

News, Travel & Events

Bunaken National Park

Bunaken National Park, located in the heart of the Coral Triangle just off the coast of North Sulawesi, is a dream destination for underwater photographers. Famed for its vibrant marine life, dramatic walls, and frequent turtle encounters, it's a location that deserves a spot on every shooter's bucket list.

The park is made up of several islands, including a dormant volcano, and offers a variety of environments—sandbars, mangroves, lagoons, shallow coral gardens, muck slopes, and vertical drop-offs. This diversity makes it an ideal setting for capturing a wide range of underwater scenes.

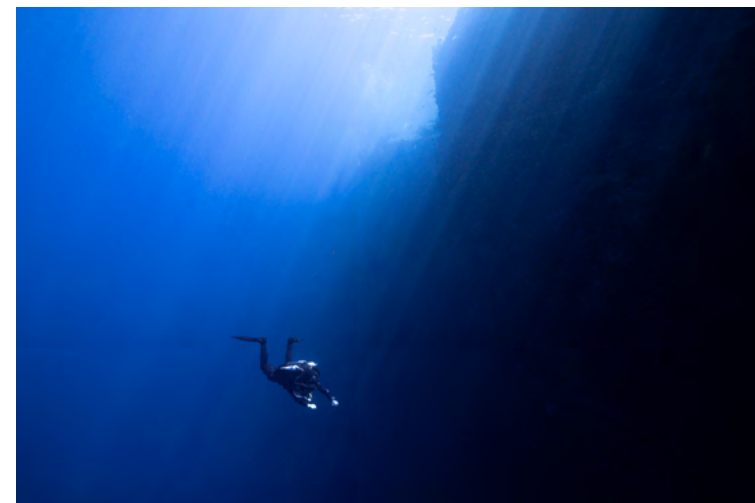
The park's signature wall dives are a wide-angle dream. These vertical cliffs plunge into the deep, covered in vibrant sponges, sea fans, and soft corals. Sunlight pierces through clear water, revealing texture, depth, and motion—ideal conditions for dramatic compositions. With visibility often between 20 to 30 meters, natural light photography thrives here.

One of the biggest photographic draws is the abundance of sea turtles,



both green and hawksbill. It's not uncommon to lose count on how many you see on a dive here in the national park. Many are camera-friendly and will rest calmly on ledges, giving photographers ample time to frame and capture their shot.

Calm seas and warm water year-round (27–30°C) make for comfortable shooting conditions. Mild currents and short boat rides to dive sites allow for flexible schedules and easy access for lens or battery changes and with some resorts such as Bunaken Oasis offering world class camera rooms, keeping your equipment in the best condition and ready to dive is easier than ever. The still, shallow reeftops also present a great opportunity to experiment with over-under (split shot) photography. The sun sets in a direction that allows a lot of the island of bunaken reefs to be a great



location to experiment with this type of photography.

While Bunaken is renowned for its wide-angle potential, the macro scene is not to be overlooked. Local guides are highly skilled at spotting critters such as the Pontohi pygmy seahorse, nudibranchs, flamboyant cuttlefish, and frogfish of all sizes. Nearby sandy slopes offer even more macro opportunities - just a short boat ride away.

For photographers wanting to maximize their trip, Bunaken's close proximity to the world-famous Lembeh Strait makes it easy to combine both destinations. Lembeh offers some of the best muck diving in the world, making it possible to shoot both world-class wide-angle and macro in a single trip.

Whether you're chasing turtles along towering walls or hunting tiny

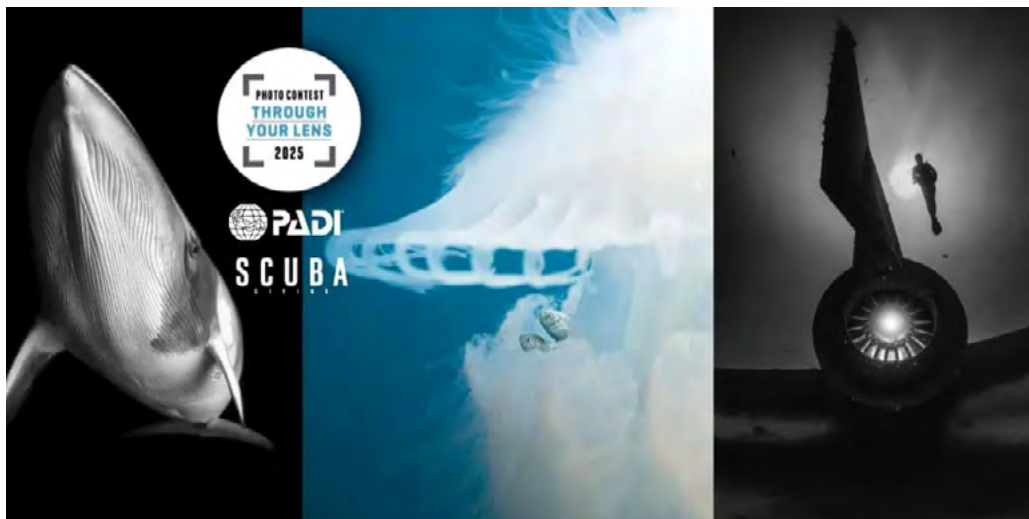


seahorses, Bunaken National Park offers an extraordinary canvas for underwater photographers of all levels.

