

News, Travel & Events

Socorro Islands with Erin Quigley and David Serradell April 7-15, 2021

Join Adobe Lightroom expert Erin Quigley and Backscatter photo pro David Serradell on a unique photo expedition to the Socorro Islands aboard the luxury liveaboard dive boat Nautilus Explorer.

Photograph Giant Pacific manta rays, numerous species of sharks, bottlenose dolphins, schooling jacks, and more. Erin and David will be on hand to assist with UW photo techniques, offer technical support, and teach post-production workflow in Adobe Lightroom.

The Revillagigedos Archipelago, more commonly called Socorro Islands is located in the eastern Pacific Ocean approximately 250 miles south of Cabo San Lucas, Mexico – at the tip of the Baja peninsula. These islands have been compared to the Galapagos Islands in Ecuador or Cocos Island in Costa Rica because of the big animal encounters they provide. This area is famous for up close and personal encounters with Giant Pacific manta rays, which can grow to 22 feet from wingtip to wingtip.

You can see giant mantas in many places around the world. But nowhere else boasts a population of giant mantas that literally seek out interaction with divers and snorkelers. We don't know why but we LOVE it!! And the mantas clearly love us back.

A negative COVID PCR test is not required to travel to Mexico but we highly recommend that



you get tested before you leave home. The Nautilus Explorer will provide complimentary antigen tests to all guests and crew before boarding. This test is mandatory, and a negative result is required in order to board the boat. This will ensure that all guests and crew are COVID free before departure.

Guests flying back to the US from Mexico are now required to have a negative test for COVID-19. To ensure this doesn't impact your trip, we are working with the local hospital to provide testing on the boat before disembarking. We will cover the costs of this test, and results will be available within two hours, ensuring no delays in you getting home.

www.backscatter.com

Blue Heron Bridge Photo Workshops 2021 April 15-18, June 10-13 & Sept 9-12



Take advantage of one of the finest macro sites in the world, our own Blue Heron Bridge, located in West Palm Beach, FL. This 3-day clinic focuses on macro photography, and there may not be a better setting anywhere to hold this kind of class.

This protected area has a great tidal exchange, protection from two bridge structures, and an island (Phil Foster Park).

In addition to photo instruction, this class includes a dive guide for every 2-3 divers. Our guides work for local dive operators or in the Reef Photo store and are expert Blue Heron Critter Finders. Our guests can focus on taking pictures, and we'll lead you from subject to subject. No stress about dragging around a dive flag, navigation, or boat traffic; just relax and take pictures!

www.reefphoto.com

Humpback whales sighted in the Firth Of Forth

Humpback whales have been sighted recently in the Firth Of Forth, between Edinburgh and Kinghorn (Fife)

Greg Maclean, a photographer who spent the day watching them from a sailing boat, posted pictures online after a rewarding day on the water. Lyndsay McNeill, a citizen scientist who runs the Scottish Humpback ID group, jumped on the images that were posted in order to create a record of the whale. But to her surprise she noticed some familiar features that instantly made her very excited. 'The barnacle on the tip on the dorsal fin was very distinctive and I knew I had seen it recently' she said. Lyndsay set to work on Sunday evening looking back at her catalogue and then contacted Shane Wasik from Basking Shark Scotland, who had sent her whale images from their sighting in summer 2020. Along with passengers Rosie Barrett and Emma Patten, they had gathered images of both sides of the dorsal fin of the animal along the patterns on the bottom of the fluke (tail). The patterns, scratches, shape and barnacles enabled the team to compare both animals and make a match!

Shane Wasik said, 'We were all

super excited, furiously messaging each other on Sunday evening, comparing all the images to be 100% sure it was a match. It was an incredible day we spent with them last summer and to have them relighted where I grew up is even more special. We believe this is first re-sighting of humpback whale between east and west Scotland. They are a rare sighting around the Scottish coast, this was one of only 3 sighting we've ever had personally on the west coast. Having spent 18 years growing up in Kinghorn we never saw any Humpbacks there at all. Ronnie Mackie, a family friend who runs the Forth Marine Mammals facebook group has been recording the increase in sightings over the last few years. Perhaps linked to the recovery in fish stocks after previous decades of exploitation'.

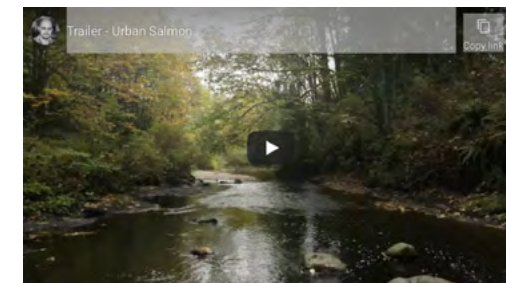
Humpbacks migrate between the sub-tropics and the arctic every year between calving/mating in warmer waters and feeding in colder areas. The whale aggregate in both areas and are transient in Scottish waters, passing by on their way up and back.

www.baskingsharkscotland.co.uk



A graphic from Auden Rickarsen's research showing the Norwegian tagged whales migration path. The tag's show GPS position via satellite and show their winter feeding grounds, migration path and summer mating/calving area.

Urban Salmon Project March 4th @ 7:00pm PST



Join us on Thursday, March 4th for the premiere of our short film, and a roundtable discussion featuring: Fernando Lessa - Photographer, Urban Salmon Project Founder.

With the amazing support of Take a Stand for Conservation and Watershed Watch Salmon Society the project is producing a 12 minute documentary featuring the Salmonids in the Metro Vancouver watershed.

The Urban Salmon documentary features the story of the fish in the Urban Environment. Once abundant, this amazing fish was almost extinguished from our cityscape. Inspired by the passion and dedication from Metro Vancouver Streamkeepers, the documentary tells the story of how our urban streams were restored and salmon brought back to our backyards.

<https://linktr.ee/urbansalmonproject/>



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The Digital Shootout, Little Cayman

June 12-26, 2021



One week just wasn't enough for the great diving, learning, and fun at The Digital Shootout. The new two-week schedule allows us to offer more classes without having to choose between attending a seminar or going on the afternoon dive. You can now do it all!

Each afternoon there will be a seminar after the PM boat dive and every other evening there will be an image critique up on the big screen. Classes the first week will cover the basics of underwater photography and Lightroom techniques and gradually move to more advanced topics.

There will also be more time for one-on-one help from the pros and for the using the demo gear. With

unlimited shore diving on the house reef you can set your own schedule and dive anytime you like.

Images taken on both weeks are eligible for the contest, so you have twice the time to create the winning photo or video. The awards presentation and prize raffle will be on the final night to reward all of your hard work. If you can't do both weeks you can just come for one. If you are a beginner, then you'll want to come to the first week for sure. More advanced shooters can skip the first week and come for just the second week. Space is limited though, so contact us for more details.

www.thedigitalshootout.com

www.uwpmag.com



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