

News, Travel & Events

Bunaken Oasis Dive Resort & Spa Celebrated as Indonesia and Asia's Leading Dive Resort



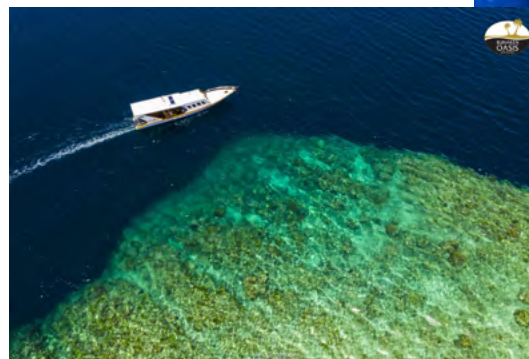
Bunaken Oasis Dive Resort & Spa has once again earned global acclaim. For the eighth consecutive year, the resort has been named Indonesia's Leading Dive Resort at the prestigious World Travel Awards. This year also marks a historic milestone, with Bunaken Oasis recognised for the first time as Asia's Leading Dive Resort.

These honours underscore the resort's commitment to redefining luxury in North Sulawesi, blending five-star comfort with a strong dedication to ocean conservation. From bespoke dive experiences to the carefully curated spa offerings, every detail reflects the resort's mission to deliver excellence while promoting sustainability.

Owners Simon and Elaine Wallace expressed their delight: "The team we have is amazing, and they deliver incredible service. This award means the world to us and our team."

At the heart of Bunaken Oasis' success is its extraordinary staff, supported by visionary management. Dive guides, spa therapists, chefs, and guest service professionals collaborate seamlessly to create personalised experiences that keep guests returning year after year. These awards celebrate not only their dedication but also the loyal guests who continue to support and champion the resort.

With this dual recognition,



Bunaken Oasis solidifies its reputation as a destination where luxury and sustainability meet, offering travellers an unparalleled gateway to the wonders of Bunaken National Marine Park.

www.bunakenoasis.com



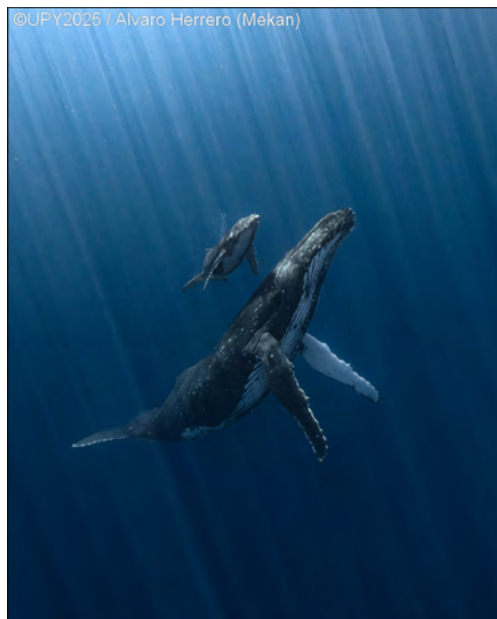


Could you be Underwater Photographer of the Year 2026?

The search for the world's finest underwater images begins as the Underwater Photographer of the Year (UPY) 2026 competition officially opens for entries on 1 November 2025, closing on 4 January 2026.

The world's largest and most prestigious underwater photography competition, UPY attracts thousands of stunning submissions from every continent. The contest has a glittering array of prizes, and last year over 50 different photographers took home a prize. Once again, the winners will be revealed at a prestigious awards ceremony in Central London and showcased internationally through major media outlets worldwide.

The last four overall winners—Alvaro Herrero (Spain), Alex Dawson (Sweden), Kat Zhou (USA), and Rafael Fernandez Caballero (Spain)—captured breathtaking scenes from the Pacific Ocean, the Arctic Ocean,



the Amazon River, and the Indian Ocean, highlighting the contest's global reach.

