

News, Travel & Events

Could you be Underwater Photographer of the Year 2021?



The Underwater Photographer of the Year 2021 contest (UPY 2021) opens for entries on 9th November 2020 and closes on 5th January 2021.

The contest is widely regarded as the world's leading underwater photography competition, attracting thousands of entries, with the winners showcased around the world in the mainstream media. The previous edition attracted entries from over 500 photographers and was won by Greg Lecoer from France.

Chair of the judges, Alex Mustard said "Nobody needs reminding that 2020 has been a unique year, but we are happy to confirm UPY 2021 is on, although with a few changes. We are well aware that international travel has been restricted, but many photographers have been shooting more locally or had time to dive into their archives and



find some hidden gems.

We've introduced a new My Backyard Award to celebrate images taken close to home, wherever that may be."

Mustard continued "a notable change for 2021 is that UPY will not offer prizes. We know that winning prizes is a major motivation for entering photographic competitions and we are really proud that UPY has given out so many in the past and surely will in the future. However, the diving industry has been severely impacted by the events of 2020, and in support of them we feel it is not an appropriate time for photographers to be asking for prizes for our pictures. We hope you will fully support this decision as the right thing for our community to do and we've kept all their logos on our website as a thank you for their support in the

past."

UPY is an annual competition that celebrates photography beneath the surface of the ocean, lakes, rivers and even swimming pools. British photographer, Phil Smith was the first Underwater Photographer of the Year, named in 1965.

Today the competition attracts entries from all around the world, has 13 categories, testing photographers with themes such as Macro, Wide Angle, Behaviour, Wreck and Conservation photography, as well as four categories for photos taken specifically in British waters.

The contest incorporates a bespoke results system, providing feedback to the photographers on how far through the contest each of their images progressed, so every entrant benefits from taking part.

The experienced judging panel remains underwater photographers Peter Rowlands, Martin Edge and Alex Mustard.



www.underwaterphotographeroftheyear.com

Capturing Critters In Lembeh Workshop 2022

22nd - 29th January

Capturing Critters in Lembeh is back for the 10th year running in 2022! We cannot believe that 10 years have passed since we started out with the seed of an idea to host an underwater photography workshop hosted by not one but three professional underwater photographers working together. We never anticipated 10 years ago that this would become the iconic event which it is today.

To mark the 10th anniversary we will, of course, be hosting three more world-class Photo Pros: Erin Quigly, Joel Penner, and Jennifer Penner. The week-long workshop will be packed with incredible diving, presentations from the Pro's and one on one instruction and feedback.

Our 2022 schedule is as follows:
19th– 21st January: Pre-workshop time to relax and unwind after traveling and enjoy some of Lembeh's famous dive sites.

22nd January – 29th January: Capturing Critters in Lembeh 10th Annual Workshop

30th – 31st January: Capturing



Critters Workshop Extension

Our three visiting Pros will be working alongside our full time, in-house Photo Pro James Emery, as well as our marine biology and underwater photography trained team of Dive Guides. With such an incredible team behind you, you'll be taking home some of your best images to date. No matter what level of photographer or videographer you are, you'll learn how to take your underwater imaging to the next level. Whether you are diving with a compact camera, bringing a totally new camera set up with you, or an advanced DSLR you'll learn how to get the best shots possible from your system.

www.lembehresort.com

Basking Shark Scotland 2021



The dark nights are here and Covid measures are taking a grip again - it's hard not to feel down. However we can only plan ahead and we are thinking about summer 2021 already. Our planned 2020 summer start a few days after lockdown was lifted and we had a fantastic wildlife season - perhaps one of our best ever! Our shark weeks were hugely successful and a popular tour for serious photographers. Our calendar is looking busy for peak season so we would encourage you to book well ahead!

Our main focus is wildlife tours,

running seasonally to encounter iconic species alongside dedicated staff qualified in marine science and professional diving. We are passionate about the marine environment and have created a code of conduct to ensure our operations have no impact on the areas or species we visit. We have an active science programme which every tour contributes to, as we are in a unique position that we observe and swim with more basking sharks than anyone else in the whole world.

www.baskingsharkscotland.co.uk



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- Scientific Research Programme

Digital Underwater Photography With PADI

PADI's Digital Underwater Photographer eLearning program is perfect for photographers who want to take the plunge and dive beneath the surface to capture the wonders of the underwater world.

The Digital Underwater Photographer course is a popular specialty diving course available from PADI®, the world's largest diver organisation. It enables users to easily learn the knowledge and skills involved in taking their first great underwater photographs, or fine tune their existing skills to produce stunning underwater photographs.

The convenient, interactive online study option takes approximately 12 hours to complete and allows users to learn anytime, anywhere at their own pace, using videos, audio, graphics, reading and short quizzes to help learn and gauge their progress. It also gives access to an online version of the Digital Underwater Photographer Manual.

