

News, Travel & Events

A new underwater photography community - Waterpixels!

Many UWP readers will be familiar with the issues surrounding Wetpixel, its travel programme and its owner, Adam Hanlon.

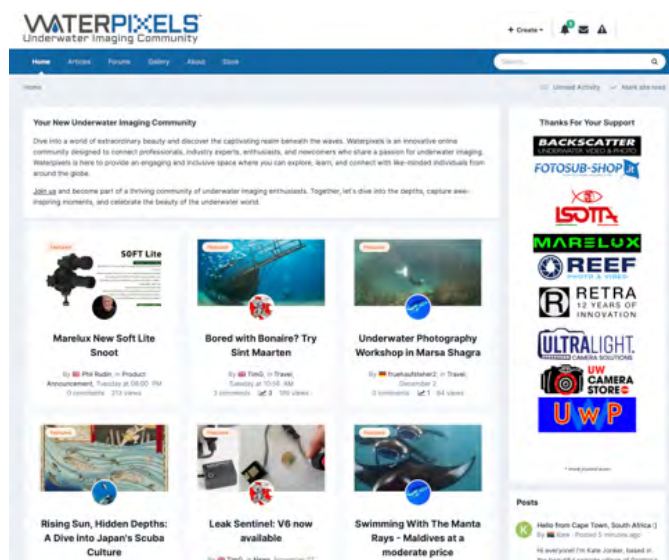
Concerns about the knock-on impact for its popular community forum were never addressed. New members were not being approved, guest access was closed-off and its front page was not updated for some months.

As a result, a small group of long-term members have got together and developed a new underwater photography forum called... Waterpixels!

The site went live recently. Early signs are very promising with lots of underwater photographers joining, posts and articles pouring in, and significant interest from the industry.

Waterpixels sets out to be an innovative online community designed to connect professionals, industry experts, enthusiasts, and newcomers who share a passion for underwater imaging. It explains it "will provide an engaging and inclusive space where you can explore, learn, and connect with like-minded individuals from around the globe".

Waterpixels is free to join. The site administrators intend to fund the forum through the sale of merchandising in the shape of t-shirts, coffee mugs and beanie hats and, perhaps in the longer term, some advertising from the underwater photography industry. In response to public demand, they are working on stickers/decals! It's worth noting that arrangements have been made to ship from multiple locations to try and avoid,



wherever possible, import duties.

Although Wetpixel was seen sometimes as more for the high-end system user, Waterpixels aims to provide help, advice and information to all underwater photographers.

So, whether you use a GoPro, a housed iPhone or the latest and greatest mirrorless camera or DSLR, take a look at Waterpixels and join-up. You are sure of a warm welcome and to see many familiar faces and names.

www.waterpixels.net

Passport To Paradise



Oonasdivers are delighted to bring you Passport to Paradise, an exciting diving holiday that allows you to explore three superb diving destinations in one trip!

Discover Bunaken, Bangka and Lembeh, three distinct destinations in North Sulawesi. Dive the phenomenal walls of the Bunaken Marine Park where you'll lose count of the number of turtles in a single dive. Explore Bangka Island's kaleidoscopic coral reefs, abundant critters, passing pelagics and dugongs, then dive into the world's best muck diving in the Lembeh Strait.

Established in 1985, Oonasdivers are a specialist tour operator offering travel for those with an adventurous spirit. We offer diving holidays to individuals, couples, families, groups, clubs and schools.

Oonasdivers are fully bonded with ATOL (Air Transport Organisers Licence) 4032 giving you that extra peace of mind that your holidays which include flights made with us are covered by our bond.

www.oonasdivers.com

Final call for UPY 2024 entries Midnight GMT on Friday 5th January



There are still a few days left to get your entries in to UPY2024; the window for submitting your photos will close at midnight GMT on Friday 5 January 2024.

The judges will again be meeting in person over three days on 7, 8 and 9 January 2024. If you are shortlisted you will be asked to provide RAW files promptly in the days following judging.

This year we have added to the submission rules to ensure that AI generated images are not part of this competition and you'll need to ensure that your submitted image has EXIF data embedded.

UPY2024 is our 10th anniversary and to mark the occasion our winners will be invited to attend an award ceremony in London. Further details will be announced.