“UPY is the most important contest for underwater photographs,” said Alex Mustard, Chair of the Judges. “It’s always packed with astonishing images being revealed for the first time. The first Underwater Photographer of the Year, Phil Smith, was named in 1965 and today the contest celebrates every style of underwater photography, from icy oceans to swimming pools.”

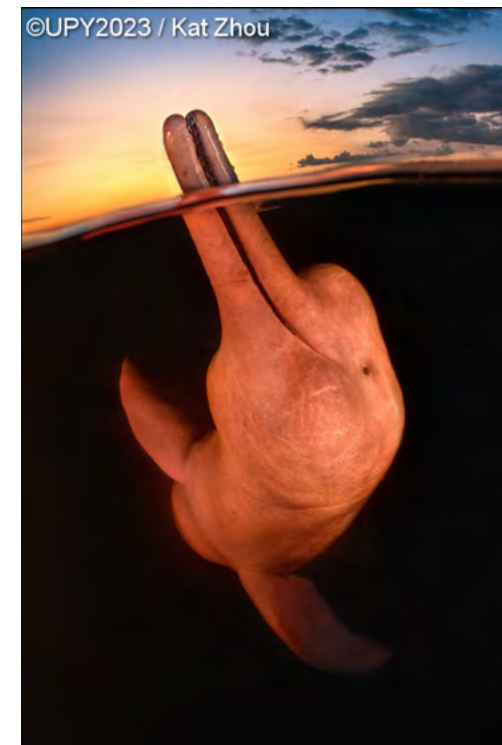
New for 2026: Smartphone Category

Phones are the camera that everyone carries in their pocket and the gateway for creating your first



images to share your underwater experiences. This new category, sponsored by leading phone housing manufacturers DIVEVOLK, aims to showcase the inspirational variety of images it is possible to capture with phones underwater. This category has cash prizes and in this first year is totally free to enter up to 5 pictures. The category is open to everyone.

UPY also continues its valued partnerships with The Crown Estate, the Save Our Seas Foundation and PADI, as well as a host of leading diving brands who support the competition through prizes and



sponsorship.

UPY is an annual, international competition with 14 categories, including Macro, Wide Angle, Behaviour, Wreck, and Conservation photography, as well as three categories exclusively for images taken in British waters.

All entrants benefit from UPY's bespoke results system, which provides feedback on how far each entered. The expert judging panel of Peter Rowlands, Tobias Friedrich, and Alex Mustard, gather in one room, seeing and evaluating every image entered in the contest.

www.underwaterphotographeroftheyear.com

www.uwpmag.com

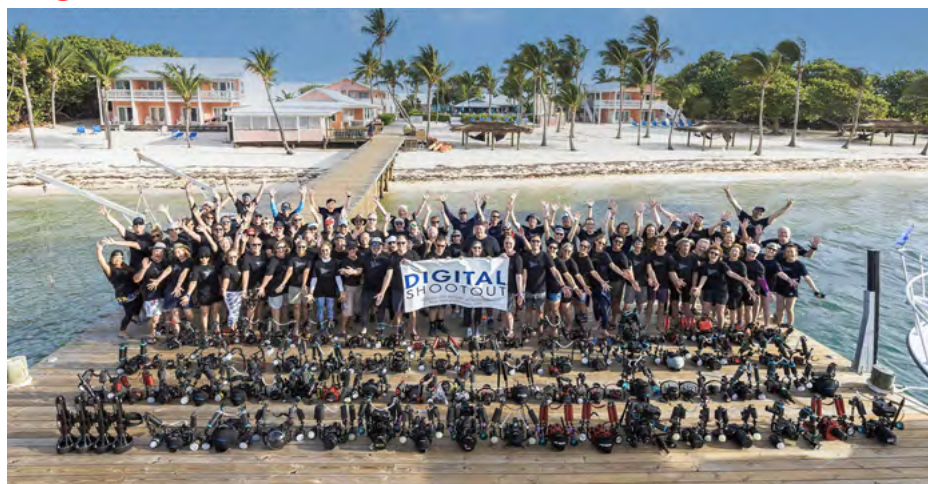


UNDERWATER IMAGING COMPETITION 2025



50 AWESOME PRIZES WORTH \$85,000
23 PRESTIGIOUS SPONSORS
10 EXCITING CATEGORIES
1 DPG GRAND MASTER
WWW.UNDERWATERCOMPETITION.COM/MASTERS

