

News, Travel & Events

Spurdog encounters, Scotland

Ever searching for new projects, Shane Wasik owner of Basking Shark Scotland and Dive Oban & Argyll, has been trialling an exciting new shark dive on the North West of Scotland.

Through recent research, a resident population of Spurdogs (*Squalus acanthias*) have been found in the waters around Oban, adding to many wrecks, reefs, walls and abundant marine life of the area. Shane has been trialling out diving with these sharks over the last year, scoping out different locations and factors to be able to find them reliably. The tests have worked out really well which recently culminated in a photography workshop with Lawson Wood and Mike Clark.

Shane says 'Sharks numbers have varied with some days having double figures around the bait, they grown over 5 feet long so they can be a good size too. When in hunting mode the sharks can be very inquisitive, investigating everything including dome ports and the action can be pretty exciting.

We've also found that other sharks come in during the sessions too



©Shane Wasik 2018

such as thornback rays and catsharks. Making it a British shark fest!' Look out for a selection of dates for divers and photographers to book onto individually with group enquires also welcome.

This would make a great addition to a photography weekend including the blackwater and floodlight diving trips.



<http://diveoban.com/diving-with-sharks-spurdogs/scotland.co.uk>



2:1 Dive Guide Ratio
Since 2014

NAD-Lembah Resort is a small, owner-operated, photography-oriented dive resort in the Lembah Strait.

Situated in a private bay on Lembah Island, you can enjoy being away from the hustle and bustle of the mainland.

Guaranteed 2:1 guest to guide ratio as standard, which makes for a private dive experience and lots of time to take pictures.

NAD is often the choice of film crews and production companies. We also offer Blackwater Night and Mandarin Fish Dives if you would like to try something different!



NAD
lembah

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www.nad-lembeh.com

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American Crocodiles at Banco Chinchorro Mexico August 2019

It is possible to get safely face to face with crocodiles and come back with amazing close up photos: Chinchorro Atoll (Banco Chinchorro Biosphere Reserve) is the best place in the world to get close to American crocodiles. Located south of Cancun, Mexico, the Banco Chinchorro Biosphere Reserve is the largest stand – alone reef in the Northern hemisphere and one of the healthiest. Fewer than one thousand divers get to see these remote and unspoiled dive sites per year.

In August 2019, photographer host Gregory Sweeney and 6 guests will travel on a unique adventure to see American Crocodiles and dive remote reefs. This is a safe encounter with guides who have done years of experimentation and careful planning to make this safe. Our outfitter and guide in Xcalak are committed to sustainable tourism remain the only dive operator with an official concession.

On the Chinchorro Banks, guests stay in utilitarian fishing huts on stilts over the shallow waters: 36 nautical miles off shore and across from



Xcalak, Mexico.

Each morning on a dive to the pristine reefs they also hunt the invasive lionfish. In the afternoons the crocs come close and guests photograph the crocs in the 1.2m deep water around our huts. Guests can pair this trip with the Cancun whale shark aggregation.

If ancient reptiles and remote adventure is calling to you, get more information on price and availability from Gregory Sweeney at:

www.GregorySweeney.com

Asia Pacific UW Photo Challenge

Asia Pacific Underwater Photo Challenge (UWPC), aim at finding the excellent underwater photographers, understanding their works thoroughly.

We hope to promote the development of the art of underwater photography in the Asia Pacific Region, make the creation of underwater image culture prosper, promote scuba diving, promote the protection of the marine environment and guide the green and healthy life style through the challenge.

Asia Pacific Underwater Photo Challenge is truly a international competition. Our judges are famous underwater photographers worldwide and this Underwater Photo Challenge is open to all skill levels.

In the past few years, there were hundreds of competitors from China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, South Korea, Australia, USA, Philippines, Singapore, and UK. The Diving and Resort Travel Expo (DRT Show) and EZDIVE magazine now welcome everyone to participate the biggest underwater photo competition: Asia Pacific Underwater Photo Challenge!

www.uwphotochallenge.com



Asian Geographic Magazines

Asian Geographic Magazines is extremely honoured to have emerged the winner of Best Exhibition Organiser under the Experience Excellence (MICE) category at the Singapore Tourism Awards 2018 for having demonstrated excellence in organising and delivering Asia Dive Expo (ADEX) 2017.

