

News, Travel & Events

Underwater Photography Workshop

Paradise Taveuni, Fiji

August 4-15, 2026

Improve your underwater photography skills with Backscatter photo James Emery at Paradise Taveuni, Fiji.

Known as the Soft Coral Capital of the World, Taveuni is home to the legendary Rainbow Reef, with one of the Top 10 Dive Sites in the World, The Great White Wall, which is diveable only when conditions are right. We planned our trip dates specifically at the best time to be there!

Taveuni is indeed a paradise, where you will experience some of the best warm water diving in the world. The great majority of the dives you will enjoy are drift dives, where you are dropped off at one end of the dive site and drift through your dive to be met by the dive boat at the end of your dive.

You will experience a multitude of hard and soft corals, schools of barracudas, beautiful trevallies, manta shrimps, lionfish, manta rays,



turtles, blue ribbon eel, and, of course, the always magnificent reef sharks.

James Emery is the Marketing and Media manager at Backscatter. Before joining Backscatter, he spent 12 years across Southeast Asia working as a Photo Pro, with his final role being the manager of the Authorized Backscatter Photo Center at Lembah Resort in Indonesia. With extensive knowledge in underwater photography and videography, James enjoys sharing his expertise with others.

www.backscatter.com



Best of Palau & Full Moon Spawning 20 - 30 April 2026

Palau has it all: dreamlike coral landscapes, pelagic subjects such as sharks and manta rays, schools of fish, wrecks, caves and, of course, the world-famous Jellyfish Lake. Two weeks of creative shooting in at least 30 dives with a bunch of camera freaks - that's what makes this trip a real 'best of' for all photo and film enthusiasts!

The fish aggregations in Palau are unique in the world. The unforgettable early morning dives with the Ocean Hunter dive crew are designed to offer the most spectacular dives that Palau has to offer. Based on the monthly lunar cycles, Ocean Hunter offers a unique diving experience.

During full and new moons, various species of fish gather in huge aggregations to spawn. The number can vary from hundreds to thousands, depending on the species. These breathtaking spawning events usually also attract Palau's largest predators.



This is a must for underwater photographers and filmmakers.

The Ocean Hunter Palau offers plenty of space for 16 divers. The ship is designed for professional underwater photography, TV and film productions and has a large workspace, power outlets with 110, 220 and 415 volts, and additional storage space.

www.panoceanphoto.com

www.behind-the-mask.com

Lembeh Photo Workshop 2025

We are happy to announce our 12th Annual Lembeh Photo Workshop 2025 with an exciting new twist! Our 2025 Photo Workshop will take place from 18th – 26th July 2025, a total of 8 nights. This 8 night/20 dive package is a new step up from our previous 7 night/17 dive packages of years past. Our guests have asked about extending the workshop and we have obliged.

Our hosts for the event is the wonderful NAD Lembeh Resort with their amazing team. The package includes all meals, nitrox (air available), return airport transfers (surcharge for non peak hours), 2:1 guest to guide ratio, in water tuition, and digital copies of outlines.

We limit the number of participants during workshops in order to give plenty of one to one time to everyone. One of the highlights of an Underwater Tribe/Studio Sloss workshop is that the instructors don't take cameras underwater. Our photo instructors accompany the students underwater with a slate in hand. One to one time underwater is often touted as the highlight of the workshop by past participants.

Our workshops are aimed at new underwater photographers as well



as more experienced photographers. We always start with the basics to get everyone on the same page before introducing other techniques. Our workshops are relaxed and friendly with a very social atmosphere. We don't include competitions so there is no pressure on our guests. Everyone loves the one to one afternoon sessions with the instructors as this allows everyone to dig into the photos of the day and perfect their Lightroom skills. Lightroom and post processing is one of the most important parts of our workshops with several presentations throughout the week.

www.underwatertribe.com

Underwater portraits by Angelina Pilarinos

Underwater portraits are more than photographs. They are an experience, an invitation to see yourself in a whole new way. These sessions are for anyone, not just models. Most of my clients are everyday people who want photos that feel different from anything they've done before.

