorkelled with another group of Australian sea lions at Grindle Island. The visibility was much better here, but the sea lions were a little shier, as they rarely receive visitors at this haul out site.

The great white photography trip was a huge success, with everyone having amazing experiences with great white sharks and Australian sea lions, and capturing some incredible photos and videos. I got my best great white photos yet, even a few decent ones, but I know I can do better, and I

wasn't really happy with the Australian sea lion images, so you can bet I will be back for another go, sooner or later.

Nigel Marsh

www.nigelmarshphotography.com

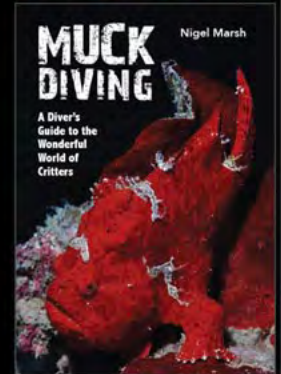
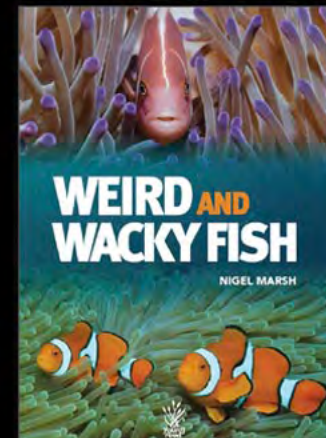
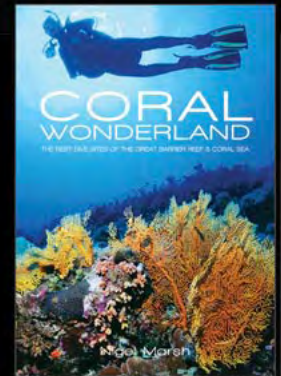
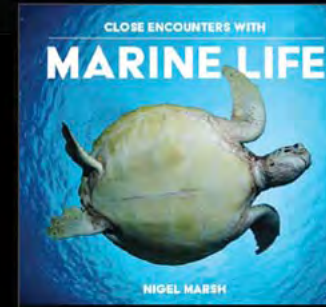
www.rodneyfox.com.au

Several times a year Nigel Marsh leads special photography group trips, like this one to the Neptune Islands. You don't have to be an underwater photographer to join these trips, but if you are, Nigel is on hand to give you daily tips and feedback on your images.

NIGEL MARSH

Photography

Nigel Marsh is an Australian photojournalist, underwater photographer and author. Working with New Holland publishers, Nigel has produced a number of guide books for divers and snorkelers, and also a series of children's books with marine related themes.



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The Hanifaru Experience

by Michel Braunstein

Meeting big animals in the sea, such as manta rays or whale sharks, is an unforgettable experience.

Meeting loads of them together in a food fest, is even much more moving. It's such a thrill, so exciting, a bit like being on a first date.

That's the incredible experience you can have in Hanifaru Bay, Baa Atoll, Northwest of Male, Maldives, a mere 20-minute flight from the capital's island. Each year, during the season (from June to November), the Southwest monsoon brings to the region gigantesque plankton gatherings. These are drawing hundreds of manta rays and often whale sharks into the bay.

Manta rays are feeding on planktons in a "fly" formation, like huge birds, all together circularly; this is called "cyclone feeding". This movement is quite incredible and unique. I had the chance to dive in many places around the world, including in Yap (Micronesia), Socorro (Mexico), and even other cleaning stations in the Maldives (such as Paradise). I could enjoy many manta gatherings in all those places, but nowhere could I admire such a formation between the mantas. That

was so exciting.

Before Hanifaru Bay was declared a marine protected area (in 2009), many boats visited the site without any control; this was quite bad for the sustainability.

In 2011, the bay was added to the UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve.

Mantas do not enter the bay daily, even during the season. Their visits depend on the currents and whether they found enough food outside of the bay. To optimize your chances to see these amazing creatures, it's recommended that you go during the period around the full moon or the new moon. If you spend enough time on site (at least one week), you will optimize your chances to see many mantas (50-100-200) and whale sharks.

I arrived a bit early in the region, about a week before the new moon, and could only stay there four days. One could only see manta rays during the daily scuba dives and every afternoon, I was waiting

Nikon D850, Nikon 10-15mm fisheye at 15mm, Nauticam housing - no strobes. 1/100th @ F8. ISO 200. Centre weighted average -1stop.