Digital Shootout In Little Cayman, June 2026



The Digital Shootout, hosted by Backscatter, is a renowned annual event for underwater photography and videography enthusiasts. It is a two week-long immersive workshop and competition that provides participants with the opportunity to improve their skills, test the latest underwater photography gear, and engage with a community of like-minded underwater image-makers.

Little Cayman has vibrant marine life and clear waters, making it an ideal setting for underwater imaging.

Each afternoon we offer professionally produced seminars on basic and advanced photo and video techniques. Just learning how to assemble your camera for the first time? Looking for the secrets of exposure and strobe placement? Our seminars are world renowned for their simple delivery of complex topics and

DIVE INTO THE BEST DEMO GEAR STAFF IN THE INDUSTRY



will take you to the next level.

The workshops and experts assembled at this event will whisk you along the learning curve of underwater photography. By the end of the week, you will be shooting well enough to enter our friendly competition. The best images shot during the week will be awarded over \$30,000 in prizes.

www.thedigitalshootout.com

www.uwpmag.com



South West Rocks (Australia) 2x Photo Workshops with Nicolas Remy October 2026

Join award-winning photographer Nicolas Remy and for an unforgettable 4-day underwater photography workshop in South West Rocks, one of Australia's most spectacular dive destinations.

Home to large aggregations of grey nurse sharks (sand tigers), the famous 125-metre Fish Rock Cave, 3 meters long wobbegongs, seasonal hammerheads, and critically endangered guitarfish, this location is a dream for wide-angle enthusiasts.

Each workshop includes:

- Daily coaching and image reviews with Nicolas Remy
- Pre-trip webinar on mastering wide-angle shooting at South West Rocks

- Small group of just 8 underwater photographers
- A follow-up online image review two weeks after the trip

Two sessions are available:

- New Moon: 8–11 October 2026
- Full Moon: 23–26 October 2026

Experience the thrill of photographing large sharks up close — no baiting involved — in one of the world's best-kept secret dive destinations.

Read Nicolas' article in this of UwPmag to learn more, or visit his website for workshop details.

www.nicolaslenaremy.com/trips

DPG Masters Underwater Imaging Competition 2025

The DPG Masters Underwater Imaging Competition is a long-established and widely respected contest that celebrates the splendor of the oceans and the challenging art of underwater photography and video.

The organizers call on underwater shooters of all levels, from novice to professional, to compete in what has become the "World Championship" of international underwater imagery events.

The prizes, worth more than \$85,000 in total, include dive trips with the world's top resorts and liveaboards, and the latest underwater photo and video gear. Entrants compete for prizes in 10 categories, with the photographer or filmmaker behind the top entry among the category winners crowned "DPG Grand Master 2025." The overall winner will receive a top trip prize as well as a top equipment prize.

This year's illustrious judging panel comprises six top photographers: Nicolas Remy, Jennifer Hayes, Álvaro Herrero (Mekan), Jill Heinerth, Aaron Wong, and Kate Jonker. As well as assessing your entries, each of these seasoned



photo pros is offering a unique "mentor prize" to one lucky winner—an invaluable hour-long one-on-one video chat session to review your portfolio and give you handy tips and advice to help make your underwater photography even better.

NOW ACCEPTING SUBMISSIONS

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. As with all Underwater Competition Series events, 15% of entry proceeds will be donated to marine conservation efforts. Submissions close on Monday, December 1st, 2025 11:59PM PST.

www.underwatercompetition.com



UP Issue 147/9



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



Issue 147/10

Indonesia nudibranchs

Hello again, my nudibranch friends.
I have added another PDF to my ID books - Indonesia nudibranchs to purchase on Gumroad here:-

<https://nudibranchs.gumroad.com/ibooks/group2.jpg>

The new publication contains over 650 species!



