

Swimming with Sperm Whales, Dominica

Feb 28 – March 7 2025

For the 4th year, Gregory Sweeney will host a trip to the rainforest island paradise of Dominica in the Caribbean to swim with the resident sperm whales.

Sperm Whales come to the waters around the Island of Dominica in the Caribbean to feed at its surrounding deep sea trench. Rain washes mineral rich water down from the volcanic peaks of the island which spawns squids and marine creatures creating the perfect source of food for the whales. The resident sperm whales are mostly females in extended families of grandmothers, mothers and daughters all working together to protect and raise their young. Mother and calf pairs are common. Sometimes we see the escort males.

We encounter Sperm Whales at the surface where they are resting and often napping between their deep dives to get squid meals. The rules of encounters are easy to follow but strictly adhered to and when a whale became stressed by us, we were able to move on to another area and find other whales. More whale species are possible including humpbacks, false killer whales, and pilot whales.

Our large, comfortable boat has a head, salon, dive platform, and a hydrophone which aids us in finding



the whales. Whale encounters are recorded and each whale is checked for records of past encounters.

Dominica is a nature island and is a destination for hikers and visitors who want to hike the lush forest, waterfalls, volcanic peak views, and natural hot springs flowing into the many rivers. We recommend our visitors book extra days to enjoy this rare example of an undeveloped Caribbean Island with intact parklands. Scuba and shore snorkeling are also available. Beaches are not numerous but there are a few to enjoy.

Good news has come recently

that this area and its unique and valuable marine life will be further protected and extended as a Marine Reserve under the recognition of world organizations. With this change comes uncertainty in regards to the future permit process and availability of in water encounters. Next year might be the last chance to experience being in the water with sperm whales.

This is an exclusive and rare opportunity to photograph sperm whales. Now booking – limited to 5 guests for our 6 days on the water.

www.Gregorysweeney.com

NAD Lembah Camera Room



We're very proud of our newly renovated camera room which is possibly the biggest one in the world!

Being the centre piece of the resort, owner and underwater photographer Simon Buxton has tailored this room especially to the underwater photographer's needs – located right next to the restaurant and bar, your babies will never be far away from you and with a total of 30 individual workstations, each of our guests gets a huge space for their precious toys.

Every station comes with led lights, rubber mat, camera towel and 4 international/ 8 European power sockets including USB ports – charging all your gadgets at the same time has never been easier!

www.nad-lembeh.com

Underwater Awards Australasia 2024



The Underwater Awards Australasia 2024 is a new underwater imaging competition focused on the Australasian region—an industry-first three-way collaboration between the long-established Underwater Australasia, leading underwater photography and videography resource DivePhotoGuide, and underwater imaging equipment and dive gear distributor UW Images.

The winners will be presented at Go Diving Show ANZ in September 2024—the inaugural Australian edition of the hugely successful Go Diving Show in the UK. The prestigious judging panel comprises Tobias Friedrich, Jayne Jenkins, Brett Lobwein, Ross Long, Matty Smith and William Tan.

The prizes, worth more than A\$50,000 in total, include dive trips

with the world's top resorts and liveaboards, as well as the latest underwater photo and video gear. Entrants compete for prizes in 8 categories, with the top image or video among the category winners receiving the distinction of “Best of Show.”

The competition calls for passionate underwater shooters from around the world to submit their most captivating and compelling images and videos from the Australasian region. Shooters are invited to immerse themselves in the challenge of capturing the essence of this extraordinary realm, where every frame tells a story of the delicate balance and breathtaking beauty that characterises our oceans.

www.underwatercompetition.com

A Tribute to Chuck Nicklin



On December 7, 2022, the world lost an underwater legend, a dive industry icon, and the founder of the San Diego Undersea Film Exhibition.

Chuck was a pioneer diver, photographer, and a cinematographer dating back to the early 1950s. Among the films he shot were James Bond movies, *The Abyss*, and *The Deep*. He founded The Diving Locker, San Diego Undersea Film Exhibition, was a co-founder of San Diego Underwater Photographic Society. Chuck received the trifecta of the most prestigious awards in the dive industry, NOGI,

DEMA Reaching Out Award, and the induction into the International Scuba Diving Hall of Fame.

