

News, Travel & Events

Blue Heron Bridge to be protected from collectors



The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission has taken steps to prevent that from ever happening again. The FWC approved regulation changes that would maintain high-quality snorkeling and diving opportunities at the Blue Heron Bridge/Phil Foster County Park in Palm Beach County.

The changes, that will go into effect April 1, will prohibit the collection and possession of marine life fishery species (species collected for and managed for the tropical aquarium trade) within the park and surrounding waters. Prohibitions would not apply to other fishing activities, such as hook-and-line

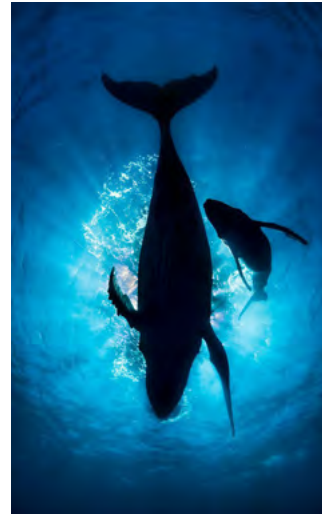
fishing or lobstering.

The changes will allow direct transit by vessel of marine life species legally harvested outside the closed area through the closed area so long as the vessel does not stop. The changes will also allow species collected outside the closed area to be landed by motorized vessel at the Park boat ramp and docks.

The Blue Heron Bridge area was named one of the 50 best dive sites in the world by PADI Sport Diver magazine and referred to as Florida's "best shore dive" by SCUBA Diving Magazine.

<https://myfwc.com>

Tonga Humpback Whales with Ikelite Ambassador Grant Thomas July 23-30, 2019



Don't miss out on this super exclusive opportunity to dive with the humpback whales under the expert guidance of Ikelite Ambassador Grant Thomas.

As the Humpbacks arrive in the warm tropical waters of Vava'u to breed and give birth, you will spend 7 days exploring the northern most group of islands in the Kingdom of Tonga. The tour starts from your resort where you are picked up every morning for a day of swimming with the whales. The tour stops for lunch around coral reefs and stunning caves

for some of the best snorkeling in the world.

This tour is limited to only 6 guests to maximize your time in the water with the whales. Grant Thomas was named British Underwater Photographer of the Year in 2018 and is ready to share his expertise so that you can capture beautiful images of these gentle giants.

All images © 2019 Grant Thomas

www.ikelite.com

<http://swimmingwithgentlegiants.com/package/tour-2a-whales-in-paradise/>

Blue Whales in San Diego

Introducing Expedition Leader Randy Nutt

I'm excited to announce that Randy Nutt will be co-leading BigAnimals' Blue Whale expedition with me July 7th – 14th.

Randy Nutt a competitive swimmer, USMS Level 4 Swim Coach (one of only 29 in the US) and the "2008 World Open Water Swimming Man of the Year" has through his company "Aqua Moon Adventures" created, produced, and directed several of the world's most exciting open water competitive and fitness swims.

Randy's work has centered around attracting swimmers from all over the world to participate in eco-friendly swims in exotic locations – with an emphasis on sharing the beautiful experience of adventure travel. He has trained several successful English Channel swimmers and was the first male to swim 21 miles around Miami Beach. He has swum and has kayaked for swimmers in the 28 Mile Manhattan Marathon Swim and the 24 mile Tampa Bay Swim Marathon –having kayaked for the first ever male and female athletes to complete that solo swim. In seven trips kayaking the 24 mile Tampa Bay Marathon his swimmers have won every time.



Randy Nutt

He has led numerous other swim expeditions including the first ever swim around Sanibel Island and a National Geographic Shark research dive in the Bahamas. He has coached world and national champions and swimmers at the US Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs.

In Randy's own words, "I can't wait to lead this adventure with Amos, feeling his excitement and spirit of adventure, as well as his love for animals and the environment makes for a perfect partner in leading global expeditions. I am thrilled to be working with a man of such great experience and vision."