Jim Anderson

www.nudibranch.org

www.nudibranchs.gumroad.com

Phil Rudin's 6,000th dive

Phil Rudin, UWP's Senior Reviewer for over a decade, recently clocked up his 6,000th dive while at Scuba Seraya in Tulamben.

Seen here with with local guide Eka.

Phil Rudin

[Instagram](#)



www.uwpmag.com

SEPTEMBER FRONTLINES UPDATE



Antarctica's Whales Under Threat

Dear Peter,

The Southern Ocean is one of the most remote places on Earth, yet the pressure on it has never been greater.

Every year, fleets of massive industrial trawlers descend on Antarctic waters and haul in staggering amounts of krill, billions of these tiny crustaceans that whales, penguins, seals, and seabirds depend on for survival. In fact, this year's haul was one of the largest ever recorded.



Krill are the foundation of the Antarctic food web. Remove them, and entire ecosystems collapse. For whales in particular, krill mean life itself.



GALAPAGOS

NIGEL MARSH PHOTOGRAPHY ESCORTED GROUP TOUR

- * From AUD 10,220 pp twin share
- * 7 nights including all meals
- * Up to 20 guided dives
- * Topside wildlife tours

The Master the Galápagos 7-night liveaboard trip includes the islands' most spectacular dive sites.

Expect to see silky and Galápagos sharks, schools of hammerheads, the occasional whale shark, sea lions, eagle rays and marine iguanas, along with an astounding variety of reef fish.

Nigel will provide photography tuition and talks to help you capture it all!



Scan the
QR code
for more
information

CLASSIC CABIN: AUD 10,220 PP
PREMIUM CABIN: AUD 10,450 PP

Terms & Conditions. Non-refundable deposit of AUD 650 due now, 2nd instalment AUD 2500 3 Mar 2027, balance 3 Jan 2028. All payments made are non-refundable. Standard T&Cs apply: diveplanit.com/booking-terms.

Booking details:
claire@diveplanit.com
 Ph: 0408 708 828



Travel dates:
3-10 April 2028

AUD 650 deposit
to secure your
place





Ocean Geographic Photographer Recognition Program

A new horizon awaits for underwater photographers ready to be seen, celebrated, and supported.

Ocean Geographic and The Underwater Club are proud to announce the launch of a prestigious new initiative — a biannual Underwater Photographer Recognition Program that honours the world's most compelling ocean storytellers.

This is not just a photo contest. It's a curated journey and an international platform

designed to:

- Elevate emerging and established talent
- Foster professional growth and opportunities
- Spotlight photographers shaping the future of ocean conservation through imagery

Application Requirements

You are invited to submit a portfolio of your 10 best pictures captured in the past 5 years (from 01 November 2020), each accompanied by:

- A caption (20–100 words) providing context and story
- A short personal introduction (min. 100 words)

This is your opportunity to share not just your pictures — but your voice, vision, and purpose.

All submissions will be reviewed by the Ocean Geographic Advisory Editorial Board.

Successful applicants will be recognised with one of two designations:

- Ocean Geographic Photographer (OGP) — the

epitome for excellence and impact

- Associate Ocean Geographic Photographer (AOGP) — honouring outstanding promise and potential

Symbols of Distinction

The OG Photographer Pin

An exclusive enamel pin, designed to be worn at exhibitions, dive events, and recognition ceremonies — a discreet symbol of excellence in underwater imagery.

The OG Alumni T-Shirt Reserved for OGPs, featuring the title and your year of induction (e.g., Ocean Geographic Photographer – Alumni 2025).

Who Can Apply?

- Must be a current member of The Underwater Club
- Must pass the Seven core photography knowledge quizzes with 80%+ (no need to rewatch course content if you already have the skills — simply validate your knowledge)

You don't need to be a public figure or influencer to succeed.