Chuck's book, *Camera Man*, chronicles his adventurous life, as he revisits the dawning days of scuba diving. He shares stories of how his career as an underwater camera man unfolded, from the day he became known as “the man who rode a whale,” to his adventures traveling around the world diving and filming majestic humpback whales and fierce great white sharks.

www.sdufex.com/tribute-to-chuck-nicklin

Capturing Critters in Lembah Workshop 2025

Sep 13, 2023



Capturing Critters in Lembah UW photography workshop is back in January 2025 for what will be our 12th year running!! As each year passes, we find it harder to believe that what started out as a seed of an idea to host three photo pros, has now been running for over a decade!

In 2025 we will be hosting three more world-class Photo Pros here at Lembah Resort. We are extremely excited to welcome Ron Watkins (USA), Paul Duxfield (UK), and Renee Capozzola (USA). The week-long workshop will once again be packed with incredible diving, Pro presentations, and one-on-one instruction and feedback.

www.lembahresort.com

The 7th Open Fotosub Online in El Hierro is underway



The waters of El Hierro will welcome photographers once again wishing to participate in the 7th Open Fotosub Online, an event organised by the Island Council's Tourism Board that attracts a diverse range of underwater photographers every year, from expert champions to those new to underwater imaging. All participants will compete for a share of the numerous prizes totalling €10,000 in cash, particularly highlighting the award for "Best

Photographer of the Open Fotosub Online," which carries a prize of €2,500.

Photographers looking to take part must dive around the Island between 1 August and 31 October, always with the support of authorised diving centres. Contestants can submit a maximum of five images each month throughout the three months of the event, aligning with five photographic categories: Landscape, Vertebrates, Invertebrates, Algae, and

Compact Cameras. These images must adhere to straightforward editing guidelines, and participants will need to take a "test" photo to validate their entry; the remainder will depend on the artist's skill and creativity.

All photographs will be displayed on the event's website, online. fotosubelhierro.es, and each month they will be voted on by a pre-selection jury and by the website users. These votes will determine the finalists, whose works will be evaluated in November by a panel of recognised specialists. They will assess the creativity, technique, and mastery with which the island's underwater environments and its inhabitants are presented, deciding which images deserve the significant prizes of the Open Fotosub Online.

This event not only promotes the art of photography but also seeks to raise awareness of the richness of marine ecosystems and the importance of their preservation. Don't miss the chance to be a part of this unique event that celebrates the natural heritage of El Hierro and showcases photographic talent from around the world.

Join the 7th Open Fotosub Online and share your vision of the underwater world!

www.online.fotosubelhierro.es

SWIM WITH HUMPBACK WHALES

ONBOARD

MARINE MAMMAL BIOLOGISTS AND PRO PHOTOGRAPHY SUPPORT



ONLY 2 SPACES LEFT

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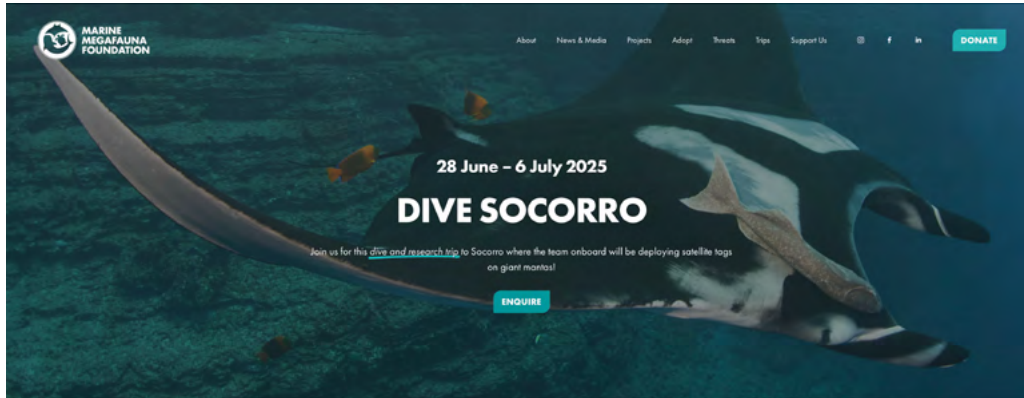
FEBRUARY 1-8, 2025