www.jacobguymedia.com

www.bunakenoasis.com

Scuba Diving Magazine Now Accepting Entries For 2025 'Through Your Lens' Photo Contest



Photographers will be able to submit to five different categories: wide angle, macro, split shot, amateur and cold water.

Scuba Diving has confirmed the return of highly esteemed underwater photographers Brandon Cole, Kate Jonker, Suzan Meldonian and Alex Mustard to assist as guest judges.

Entry is free, and photographers can submit up to five entries per category.

The grand prize winner will receive a US\$1,000/~€875 cash prize and a weeklong liveaboard trip aboard the Komodo Aggressor. First-place winners for each specified category will receive an Aggressor

Adventures liveaboard trip; second-place winners will receive a Scubapro regulator; and third-place winners will receive a SeaLife SportDiver S smartphone housing.

Two winners in the Amateur category will receive a liveaboard trip from All Star Liveaboards. Select winners will also be given the opportunity to have their photos featured on PADI certification cards.

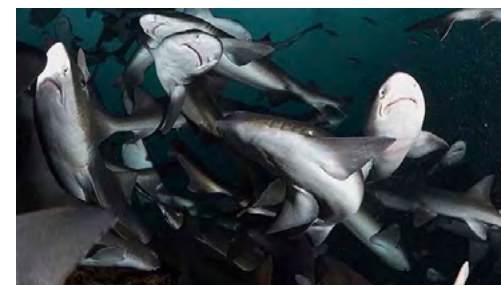
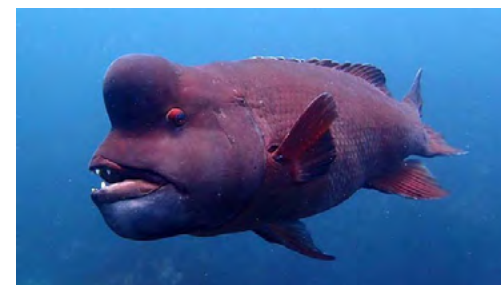
All winners and honorable mentions will be published in the September/October 2025 Photo Issue of Scuba Diving Magazine, with the cover featuring one of the contest entries. Entries are open now until July 7, 2025.

www.scubadiving.com/photocontest

Japan with Nigel Marsh 20 - 28 September 2026

Join Nigel Marsh for an incredible week of diving the subtropical reefs of Japan. The area we are exploring is south of Tokyo around Chiba and the Izu Peninsula, as this is the best area to see a large variety of marine life that is endemic to Japan and seen nowhere else. Over seven days we will be doing shore dives at Ozezaki and the Izu Ocean Park, and seeing many unique sharks, rays, morays, fishes, nudibranchs and invertebrates.

We finish the trip with two days of boat diving off Chiba and doing the Shark Scramble, an amazing site where hundreds of Banded Hound Sharks and Red Stingrays swarm around divers as they are hand fed. This is one of the most exciting shark feeds in world, and while the sharks are not dangerous, there are so many that you will be surrounded by them. This is also a good spot to see another marine life like Japanese Hornsharks, morays eels and many wonderful fishes. As with all photo group trips Nigel is on hand to improve your photos with daily tips, feedback and presentations.



www.nigelmarshphotography.com/trips

2nd Underwater Awards Australasia Imaging Competition

The Underwater Awards Australasia 2025 opens on June 1st. The premier underwater imaging competition focused on the Australasian region is a 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 competition will culminate in an exhibition at Go Diving Show ANZ in September 2025—the second Australian edition of the hugely successful Go Diving Show in the UK.

The prestigious judging panel comprises photo judges Tobias Friedrich, Jayne Jenkins, Matty Smith, Tanya Houppermans, Scott Portelli and William Tan; and video judges Philip Hamilton and Ross Long.

The prizes, worth more than A\$70,000 in total, include dive trips with the world's top resorts and liveaboards, as well as the latest underwater photo and video gear—even an underwater photography drone and an underwater scooter with photographic platform.

Entrants compete for prizes in



9 categories, including the unique “Reels Showcase” video category. The top image or video among the category winners receives 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.

