

News, Travel & Events

Manta Ray Bay Resort & Yap Divers Giving Free Vacations to Frontline Healthcare Workers



Diving into the warm waters of a tropical island surrounded by gentle manta rays and colorful reef fish may sound like the makings of a sleep-inducing dream machine for frontline healthcare workers right now. But that dream will become reality for 20 deserving individuals when they head to the remote island of Yap for a weeklong, stress-free journey of a lifetime.

Manta Ray Bay Resort & Yap Divers is inviting its past and current guests and Facebook followers to submit the names of people they know who have been working hard in the fight against COVID-19 for the chance to relax and refresh during seven nights and five days of diving at this award-winning hotel.

Submerging into the lush flora and fauna of

the island's protected reef, lounging by the infinity pool, experiencing the unique culture of this tropical paradise, enjoying a pint of the resort's award-winning, brewed-on-the-premises Stone Money Beer, and more will be in store for these special guests during their stay.

"We're looking forward to pampering a few of the many thousands of people around the world who have worked so hard for so long caring for patients during this pandemic," said the resort's owner, Bill Acker. "It's a small but heartfelt gesture on our part in comparison to the sacrifices they have been making."

www.mantaray.com

Marlin Hunt with Henley Spiers

20-30 October 2020

Join me in Baja California to witness one of the most elusive marine events on the planet.

It is extremely rare to encounter marlin in the water but for a few weeks every year, a large aggregation of striped marlin occurs on the Pacific side of Mexico. The marlin are there to hunt down fish baitballs, and we will venture offshore to track down this pelagic action.

As if that wasn't enough, we will also visit whale sharks, mobula rays, and California sea lions at my favourite dive site in the world!

A renowned underwater photographer, trip-leader, and writer, Henley Spiers' reputation escalated rapidly in recent years with a prolific series of winning shots in a multitude of prestigious photographic competitions.

thephotographer@henleyspiers.com

DEMA Show 2020 in New Orleans cancelled

The DEMA Show 2020 trade event, which was scheduled to be in New Orleans in November for the first time since the early 2000s, has been cancelled due to COVID-19.

DEMA Show 2021 will take place in person as scheduled from Tuesday, 16 November to Friday, 19 November 2021, in Las Vegas, Nevada, with additional measures taken to ensure the health and safety of all.

www.dema.org



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Smithsonian 18th Annual Photo Contest

Smithsonian magazine 18th Annual Photo Contest begins March 31, 2020, and ends November 30, 2020, at 5:00 PM Eastern Standard Time. By submitting an entry, each contestant agrees to the rules of the contest and states that he or she is 18 years old or older.

The Grand Prize, Readers' Choice prize, Natural World, Travel, People, The American Experience, Altered Images and Mobile category prizes are open to photographers who are 18 years old or older. Individuals affiliated with the Smithsonian Institution, including employees, emeriti, Regents, trustees, interns, volunteers, fellows, research associates and their immediate families (children, parents, siblings and spouses) and others living in their households are not eligible for any prize. The Smithsonian will determine winners' eligibility in its sole discretion.

The following six contest categories are drawn from subjects of special interest to Smithsonian magazine:

1. NATURAL WORLD:

Animals, plants and landscapes; geological or climatological features; and scientific processes and endeavors.

2. TRAVEL: Locales, peoples or activities in the United States and abroad that convey a sense of place.

3. PEOPLE: Portraits and photos of groups or individuals.

4. THE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE: Events, objects or activities connecting the American people to their history or their cultural heritage; photographs that tell us what it means to be an American and provide a sense of what it is like to live in this country.

5. ALTERED IMAGES: Photographs manipulated for artistic purposes by applying digital and/or traditional special effects.

6. MOBILE: Any photograph taken with a mobile device (phone or tablet).

To be eligible for any category, a photograph must have been shot by the entrant since January 1, 2018. This date applies to all images in a composite. The contestant certifies that he/she is the sole creator and copyright owner of the submitted photograph.

www.smithsonianmag.com/photocontest/submission/

www.uwpmag.com



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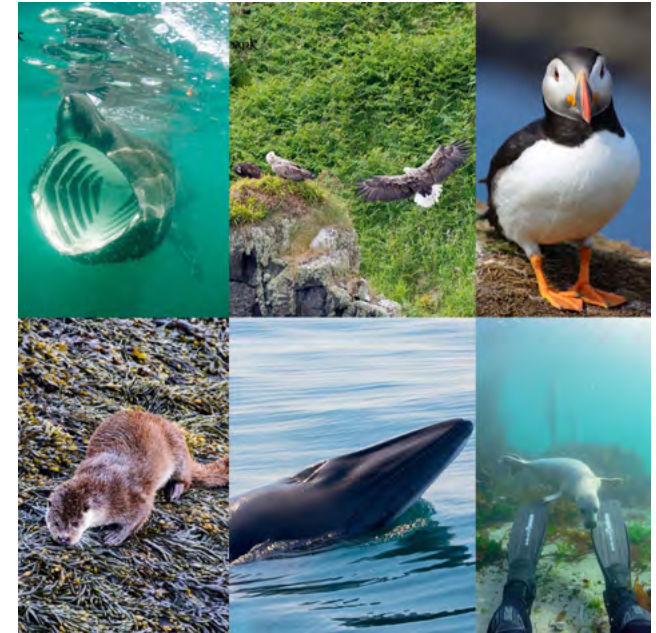
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A time for adventures closer to home!?

BASKING SHARK
SCOTLAND



With the current crisis, many people around the UK & Europe are considering their far flung travel plans and what could be an alternative.

With Scotland being opened on 15th July for tourism, this coincides well with our first basking shark, wildlife & adventure week starting on the 18th July.

We've been working on Covid-safe plans with much reduced boat numbers, cleaning regimes and specific procedures.

Our accommodation providers are all doing the same and we're hoping for a safe resumption of our industry.

However our message to our UK/European friends, that we have championed for many years, is now more relevant than ever. You don't have to travel half way around the world for a great wildlife experience, when one lies on your doorstep!

Although for our friends that do live halfway around the world, you do have to travel a long way and we'll be there when you can visit us when it's safe to do so!

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