Underwater photography can include personal portraits, family sessions, maternity shoots, and more. Maternity portraits are especially powerful. Water gives expecting mothers the freedom to move with ease, and it highlights the natural curves of pregnancy in a calm and gentle way.

Before we start, I take time to talk with you about what matters most. Maybe you want something artistic for your walls, or maybe you want to capture a season of life in a way that feels personal. By understanding your vision, I can guide you through poses and movements that look natural underwater.

The result is not just a set of images. It's an experience you'll remember. Every underwater



experience is a chance to step away from the ordinary and create photographs that feel true to you.

www.angelinapilarinos.com

www.uwpmag.com

Underwater Camera Market 2025 - 2033

The Underwater Camera Market size is anticipated to reach USD 22.8 billion by 2033 from USD 8.5 billion in 2025, with a CAGR of 13.1% during the forecast period. This growth is propelled by the increasing demand for sophisticated imaging solutions in underwater exploration, surveillance, and research.

Widely utilized in marine biology, offshore oil and gas exploration, and underwater photography, these cameras are designed to endure extreme conditions while providing high-resolution imagery. Technological advancements such as 4K video recording, real-time data transmission, and enhanced sensors further elevate their utility across scientific and commercial applications. Rising interest in ocean exploration and conservation efforts continues to surge the adoption of underwater cameras. Furthermore, the increasing underwater infrastructure projects, including cables and wind farms, stimulate the demand for advanced cameras for inspection tasks.

In 2024 manufacturers will focus on higher resolution offerings, including 8K and 4K capabilities, complemented by AI and ML integration for improved

image processing and automated underwater feature recognition. Wireless connectivity and real-time data transmission will become more prevalent, supporting live streaming and remote monitoring.

This period is also set to observe a surge in underwater operations for both commercial and military purposes, necessitating durable cameras that can function at extreme depths. Moreover, battery innovations promise extended operational hours, crucial for remote operations. The growing consumer interest in recreational diving and photography is expected to further bolster market expansion.

Looking ahead, the period beyond 2025 will be marked by noteworthy growth in the market as technological advancements and environmental consciousness facilitate development. Augmented Reality (AR) and Virtual Reality (VR) applications with underwater cameras will craft immersive environments for research and entertainment.



Meanwhile, the demand for cameras with specialized capabilities such as thermal imaging for military uses will expand. As the emphasis on sustainable energy accelerates, particularly in offshore wind farms, there's an amplified need for advanced cameras in infrastructure maintenance.

Despite challenges such as the high cost of high-definition systems and the technical limitations in severe underwater conditions, the market will see robust growth. The market's agility will be supported by innovations and the burgeoning need for intricate underwater imaging solutions.

[Link](#)

Underwater Photographer of the Year 2025 Exhibition 06 October 2025 - 07 November 2025



Atkins Building and Gallery,
Hinckley, UK

Underwater photographer of the year is an annual competition, based in the UK, that celebrates photography beneath the surface of the ocean, lakes, rivers and even swimming pools, and attracts entries from all around the world.

The 2025 collection including the winning images will be on display in Atkins Gallery with activities for children in the half term.

Look out for additional evening and weekend openings on social media @AtkinsBuilding.

Contact:

info@atkinsbuilding.co.uk

digital

DiVELOG

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RETURN TO VOLIVOLI

CATHIE and Dr TERRY CUMMINS

WHERE GIANTS COME TO MATE

VADIM BELAKOV

UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHY

MIKE SCOTLAND

TRITON BAY DIVERS

THOMAS HAIDER

The bucket list trip: GALAPAGOS.

KEN HOPPEN

THE ATTRACTION OF SWEETLIPS

MIKE SCOTLAND

Third Manta Ray species *Mobula yarae* discovered

The Marine Megafauna Foundation (MMF) today celebrates the discovery of the third manta ray species, *Mobula yarae*, found exclusively in Atlantic Ocean waters. Published in *Environmental Biology of Fishes*, the new manta species discovery represents the culmination of a 15-year scientific journey that began with observations by MMF co-founder Dr. Andrea Marshall in 2009.