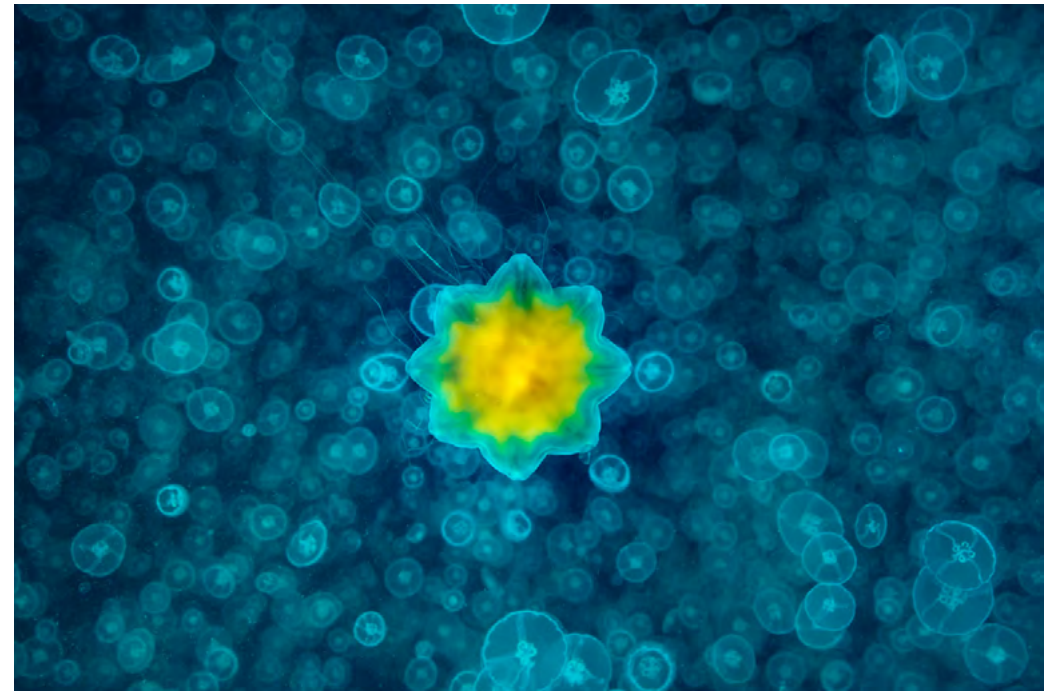


© Tanya Houppermans/UPY

We can't wait to see your amazing images again, and all three judges look forward to viewing every single image that is entered into the competition!

STOP PRESS! on Jan 1, 2024, day one of the new year, Wide Angle Category Sponsor Marelux made this advertising in Gangnam District, Seoul, South Korea, with UPY logo as a last call for the competition.

www.marelux.co



© Ron Watkins/UPY



<https://underwaterphotographeroftheyear.com>

Dive into Macro Magic Bali Workshop with Kate Jonker, 8 - 18 May 2024



Join me on an extraordinary 10-night macro underwater photography workshop trip to Bali in May 2024!

As I am keeping the group small to ensure everyone gets my undivided attention, there are only 12 spots available.

Immerse yourself in the magical waters of Tulamben, Bali, and embark on a journey to capture the awe-inspiring beauty of the underwater world through macro photography.

Whether you are a beginner looking to enhance your skills, or an experienced macro photographer seeking new inspiration, this workshop is designed to take your underwater macro photography to

new depths.

By the end of the trip, you will have an incredible set of images, have met some really awesome, like-minded underwater photographers and mastered an entire set of macro underwater photography skills.

With this comprehensive workshop approach, you'll gain a deep understanding of macro and critter photography, refine your techniques, and take your underwater images to new heights.

Price: US\$ 2 235 (per person sharing) – includes FREE daily workshops and image reviews

www.katejonker.com

Cozumel Photo Workshop May 11 - 18, 2024 Trip Leader: Linda Zath



Join us in May 2024 in one of Mexico's best diving destinations, Cozumel a year-round diving destination known for its drift dives, clear water and vibrant marine life.

