

News, Travel & Events

Houston Underwater Film Festival

April 18 and 19, 2020

The first annual Houston Underwater Film Festival (HUFF) is now open for submissions of original underwater videos. Anyone can enter and there are no entry fees!

HUFF aims to promote underwater film making and appreciation of the beauty and diversity of all things underwater as well as encouraging the art of underwater film making. Underwater videographers from around the world are invited to submit entries for consideration for screening. The deadline for entries is January 10, 2020 and the festival will take place April 18-19, 2020 at the 14 Pews Theater in Houston, Texas.

5 Categories:

Novice (up 2 minutes) - Open to new filmmakers who seek assistance in post processing. Each film will be assigned to an experienced videographer from the Houston Underwater Photographic Society who will help edit and color correct



the film, add titles, music, etc.

Fixed Lens (up to 2 minutes)
Films shot with cameras without interchangeable lenses. (Go Pro, SeaLife, etc.)

Short Video (up to 2 minutes)

Feature Length (2-5 minutes)

Made in Texas - Films made by underwater videographers living in Texas

www.hups.org



Ikelite Ambassador Elena Kalis

Ikelite Ambassador Elena Kalis picked up underwater photography as a way to extend her traditional art background. Using her Bahamian “backyard” as the backdrop and her young daughter as a model, she started creating.

The resulting Alice in Waterland series went viral on the web and garnered the attention of thousands of fans around the world. Now in addition to her art exhibitions and commercial work, she devotes much of her underwater energy to promoting environmental conservation efforts.

“For more than a decade I have been creating underwater photographic images that have drawn enthusiastic response from around the world.

With my daughter, who has been appointed the first ambassador for the Bahamas National Trust, we are bringing attention to the Trust’s conservation work and management of over two million acres of National Marine Parks.

www.ikelite.com
www.elenakalisphoto.com

www.uwpmag.com

GregorySweeney.com Photography Adventures

Baja, Mexico

Striped Marlin

Whale Sharks

Isla Mujeres, Mexico

Magdalena Bay, La Paz, and Cabo Pulmo Park

November 2020

July 2020



GregorySweeney Photography Adventures

Tiger Shark & Hammerhead Diving Adventure

www.TigerSharkDive.com

Feb & March 2020

Tiger Beach & Bimini Is., Bahamas



Tiger shark & Great Hammerhead Diving 9 Day Live Aboard



Underwater at Tiger Beach Bahamas several large tiger sharks cruise in a pattern while lemon sharks mingle with graceful Caribbean reef shark. At nearby Bimini, migrating great hammerheads arrive to snack on stingrays while bull sharks lurk in the same waters.

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.

February and March is prime shark season. Choosing a charter that departs from/returns to West Palm, Beach Florida makes for easy flight connections to any southeast Florida airport whether by train or car..

Our boat is the MV Dolphin Dream, a 86' expedition charter yacht with 5 shared cabins, diving

platform, and a large galley with plenty of deck and upper deck space.

It holds 10 guests plus crew and is very stable and comfortable to ride through the Caribbean waters. Divers must be experienced: these are long and multiple dives with no cages and filled with the consuming action of sharks swirling around you.

Photographers will enjoy the clear water and bright sand bottom and taking images of sharks over the green sea grass or reefs. The hammerheads and tigers come close to divers creating opportunities for beautifully detailed video or stills.

Underwater photographer host 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



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Baja Mexico Dive Safari November 2020

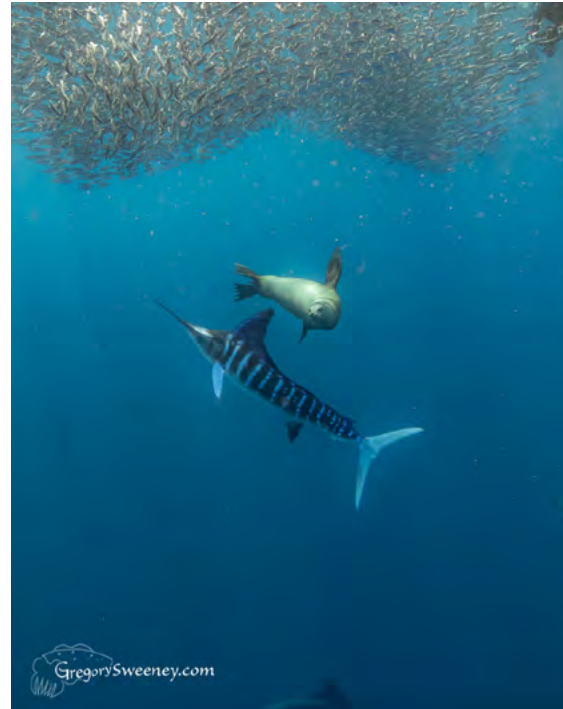
Join us on a real marine adventure for photographers as we dive with sharks, dive a pristine reef with a chance for humpbacks, join a moonlight ballet with mobula rays, then chase bait balls with striped marlin and other predators: we will be in the action with fast and elusive predators