Dr Andrea Marshall processing data in Tofo, Mozambique. Dr Marshall pioneered manta research and was the first person in the world to be awarded a PhD on manta rays

The confidence behind that prediction came from years of intensive study—including countless hours spent hand drawing individual manta rays from her own underwater photographs to hone her observation skills and understand their morphology in minute detail. “It had taken me 6 years to differentiate the first two species and I knew them



inside out at this stage.” So when she finally encountered the third species in Mexican waters, the recognition was immediate: “This manta didn’t look like either of them.”

The new Atlantic manta ray species, named *Mobula yarae* after Yara—a water spirit from Indigenous Brazilian mythology—inhabits tropical and subtropical waters from the eastern United States to Brazil, including the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea. *Mobula yarae* becomes the third formally recognized manta ray species worldwide, joining the reef manta (*Mobula alfredi*) and giant oceanic manta (*Mobula birostris*).

www.marinemegafauna.org



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

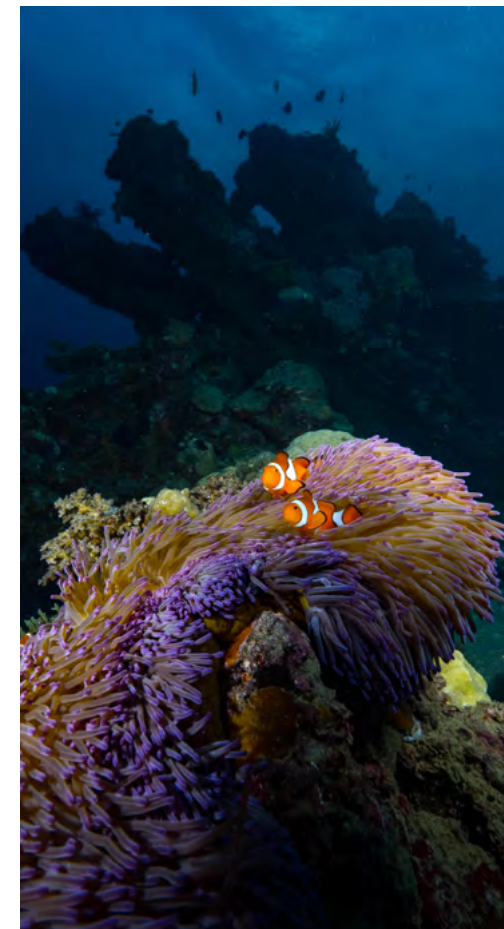
Emperor Divers in Honiara, Solomon Islands

Emperor Divers had recently opened a brand-new dive centre in Honiara, Solomon Islands, and is now accepting bookings. Located adjacent to the Bilikiki Cruises office in Point Cruz, the centre is one of Emperor Divers' first one outside of Africa, and complements the company's well-established local liveaboard vessel, Emperor Bilikiki.

Bilikiki has been showing tourists the country's wonderful dive sites since 1988 and has built up a great reputation worldwide for its quality service as well as the work it does within the Solomon Islands community. It became a part of the Emperor fleet in 2024.

The new Honiara centre will provide both tourists and local residents with easy access to world-class local sites such as Hirokawa and Kinugawa Maru (otherwise known as Mbonege 1 and 2). With their dedicated dive boat MV Cobra, Emperor can get guests to any of the numerous dive sites in the Florida Islands, such as Twin Tunnels and Ghavutu, plus over 20 World War 2 ship and aircraft wrecks.

As the only dedicated full-time day boat operation offering trips to Guadalcanal and Central Province, it offers an exciting opportunity to explore some of the region's most



famous underwater locations without the need for extended trips.

Bookings are already being taken and more information can be obtained by visiting

www.emperordivers.com



**MARINE
MEGAFauna
FOUNDATION**

DIVE WITH MMF!