www.biganimals.com



Issue 107/6

THE SOURCE



WETPIXEL

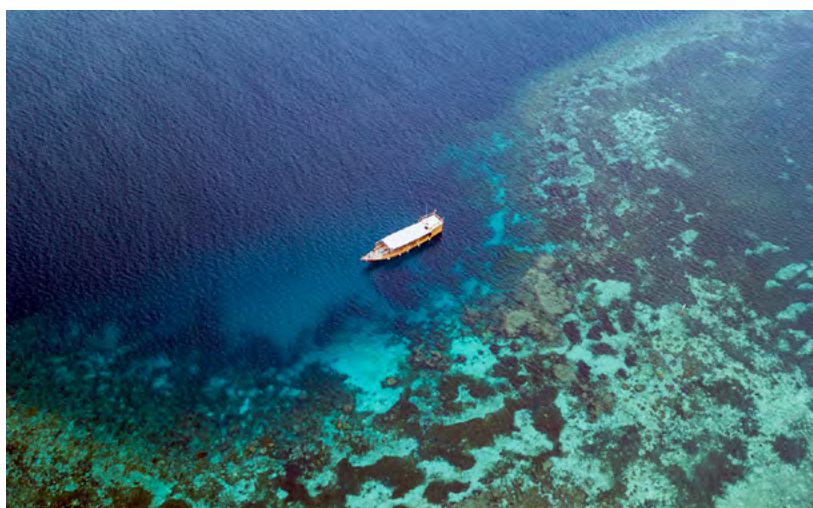
© Adam Hamilton

Wakatobi VII private charters

Guests of Wakatobi Resort can now experience the ultimate in personalized diving and snorkeling aboard a new 70-foot boat custom-built for private charters and excursions. The Wakatobi VII is the latest addition to the resort's fleet of custom-built dive launches.

The Wakatobi VII follows the style of traditional Indonesian boat designs, and is built locally to Wakatobi's specifications. Rather than the full-length bench seating found on the resort's other boats, the spacious covered deck of this new boat is configured for the comfort of a small group, with a dining area, forward sun lounges, kitchen station and a changing room with full bathroom and shower.

A special feature is an upper deck, which can be used for sightseeing, sunning or enjoying dinner under the stars. The center portion of the boat is devoted to dive support, with gear stations, a rinse tank and side doors that allow for easy water entries



and exits.

Guests of the resort can charter Wakatobi VII for full day excursions that include meals and crew. This option allows divers and snorkelers to visit their sites of choice

and stay out as long as they wish, whether lingering at sites furthest from the resort—such as Blade—or staying on nearby favorites such as Lorenzo's Delight, Dunia Baru, Magnifica or Roma.



Charters can also include a dusk or night dive.

The private boat option is ideal for couples, families and photographers wanting to follow a specific imaging agenda. The Wakatobi VII

currently charters for USD \$495, and daily use of a private boat is included the Ultimate 2-plus pool villa package.

www.wakatobi.com



Gregory Sweeney Photography Adventures

Underwater Safari in Baja, Mexico

A Striped Marlin & Baitball Frenzy with Shark Diving and Mobula Rays

Magdalena Bay in Port San Carlos, La Paz, and Cabo Pulmo

www.GregorySweeney.com 9 - 17 November 2019



Gregory Sweeney Photography Adventures

Tiger Shark Live Aboard Dive Trip

www.TigerSharkDive.com 12 - 18 October 2019

Tiger Beach, Bahamas

David Doubilet and Jennifer Hayes headline the Underwater Tour 2019

Doubilet and Hayes, National Geographic legends and undoubtedly the world's most recognisable and inspirational ambassadors of the oceans, are on their way from upstate New York to Australia to keynote the Underwater Tour 2019. Logging 26,000 and 11,000 hours beneath the surface respectively, it's no wonder they have earned their place as revered underwater photographers and international treasures.

Doubilet's 75 plus feature publications with National Geographic document the diversity of marine environments - from equatorial coral reefs to life beneath the polar ice. Feature presenter of National Geographic Live, a columnist, contributing editor and author of 12 books, he is the recipient of many international prestigious awards.

Hayes' photography and journalism is underpinned by her marine science background and focus on science communication and conservation of endangered species. Her current work includes documenting the global status of UNESCO World Heritage Site coral reef ecosystems at risk of climate change, exploring the science and

solutions to restore North American sturgeon populations and documenting harp seals as a Face of Climate Change in the Gulf of St Lawrence as their birth ice disintegrates beneath them.

A pioneer of the blackwater macro underwater photography niche, William Tan is truly the Master of 'blackro'. Tan captures images of the phototactic movement of plankton and wonderfully bizarre marine critters in their nightly vertical migration from the deep or mid-water column to the shallows. A violinist with the Singapore Symphony Orchestra, between concert seasons, he leaves his prized antique Italian violin at home while diving throughout the Pacific region.