12 Reasons To Join This Trip?

- We have a private boat, so we can dive the best sites whenever we want.
- We are staying at Cozumel's best resort, Iberostar.
- Resort is all-inclusive! Everything! Even sushi!
- The resort is beautiful, featuring a distinctly tropical ambiance enhanced by stunning gardens and plants, and plenty of shade. It boasts three pools equipped with swim-up bars and a truly delightful white sand beach.
- The on-site Dive shop, Dressel Divers, operates exceptionally well. It offers great tank fills, with Nitrox available, and boasts well-equipped boats providing ample shade.
- Meals are buffet-style, which means you can eat quickly if you want. But the food selection is huge, and the

food is tasty. They also have three sit-down à la carte restaurants.

- We'll have the best guides, who won't rush us during the dives, and who will find us small stuff and big stuff.
- Eagle rays! Nurse sharks! Seahorses! Eels, octopus, toadfish, reef sharks, turtles, angelfish, schools of jacks.
- The resort is super close to Cozumel's best dive sites - Palancar Reef and Cedral. Palancar is so amazing, huge sponges, pinnacles and swim-throughs!
- A sprawling resort with abundant amenities - it never feels crowded. You won't have to wait for food, drinks, etc. Best rental gear in the world! Dressel Divers has all Scubapro rental gear, no need to bring your own BCD or reg! Great for non-divers, bring your partner, they will never be bored. Ask for special prices for non-divers.
- FREE optional photo workshop.

www.bluewaterdivetravel.com



Six Senses Laamu, Maldives. May 1-31, 2024

Erin Quigley is headed back to the Maldives for the month of May! Join her at the incomparable Six Senses Laamu. Come for a week or stay for the entire month for some well-deserved pampering and dive the spectacular reefs of Laamu Atoll. This is not a structured trip, there is no daily schedule. Hang out with Erin and dive with her in paradise.

Beautifully remote, yet accessible by plane from Malé (MLE) International Airport, Six Senses Laamu is set in a palm-fringed lagoon to fill you with wonder and fuel your wanderlust. Villas with all the creature comforts are set either on stilts over the water or on the beachfront and are an easy wander from the resort's restaurants, lounges, and amazing Maldives attractions and destinations.

Six Senses Laamu is the only dive resort in the Laamu Atoll so we are virtually guaranteed of having the dive

sites to ourselves when we go out, something that is extremely rare for a world-class diving area and almost unheard of for a place with mantas year-round.

Six Senses Laamu has 97 spacious water and beachfront villas, carefully designed to harmonize with the outstanding natural beauty of the island. They offer privacy, coziness, and comfort. True to the Six Senses' philosophy of being in harmony with the environment, all of Six Senses Laamu's villas are crafted from local and sustainable materials.

For the hard core diver we are offering a package with up to 3 guided boat dives a day. Laamu offers over 30 dive sites catering to all experience levels.

www.backscatter.com

Little Cayman with Ikelite October 12-19, 2024



Clear your schedule for October 12-19, 2024 and prepare for a week of exciting diving with a focus on underwater photo and video. Join the Ikelite crew in one of the Caribbean's most iconic dive spots - Little Cayman!

We are limiting the number of guests on this trip to maximize time for one-on-one interaction. Ikelite Staff including John Brigham, Steve Miller, and Logan Wood will be on hand to provide photo instruction and inspiration.

Come to improve your imaging and make new friends at the same time! You can count on a laid-back atmosphere with fellow underwater photography enthusiasts.

Reef Divers makes the diving

easy including handling the heavy lifting and care of your boat-dive gear (unless you prefer to do it yourself). They rinse, dry, and store your BCD and regulator daily.

Marine life is incredibly healthy and diverse in Little Cayman. In addition to the colorful corals, sponges, and anemones you'll also see nurse sharks, sea turtles, octopus, sting rays, parrot fish, groupers, and maybe even seahorses. We love that the turtles and Nassau grouper feel protected enough in the waters of Little Cayman that they seem to have no fear of scuba divers or underwater photographers.

www.ikelite.com

www.uwpmag.com

NAD-Lembah Resort



NAD-Lembah Resort is a small, owner-operated, photography-oriented dive resort in the Lembah Strait. We are situated in a private bay on Lembah Island, away from the hustle and bustle of the mainland. We guarantee a 2:1 guest to guide ratio as standard, which makes for a private dive experience and lots of time to take pictures.