ON THE SILVER BANK

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Dive Socorro, Mexico

June 28 – July 6 2025



Socorro is where the wild (and big) things are. A megafauna trip of epic proportions is where we can expect close encounters with giant manta rays and dolphins and exciting sightings of sharks and other marine mammals set on the backdrop of dramatic oceanic islands, pinnacles, and geological formations.

Socorro and Mexico's Revillagigedo Archipelago were recently upgraded to UNESCO World Heritage status and are world-famous for megafauna sightings. Regular encounters with giant manta rays, hammerhead sharks, silky sharks, whale sharks, dolphins, and whales are the main attractions.

Trip Highlights:

Led by world-renowned marine researcher, and MMF co-founder, Dr. Simon J Pierce.

Joining the trip will be Pelagios Kakunjá researcher, Dr Madalena Cabral, who will be deploying satellite tags on giant manta rays for her research.

The opportunity to experience extraordinary encounters with marine megafauna like giant manta rays, dolphins, schooling sharks, and migrating whales in their natural habitat.

Travelling aboard The Nautilus UnderSea, a legendary exploration vessel that has been hosting scientific and filming expeditions since 1968.

100% of profit from the trip supports MMF's marine research.

www.marinemegafauna.org

Don't settle for 2nd best



Film - No Filter,
No White Balance



Digital - No Filter,
Manual White Balance



Digital - Magic Filter, Manual
White Balance

Digital cameras have opened up new possibilities to underwater photographers. For available light photography manual white balance is an invaluable tool for restoring colours. But when you use it without a filter you are not making the most of the technique. You're doing all the hard work without reaping the full rewards.

These three photos are all taken of the same wreck in the Red Sea. The left hand image was taken on slide film, which rendered the scene completely blue. The middle image is taken with a digital SLR without a filter, using manual white balance. The white balance has brought out some of the colour of the wreck, but it has also sucked all the blue out of the water behind the wreck, making it almost grey. The right hand image is taken with the same digital camera and lens, but this time using an original Magic Filter. The filter attenuates blue light meaning that the colours of the wreck are brought out and it stands out from the background water, which is recorded as an accurate blue.

Simple and inexpensive, yet so effective.

www.magic-filters.com



UNDERWATER AWARDS

AUSTRALASIA 2024



WINNERS PRESENTED AT
GO DIVING SHOW ANZ



SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA
SEPTEMBER 28-29

JUDGING PANEL (L-R)

- Tobias Friedrich
- Jayne Jenkins
- Brett Lobwein
- Ross Long
- Matty Smith
- William Tan

EIGHT CATEGORIES +
PRIZES WORTH A\$50,000

San Diego Undersea Film Exhibition

Qualcomm Hall (5775 Morehouse Drive), San Diego

Fri October 4th (7pm) & Sat October 5th (5:30pm) 2024



Tickets for our 25th Anniversary Underwater Film Festival are now on sale! Different films screened each night, with Emmy Award winning MC Jonathan Bird!

To celebrate our 25th anniversary, we are making this event extra special. After the show on Saturday night, starting at 8pm we are holding an optional ticketed reception at Qualcomm Hall. Snacks, drinks, and your chance to meet up with old friends and filmmakers.

Tickets for the reception are on sale now only through September 25th, so please order yours as soon as possible.

Be a part of the SDUFEX community - pre-order an SDUFEX T-shirt to pick up at the show!



Our virtual festival will be available Monday, October 7th and will feature 12 all new films as well as 20 of the in-person films.

Photographic Specialists in the Lembeh Straits!

- Private Diving Experience: 2:1 diveguide ratio as standard
- Photo Trained Guides
- Huge Camera Room
- Very Few Stairs
- Small Resort - only 15 rooms



Come and Dive with our amazing Team!

www.nad-lembeh.com