We would like to thank our partners, sponsors, exhibitors, stakeholders, the Singapore Tourism Board and, of course, our visitors for supporting and believing in us through the years. We look forward to



bringing you an even greater line-up for our upcoming shows. See you at ADEX 2019!

www.uw360.asia



Join Backscatter's Berkley White & Becca Boring with seasoned wreck diver and underwater photographer Mike Boring on an exhilarating photo expedition to the most iconic wreck diving destination in the world.

Truk Lagoon (Chuuk) has the highest concentration of historic shipwrecks sunk in warm, clear water of any place on earth. Home to the Japanese Navy's Combined Fleet during WWII, Truk Lagoon was the target of a devastating attack by the United States Navy in February 1944. Operation Hailstone resulted in the loss of more than 40 Japanese ships and over 200 airplanes. The combination of history, shipwrecks, marine life, spectacular diving conditions, tropical weather, and beautiful scenery offer an unforgettable experience for divers and underwater photographers.

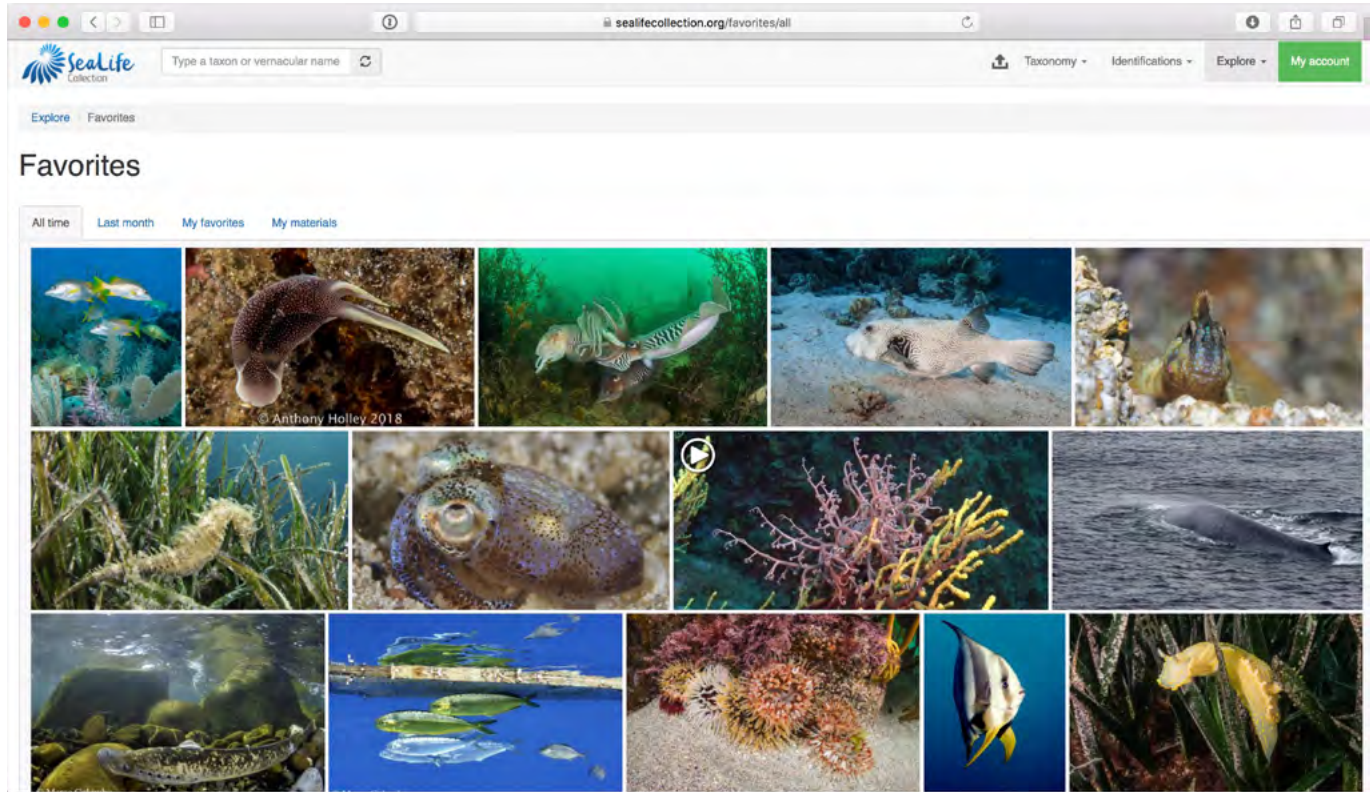
Truk Lagoon offers unique diving opportunities for all levels of divers, with some of the very best wrecks resting in shallow water. The group will be divided up based on individual interests, objectives, and experience level. Whether you plan to dive a single tank, doubles or CCR you'll have a phenomenal time diving the wrecks of Truk Lagoon.