All our rooms (10 Beachfront Rooms, 5 Seaview Bungalows) offer ocean view, air conditioning, hot water, wifi, including full board. Our resort has only few steps, which makes our layout extremely convenient to get from your room to the restaurant, camera room, bar and floating jetty.

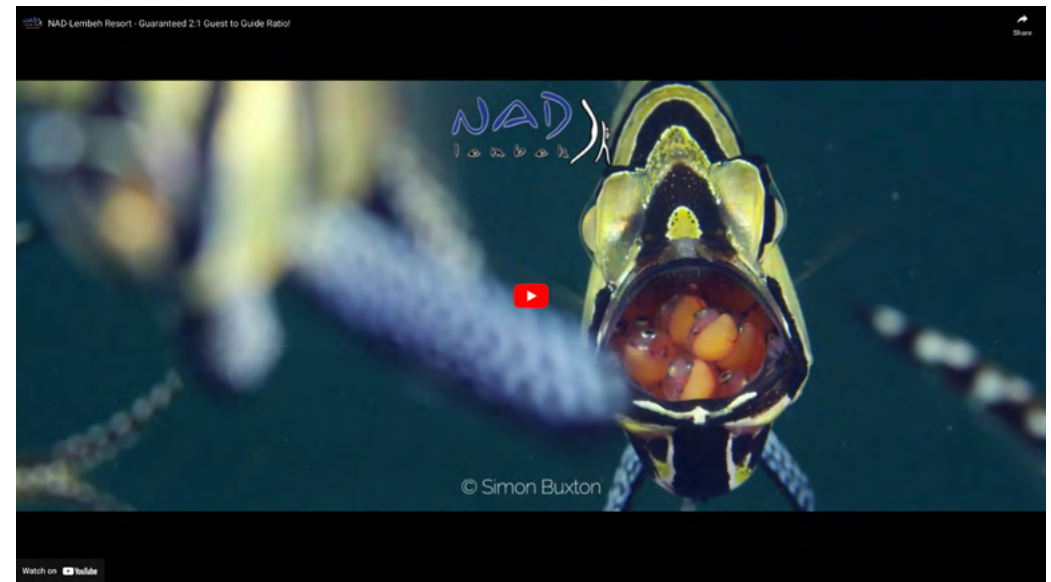
Our dive team consists of 15 full-time guides, with over 100 years of

combined experience! Air as well as Nitrox and various cylinder sizes (both DIN and Yoke are available onsite).

NAD-Lembah has 4 large, purpose-built dive boats. Each at around 15m long, they offer lots of space and comfort for the divers. Boats feature onboard toilets, towels, drinks and snacks and first aid/oxygen.

Our jetty allows our guests dignified and quick boat entries – all our dive boats can be moored simultaneously, so there is no wading through the shallows to get on the boat for the dive!

Our focus at NAD is to take your underwater photography to the next level. We offer 1:1 photo classes and our guides are all proficient with photography, using our rental



equipment for fun dives when not diving with guests.

We shoot video up to 8K, along with Nikon/ Canon SLR and mirrorless setups. This gives us a rounded knowledge of all cameras. We are also the go-to location for natural history filming in the Straits.

Our newly renovated, huge camera room offers one work space for each and every guest. The spacious, individual benches with lots of power points were purposely built for underwater photographers. NAD's dedicated camera room is also the perfect place to work on and edit your pictures.

Several rental cameras and strobes are available onsite. We have basic tools and spare parts in our gift shop in case of minor camera



Merry Christmas and happy holidays from the NAD team to all of our guests, family and friends around the world!

problems as well as a drying cabinet, and computer for you to work on and edit your photos.

www.nad-lembeh.com

Underwater Photography Workshop



Join renowned British photographer Dr. Alex Tattershall for a 9-night underwater photography workshop. from September 24th to October 3rd 2025, at Bunaken Oasis Dive Resort, Indonesia.

Discover the incredible wide angle and macro photography that Bunaken has to offer whilst learning how to take your photography to the next level from an internationally acclaimed, award-winning photographer over 23 dives.