Michel Braunstein

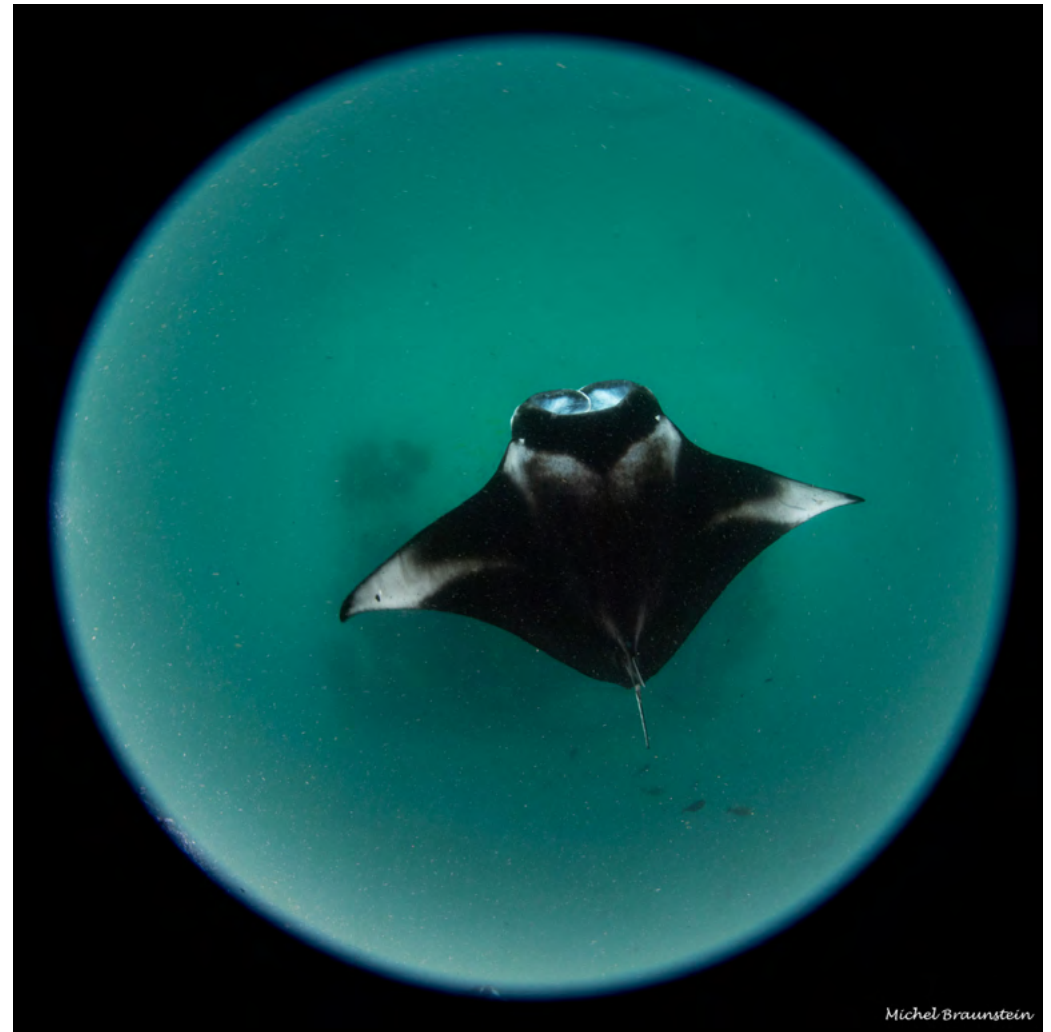


Nikon D500. 15-80mm lens at 24mm

impatiently for the dive center to call so I could go to see the mantas, but none entered the bay. Finally, on my last day, about three hours before flying to Male, the dive center who got alerted by the local rangers guarding the site notified us that approximately 15 mantas were in the bay.

We got out to the sea within 15-20 minutes and, lucky me, I had the chance to spend time with these beauties just before my flight. My friends stayed three more days on the island, but they didn't have the opportunity to go back to the bay during their stay.

On my flight to Fuvahmulah, I met two very cool twin brothers, and we ended up diving together. After a couple of days, I went back home and the brothers went to Baa Atoll, in a resort in the Dharavandhoo Island, close to the Hanifaru Bay. They arrived exactly when the full moon started. Surprisingly, they didn't see many mantas in the bay during the first few days but, after a while, the manta fest started with more and more mantas every day, reaching up to 200 at once!! Whale sharks also joined the party. Wow! Such an emotional moment!



Michel Braunstein

Nikon D850, Nikon 10-15mm fisheye at 15mm, Nauticam housing - no strobes. 1/100th @ F8. ISO 200. Centre weighted average -1stop.

Good to know:

- Scuba diving is forbidden in the bay. You may only go snorkeling with approved local dive center boats and a licensed snorkel guide.
- Boats are stopping at the entrance of the bay and snorkelers must enter the

bay by swimming.

- You will have to pay a \$20 entrance token, usually included in the excursion boat fee, allows you to stay 45 minutes in the water.
- It's forbidden to get too close to the manta rays and whale sharks or touch



Nikon D850, Nikon 10-15mm fisheye at 15mm, Nauticam housing - no strobes. 1/100th @ F8. ISO 200. Centre weighted average -1stop.

them and not should you cut their paths.

- You are allowed to take pictures, but the use of flash is forbidden.
- If you have a small “GoPro” camera or similar, make sure you don’t use a long stick. It must remain close to your hand, with no extensions.
- Because there are so many in the region, dive centers must timeshare the site and must enter the water when scheduled.
- Note that some dive centers send boats every other day. Make sure you find a center that allows you to go to the bay every day when mantas are there.
- You must go back to the boat after 45 minutes. Sometimes whale sharks arrive just when your time is up. It’s a pity, but you must still go.
- The twin brothers mentioned earlier decided to extend their stay to enjoy

more of the place. Because resorts are quite pricey for long stays, they switched to a more affordable hotel on the island. Keep that in mind if you wish to extend your stay or plan for a long stay.

- While you will spend most of your time in the region and not always in the bay itself, you can also spend your mornings scuba diving in some of the very nice manta cleaning stations. Make sure to choose a dive club that won’t be overcrowded because quite a few of them are.
- Remember that the weather can cause internal flight disruptions. Make sure you plan for enough time in case your connections are cancelled or delayed.

And remember...it’s a unique and must do once in a lifetime experience!!
Just go for it!!

Michel Braunstein
www.michelbraunstein.com

We've got you covered!



Magic filters are now available in 3 options. Original Magic for use in blue water with DSLR and compact cameras with Manual White Balance, Auto-Magic for compact cameras in automatic point and shoot mode. GreenWater Magic for use in green water with DSLR and compact cameras with Manual White Balance. Prices start at just £25.

The Auto-Magic formula is now available in a Plexiglass filter that can be added or removed underwater.

www.magic-filters.com

Baja

by Gregory Sweeney

Underwater photographers will find the Mexican peninsula of Baja California Sur to be a surprising destination full of wonderful rich marine life encounters and overall wild beauty.

The Baja peninsula extends into the Pacific Ocean from the southern end of California and presents the visitor with diving opportunities in the Pacific Ocean and the Sea of Cortez on the east coast. Beautiful beaches and expansive coastline and deserts are packed with a surprising range of wildlife not all of which is underwater.

Land based beauty is found in the sand dunes and dry rocky expanses with large cacti photographed at sunset with a caracara eagle silhouetted on top. Coastal coyotes prowl the mangroves along the shorelines as we traverse in the dive boat. Sea birds and shore birds are abundant.