Trip Overview:

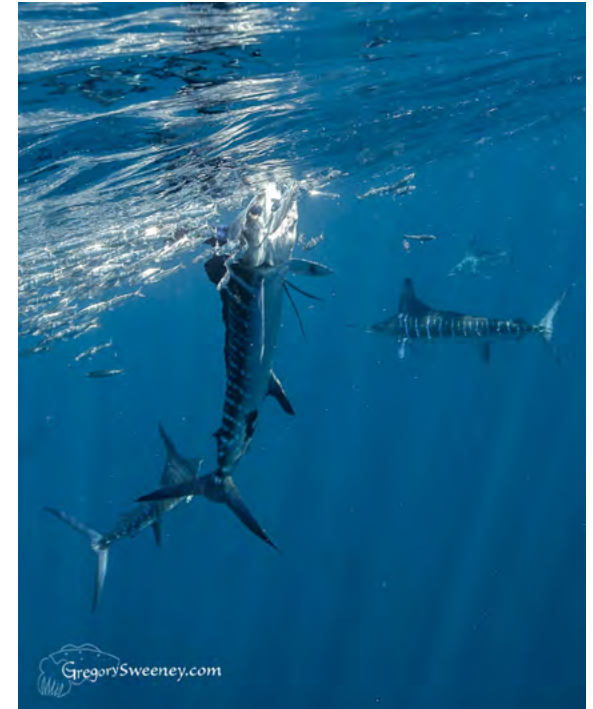
The adventure starts in Cabo Pulmo National Park where protected marine habitat and pristine coral draws an enormous amount of tropical fish, seals, turtles, and more. Large schools of jacks are an awesome sight as the formation pulses and morphs before us. We do dives specifically for bull sharks who 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. To conclude the trip we transfer back to La Paz for our return travels.



Includes:

- 9 nights accommodation in Single Room (discount for Sharing)
- All transfers between Cabo airport, Cabo Pulmo, La Paz, Port San Carlos, back to La Paz airport
- 2 days of 2 tank diving in Cabo Pulmo, 1 night dive with Mobula ray in La Paz
- 4 full days on boat for striped marlin

www.GregorySweeney.com



www.bunakenoasis.com
info@bunakenoasis.com



Set in the world-famous Bunaken National Marine Park, Bunaken Oasis offers a truly luxurious diving experience.

Exceptional air-conditioned cottages with sea-view balconies. Chill-out bar, and gourmet panoramic restaurant.
 Custom-built spa with qualified therapists.

Panoramic freshwater infinity pool

From water-makers, with UV treatment, to black water treatment, Oasis was designed to minimise any impact on the environment.

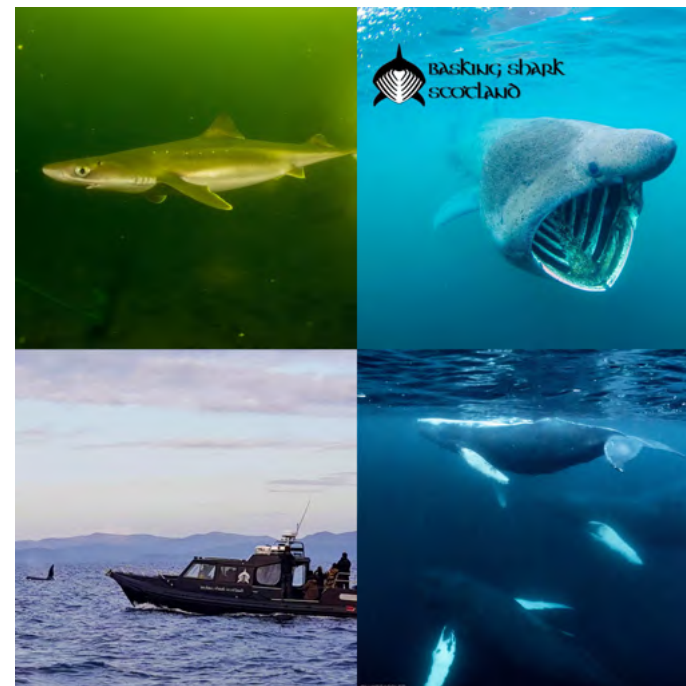
5* PADI-affiliated dive centre, designed for photographers, and dive boats that are second to none, with freshwater deck showers, toilets and, above all, space.