If you have questions about how we'll tailor the itinerary to meet your individual needs, please contact Becca Boring.

The Blue Lagoon Resort offers comfortably furnished rooms with two double beds, shower, full bath, private balcony and a beautiful ocean view. During WWII the grounds were used by the Imperial Japanese Command. Many war relics remain today including armament and defensive fortifications.

<https://www.backscatter.com/reviews/post/Truk-Lagoon-Blue-Lagoon-Resort>

The Sealife Collection



The Sealife Collection is now live on sealifecollection.org

The Sealife Collection provides a collaborative, open content, online media database of all marine species, and is addressed to underwater photographers and scientists, enthusiasts of sealife species.

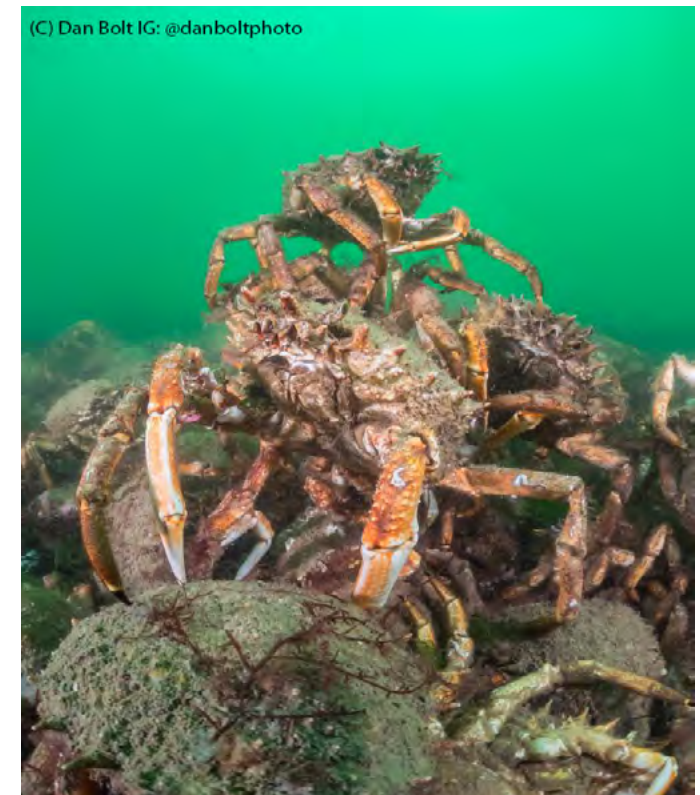
A critical part of this project is our partnership with WoRMS, which provides the taxonomic backbone to the database and daily updates to the taxonomy.

The initiative has the ambitious goal to represent as many taxa as possible with accurately identified photographs and videos. It

aims to become a useful tool for the underwater photography community as a single platform where users can see images of a taxon published by subscribed members, upload and compare their own photographs, and get support and discussions on identifications.