The abundant wildlife underwater draws divers and photographers especially in the winter when Baja becomes the perfect food chain and gives rise to the dramatic sardine run and its predators of all sizes. Visitors drawn to Baja by the exciting predator and prey action can also have an adventure at the



many different marine habitats along the peninsula. Baja has established protected marine habitats that give the gift of pristine coral reefs. Each unique location also offers close up encounters with marine mammals, sharks, large fish, and massive schools of fish. Encounters with the largest of marine inhabitants; whales, orcas, dolphins, pelagic sharks are a pleasant bonus and yet another

Photographing Mega Schools at Cabo Pulmo
Canon 5D MKII
EF16 – 35mm f/2.8 II USM
ISO 640
Focal length 16mm
1/80 sec at F 8.0 – 1/3 EV





Sea Lions and Striped Marlin hunt sardines. Canon 5D MKII, EF16 – 35mm f/2.8 II USM. ISO 1250 Focal length 16mm 1/250 sec at F 10



Humpback Whale in Magdalena Bay. Canon 5D MKII, EF100 – 400mm f 4.5 – 5.6I IS II USM. ISO 1000. 1/1000 sec at F 16

reason to enjoy exploring all the wonders on offer. For underwater photographers Baja California Sur in Mexico is a must experience destination full of wildlife on land and in the water.

Sardine Run Magdalena Bay

From October to January, Magdalena Bay on the Pacific side of Baja manifests the world's 2nd largest sardine migration after South Africa. Clear water and more

intense action by the marlin and sea lions differentiate this sardine run from that in South Africa. Illusive striped marlin are drawn into the bay by the concentration of prey then work together to trap them at the surface preventing the sardines from escaping. Snorkelers and photographers are in the midst of a real cooperative hunting scenario with the action surrounding them .

Each day on the water can bring a surprise before we even find the

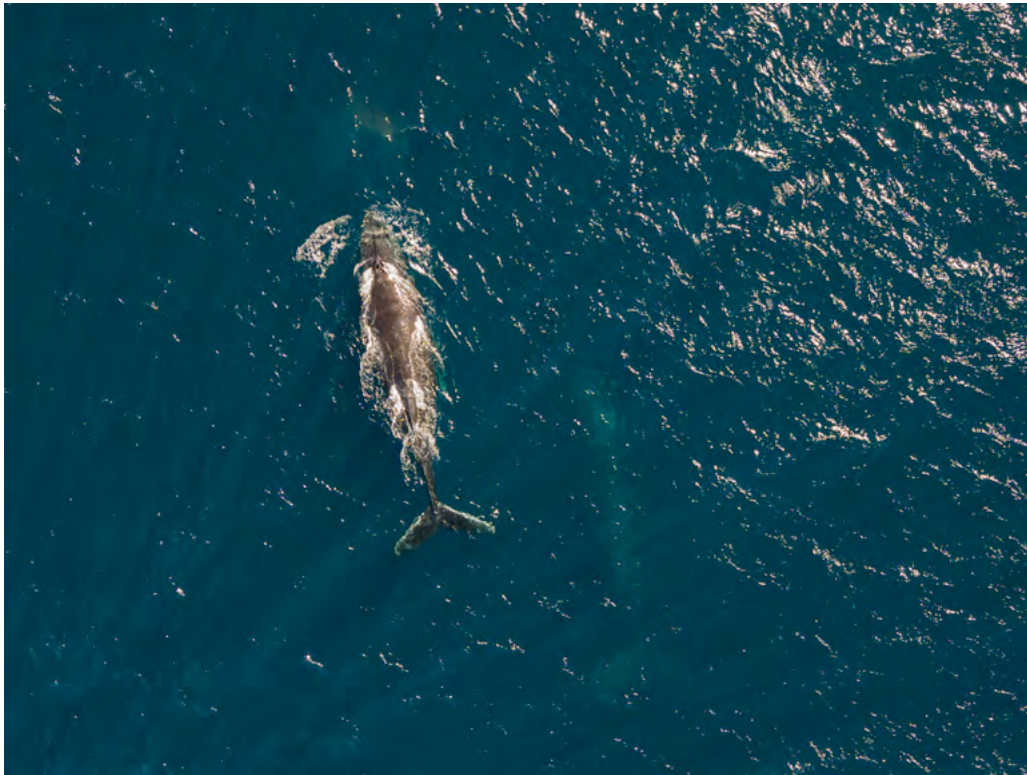
bait balls. Super pods of dolphins, orcas, and humpback whales are all part of the gathering. The first sign is squadrons of frigate birds diving and assaulting the surface.

Under the water the shiny silver mackerel spin and pulse in a ball close to the surface. Striped marlin work together circling the bait ball to keep it tight together and close to the surface. They take turns making a run at the edge of the bait ball swatting their sword nose to stun fish grabbing them

in the mouth to munch them.

As we photograph the mackerel will seek to hide from the predators among us and our cameras. An encounter with static bait ball can be over and hour before it dissipates, or the marlin leave. Larger schools of sardines often attract sea lions in addition to the striped marlin.

Sea lions have a contrasting hunting technique whereby they swim passes straight through the bait ball cutting it in two. Often they



Drone View of Humpbacked Whale. DJI Mavik Pro. 24 mm 1/160th f2.8. ISO 100

seem to be more interested in playful swimming among the sardine school than actually eating. This makes it harder for the marlins to hunt effectively but for the photographer it adds another dynamic element to the whole drama.

The frenzied and powerful beauty of this natural behavior puts a photographer in awe and is the ultimate underwater photography experience. Magdalena Bay is always a wondrous experience and consistently delivers top predator action and surprises.

Premiere Diving Locations

Cabo Pulmo Marine Park is considered to be on of the most successful marine protected areas in the world and is part of UNESCO's world Heritage sites.

After the ban on fishing the fish populations of this once depleted reef system have increased more than 460% and scientists see evidence that the top predator species of tiger sharks, bull sharks, black tip reef sharks have increased significantly. Size and number of larger fish has also increased pointing to the success of



A young sea lion comes to close to nibble my camera. . Canon 5D MKII. EF16 – 35mm f/2.8 II USM. Focal length 16mm. 1/200 sec at F 7.1. ISO 2500

the reserve program.