- Brisbane 9 May
- Sydney 11 May
- Melbourne 12 May
- Adelaide 13 May NEW
- Perth 14 May

Tickets are on sale now from \$75.

www.underwatertour.com.au

Big Animals



Blue Whales in Tropical Sri Lanka

We have been in the business of exploration for over 40 years.

We have learned a lot during that time, and we keep learning — and we apply those lessons every season and every trip. BigAnimals' founder Amos Nachoum or one of our trusted trip leaders scouted all of our trips before taking guests on expedition. Before offering each encounter, we determine safety best practices for animals and guests.

Each one of our trips is escorted by one of our expert trip leaders.

Each expedition is scheduled for the prime time to witness and encounter spectacular wildlife behavior, based on input from local researchers, fishermen and our



scouting experiences.

Although we cannot guarantee the perfect sighting, we have never failed. We do our best with a lot of help from other resources to make memorable experiences. We believe in the concept that you join an adventure, and that the journey is part of the experience.

www.biganimals.com

Travel and Workshops, Anilao, Philippines

May 20-30, 2019

One female share space left!

The best critter hunting on the planet!

Join me for a macro intensive underwater photography workshop and some of the best critter hunting on the planet! This exclusive workshop is designed to help you develop a professional approach to lighting, composition and workflow.

This itinerary will include photo coaching by photo pro, Mike Bartick to help improve your underwater photography and one on one post processing sessions with Brook Peterson to help improve your workflow.

We will have daily photo reviews in which you are invited to participate. At the end of the trip we will have a slide show presentation showcasing each participants work.

Crystal Blue Resort offers warm Filipino hospitality set on the beautiful hillside in Anilao, Philippines. The scuba diving is world-class and an exceptional place for photographers. Whether you are new to underwater photography, or at a professional level, you are welcome here. The resort offers a fantastic camera room as well as a low guide to diver ratio.



The guides at Crystal Blue Resort are the best in the business. There is no better place for photographers to gather, learn, share ideas, and network.

Oh, did I mention the food? Oh, the food! The chef's at Crystal Blue Resort will prepare three outstanding meals each day which you can enjoy between diving and workshops.

www.waterdogphotographyblog.com/travel-and-workshops/



Spring Basking Sharks & Underwater Photography Diving Week 20th-24th May 2019

We're planning a very special and specific underwater photography tour for late spring 2019. We've developed a number of amazing opportunities for underwater wildlife photography and here they are all together in one trip! Our peak season for basking sharks (mid-July to beginning of September) is the best time to travel for that species specifically but spring is the time of their arrival and can give as good action as the peak season, it can just be a little variable with the timing! We have so many other opportunities for wildlife and experiences that we can't do during peak season so this is a very exciting trip to hit them all at once!

During our week (Mon-Fri) we have a range of underwater subjects ranging from very specific species targets such as seals, seabirds and spurdog sharks, to unusual experiences such as the night diving and some good old quality west coast dive sites, hand picked by Shane for

the best photographic opportunities.

This tour is based on scuba diving and underwater photography. There are also options to join as a snorkelling/free diver - please contact us to discuss. Dive sites will be chosen based on the wildlife and photo opportunities and as such we'll be looking for slack water and easy conditions with shallow depths to allow as much time as possible in the water. We'd expect that people joining would be relatively experienced but with maximum depths around 15-20m means as long as you're comfortable diving in UK waters then you will be fine. The trip is based around single tank diving - twinsets and rebreathers not required. Ideally diving is with drysuits for maximum dive time and 7-8mm wetsuits are best for our basking shark days (8mm semi-dry available to hire through us for the day).

www.baskingsharkscotland.co.uk

Baja Mexico Safari with Gregory Sweeney November 2019



Gregory Sweeney will be leading this trip to dive and photograph the best locations in Baja, Mexico.