Basking Shark Weeks

With just under a third of spaces left for summer 2020 and our busy booking time coming up then we suggest booking spaces as soon as possible. Our week tours are the best length of tour as gives enough time to encounter good conditions, with the variables of the exposed Atlantic coast and shark food movements.

Tours run Sat-Sat from the Inner Hebrides of Scotland. Also chances to see seals, whales, dolphins, eagles, seabirds including the enigmatic puffin!



Underwater Photography Week

We're running our scuba based underwater photography week again this spring. 5 days diving around Oban and the Inner Hebrides, a mix of animal encounter, stunning scenic diving, wrecks and hopefully some encounters with basking and spurdog sharks!

Orca & Humpbacks!

We had a really great time in November past having moved our base much further north. We lost coast of the numerous humpback encounters and the week ended with a dramatic carousel feeding event! We really love our new lodge location in the fjords, which provided a great backdrop for northern lights with the added bonus of a bbq hut! November 2020 we're running two weeks with spaces already been taken. Come join us for an epic arctic adventure!

www.baskingsharkscotland.co.uk

www.uwpmag.com

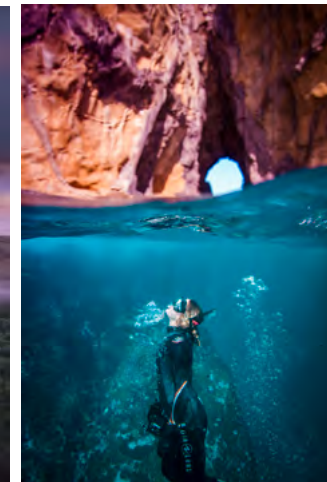


Dive Guangzhou 2020

🕒 May 10th-12th, 2020

📍 China Import and Export Fair Complex

Land And Sea Photography Shootout With Scott Portelli
11th - 18th April 2020
\$3,950.00



Photos © Adam Thompson

Land and Sea Photography

Shootout with Scott Portelli is proudly sponsored by Olympus.

WIN Amazing Prizes!

Package prices include:

Return flights departing from Sydney with QantasLink

7 nights accommodation at Leanda

Lei Apartments

Return island airport transfers

Airport taxes

10 dives for divers, and 2 half day boat trips for non divers as either a snorkeler or passenger

Practical workshops with Scott Portelli

Dive and snorkel gear

Dive and snorkel leaders

Olympus camera equipment available for use amongst the group

Dinner on arrival

Gala Dinner to announce the winners and celebrate the event

Categories (Maximum 25

Photos)

Creative

Landscape / Seascape

Wildlife/Birds

Surf (Above and Underwater)

Macro Underwater

Wide Underwater

Portrait Underwater

Split shots (Over / Under)

Black and white Underwater

Portfolio (6 photos)

www.prodivelordhoweisland.com.au/products/shootout

www.uwpmag.com

✉ grand.fa@grahw.com

☎ (+86)188 9869 2801

Frame And Focus On Saba

September 26 - October 3, 2020

Underwater workshops are perhaps the fastest way to make dramatic improvements in your underwater photography. Join Ikelite Ambassador Andrew Raak for a week of photography workshops, presentation, and one-on-one interaction.

Saba is the Unspoiled Queen of the Caribbean: beloved for its old world charm and barely touched landscape. 28 miles southwest of St. Maarten, Saba is officially part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The Saba Marine Park protects 30 dive sites around the perimeter of the island.