Divers visiting Cabo Pulmo Marine Park now experience wrecks and mega schools of colorful fish with bull sharks lurking among the wrecks dotted with hard corals and sea fans. Large fish including gulf groupers, dog snappers, and leopard groupers pose in the clear blue waters for photographers. Divers become lost in mega schools of fish moving in coordination around the suspended divers.

Like Cabo Pulmo, La Paz is located on the opposite coast of the

Baja Peninsula from Magdalena Bay. Visiting divers are delighted with amazing orca encounters and the charismatic California Sea Lions.

The coast is dominated by monoliths of granite and sheer vertical walls white with the evidence of nesting sea birds. On the rocks at the tideline the playful sea lions gather as a colony. We dive among the rocks in a protected cove with the hyper curious marine mammals all around us. Cubs and juveniles are curious and want to play and interact with us by swimming through our bubbles



Cabo Pulmo Coastal Scenery . Panasonic DMC-ZS30

and striking crazy contorted poses for our cameras. Some nip at our fins and gaze into reflections in our dome ports. The barking of adults up on the rocks is audible even underwater. This dive is full of joy and fun and we observe the swimming ability and personality of these animals. It is a relaxed encounter in contrast with watching the sea lions hunting the sardine bait balls.

The La Paz coast attracts mega schools of mobula rays who gather to feed on the abundant plankton in the water. An exciting way to experience the mobula rays is to dive at night where the plankton is drawn to our torches and the mobula soon appear. We hope to encounter orcas hunting the mobula.

The Baja Peninsula experiences the sardine run and the explosion of food and predators in the winter months, but wildlife is abundant all year round. Underwater photographers visit throughout the year to find mako, blue sharks, orcas, humpbacked whales, fin whales, and pods of dolphins.

The sardine run draws many to Baja, Mexico.



Striped Marlin. Canon 5D MKII. EF16 – 35mm f/2.8 II USM. ISO 1000. Focal length 27mm. 1/320 sec at F 7.1

This spectacle is one of the most exciting things you can witness and photograph underwater and is truly an experience not to miss. Visitors will not fully appreciate the natural jewel that is the whole of the Baja Mexico peninsula if they don't explore beyond Magdalena Bay. Baja Mexico has plenty of marine wildlife encounters and photo opportunities to satisfy all divers and photographers.

Photography guide

Equipment:

Lenses

Topside Lens - EF 100 – 400 F/4.5 – 5.6L

Striped Marlins & Sea Lions - 16 – 35mm F 2.8L

Cabo Pulmo schools of fish - EF15mm

Strobes can be used in Mag Bay and at La Paz, but

not permitted in Cabo Pulmo park

Using strobes with the baitballs will only be effective if the target is very close, but keep in mind the marlin and the sardines are very reflective and easily overexposed by a strobe burst.

Drones are permitted in many of the locations.

Video is excellent for the striped marlins and sea lion colony to capture the continuous action.

The water is pleasant all year round and a 3mm full wetsuits with vest and hood is standard

Full foot fins are recommended for easy on and off while in the Mag Bay boats.

Gregory Sweeney
www.gregorysweeney.com

Kit for sale

If you're looking for a specific piece of kit, enter a keyword (e.g. flash, housing, Ikelite, etc.) to show only the adverts you want.

Search UWP adverts



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SET of Sea & Sea YS 250 PRO, incl.diffusers and TCL ball mounts, 2x batteries, 2x chargers (EU and UK). 5-pin Dual Sync cord-1pc, 5-pin Sync Cord N-2pc, 2sets - Double Ball Arm L and M, YS-TTL Converter, spare ... [More >](#)



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FOR SALE – Nauticam Na-d800 Housing for Nikon D800

Nauticam Na-d800 Housing for Nikon D800 Excellent condition. Full overall by Nauticam in December 2017, not in the water since. Vacuum check; electronic monitoring circuit installed, no vacuum system. 2000 euros + shipping ... [More >](#)



FOR SALE – Nauticam flat ports and lenses Sony 28mm and 90mm

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SEA & SEA MM2 U/W CAMERA WITH ACCESSORIES: - Yellow SUB 50 TTL strobe / arm extension - SEA & SEA 16mm Wide angle lens MM-2 - SEA & SEA Macro lens ML-2/3T plus attachments - Removable view finder - ... [More >](#)



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This one year old set of equipment is in excellent working condition and will serve great to a new owner. The reason for sale is a switch to a new equipment. Nikon D500 (19k clicks). Sigma 10mm F2.8 Fish Eye. 128Gb XQD Lexar ... [More >](#)

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Sulawesi

with Alex Tattersall

The familiar sense of excitement and anticipation washed over me as our Silk Air flight came in to land at the North Sulawesi airport of Manado. Travel-weary and overdressed for the oppressive humidity, suitcases bulging with underwater photography toys, the expectation of wonderful subaquatic adventures awaited.

This visit to the enchanted island held even more allure than usual, as we were away from December's frosts for an entire month and my son Louie was going to learn to dive! We'd planned almost three weeks in the critter-rich, world class muck-diving hotspot of the Lembeh Straits at the photographer-friendly Lembeh Resort, followed by ten days of coral reef wall diving in the Bunaken National Park at the newly-built luxury boutique resort of Bunaken Oasis. No wonder excitement was high.

