

Editorial

UPY 2021

With the world seemingly falling apart, UPY 2021 decided to keep a sense of normality by not changing the categories with the one exception being a new award, rather than a Category, My Backyard.

It's aim was simple; highlight the exciting images which can be taken on your doorstep with minimal travel and energy consumption.

The entry numbers were very healthy and 46 out of the 130 images in this year's Competition were from My Backyard and this included no less than five category winners and four Award winners.

In addition I got a sense that entrants really embraced it as a way of showing how proud they are of the images they achieve so close to home.

Many have also said that, being limited, gave them more time to study and observe their local marine life and to get to know it in more detail than ever before.

Who knows? Maybe our backyards will be all that we can savour for some time to come.

Underwater photography trips

With the vaccination programmes continuing apace in most countries, you'd have to think there was enough light at the end of the tunnel to start being confident about the future and thinking about booking an underwater photography trip.

Judging by the demand for travel agent's services after the timeline to exit lockdown in the UK was announced, there are large numbers of people with exactly the same thoughts.

The travel industry must have Covid understanding contracts, perhaps vaccination passports and certainly rapid testing so that anyone who turns up positive will have to return.

Liveaboards should prove particularly attractive because, once all passengers and crew have been tested, the vessel becomes a self contained, safe bubble.

How far ahead you book and how far you plan to travel is a personal choice but one thing's for sure, you'll get a very warm welcome.

Peter Rowlands
peter@uwpmag.com



www.divephotoguide.com/world-oceans-day-photo-competition-2021