It includes a verification process for identifications at both the peer level and at specialist taxonomist level. Also includes social tools allowing users to discuss identifications, provide comments and tag 'likes' for particular media.

The Sealife Collection has the ability to produce distribution maps, cope with undescribed and cryptic species and hold vernacular names.



We expect members to extend beyond the community of underwater photographers, who will upload content and populate the database, and to include the scientific, conservation and educational communities.

Becoming a member is free, with different levels of media licensing available, selected by the user on upload.

The project is an initiative of Alive Fundació with the support of the World Register of Marine Species and well-known photographers like Alex Mustard.

www.sealifecollection.org

www.uwpmag.com

Bluewater Photo SoCal Shootout

September 14 - 16, 2018

Bluewater Photo has announced that the 2018 SoCal Shootout Competition will be held September 14 – 16, 2018. Registration is open from now until September 13th.

This competition invites divers from all across Southern California to dive and photograph with the opportunity to enter the contest and win great prizes. Photographers of all levels are welcome and can participate in a number of different categories that are separated by camera type (compact, mirrorless, dSLR) and photo type (macro, wide-angle, behavior, etc).

“The limitation of only being able to use photos from that specific weekend really adds to the excitement and fairness of the competition. It adds that extra flare of need to first find a subject or image you’re planning to take, and then also nail the photo!” - Adam Gibson

This contest brings together our local community of divers and underwater photographers, while also promoting local diving and the great underwater environment that we enjoy here in Southern California.

What can you win?

There’s a great list of sponsors

who have chosen to participate in this year’s competition, offering prizes that range from completely free vacations to free gear and local boat trips. With a grand total of over \$24,000 in prizes last year, Bluewater Photo is planning to surpass this total for 2018 – they already have a new record of free trips as prizes! While the full list of sponsors is still coming in, see some of the highlights below.

Platinum Sponsor prizes: A free trip to the Sea of Cortez aboard the Quino El Guardian, multi-night stay packages at Volivoli Beach Resort in Fiji, Clearly Cayman Beach Resorts, and El Galleon Dive Resort, along with numerous high-end video lights and camera products from Kraken and a GH5 Housing with 2 TLC arm sets from Aquatica.

Gold Sponsor prizes: A multi-night stay at Aiyanar Resort in Anilao, 3 night/4 day stay with dives for

2 people at Atmosphere Resort in Dumaguete, multiple products from ThinkTank, two YS-D2 strobes from Sea & Sea, and an Olympus TG-5 camera + housing.

Silver Sponsors: prizes from Ultralight Control Systems, Ikelite, CeeRay dive boat, Channel Island Dive Adventures, Truth Aquatics, 2

trips aboard the CeeRay dive boat, and so much more!

How do I join?

For more information or to sign up to participate in the competition, go to the website or contact Adam at

adam@bluewaterdivetravel.com

www.bluewaterphotostore.com/socal-shootout



BLUEWATER PHOTO
2018 SOCAL SHOOTOUT
September 14-16, 2018

\$24,000+ in sponsored prizes won in 2017!
Registration opens on Aug 1-Sep 13, 2018
Go to: bluewaterphotostore.com/socal-shootout

Michael Alyono - Winner of 2017's 'Compact Wide Angle' category. won a Sea & Sea YS-D2 Strobe

GregorySweeney.com Photography Adventures

*Tiger Shark
& Hammerhead Diving*
March & Oct 2019

Sailfish Hunting Sardines
February 2019



Salmon Sharks in Alaska June 20-19, 2019

Snorkel with the World's Fastest Shark and more unique Arctic ocean life

Embark on an adventure to the Alaskan wilderness with award-winning photographer and author Jennifer Idol. She will show you how to tell the story and provide image-making tips for this majestic landscape and its wildlife.

The salmon sharks we encounter are a mysterious and misunderstood species related to great white and mako sharks. You can witness and



photograph behavior never before documented.