This trip includes lodging in the charming Juliana's Hotel and diving with Sea Saba. Also included:

7 nights, 5 days of diving, 11 dives (includes 1 free afternoon dive)
 Afternoon Photography Workshops, and Evening Photography Presentations by Andrew Raak
 Tanks and Weights include (Nitrox Additional Add-On Fee)
 Includes airport/ferry transfers from Saba AirPort/Fort Bay Harbor
 Daily transport to and from harbor
 Daily breakfast
 Wine at happy hour (except Mondays)
 Two dinners and one to go lunch



Welcome drink at opening night presentation

Hotel Amenities: Pool Access, DVD, Hair Dryer, Wifi, Pool and Dive Towel, Shampoos/Soaps, Flat Screen TV with satellite, Ironing Facilities, Coffee Maker, Mini Fridge

Starting at only \$1,419 based on double occupancy.

www.RaakBottomImaging.com



Photo Pros



2019 - DSLR - 2nd Place - Reef Scenic - Judy Bennett

13th Annual MantaFest Photography School & Contest 2020 Yap, Micronesia, August 30st to September 12th

Package includes;

- Hotel room w/ late check-out
- 2-tank dive days
- Nitrox
- Participation in photo contest
- Seminars and workshops
- Evening Media Presentations
- Shark split photo opportunity
- Land/culture photo opportunities
- Beach BBQ
- 1/2 day land/culture tour
- Local dinner
- Breakfast
- Roundtrip airport transfers
- Free Wi-Fi in public areas
- Hotel Taxes
- Wake-up service with coffee and tea

2020 packages:

4 night / 6 dives from: \$1,109

7 night / 10 dives from: \$1,799

11 night / 18 dives from: \$2,849

14 night / 22 dives from: \$3,489

Photo Contest Categories

Digital SLR	Compact Cameras	Video	Beginner
• Big Animals • Behavior • Land/Culture • Macro • Fish/Creature Portrait • Open / Creative	• Big Animals • Behavior • Land/Culture • Macro • Fish/Creature Portrait • Open / Creative	• Best Submission	• Best Beginner Photo

www.mantafest.com



BASKING SHARK
SCOTLAND



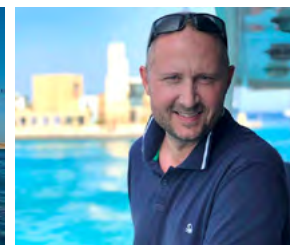
4 Day & 7 Day Tours - 100% Success in 2017 (2-3 Day Tours 83%)

www.baskingsharkscotland.co.uk



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- 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

Photography with Fotografit & Lars Kirkegaard Egypt Nov 2020



Lars Kirkegaard is one of Scandinavia's most experienced underwater photo/video teachers doing several talks and workshops every year and judging numerous photo contests. He has now teamed up with Kingfish Dive & Travel to offer a fantastic photo safari heading to the Deep South & St. Johns in the Red Sea.



The trip is for people with special interest in photo- or videography and is aimed at anyone interested in seriously improving their underwater photography in an informal, friendly and non-competitive environment.

Lars will be on hand each day throughout the trip and there will be a team of Lars' staff along on the trip. The level of knowledge is high, and the trip is aimed at anyone who wish to learn and dive at the same time. Should you only have a GoPro or an old video camera it does not matter - the team cares more about the person behind the camera!

The whole trip is based on "having good time" and to get the best pictures and our experience is, that being this many people together with the same purpose will make sure you do "just that".

Along the trip there will be an opportunity to try out a selection of Nauticam wetlenses and iDivesite lights that Lars will bring.

Lars has been taking pictures underwater for more than 25 years and he owns the online shop FOTOGRAFIT.eu and sells underwater photo equipment all over Europe.

www.kingfish.dk/egypt-photography-liveaboard-fall-0

www.uwpmag.com

Snorkeling with Sperm Whales in Dominica 2020

March 7 - 13

March 12 - 18



©Amanda Cotton

Our past experience has observed Dominica's west coast hosting approximately five sperm whale families, each with five to nine cetaceans. Females and their calves comprise the majority of these groups, although we occasionally encounter males, who are 45 to 55 feet long; thirty percent larger than the females. Families frequently socialize by playing in the water. Other times, they may remain stationary in a vertical position.

Sometimes the pod swims slowly allowing us to fin with them, while other times their speed picks up. We always follow them at a safe distance

until they abruptly stop, waiting for us to catch up. Each encounter offers a different opportunity, one more exciting than the next.

Professional Nikon Photographer specializing in underwater imagery. As an avid scuba diver and ocean enthusiast, Amanda's goal is to help the general public embrace the beauty below the waves, in hopes that with awareness comes concern. The conservation and preservation of this ecosystem is of the highest priority to Amanda.

www.biganimals.com



Issue 112/12



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