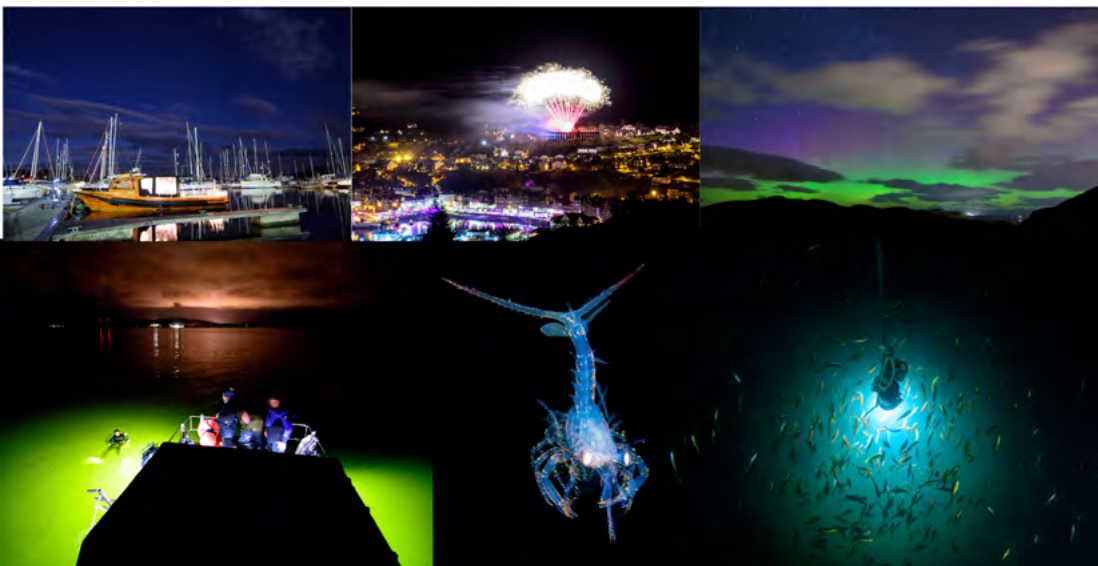
The adventure starts in Cabo Pulmo National Park where protected marine habitat and pristine coral draws an enormous amount of tropical fish, seals, turtles, and more. Large schools of jacks are an awesome sight as the formation pulses and morphs before us. We do dives specifically for bull sharks who lurk and patrol on the scattered remains of ship wrecks.

After 2 days of diving, we transfer to La Paz where we do a dive unique to La Paz: a night dive with Mobula Rays. Plankton are drawn like a magnet to our lights and schools of rays come swooping in to dive down

to feed in the sand. It is non-stop swirling action at night.

On to Port San Carlos where Magdalena Bay is host to the largest striped marlin migration in the world. We will be on our own boat from 7am to 4pm looking for sea birds who will point us to the epic hunting action going on underwater. The marlins hunt the sardines as do the sharks and seals. Under the surface will be a frenzy of action as marlin hunt in cooperation containing and maneuvering the bait balls. One by one they attack the sardines and take their meal.

info@gregorysweeney.com

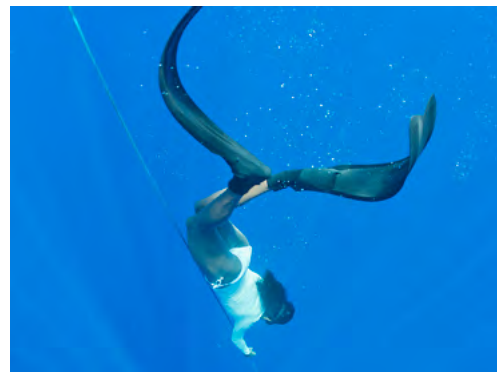


Floodlight Night Diving In Scotland
Abundant Marine Life / Shipwrecks / Deep Water Blacra
Winter Festivals / Northern Lights
85,000k Light System



www.baskingsharkscotland.co.uk / www.diveoban.com

Liquidstate Freediving in Fiji



Liquidstate Freediving is the first to bring AIDA freediving education to Fiji.

AIDA (International Association for the Development of Apnea) was founded in France in 1992. The original founders developed the education system that all other training agencies base their courses on. AIDA is the governing body for international freediving competition and world records. AIDA is a non profit organisation working towards the advancement of freediving as a sport as well as the physiological science involved.

We at Liquidstate Freediving are driven by the passion for freediving and want to share that passion with you. Freediving can be a positive life changing experience.

Whether you are a snorkeler wanting to spend more time at depth or an advanced freediver wanting to increase breath-hold time and depth;

whether you are a spearfisherman wanting access to bigger targets deeper down or a surfer who wants more breath-hold confidence to tackle bigger waves; whether you are interested in the meditative and relaxation aspects of apnea and pranayama yoga or you are a gas guzzling scuba diver wanting to improve air consumption and become a safer scuba diver, we at Liquidstate Freediving can help you to unlock your bodies potential to dive on one breath. We are all born with this ability.

Freediving is not an extreme sport and is extremely safe to learn and practice following AIDA standards.

For those who are more familiar with PADI, we also offer PADI freediver certification.