Winners will be revealed on UnderwaterCompetition.com and published by supporting media partners worldwide shortly thereafter. The entry fees are US\$10 per image or video entered.

www.underwatercompetition.com

Bunaken Oasis 2025 Photography Workshop with Alex Tattersall

Dive into an underwater photography paradise with Alex Tattersall at Bunaken Oasis!

We are thrilled to announce our 2025 Photography Workshop, a unique opportunity for enthusiasts to elevate their skills amidst the stunning marine landscapes of Bunaken, Indonesia.

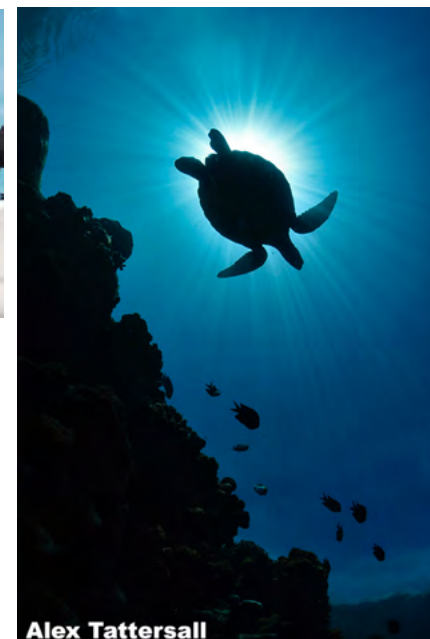
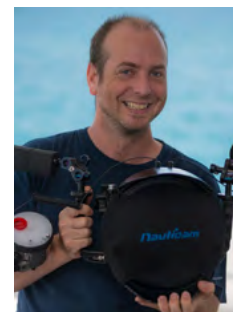
Departing the UK on 23rd September 2025, this 9-night adventure includes 8 days of diving, featuring 23 Nitrox dives and 2-night dives.

At Bunaken Oasis Dive Resort and Spa, you will receive expert instruction from Alex Tattersall, renowned for his passion and expertise in underwater photography. Immerse yourself in crystal-clear waters teeming with vibrant coral reefs and diverse marine life, while enjoying the luxury and serenity of Bunaken Oasis.

Don't miss out on this unforgettable journey for more information or call us at 01323 648924 to secure your spot today.

Join us for the ultimate underwater photography adventure and capture the ocean's beauty like never before!

www.bunakenoasis.com





I am Shen Collazo, the Owner/Technician of Ocean Inventions, Underwater Camera Housings Maintenance and Repair. We are located in Southeast Florida.

I have been working on underwater photo and video camera housings for almost 20 years. For most of those years I worked as the only full-time specialist/technician at Reef Photo & Video, repairing and overhauling camera housings and related equipment.

This experience provided my expertise at making adjustments, repairs, overhauls, and solutions to issues with underwater camera housings and associated underwater photo equipment.

I am an avid diver and underwater photographer myself, so can relate to my clients! I also work with lathe machines and personally produce my own parts when they are



not available, often achieving a quality superior to the original components. I specialize in brands such as Nauticam, Subal, Sea&Sea, Ikelite, and essentially any other brand, from simple GoPro models to complex antiques.

I am extremely methodical and meticulous, with a strong focus on honesty, reliability, and high customer satisfaction.

You can contact Shen at: (754) 207-4768

Or by email at:

seashen@mac.com

www.oceaninventions.com



The 20th World Shootout Awards Are Open!

Calling all underwater photographers!

The prestigious 20th World Shootout Awards are officially open for entries in 8 still categories and a video clip!

We invite you to submit your most impressive underwater photographs captured between **November 2nd, 2024, and November 1st, 2025.**

Cash and Dreamy prizes

ENTER TODAY >>>>

www.worldshootout.org

Fatboys Resort Debuts New Dive Centre In Solomon Islands

One of the best-known names on the Solomon Islands tourism scene for many years, the improbably-named Fatboys Resort on Mbabanga Island near Gizo has now joined the ranks of the highly qualified dive outfits operating in the destination.

The resort's location in Gizo in the destination's Western Province is perfect, the area renowned for some of the most diverse and exciting diving to be found anywhere in the world.

From World War II wrecks to numerous offshore reefs, spectacular coral formations, plummeting walls, manta rays and abundant marine life, SCUBA enthusiasts are beyond spoilt for choice and divers can choose from a plethora of amazing locations.

'Grand Central Station' boasts the highest fish count in the world with more than 275 species recorded in its teeming waters, 'Joe's Wall' offers a spectacular wall dive starting in the sandy shallows of a small bay and continuing as a steep wall with depths over 60 metres.