North Sulawesi's location, due south of the Philippines, puts it proudly in the middle of the species-rich waters of the Coral Triangle. As such, the region's diving industry is well-developed with offerings of resort accommodation and diving options to suit most budgets. Regular flights to the capital, Manado, from numerous Asian cities, including the hub of Singapore for European travellers, ensure a steady flow of keen divers, each contributing to the development of the infrastructure of the area. Worthy of note also is that Manado airport now has regular flights to Sorong, the gateway to Raja Ampat, making a stop off either before or following a Raja Ampat trip a very



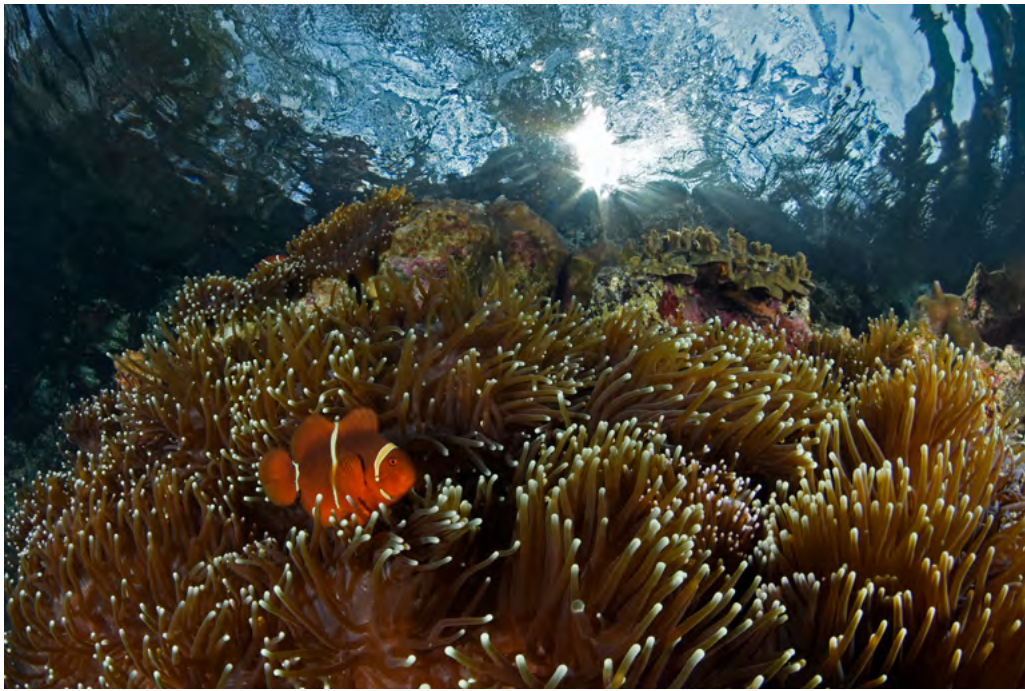
All images taken with a Nikon D750 in a Nauticam housing

attractive proposition.

The climate of North Sulawesi is tropical and humid, with lush green vegetation giving a strong clue to the high level of annual rainfall. The rainy season runs from November to April, bringing impressive lightning storms and dramatic sunsets. The dry season tends to run from May to October with temperatures consistently above 30°C. The topographical nature of the Lembeh Strait offers shelter from winds, making diving possible year

round. The Bunaken National Park by contrast is more exposed to the winds of the Celebes Sea and on the very rare occasion during the wet season when winds can pick up, these weather conditions may limit diving opportunities.

Our journey took us from Heathrow through the delightful airport of Singapore and on to the 3.5-hour flight to Manado airport. We moved quickly through customs at Manado – where an entry visa is no longer required – and then hopped into a



minivan for the 'slightly hairy' two-hour drive across North Sulawesi to the industrial port city of Bitung. Here we were picked up by boat to make the 20-minute crossing of the world famous Lembeh Strait to Lembeh Island, where we were welcomed into the luxurious Lembeh Resort.

Everything about Lembeh Resort is set up for world class quality muck diving, with a particular focus on underwater photography and marine biology. It has been built around a small black sand beach with accommodation set back into the jungle gardens and on the hilly slopes that encircle the small bay. As such, once arriving at the resort, to explore

the local area further requires booking onto one of the many guided tours on offer. This should be a consideration for those with non-diving partners who are keen to do more than relax around the pool or in the spa.

The Lembeh Strait is a world class diving destination known for its concentration of weird and wonderful critters. Its unique underwater topography offers black volcanic sand on the mainland side of the strait and white sand/coral dive sites on the Lembeh Island side. Most dive sites are found within a 20-minute boat ride of the resort and each one yields unique encounters with marine life.

If conditions are unfavourable



at one site, or there are too many divers already on that site, the next site is just around the corner and will not fail to impress. The nearby city of Bitung provides a wealth of expert dive guides on the doorstep, which again puts the area in a class of its own. Their ability to see even the most miniscule of critters never fails to amaze and their enthusiasm to offer divers the best of experiences and their own genuine fascination with their local marine environment is hugely infectious.

The 'muck diving' style of Lembeh will not appeal to every diver, as visibility can be variable and some sites play host to weird and wonderful

species resident in obvious human detritus. It will arguably appeal most to underwater photographers and those divers who enjoy immersing themselves into the fascinating lives of diminutive marine animals. The marine life and its behavioural activity is seasonal, which in itself makes each visit to the area very varied.

My advice is to rely on local knowledge, as the guides will know which sites are 'going off' with particular species at any given time. Most dives are in the 15-25 metre range, with the occasional drop down to 30 metres if a particular subject is a little deeper (for example some gorgonian fans hosting minute



pygmy seahorses). Nitrox is therefore recommended to extend bottom time and allow for the inevitable repetitive diving as sitting out dives becomes increasingly difficult. The house reef at Lembeh resort should also be explored, especially as a night dive; the density of wonderful critters won't fail to astound.

If you tire of the muck diving and would like to see pristine reef, Lembeh Resort work with two other resorts around North Sulawesi. Murex on Bangka Island offers spectacular soft corals and schooling reef fish, even the occasional dugong, and its sister resort, Murex Manado, gives access to

the Bunaken National Park, characterised by wall dives teeming with wildlife punctuated by numerous green and hawksbill turtle encounters. It is possible to book a combined trip of these three resorts under the name of 'the Passport to paradise'.

During our stay at Lembeh Resort, resident marine biologist, Dimpy Jacobs donned her instructor hat and expertly guided my son Louie through his dive training. Before we knew it he was qualified, diving with us and looking with wonder at the many creatures of the Lembeh Strait; highlights for him being the mimic octopus, the hairy frogfish and the numerous anemones with their





resident anemonefish, commensal shrimp, and porcelain crabs. Watching your child fall in love with the sea and its creatures is an absolute joy to behold.

