

My Shot

by Abdulaziz Al Saleh

I had the idea of photographing the Camels for about a year and half. I wanted to create a new image which has never been seen before. A new angle with a new perspective of an animal which holds deep cultural and historical significance of the region. The photo process took about three to four weeks, mainly due to several reasons including Camel behavior, rapidly changing weather, and the sync speed issue.

Camels were not comfortable enough to gather in big numbers to drink, which is not ideal because I wanted to fill the frame. Fortunately after several days the Camels accepted my camera equipment and myself.

During the time of shooting, winter season had already started in Kuwait, temperatures dropped significantly and that made the Camels to drink once a day only and the each shooting attempt took no more than 4 minutes.

Regarding the sync speed issue, during the second week, I changed to Sync cord wires instead of fiber optic cables which did not help to shoot rapid images.

The area of the Camels has to be accessed only by a 4wd vehicle. And Fortunately my vehicle turned to be useful in such conditions.

Abdulaziz Al Saleh

Do you have a favourite shot or an image/s which made a dive special?

E mail yours with some text to

peter@uwpmag.com

and yours could be the next My Shot/s

(It's very easy. Images can be any size bigger than 20cm (horizontal or vertical) @ 150dpi saved as jpeg format and about 500 - 750 words would be fine.)



Image caption: Hydration. Country taken: Kuwait. Location: Al Wafra desert. Camera make: NikonZ8. Lens: Nikkor 8-15mm fisheye, ISO: 100. Aperture: f/18. Shutter: 1/100. Lighting used: Inon Z330 (dual) Housing: Nauticam NA-Z8



My Shot(s)

by Tom Ingram

In my 23 years of diving, I've been fortunate enough to enjoy some very memorable moments underwater. The wonders, the colours, the verity of the underwater world amazes and grips us to go back and see what the next dive has in store. Nowhere more so than right here in the uk.

Since taking up underwater photography more seriously 3 years ago this has only turbo charged my enjoyment as now you begin to slow down, observe behaviour and discover amazing new creatures.

One day in June last year this was certainly the case!

Many of the British readers will be familiar with Porthkerris on the Lizard Peninsular in Cornwall; this is undoubtedly one of my favourite places to dive. I normally try to do at least 3 trips a year if I can, to enjoy the family atmosphere and the great variety of diving on offer.

This trip I was focusing my diving on the fantastic shore dive they have right off the beach. I call it 'the dragons back' for obvious reasons if you go there and you let your imagination run away with you.

On this particular dive we went in around 11am and we were concentrating on the inside passage of the reef around the aptly named 'fishbowl' which is around 3-6metres and then head north along the reef which gradually deepens to 15-20metres depending on tide, where there are numerous submerged reefs and gullies to explore.

A small cuttlefish was a very welcoming site as we swam through the fishbowl. These fascinating creatures gather here in numbers at certain times of



Canon G7x MK 111, Isotta housing, 2x Inon z-330 strobes, AOI UWL-09 wide angle lens, F5.6 1/200s iso 125

the year and are always a pleasure to see.

The visibility wasn't the best this dive, around 3-4 milky metres but good enough to catch sight of something a bit further away. As we turned a corner of the golden kelp covered reef in about 15 metres, this is where we caught first site of a very unusual creature.

I edged slowly over to it, my heart rate quickening in excitement, hoping not to spook it, but my presence didn't seem to bother it at all. I'm embarrassed to say I had no idea what it was. It looked like a deep-sea eel-like creature that has some how got off the beaten track.

I began to take some pictures as I knew we had

stumbled on something very different, so I had to document it at least. It was about 50cm or so long with an eel-like body tapering to a pointy tail. It started by being up right in the water just above the bottom, then after a while it began to swim horizontally and show off the incredible red dot on its dorsal fin.

After a few magical minutes of enjoying time with the mysterious fish it turned and swam calmly away. We then turned back the way we came and slowly headed back to the fishbowl, keeping a look out as on the dive earlier the same day would you believe, we had a huge local common octopus casually come out of the gloom and put in an appearance for us.

We had met twice before on previous dive trips, so this time I felt like she wanted to say hello again but I'm sure this wasn't the case. Being in the presence of such an intelligent creature is always such a thrill! To have seen three amazing creatures in one morning was extremely lucky!

So our dive had sadly come to an end after nearly two hours; we clambered back up the steep rocks to the car but as we were still on cloud nine that didn't bother us.

Over lunch, some research began into what the mysterious fish could be. Surely a striking fish like that wouldn't be hard to pin down if it was indeed a native British fish.

With a few handy marine life books on hand, it wasn't long before we were pretty sure we had found a match. It turns out the fish was a Red Band-Fish. Apparently, they are thought to be fairly common around the British Isles, but are extremely elusive, so they are rarely seen. They apparently live in a vertical burrow in the soft mud and divers only get a glimpse of their heads usually, if at all.

I've been told since that there is a site in the Fal estuary which has burrows where the Red Band-Fish live. This is only a short distance from Porthkerry so perhaps they have spilled over to a site closer to the shore dive but who knows.

For me this was probably a total chance encounter but it epitomises what I love about diving, you just never know what's around the next corner of the reef! I for one cannot wait to get back in and find out.



Canon G7x MK 111, Isotta housing, 2x Inon a-330 strobes, AOI UWL-09 wide angle lens, F5 1/125s iso 125

Tom Ingram

Do you have a favourite shot or an image/s which made a dive special?

**E mail yours with some text to
peter@uwpmag.com**

and yours could be the next My Shot/s

(It's very easy. Images can be any size bigger than 20cm (horizontal or vertical) @ 150dpi saved as jpeg format and about 500 - 750 words would be fine.)