WWII wreck enthusiasts too are more than catered for with a 440-foot Japanese freighter, the Toa Maru, a US Corsair fighter aircraft and almost fully-intact US Hellcat fighter aircraft lying in very shallow waters a short boat ride away.



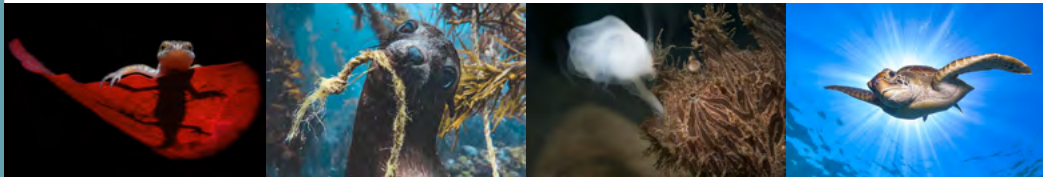
Fatboys can cater to all types of divers – from beginners and experts and groups of all sizes and on -divers too with a variety of snorkelling tours easily arranged. A fully certified SSI Training Facility, the new Fatboys Dive Centre is operated by a crew of six including an SSI Divemaster.

www.fatboysresort.com



UNDERWATER AWARDS

A U S T R A L A S I A 2 0 2 5



PRIZES WORTH
MORE THAN A\$70,000

NINE EXCITING PHOTO
AND VIDEO CATEGORIES

WINNERS PRESENTED AT
GO DIVING SHOW ANZ



JUDGING PANEL

- Tobias Friedrich
- Jayne Jenkins
- Matty Smith
- Tanya Houppermans
- Scott Portelli
- William Tan
- Philip Hamilton
- Ross Long

SUBMISSIONS
JUNE 1 – JULY 20, 2025

Monterey Shootout

August 1st - 3rd 2025

The Monterey Shootout is an underwater photo event focused on fun, education, and the goal is to inspire new image-makers.

Come meet a supportive group of die-hard Monterey divers, learn new shooting techniques in our shooting seminars, and maybe even discover a new dive site. Our friendly competition not only rewards advanced shooters with amazing prizes but also the newest shooters in the ranks. Join us for a weekend diving and seminars!

Registration Only \$35. One low price gets you into the Competition, cocktail party, and all Seminars

Expanded contest hours - Fri 7AM to Sat 7PM. Backscatter party on Saturday night at 6PM

First time shooters will enjoy our introductory seminars held on Friday. All skill levels will get inspired with our more advanced seminars held on Sunday. Come meet fellow enthusiasts and learn from our professional presenters.

You don't need to be a pro to have fun and win big in our friendly competition. You just need to get in the water this weekend. Our 32 hour photo and video competition has categories for beginner, intermediate,



and advanced shooters with great prizes from our sponsors. All competition entrants must register for a full weekend pass to enter.

Monterey diving is second to none when the conditions are right. We can't control the weather, but we can help you find good dive boats, great dives, and places to stay during your visit.

www.montereyshootout.com

Expeditions with Henley Spiers

Mobula Aggregation, Mexico

May & June 2026. Snorkelling & Freediving



Join me in Mexico's Baja peninsula for one of the greatest natural spectacles on earth: the mobula ray aggregation. This seasonal event brings together thousands of Munk's devil rays for the largest known assembly of sharks or rays on the planet.

The waters of the Sea of Cortez are rich in plankton at this time of year and this is part of what attracts the mobulas to the area. The rays are reason enough for any ocean lover to visit, but we also have a chance of

seeing other star attractions of the marine world such as great whales, sea lions, whale sharks, dolphins, and blue dragons.

This is an open ocean safari with no guarantees of wildlife sightings, but we will be there at the right time, with the best guides in the region, the best boats, and the best resources, including a spotter plane every day to help us find life.

REQUEST BROCHURE

Baja Monster, Mexico

Oct & Nov 2025. Scuba Diving, Snorkelling & Freediving



Visiting Mexico's Baja peninsula 7 years ago was a turning point in both my career and my experience of the ocean. Nothing had prepared me for the intimate encounters with charismatic big animals and astonishing displays of natural behaviour. Every time I go back I see something new, and it keeps on delivering for me and others with both life-affirming moments and award-winning pictures. Every image you see in this brochure was captured in Baja during the fall.

This itinerary brings together my dream expedition to the region. Prepare yourself for playful sea lions, mobula rays swooping past at night, seabirds exploding down into the sea, and striped marlin united in pursuit of sardine baitballs...and that's just the things we can almost guarantee.

No one else offers this itinerary delivered in this manner. It is a 2 week extravaganza of an expedition in search of the best and purest encounters.

REQUEST BROCHURE

www.henleyspiers.com

www.uwpmag.com