The course is then completed through hands-on practical training during two scuba dives and guidance from a PADI Professional. Students learn how to choose the right



underwater camera system and underwater imaging principles for good exposure and composition by using the PADI SEA (Shoot, Examine, Adjust) method. The SEA method helps learners get great shots while applying the practical techniques with their digital camera.

PADI's Digital Underwater Photographer course counts towards the PADI Advanced Open Water Diver course and the PADI Master Scuba Diver rating. Students can complete the knowledge development portion of the course from home or anywhere in the world with PADI eLearning (cost: £135.00). This includes online training, digital assessments, and a certification card.

www.padi.com

www.uwpmag.com

Meet the Sharks of Tiger Beach & Bimini

March 2021

TigerSharkDive.com

Info@GregorySweeney.com

Stream2Sea Teams Up with Shark Allies

Stream2Sea, which set the standard for reef-safe sunscreens, has become the first brand to officially join the Shark Allies' Shark Free Products Campaign.

"More than three million deep-sea sharks are killed every year, in part for an oil called squalene contained in their livers," said Autumn Blum, Stream2Sea founder and formulator. "Squalene is a wonderful natural ingredient, but only when its derived from sustainable sources like olives."

Up to 100 million sharks are killed every year, mostly for their fins which are considered a delicacy in parts of Asia. "That's simply not a sustainable loss," said Stefanie Brendl, founder and executive director of Shark Allies. "Over the last 30 years, some shark populations have declined by more than 90% and one-third of all shark species are threatened with extinction. As apex predators, sharks are critical to the survival of marine ecosystems around the world."

Ironically, Brendl and Blum both built their organizations after "aha" moments in Palau. Blum saw a sheen of skincare products floating over a pristine coral reef; Brendl saw a boat returning to shore with dried shark

fins hanging from its railings. Both returned to the states determined to help protect the planet's waters in the best way they knew how.

Stream2Sea's formulations have always contained squalene derived from olives but shark squalene is often less expensive and is often found in skincare products that don't include information on its sourcing.

And unless a label clearly identifies a source for squalene, there's a good chance that it came from sharks because it can be less expensive than squalene derived from other sources. "Over time, we're hoping that prices will drop as demand for vegetarian squalene increases," Blum said.

The goal of the Shark Free Products Campaign is to educate consumers who typically have no idea where ingredients in their skincare products come from, Brendl adds. "Sometimes we get questions like 'why is shark-free skincare important' because most people don't connect sharks with their favorite lotions or creams."

www.stream2sea.com



Important Announcement Regarding Beneath the Sea 2020

Due to the Covid-19 situation Beneath the Sea October 2020 is rescheduled to March 12, 13, 14, 2021 at the Meadowlands Exhibition Center.

We do so after much thought and consideration for the physical safety of our exhibitors and attendees.

All existing exhibitor show contracts will apply to the March 2021 dates.

We believe rescheduling the show to March of 2021 allows us to be able to make your vision of the future and the start of the dive season our main mission.

We at Beneath the Sea thank you all for your understanding and patience in these critical times. Until then good friends and dive buddies, stay well by staying safe.

The Blue Army, Iceland

Tómmi Knúts began diving in Iceland in 1973 and from then on developed an extensive career as a diving professional. After establishing Iceland's first PADI dive center, DIVE.IS in 1998, he spent the following ten years teaching students the wonders of the underwater world and setting the standards for diving in Iceland.

Tómmi's love for Iceland's natural spaces and his passion to protect them came through in his teaching and as part of the Advanced Open Water Diver course, he used the Search and Recovery Specialty to teach his students how to safely remove debris from underwater. Whilst with his students on one of the clean-up dives in the local harbor, he noticed the rubbish was everywhere, not just in the water, so began organizing clean-ups on the shoreline and harbors too.

What started as Tómmi and a few students from his dive center, grew into bigger events with more and more volunteers attending. Working with Project AWARE, Tómmi continued to organize beach and underwater clean-ups and for 23 years and counting, has been at the helm of 'The Blue Army' leading the removal of rubbish from the beaches and waters all over



Iceland.

With the power of volunteers and his passion for ocean protection, Tómmi continues to run The Blue Army, now a registered NGO in Iceland. His clean-ups are joined by local and visiting volunteers, politicians and international embassies, and when manpower isn't enough, Tómmi using his signature blue pickup truck to remove large items like fishing nets and other ghost gear.

"Since 1995 over 6500 volunteers of The Blue Army have spent over 66 thousand man-hours in over 200 different projects to remove 1430+ metric tons of all kinds of rubbish (scrap metal, fishing gear,



plastic, tires, timber, batteries) from Icelandic nature." says Tómmi.

The Blue Army is well known in Iceland as well as internationally, and Tómmi's dedication to ocean protection doesn't go unnoticed.

"I have received numerous awards for my contribution for the environment incl. the highest awards



from the government, The Natures Awards. The Blue Army and the NGO Landvernd are nominated to the Nordic Environmental Awards this year for our Clean Iceland program." says Tómmi.

Blue Army

The 200DL Underwater Housing for Canon EOS R5 is now shipping...

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