<http://liquidstatefreediving.com>

www.uwpmag.com

Tiger Beach, Bahamas Shark Trip

October 12 - 18 2019

Tiger Beach is a remote offshore location in the Bahamas known as the shark diving capital of the world. The stars at this ½ mile stretch of powder white sand are the tiger sharks, mostly female, who are resident here all year but aggregate in large numbers starting in October of each year. Other sharks are also present and are no less charismatic to photograph but each in their own way: Caribbean reef sharks and lemon sharks. Sightings of great hammerhead and bull sharks are becoming more common.

Diving without a cage among these large sharks allows you to get up close and personal for a thrilling adventure full of action. Seeing this many species of sharks is an opportunity to appreciate and value their role in our oceans.

Photographers will enjoy the clear water and bright sand bottom and taking images of sharks over the green sea grass or reefs. The tiger sharks swim in a pattern and pass close to divers and the crewmembers at the bait crates. You can observe the patterns and place yourself in position to get head-on shots.

I use a Nauticam housing with my Canon 5D MK IV. Most photographers use strobes but the light will not reach in all situations. I have



used several lenses over the years like the EF 15mm 2.8 Fisheye and the 17-40 f 4, but my main choice is the 16-35mm f2.8L. The fisheye works to get the shark nose to fin in the frame and getting close is not a problem is you are brave enough.

Bring a water resistant camera for topside shots.

October 12 – 18 2019 is the date for our 7 day Tiger Sharks at Tiger Beach Charter. We depart/return to West Palm, Beach Florida making for easy flight connections to any southeast Florida airport.

Our boat is the MV Dolphin Dream, a 86' expedition charter yacht with 5 shared cabins and diving platform. It holds 10 guests plus crew and is very stable and comfortable to ride through the Caribbean waters.

Underwater photographer Gregory Sweeney is your host and is available to offer photography help and tips during the trip and while preparing for travel.

www.TigerSharkDive.com

Red Sea Photo

Workshop 2019

Aug 5-12 (liveaboard) &
Aug 12-18 (land extension)



Join Craig Dietrich on an underwater workshop with remarkable soft corals and pelagics! Hop aboard the Blue Horizon and dive the amazing Brothers, Daedalus, and Elphinstone!

With awesome visibility and breathtaking soft corals, the Red Sea is one of the most popular dive destinations in the world. There are over one thousand species of fish in the Red Sea, 20 percent of which can be found nowhere else in the world.

Visiting Brothers, Daedalus and Elphinstone, this trip is a great all-around tour for divers with slightly more experience; offering challenging dives, big drop-offs, beautiful coral walls and plenty of large fish.

www.bluewaterphotostore.com

www.uwpmag.com



BASKING SHARK
SCOTLAND



4 Day & 7 Day Tours - 100% Success in 2017 (2-3 Day Tours 83%)

www.baskingsharkscotland.co.uk

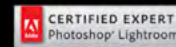


- Biggest Numbers & Most Consistent Worldwide Basking Shark Hotspot
- Based in Hebridean Isles
- Grey & Common Seals
- Whale & Dolphin Hotspot
- Puffins, Seabirds & Eagles
- Evening Photography Dives
- Stunning Scenery
- One - Seven Day Tours
- Guided by Marine Biologists
- Scientific Research Programme

PHOTOSHOP INTENSIVE WORKSHOP



BACKSCATTER
UNDERWATER VIDEO & PHOTO



MONTEREY, CA
FOR BEGINNERS

November 1-3, 2019



Goaskerin Intensive Photoshop For Beginners Monterey, CA November 1-3, 2019

Lightroom is an amazing application, but underwater photographers will eventually find the need to jump to Photoshop. The spot removal tool in Lightroom just doesn't cut it for removing backscatter, and although its new Range Masking tools rock, they can't compete with Photoshop's superpowers. Take your editing techniques to the next level by learning to use the most powerful editing software on the planet.

Limited class size (Max. 12)

This class will be held at Backscatter HQ in Monterey, CA.

6:30-9:30 PM Fri Nov 1 (optional)

10AM-6PM Sat & Sun Nov 2 & 3

\$395

In the optional Friday night

class, we'll check out system setup (computer, software configuration, external drives) and Photoshop Preferences to make sure everything's ready to go. I'll also introduce the most important concepts that we'll be covering in more detail on Saturday and Sunday.