After much too short a time, we bade farewell to Lembah Resort and headed across North Sulawesi to a private port in Manado, where we were met by the transfer boat for Bunaken Oasis Resort and Spa. The next part of our adventure had begun.

Wow, just... wow. We spent the next ten days dragging our jaws around. Bunaken Oasis Resort and Spa is the brainchild of Brits Elaine and Simon Wallace. We had met them eight years previously when Elaine

was doing an underwater photo course with Martin Edge. She fell in love with underwater photography there and then, and began travelling and diving around Indonesia. We met her two years later at Manado airport and she told us that she and Simon had decided to open a boutique, eco-friendly resort. There is so much to say about what a wonderful job they have done, but to summarise – you really need to see it to believe it.

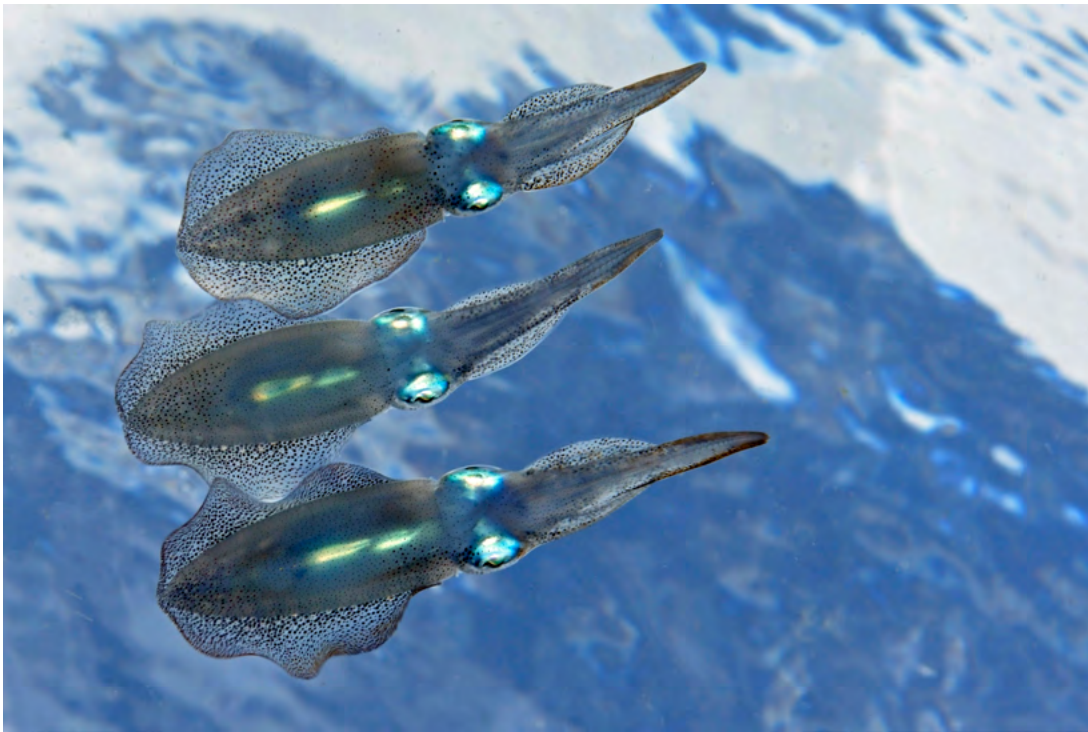
The philosophy of the resort is to offer a luxurious experience to the visitor while having a positive impact on the local community. The desalination water setup, for example, offers free water to the local

village. Elaine and Simon clearly take more pride in the way the local community has embraced the resort and the contribution they are making to Bunaken Island than they do for their own balance sheet. Their care and concern for local employees and their working conditions is matched only by the attention to detail accorded to the experience of their guests.

The resort is currently made up of 12 chalets built into the tropical rainforest foliage with minimal impact. Each chalet has a sunset view over the volcanoes of the North Sulawesi mainland. They have been built and fully furnished in the resort workshop

using local carpenters and ethically sourced sustainable wood. The resort's centrepiece is an infinity pool with cascading waterfalls, shallow play areas for little ones and a deep drop off for diver training. The sun sets directly in front of the pool beyond the volcanoes of the mainland, making sunset cocktails luxuriating in the warm water or comfortable pool bar a sumptuous experience.

Diving in Bunaken National Park is best known for drop-off wall dives, as the fringing reefs of the five islands in the park fall down to several hundred metres. The Park is also one of the world hot spots for green and hawksbill turtles; they are accustomed



to divers and can be seen in very healthy numbers. The area is prone to currents bringing in pelagic fish and feeding the colourful coral reefs. More than 90 resident fish species have been recorded in the park and are present in strong numbers.

Happily, Bunaken has not been affected by recent overheated seas and the coral bleaching which has caused such damage in other parts of the Indonesian archipelago. If divers are looking for a different diving experience, a 30-minute boat trip to the Manado mainland will satisfy the 'muck-diving' fans, as fascinating critters abound along the mainland

coast.

The coastline of the island of Bunaken is protected by well-established mangroves, which act as nurseries to young turtles and juvenile animal life, while providing atmospheric photo opportunities and fascinating snorkelling encounters. Before we left the resort, Louie and I planted several mangrove plants in front of the resort, taking their place among other seedlings planted by previous guests. Bunaken Oasis plan to develop a turtle hatchling sanctuary to protect the many eggs laid on the beaches of the island from being consumed by the local community. We also had the privilege of being involved in





resorts though, where you feel the guides might be doing this just as part of their job, we genuinely felt that our guides / captains and boat crew were proud to be part of the Bunaken Oasis experience and, in turn, we felt proud to be guests.

The dive sites were all that had been promised, although westerly winds and nightly thunder storms had impacted the visibility on the west side of the island. Accordingly, we focussed on the easterly sites, and spent some high-quality time in the world famous 'Turtle City'. I will never forget our final dive of the trip at the East point of Bunaken Island at 'Sachiko's point'.