Raja Ampat

25 FEB – 06 MARCH '26

One cabin
available



PRICES Per person sharing

Upper Suites: US \$6,750

Lower Suites: US \$5,625

*Includes up to four dives a day
and all meals.*

ENQUIRE NOW

trips@marinemegafauna.org

9-NIGHT TRIP OVERVIEW

Explore the famed waters of Raja Ampat, home to the richest coral reef ecosystem in the world, during peak manta ray season. This fully customized MMF expedition will be searching for manta rays, amazing coral dives, and the incredible marine biodiversity the area is known for.

- 9-night custom itinerary expedition
- Led by MMF Executive Director, Dr. Simon J Pierce, and MMF Indonesia Country Director (and manta expert) Janis Argeswara
- Experience marine life including reef and giant manta rays, wobbegongs, walking sharks, pygmy seahorses, and unbelievable coralscapes
- Travel aboard the 'world's best liveaboard', Coralía



♥ 100% of profit supports our marine research



Learn with Lars Camp Nakari, The Red Sea 30/11 - 7/12/2025

The biggest problem with learning Underwater Photography is not having time to practise.

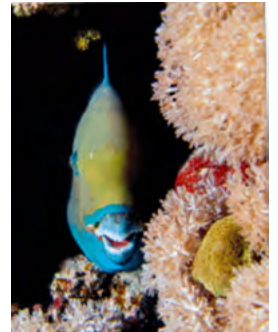
Even when doing a course, there is rarely enough time in the water to try out new techniques or to get comfortable with new settings of your equipment.

Lars has solved the problem.

No matter the level you are at, going with a dedicated group and a skilled teacher to one of the best-located and easiest setups for doing underwater photography, will give you what you never have... time to learn!

A week at Marsa Nakari Dive Camp in Egypt, with Lars will give you a chance to learn, practice, and explore the Red Sea in a relaxed and inspiring setting. It's a great opportunity to grow your skills and connect with like-minded UW-photographers.

The trip is led by Lars Kirkegaard, who is by far one of the most



experienced UW-Photo teachers in Europe.

He has worked with dive publications, dive shows, and dive travels, and therefore has a deep insight into not only photography, photo equipment, but also the business behind it.

Today, he runs the business FOTOGRAFIT, selling underwater photo equipment to the European dive community.



www.fotografit.eu

workshop@fotografit.eu

Diving Talks 17-19 October 2025 Lisbon, Portugal

Diving Talks, Portugal's internationally acclaimed diving conference, has officially become the second most visible diving event online worldwide, according to aggregated performance data across YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, and other digital platforms.

With a rapidly growing digital presence that includes over 365,000 YouTube views and more than 25,000 social media visitors, Diving Talks has solidified its position as a global reference in diving content, storytelling, and thought leadership.

"In just a few short years, we've built more than a conference — we've built a global conversation about the future of diving," said Arlindo Serrão, spokesperson for Diving Talks. "From deep cave expeditions to marine conservation, our speakers are some of the most accomplished and inspiring figures in the underwater world — and now their stories are reaching a truly global audience."

At Diving Talks, we pride ourselves on offering a unique and innovative approach to curating our Speakers Panel. Unlike traditional selection processes, Diving Talks'



speakers are nominated by their peers, ensuring that the Diving Talks stage is graced by individuals who inspire and resonate within the diving community.

This year's speakers include Alex Dawson, Andrea Murdock Alpini, Cathryn Castle Garcia, Damian P. Xuereb, David Caldwell, Dawn Kernagis, Gui Garcia, Henry Jager, Isidora Dekalo, Kirill Egorov, Marco Ali, Maria Bollerup, Paulo Oliveira, Phil Short, Susana Vallejos, Tamara Adame And Tiffany Duong.

www.divingtalks.com

Swiss Masters Underwater Photography Competition 2025 Verzasca Valley, Switzerland September 10-13, 2025

From September 10-13, 2025, some of the world's best underwater photographers will compete in this live underwater photo competition in the wild Verzasca River in the mountains of Ticino, Switzerland.