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www.biganimals.com

UK underwater courses with Mario Vitalini



For nearly 30 years Mario has sailed the globe and dived the seas, working as a PADI instructor and dive guide. Today, he shares his passion for underwater photography, teaching students of all experience levels. His students love his real world expertise and patient approach. He has an extensive working knowledge of all underwater camera systems, having spent several years at the UK's largest photo retailer. There's not a camera set up he doesn't know. Join him on a UK course and learn to take better photos

A private underwater photo course is the best way to fully concentrate on your individual needs and level as an underwater photographer and diver. You will advance your skills in a short period of time. Courses are designed around you and you only.

www.scubatravel.com

WORLD SHOOTOUT
UW Photo OLYMPICS
JANUARY - NOVEMBER 1ST, 2018



Submit your best and most impressive underwater images, taken anywhere in the world between November 2nd, 2017- November 1st, 2018 and win some of the most valuable prizes ever awarded to underwater photographers !

Registration can be carried out until November 1st, 2018.

2. Registered before August 30th, get FREE additional set of images in each category you have registered.

3. Images can be submitted to the competition by uploading them to the competition website. Deadline for submitting images to the competition is November 1st, 2018

Categories & Prizes

BEST 5 IMAGES - \$20,000 trip to Papua New Guinea

CHAMPIONSHIP - \$10,000 awaits the winning team

AMATEURS CATEGORY - Fantasea FA6500 Housing

MACRO CATEGORY - \$1,500 check

VIDEO CLIP CATEGORY - \$1,000 check

www.worldshootout.org



Issue 104/10

www.uwpmag.com

Underwater Photography Exhibition

Attenborough Nature Reserve - September 2018

Jack Perks is a Nottingham based wildlife cameraman and photographer having worked for Springwatch, Countryfile and The One Show. Although he works with all wildlife underwater is his speciality both marine and closer to home in ponds and rivers.

The corridor in the visitor will have images from all over the UK from Shetland to Cornwall and a range of species.

He'll be doing a talk on the 30th September about his work and signing his books.

Attenborough Nature Centre
Barton Lane
Attenborough
Nottingham
NG9 6DY

www.jackperksphotography.com



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NANUQ DIED A SLOW DEATH
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www.seashepherdglobal.org



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New Basking Shark Boat



We're delighted to announce the arrival of our brand new basking shark boat 'Cearban Mhor'. It's been a few years of planning, design, discussions and convincing the bank manager to lend us (a lot) money! However finally she's arrived and we're super pleased with her.

Sticking with the trusty Redbay Stormforce platform built to take the worst of the Atlantic, she's 12m long to give us plenty of space on board. She's been custom designed to give indoor cabin seating, a seated shelter deck area and a much larger stern deck space. Space on a boat is always a compromise but we think we have a good combination of indoor shelter and outdoor viewing space.

Powered by twin V8 320hp Yanmar engines gives us plenty torque to carry the heavier boat, passenger and gear loading without stressing the powerplants too much. Of course she's in stealth black with silver decals to go with the companies colour. Sitting on the pontoons she's certainly a head turner!

Whilst being the flagship for our basking shark, wildlife and activity tours, she also gives us lots of options for island exploration and multi-day adventures around the Hebrides. We look forward to welcoming you aboard in the near future.

www.baskingsharkscotland.co.uk

www.uwpmag.com



Photographing Sailfish Hunting Sardine Bait Balls Mexico February 2019

Each year during the winter season, nutrient rich currents flow from South America pushing its way north up onto the shallow shelf off of Isla Mujeres, Mexico drawing in large shoals of sardines and needle fish. Following these baitfish are great numbers of Atlantic sailfish. The adventure happens when marine life and predators collide in havoc. Photographer host Gregory Sweeney charts 12.5m custom deep sea fishing boats out of Isla Mujeres, Mexico taking 5 guests on the quest to photograph the underwater drama.