Contact Georgie Bartlett at Georgie.bartlett@bunakenoasis.com to register your interest and secure your place.



info@bunakenoasis.com
www.bunakenoasis.com



Phil Rudin - Marelux Product Senior Advisor



Phil Rudin has been announced as the new Senior Advisor at Marelux. Founded in California USA, Marelux has grown to become a front-runner in the expansive domain of underwater photography.

Phil is a South Florida USA based underwater photographer and Senior Reviewer for Underwater Photography Magazine (uwpmag.com) having contributed over 100+ articles on new photo equipment, photography techniques and dive travel.

Phil's images have appeared in a verity of magazines including Popular Science, Sport Diver, World's

Best Diving, Reflections, Scuba Diving, Underwater Journal, Skin Diver, Florida Underwater, South Florida Adventures, Mexican Diver and many more.

Phil has conducted underwater photography workshops for Reef Photo & Video, Underwater Digital Fiesta, Digital Jam, Hasselblad Xcursion, SFUPS, Dive Into Photography and more.

Phil has been taking underwater photos for over 55 years and he is a Platinum Pro 5000 Diver who also lectures on travel destinations and photography around the world.

<https://www.facebook.com/phil.rudin>
<https://www.instagram.com/philrudinphotography/>

www.marelux.co

www.uwpmag.com



Master Macro with Martyn Guess, May 2024, Dumaguete

Building on the fabulous 2022 workshop, Martyn Guess is returning to the Dumaguete for his popular macro workshop in the Philippines. Atmosphere resort in Dumaguete is well known to seasoned photographers and dive staff that know intimately what subject is hot and where to find them. You can log a lot of hours underwater here. The diving day offers plenty of scheduled departures, with the option to add extra shore dives or night dives. Most diving is by boat and sites are rarely more than 5-10 minutes from the resort. Atmosphere resort has an



excellent purpose built camera room and TV screen for presentations and is conveniently placed directly opposite the dive centre.

www.scubatravel.com

WATERPIXELS™ Underwater Imaging Community



Dive into a world of extraordinary beauty and discover the captivating realm beneath the waves.

Waterpixels is an innovative online community designed to connect professionals, industry experts, enthusiasts, and newcomers who share a passion for underwater imaging. Waterpixels is here to provide an engaging and inclusive space where you can explore, learn, and connect with like-minded individuals from around the globe.

Join us and become part of a thriving community of underwater imaging enthusiasts. Together, let's dive into the depths, capture awe-inspiring moments, and celebrate the beauty of the underwater world.

www.waterpixels.net

New Products

AOI Signature Series

AOI Ltd, a leading innovator in underwater imaging is thrilled to announce an exciting collaboration with renowned professional underwater videographer Kay Burn Lim. This partnership aims to revolutionize underwater photography and videography with the development of a cutting-edge underwater housing for GoPro cameras, giving birth to a new product line known as the “Signature Series.”

The “Signature Series” represents a fusion of AOI’s expertise in designing top-quality underwater camera products and accessories and Kay Burn Lim’s unparalleled experience capturing the wonders of the underwater world. The result of this collaboration will be an underwater housing for GoPro cameras that sets new industry standards for performance, durability, and versatility. The housing is milled from aluminium and will carry the moniker of AOI UH-GPX.

The housing will feature advanced optical elements to maintain the highest quality image and video capture, even in challenging underwater conditions. The housing



will have the hugely popular Quick Release systems built in, enabling it to attached the UWL-03 and UCL-03 lenses which significantly improves the optical capabilities of GoPros.

The new housing will be compatible with the recently launched GoPro 12 and backward compatible to



GoPro 9, 10, and 11.

Stay tuned for more updates on the “Signature Series” .

www.aoi-uw.com

Fisheye FIX System Frame PT01 for Olympus PT-059 / PT-058



This system frame is easy to expand with ballmounts to mount a light or even a lensholder to ‘park’ your lens.

Specifications:

Body material: Corrosion resistant aluminum alloy, rubber
Size: 225x184x58mm
Weight: 385g(Air) 230g(Water)
Included Items: Direct base, screw, Allen wrench, Opener ring

<http://www.fisheye-jp.com/en>

www.uwcamerastore.com