Surrounded by unique rock formations and crystal-clear water with visibility of up to 50 meters (164 feet), 10 photographers will battle it out with their models for victory in three categories: Wide Angle, Wide Angle with Model, and Creative (this category can include, but is not limited to, macro and split-shots).

The participating photographers include four world champions, several national champions, Alex Mustard, and award-winning photographer Steve Miller. Judges include Franco Banfi, Harald Slauschek, Ikelite CEO Jean Rydberg, and more.

Only photos taken underwater, without any computer editing, can be submitted to the jury for judging. This requires absolute mastery of the camera, photography techniques, and image composition.



The Swiss Masters in Underwater Photography is one of the most prestigious photo competitions in Europe. It is organized by the Swiss diving instructors' association CMAS Swiss Diving with around 40 assistants.

During the competition there will be regular live reports and an interesting panel discussion on topics related to underwater photography with some of the participants. Up-to-date information and panel discussions can be found on Instagram by following @photo.swissmasters and on the Swiss Masters' website.

www.photo-swissmasters.ch

Ocean Film Festival UK 2025

The World's Best Ocean Films from above & below the surface, the Ocean Film Festival features a selection of short films starring seafaring voyages, extreme watersports and marine conservation

from the least explored depths of the planet.

The shows are at over 30 venues throughout the UK from September through to November

Dates

AUTUMN 2025 TOUR



AQUABALLET

5 minutes

Take a deep breath and immerse yourself in this mesmerising performance by freediver Marianne Aventurier. Filmed in the crystal waters of French Polynesia, *Aquaballet* is a poetic dance with marine life, transforming the ocean into a living stage. Celebrating the beauty and grace of underwater creatures, Marianne merges her passions for the ocean, animals and dance to create this breathtaking display of underwater artistry.



ASTRONAUT IN THE OCEAN

11 minutes

Bodyboarding is often seen as surfing's uncool sibling... but that's about to change. Bodyboarder Shane Ackerman catches daunting waves that others shy away from. While pro surfers bask in fame and fortune, Shane is a crane operator by day, proving that passion transcends financial reward. For him, work is merely a means to an end – a way to fund the moments of absolute liberation found on his bodyboard.



WE THE SURFERS

37 minutes

Set in the coastal towns of Liberia, an unexpected cultural exchange transforms lives through the universal language of surfing. What begins as a simple athletic pursuit becomes a profound journey of self-discovery, resilience and connection in a community hungry for opportunity and healing. *We the Surfers* is proof that sometimes the most powerful humanitarian aid is not just about survival, but about creating moments of pure, transformative joy.



DIVING INTO THE DARKNESS

30 minutes

Widely regarded as one of the world's greatest living cave divers, Jill Heinerth has been involved in the most legendary diving expeditions of all time, from surveying the world's longest caves in Mexico to discovering giant iceberg caves in Antarctica. Juxtaposed with these hair-raising dives are candid interviews and flashbacks to her younger years, revealing that Jill's journey is as much about inner exploration as it is about pushing the boundaries of the known world.



ORCAS IN THE ARCTIC

9 minutes

Deep in the Arctic Circle, a team of researchers are following the largest gathering of killer whales in the world. Narrator Alexandra Johnston joins marine conservationists and whale-watching vessels in their exploration of these magnificent creatures, aiming to understand what makes this population so unique, and their critical role in the Arctic ecosystem.



LET ME LIVE

17 minutes

From unlikely beginnings in a small, Cornish fishing town to charging some of the biggest waves on the planet, British surfer Tom Lowe has a reputation as one of the world's most enigmatic – and fearless – big wave surfers. *Let Me Live* follows Tom's path from the heart of Penwith to surfing's highest level – through grit, determination and a little help from his friends.



SOULS

11 minutes

Souls is the memoir of six extraordinary individuals whose lives have been deeply intertwined with the ocean. Featuring explorers, scientists and underwater photographers, these powerhouses have set countless records and pioneered groundbreaking achievements. *Souls* shares their stories, experiences and challenges, with the primary mission of inspiring future generations of ocean advocates.

www.oceanfilmfestival.co.uk

www.uwpmag.com