Locating the sailfish and sardines can take a combination of a lots of patience, persistence, years of experience, and one last ingredient: frigate birds. A good crew with years of fishing knowledge under their belts, is essential to locate the sailfish and this is why he works with the crews who have been doing this the longest and consistently find great encounters.

The sailfish cooperate as a team to hold the bait ball together. Every

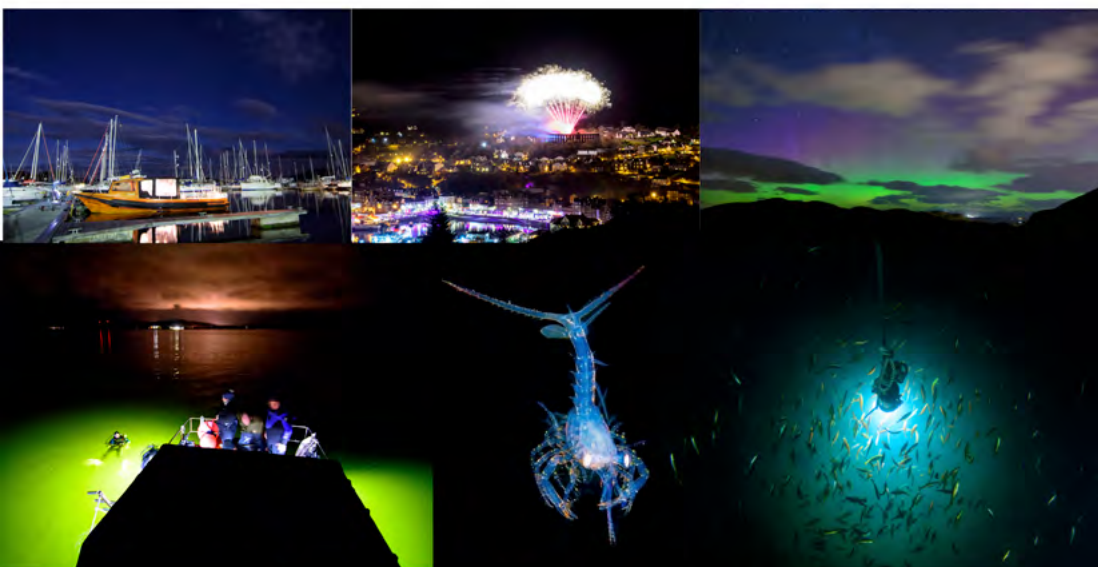


time the bait ball changes direction it encounters another sailfish: that sailfish will throw up its sail-like dorsal fin to scare the bait ball into diverting in another direction. It is truly an amazing experience catching the sailfish working together in photos displaying precision, accuracy, and teamwork to control the bait ball, then demolish it. The underwater images are full of action and drama. There is no better opportunity for video.

This is the ultimate in thrilling marine life encounters: get more information on price and availability from Gregory Sweeney at:

www.PhotographSailfish.com

www.uwpmag.com



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- Scientific Research Programme

Sea Of Cortez - Backpacker Style Adventure Novt 4-11, 2018



This is not your typical Backscatter photo expedition. Our new “Backpacker Series” of trips are professionally crafted to focus more on the adventure and less on dive, shoot, eat, repeat. We’re basically getting back to our roots when we considered meeting the locals and exploring land equally important to a well-appointed underwater camera room or finding the next underwater critter. Our best images have come from spontaneous adventures like these. Some of the best moments in our lives occurred when we put the camera down and just experienced a new adventure. If this speaks to you... this is the trip for you.

The inquisitive colony of California sea lions (*Zalophus californianus*) that call Los Islotes home are in fact the southernmost

breeding colony in the Gulf of California, also known as the Sea of Cortez. With very few natural predators, the colony has a robust population of roughly five hundred individuals. They can be spotted basking on rocky ledges in the sun, whizzing through underwater caves and archways, or entertaining visitors with their jovial personalities.

The Sea of Cortez is home to an incredible variety of marine creatures, one of the most impressive of those being the whale shark. As the largest fish in the sea, whale sharks can exceed 40ft in length and weigh more than 40,000lbs. October to March is whale shark season in La Paz, and we will be sure to spend some time with them during this trip.