On Saturday, we'll start with Photoshop's most basic building blocks – Layers and Layer Masks. By the end of the day, you'll have learned a ton of great solutions (and some dirty tricks) for many of the most difficult problems underwater photographers face.

www.backscatter.com/reviews/post/GoAskErin-Intensive-Photoshop-Workshops-for-Beginners

www.uwpmag.com

ALOR

Photo Expedition on Damai II Liveboard May 16th-27, 2021

Join Optical Ocean Sales for a 12 night cruise on the luxurious Damai II liveboard cruising the rich waters of Alor, Indonesia!

Diving in Alor and the waters of Nusa Tenggara Timur brings a constant source of marine life surprises, with a wealth of small creatures to big fish and mammals. There are a wide variety of dive sites to be explored during our liveboard trips, from muck dives in the bays of Beangabang and Kalabahi, to the always fishy Alor Kecil and the colourful walls of Pulau Reta. The Indonesian government has recently agreed to protect this area in order to secure a safe route for migrating cetaceans as they pass through the straits to their feeding grounds in the deep waters of the Banda Sea.

Alor liveboard trips offer divers the opportunity to see some of the most spectacular and untouched coral reefs in Indonesia along with the chance to witness unique behaviours of the many rare and wonderful critters to be found in the Pantar Strait. Divers can expect to see Rhinopias (lacey scorpionfish), pygmy seahorses, manta rays, schools of trevally and even the occasional whale! Departing from Maumere or Kupang, our 7-10 night dive trips not only take you through the wonders of the Pantar Strait but to lesser dived areas including Rusa, Adonara and Serbete. These areas offer unique habitats, coral reefs, pelagic action, macro critter spotting and the opportunity for island visits.

Optical Ocean Sales: Owner Jack Connick will help you get the most of your underwater photography. Photo presentations at night, as well as other information and assistance will be available.

2 Single Cabins at \$7995 are still available. All other cabins are sold out.

OPTICAL OCEAN SALES, LLC
UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHY PRODUCTS

206-284-1295 / 800-359-1295

Jack@OpticalOceanSales.com

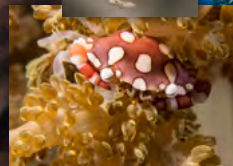
<http://opticaloceansales.com/photo-expeditions-and-travel/>



MV Damai II: This beautifully designed wooden boat been designed to offer a personal luxury service, that only a vessel of this size, that is dedicated to small groups can provide. All cabins are furnished with queen or king sized beds, and ensuite heads. There is a spacious indoors camera room like found in a resort.

Included in your Package:

12 Days/11 Nights on board the Damai II Liveboard • 4 dives a day offered • Full equipment, nitrox, laundry and massages and port fees included! - a \$480 value! • Photo presentations & assistance All meals served in a fine dining environment • Beer, drinks and 1 glass of wine each night onboard • Airport transfers to/from boat.



CUBA

JAN. 17-25, 2020 &
JAN 24-FEB 2, 2020

Join Berkley White for an underwater photo adventure in the famous Jardines de la Reina (Gardens of the Queen) Cuba.

Just over 60 miles from Cuba's southern coast lie a series of small islands that have been protected from development, tourism, and fishing. Christopher Columbus named the area Jardines de la Reina, or Gardens of the Queen, and it's one of the most pristine coral reef and mangrove ecosystems in the world.

The Caribbean's largest populations of adult fish, sharks, snappers, groupers, and jewfish are found in Jardines de la Reina. The goliath groupers that inhabit this area are some of the largest in the world, often growing over 400 pounds. Sharks are plentiful in the area. Divers often spot silkies, reef, lemon, blacktip, king hammerhead and nurse

sharks on a single dive.

Avalon Fleet II has 10 deluxe comfortable staterooms with air conditioning and individual thermostats. All cabins have private bathrooms and 2 beds (one full, one twin).

Avalon II offers to the divers a lot of space for dive equipment and photo and video cameras. On the top deck a Jacuzzi (500-gallon hot tub), with a panoramic view: ideal space to drink a mojito after the last dive at sunset.



<https://www.backscatter.com/reviews/post/Jardines-de-la-Reina-Cuba-Underwater-Photography-Trip>



CANON EOS R

FULL FRAME MIRRORLESS CAMERA

Introducing the new 200DL Underwater Housing for the EOS R. Every detail has been thoughtfully designed to enhance creative control, streamline the system, and reduce travel weight to a bare minimum. The large diameter Dry Lock (DL) port system provides superb optical performance with a wide variety of EOS-R-mount and EF-mount lenses. Add the optional CT2K TTL Converter for the fastest, most reliable, and most accurate TTL strobe exposure in the water.

Read more at ikelite.com.