Here we fell into the warm, azure water to be met by pristine corals and a 'healthy' running current. Louie became Superman as we travelled across the colourful fringing reef, past

wise looking green turtles feeding on soft corals, through a million blue triggerfish defying physics and swimming up- urrent and among tightly grouped schools of yellow snapper sheltering in the lee of rocky pinnacle outcrops.

We finished our dive with a free swimming, hunting leopard moray eel. Bliss!

The Bunaken Oasis resort has clearly been a labour of love for Elaine and Simon and they are rightfully very proud of their achievement and their contribution to the island of Bunaken.

As you can imagine, leaving the resort was a real challenge and we are already planning a return to the area very soon.

Essentials

GETTING THERE: Flights to North Sulawesi are easy with Singapore Airlines and Silk Air with a stopover in Singapore. Prices vary but can be found between £700-£1000 depending on the time of year.

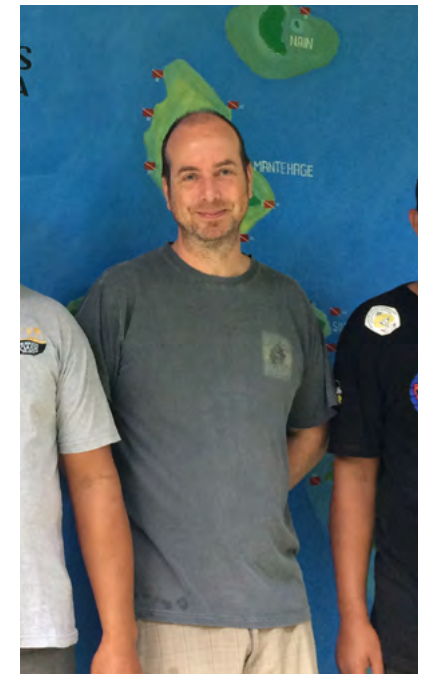
www.singaporeair.com

RESORTS: There are numerous dedicated diving resorts in both Lembeh and Bunaken which will fit different budgets. We were hosted by Lembeh Resort and Bunaken Oasis Dive Resort, two of the premium resorts in the area. They can be booked through Oonas Divers, Scuba Travel or Ultimate Diving. Prices will vary on packages and time of year.

WHEN TO GO: Diving is year-round in Lembeh, with more seasonal variability in Bunaken. The optimum time to visit is May to October which is the dry season with flat seas and good visibility. We were there in December with some impressive storms passing through in the evenings and night-time. I'd happily return at any time of the year.

Alex Tattersall
www.uwvisions.com

www.oonasdivers.com
www.lembehresort.com
www.bunakenoasis.com



My Shot(s)

by Pete Atkinson

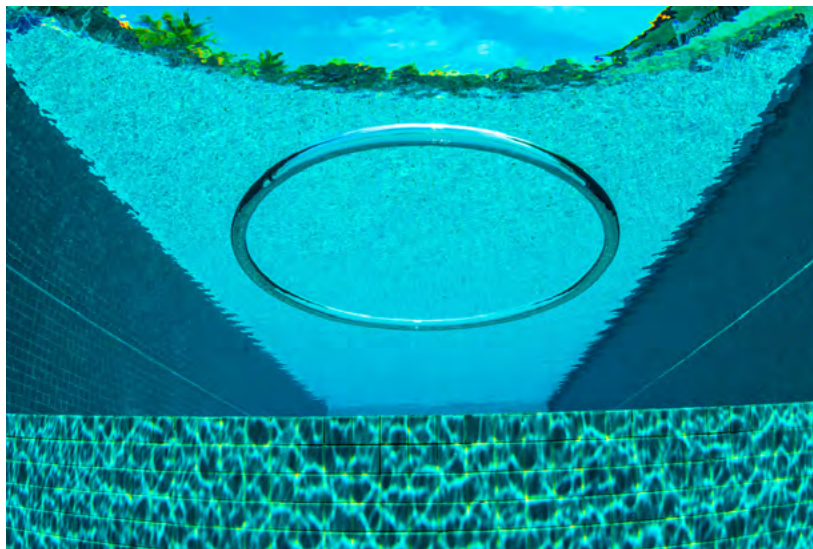
Phuket has many beautiful pools. One of my favourites is the 5m pool at Club Freedom in Rawai.

The recalcitrant owner closed it over the pandemic and seems reluctant to open, even now. Many of his clients were Japanese.

It's 22m long with a 5m section perfect for dive training, or blowing bubble rings.

Blowing these toroidal bubbles takes practice. I lie on the bottom, puff my cheeks out, stick out my tongue a with a round section rather than flat, then pull my tongue back enough for air to be forced out of my buccal cavity by the elasticity of my cheeks. I'm not blowing from my lungs.

Technical divers, mermaids, freedivers and other divers used the pool for training. The water clarity is excellent, and being open to the sky the temperature rarely drops below 28 C. There is accommodation next to the



A bubble ring rises above the edge of the 5m deep section. Nikon D800, Nauticam housing. Sigma 15mm fisheye, 9" glass dome, 1/500th, f11, ISO 320.



Sabre expert Madeleine Becker. Nikon D800, Nauticam housing. Sigma 15mm fisheye, 9" glass dome, 1/200th, f13, ISO 200



The Club Freedom pool in Naiharn, Phuket. Nikon D800, Nauticam housing. Sigma 15mm fisheye, 9" glass dome, 1/200th, f14, ISO 400.

pool, currently unused.

I shot there many times, but alone in the morning was perfect. I love clear water with nothing in it as it's a blank canvas for creativity. You can see more pools I have shot here in Phuket at www.facebook.com/phuketpools



Pete Atkinson
www.peteatkinson.com

Do you have a favourite shot or an image/s which made a dive special.