<https://www.backscatter.com/reviews/post/Sea-Of-Cortez-Sea-Lions-Whale-Sharks-Mobula-2018>

www.uwpmag.com

WETPIXEL

Blue Elements Imaging



Tanya Houppermans began her diving career in 2008 and quickly fell in love with the underwater world. She became a passionate shark conservationist after learning that more than 70 million sharks are killed by humans annually worldwide.

To help with shark conservation efforts, she decided to start photographing sharks to show the public that these misunderstood animals are not the vicious monsters so often portrayed by the media, and that they are actually beautiful, graceful, intelligent creatures that desperately need our help. Tanya's images quickly became recognized around the world and were honored with awards in numerous international photography competitions.

In 2015 Tanya left her career as a mathematician and military defense analyst to pursue underwater photography and marine conservation full time. Her images and articles have appeared in print and online publications worldwide including Scuba Diving, Alert Diver, Tauchen,



Scubashooters, Dive Photo Guide, Ocean Geographic Explorer, and National Geographic. In 2016, she was inducted into the prestigious Ocean Artists Society for using her images to further global marine conservation efforts. Tanya also conducts field work for scientists and researchers by acquiring the images they need to further their studies. She enjoys leading expeditions for other divers and underwater photographers as well, particularly those involving her beloved sharks.

Tanya is currently in the process of continuing her dive education by entering the realm of technical diving, which will allow her to dive deeper and stay underwater longer to capture images of shipwrecks and sea creatures that are not easily accessible through recreational scuba diving.

www.blueelementsimaging.com

www.uwpmag.com

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www.oceandreamspacific.com



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Private Underwater Photography Lessons with Richard Carey

Whether you are just starting out with a camera or looking to take better underwater photographs, Richard also offers private photography lessons and courses.

You will get to join Richard aboard a three or five day liveaboard safari, diving with him for a day or two or even for the entire trip, improving your photography at the Similan Islands and world famous Richelieu Rock on the Similan Explorer.

Unlike other underwater photography courses there is no set program when learning with Richard.

Richard will concentrate on what you want to learn, taking into account your experience level, type of equipment you use and importantly, what interests you the most. You may wish to gain a more thorough understanding of your camera's settings, how to achieve better strobe lighting or focus more on wide angle or macro photography. What ever your goal is, Richard can help you get better underwater shots.

During your day you will discuss theory with Richard then get to dive together and put this theory



into practise. After the dives there is ample time to review your images and discuss what works best and how you can improve. Diving one on one is the best way to get the most out of your lessons. You can dive at your own pace and spend more time practising your shots.

www.richardcareyphotos.com



DC1 6 Inch Dome for Olympus Tough TG-5, TG-4, TG-3

This dome offers the best of everything: wide angle, macro, and over-under all on one dive. This special dome port is compatible with Ikelite housings for Olympus Tough TG-3, TG-4, and TG-5 digital cameras.

Underwater, the dome corrects for refraction to provide the full 25mm wide field of view. That's substantially wider than a flat port, which reduces the field of view to approximately 33mm. The dome supports full zoom through and you can still take advantage of the camera's fantastic microscope macro mode.

At the surface, the large dry dome gives you greater control to get a clean, smooth water line when shooting split shots (half-in, half-out of the water). This type of shot can be impossible to get with a flat port, and extremely difficult with a wet lens or dome where you're fighting double water lines. Read more at Ikelite.com.



RC1 Olympus & Panasonic TTL Receiver for DS Strobes

Enjoy true Olympus or Panasonic LUMIX TTL strobe exposure via fiber optic connection with your compatible Ikelite DS strobe.

With the RC1 TTL Receiver and a compatible camera with RC flash mode, actual exposure data is calibrated and communicated directly by the camera. This is far more accurate and consistent than "slave TTL" modes built into some underwater strobes which watch the camera's built-in flash and react.

