

My Shot

by Christian Horras

The wreck of the “SS Thistlegorm” is widely considered as one of the best wreck dive sites worldwide. The British cargo ship was sunk 1941 during World War II by German bomber planes.

Let alone the history of the ship and the wreck can easily fill up entire books. What does make it such an interesting dive site is - aside of its history - mostly the cargo: from trucks, motorcycles, rifles, ammunition to even tanks and steam locomotives. It is easy to discover something new with every dive on the wreck. Also it is within recreational dive limits and lies in the warm, mostly clear waters in the Red Sea (Egypt).

Of course it is also a fantastic site for doing wreck photography, with endless possibilities. Often the cargo decks, as well as the stern section of the ship with the two guns attract the most attention of underwater photographers. But I found also the impressive bow of the wreck to be a quite good subject and had a shot in my mind, that I wanted to do the next time I could dived the wreck.

I got the opportunity to go on an liveaboard trip in November 2020 with one day diving at the Thistlegorm. There were only two other diving boats there! So, without the usual crowds of divers, I decided to take the opportunity to do some shots of the outside of the wreck.

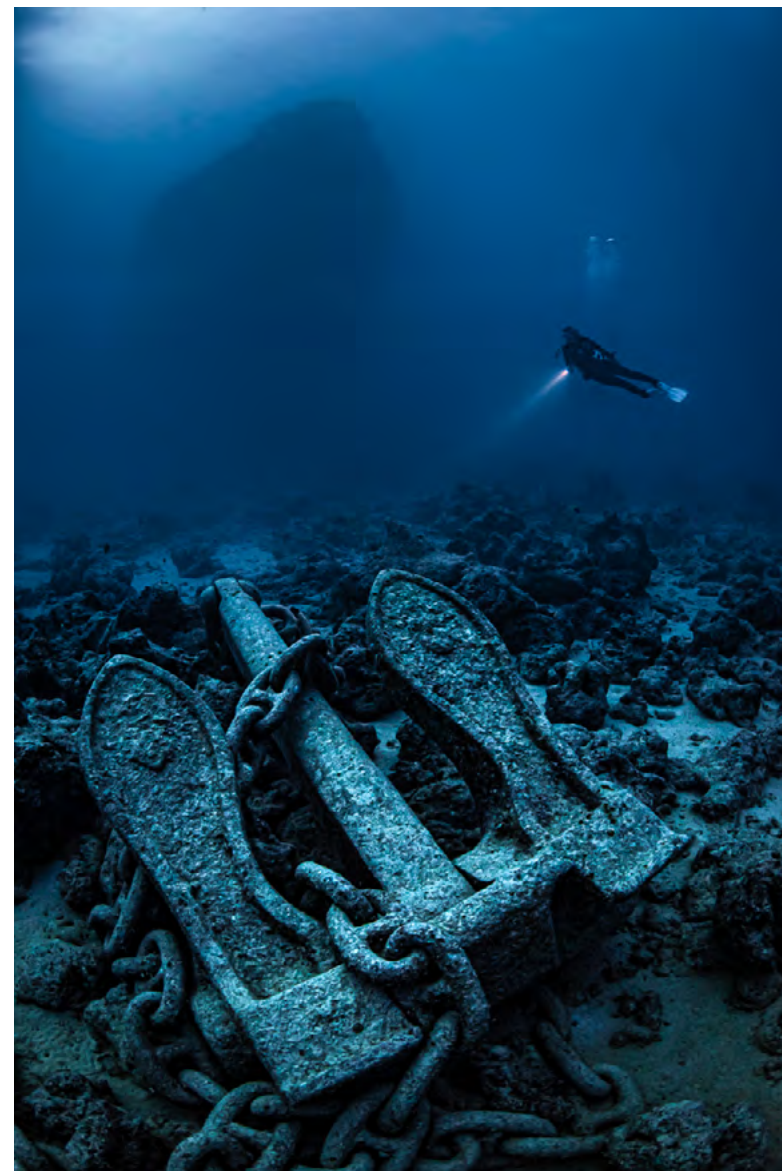
I had seen shots of the massive anchor before and wanted to include the bow of the

wreck and a diver. The bow should give context to the anchor and also give a little depth and perspective to the image.

My plan was to include a diver for scale and to cover the middle part of the image. As I had this clear idea of the shot, I was able to discuss this with the model before entering the water. This helps a lot, because once in the water, communication is very limited and as I had to almost touch the ground, bottom time is running out very quickly, leaving not much time for error and repositioning of the model.

I mounted a fisheye lens for getting the whole scene into the frame. After entering the water, we were able to avoid the other divers and going quickly to the anchor, following the chain. Having reached the anchor, everything went better than expected: I was able to frame the shot very quickly and getting the right exposure. As the subject was not about color, I did not turn on my strobes and used only natural light. I positioned the model via hand signals and took some shots.

After reviewing the pictures on my camera screen, I was really happy with the results and we had enough bottom time and air left to continue our dive and go to the cargo decks!



Nikon D810, Sigma 15mm Fisheye, Isotta Housing, Isotta 230mm Dome-Port. 1/80, f8, ISO 400

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Do you have a favourite shot with a short story?
If so, please e mail the image and text to
peter@uwpmag.com
and yours could be the next My Shot

Guidelines for contributors

The response to UwP has been nothing short of fantastic. We are looking for interesting, well illustrated articles about underwater photography. We are looking for work from existing names but would also like to discover some of the new talent out there and that could be you! UwP is the perfect publication for you to increase your profile in the underwater photography community.

The type of articles we're looking for fall into five main categories:

Uw photo techniques - Balanced light, composition, etc

Locations - Photo friendly dive sites, countries or liveaboards,

Subjects -, Anything from whale sharks to nudibranchs in full detail

Equipment reviews - Detailed appraisals of the latest equipment

Personalities - Interviews/features about leading underwater photographers

**If you have an idea for an article,
contact me first before putting pen to paper.
E mail peter@uwpmag.com**

How to submit articles

To keep UwP simple and financially viable, we can only accept submissions by e mail and they need to be done in the following way:

1. The text should be saved as a TEXT file and attached to the e mail

2. Images must be attached to the e mail and they need to be 150dpi

Size - Maximum length 20cm i.e. horizontal pictures would be 20 cm wide and verticals would be 20cm high.

File type - Save your image as a JPG file and set the compression to "Medium" quality. This should result in images no larger than about 120k which can be transmitted quickly. If we want larger sizes we will contact you.

3. Captions - **Each and every image MUST have full photographic details** including camera, housing, lens, lighting, film, aperture, shutter speed and exposure mode. These must also be copied and pasted into the body of the e mail.