E mail yours with some text to peter@uwpmag.com

and yours could be the next My Shot/s

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Marshall's Mysteries 8

A



© Colin Marshall / FLPA / Minden

Lembeh, Sulawesi, Indonesia

image about 20 cm across

Do you know what these animals are, or what they are doing? Have a guess – answers on page 61

B



© Colin Marshall

Lembeh, Sulawesi, Indonesia
Image about 5cm top to bottom

C



© Colin Marshall / Alamy

Raja Ampat, Indonesia

image about 10 cm across

D



© Colin Marshall / Adea

Amed, Bali, Indonesia

image about 2 meters across

Guidelines for contributors

The response to UwP has been nothing short of fantastic. We are looking for interesting, well illustrated articles about underwater photography. We are looking for work from existing names but would also like to discover some of the new talent out there and that could be you! UwP is the perfect publication for you to increase your profile in the underwater photography community.

The type of articles we're looking for fall into five main categories:

Uw photo techniques - Balanced light, composition, etc

Locations - Photo friendly dive sites, countries or liveaboards,

Subjects -, Anything from whale sharks to nudibranchs in full detail

Equipment reviews - Detailed appraisals of the latest equipment

Personalities - Interviews/features about leading underwater photographers

**If you have an idea for an article,
contact me first before putting pen to paper.
E mail peter@uwpmag.com**

How to submit articles

To keep UwP simple and financially viable, we can only accept submissions by e mail and they need to be done in the following way:

1. The text should be saved as a TEXT file and attached to the e mail

2. Images must be attached to the e mail and they need to be 150dpi

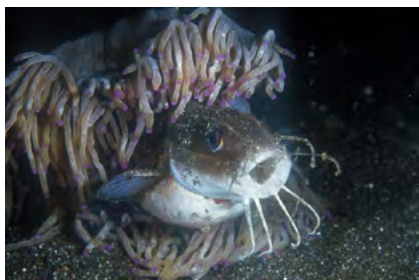
Size - Maximum length 20cm i.e. horizontal pictures would be 20 cm wide and verticals would be 20cm high.

File type - Save your image as a JPG file and set the compression to "Medium" quality. This should result in images no larger than about 120k which can be transmitted quickly. If we want larger sizes we will contact you.

3. Captions - **Each and every image MUST have full photographic details** including camera, housing, lens, lighting, film, aperture, shutter speed and exposure mode. These must also be copied and pasted into the body of the e mail.

Marshall's Mysteries 8 - Answers

A



Elegance Coral (*Catalaphyllia jardinei*). Often mistaken for *Heteractis* corals (as I did for years for this image until Joe Rowlett set me straight recently).

The rather shocked-looking Striped Catfish (*Plotosus lineatus*) likely died elsewhere and the bloated corpse just drifted into the coral. This coral tends to catch fairly small prey (plankton, shrimp) with their nematocyst-laden tentacles.

More detail on this coral can be found on pages 670-71 of "Indo-Pacific Corals" by Joe Rowlett.

B



Egg mass tower of Pilsbry's Headshield Slug (*Tubulophilinopsis pilsbryi*, previously named *Philinopsis pilsbryi*).

Image below on the left shows slug shortly after laying eggs. Presumably a little exhausted and rather proud of her architectural wonder...

C



Shimada's Dwarfgoby (*Eviota shimadai*), a fairly common goby. But the main attraction is the Tasselled Wobbegong Shark (*Eucrossorhinus dasypogon*) - the goby is just below the eye of the shark.

Full size image of a Wobbegong Shark is shown below.

More detail on this shark can be found on page 44 of Volume 1 of "Reef Fishes of the East Indies" by Gerry Allen & Mark Erdmann.

D



Day Octopus (*Octopus cyanae*) extending skirt over rock to trap fish.

This octopus was observed being bombarded by damselfish just before it darted to this rock. It may have been trying to intimidate the nearby attackers by exhibiting deimatic behaviour, ie making itself look bigger and changing color.

The red wild-eyed fish that can just be seen lurking in the shadows on the upper right is a Tomato Grouper

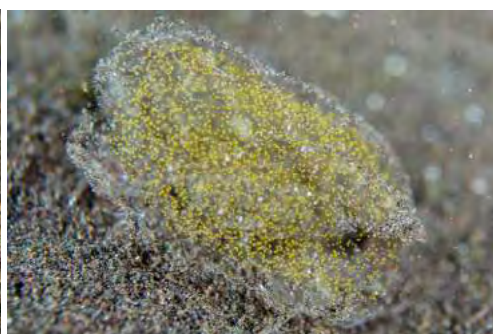
(*Cephalopholis sonnerati*), opportunistically waiting for the trapped small fish trying to escape the octopus.

Or perhaps the octopus' deimatic display is directed to the Grouper, as a warning to not try to snatch its meal!

Opisthobranch (slugs and nudibranchs) eggs are distinctively linked together in chains or ribbons, compared to the random egg masses deposited by polychaete worms, for example, as shown below on the right.



Lembah, Sulawesi, Indonesia



Bali, Indonesia



Raja Ampat, Indonesia

© Colin Marshall / FLPA / Minden

© Colin Marshall / Ardea

© Colin Marshall / FLPA / Minden

If you think any of the identifications or information above is wrong, please let me know at colintrmarshall@yahoo.com. Feel free to send me any images of anything you'd like some help in identifying – any particularly interesting mysteries may be included in future Underwater Photography issues.

Parting Shot



In 2017 off the island of Yap in Micronesia, and many other locations, the ocean temperature exceeded what would be considered normal.

Many species of coral were affected, but I did not realize that anemones, which are somewhat gigantic polyps, were also at risk. Some were colourless like their calcium carbonate counterparts and there was talk of them surviving if the temperature would just cool a bit.

Images of the pink anemonefish, Amphiprion perideraion, in this anemone, Heteractis magnifica, were surreal, almost as if the background was converted to black and white.

I shot many frames over the two weeks at the Manta Ray Bay Resort and was disappointed the following year when I returned to find an empty space where I had seen the same anemone so many times. This was one of many events and photographs that



Canon EOS 5D mark IV in an Ikelite housing with a Canon EF100mm macro lens, 1/125 sec, F25, ISO 320, with two Ikelite 161 strobes set on TTL.

has driven home the idea of global warming.

Fortunately I have been back to Yap since and am pleased to report that the reefs have recovered and I look forward to my time there later in 2023.

David Fleetham
www.davidfleetham.com

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