Portfolios are judged solely on merit: technical excellence, artistic vision, originality, and storytelling power.

As a benchmark, successful applications typically reflect the standard of pictures used in features published in Ocean Geographic or awarded in major underwater photography competitions.

Application Fee

The fee supports the dedicated review process by Ocean Geographic editors and board members.

- Early Bird: USD 200 (first 50 applicants)
- Standard Fee: USD 250
- Applications open now
- Deadline: 30 November 2025

This is your chance to have your portfolio reviewed by world-leading editors in underwater photography — and to take a meaningful step forward in your creative journey.

www.theunderwaterclub.com

New Products

All New Sea & Sea YS-D130R Underwater Strobe



Sea & Sea is proud to announce the launch of the newly designed YS-D130R underwater strobe, available from late November.

Building on Sea & Sea's long legacy of innovation, the YS-D130R introduces five key improvements that deliver even greater lighting control, reliability, and creative freedom beneath the surface.

1. Circular Flash Tube for Natural, even Illumination

For the first time since the YS-D250, the YS-D130R adopts a circular flash tube design, producing beautifully uniform, natural lighting that wraps smoothly around your subject.

Its color temperature is precisely calibrated to 5600K, matching natural



sunlight, and remains stable even when using the included diffuser or dome diffuser.

2. Newly Engineered Battery Rear Cap

A completely redesigned waterproof design moves the sealing surface from the cap to the strobe body itself—minimizing the risk of water intrusion when opening or closing.

The battery is now secured inside the strobe, preventing accidental drops during handling and making operation safer and more dependable in any diving environment.

3. Compatible with Lithium-Ion Battery for Faster Recycle Time

In addition to conventional AA rechargeable batteries, the YS-D130R supports a dedicated lithium-ion battery.



This upgrade significantly reduces recycle time and enables continuous firing, letting you capture every fleeting moment without missing a single shot.

4. Bright and Customizable LCD Display

The newly improved LCD panel clearly displays vital information such as battery level, strobe mode, and EV value at a glance.

Users can also tailor the interface to their preference, with options for: EV step adjustment (0.3 / 0.5 / 1.0 EV), Display orientation (normal / inverted)

This ensures intuitive, flexible operation, no matter the shooting situation.

5. New HSS Mode for High-Speed Sync Shooting

Alongside Manual, DS-TTL, and RC modes, the YS-D130R introduces



HSS (High-Speed Sync) mode, allowing synchronization at shutter speeds faster than 1/200–1/250 sec.

HSS mode makes it possible to shoot against strong surface sunlight without overexposing the subject, and to freeze fast-moving scenes such as darting fish or splashing water with remarkable clarity.

With its innovative features, durable construction, and advanced control, the YS-D130R sets a new standard for underwater strobe performance—a perfect companion for photographers who demand precision and reliability in every dive.

www.seaandsea.jp

BACKSCATTER MINI FLASH 2



THE
PERFECT
MACRO
STROBE
FOR
ANY
CAMERA



Nauticam NA-OM5II housing for OM Systems OM5 MkII



The OM-5 Mark II refines a proven formula: a compact, durable, and feature-rich mirrorless camera that is both lightweight and travel-friendly. With the addition of USB-C connectivity, an enhanced menu system, and several innovative video enhancements, the OM-5 Mark II stands as an exceptional choice for hybrid photographers and videographers.

The NA-OM5II adheres to Nauticam's Mission Control philosophy, ensuring accessible and intuitive control for critical functions. These include Front & Rear dials, REC, AF-ON, CP, Fn1 and Fn2 Lever. Nauticam's Port locking system facilitates rapid and seamless lens changes. Battery and memory card replacements are equally effortless thanks to the rotary-style housing lock and lens release button. An optional M14 vacuum valve unlocks the full capabilities of the pre-installed Vacuum Check and Leak Detection

System. The NA-OM5II LCD window, available as an optional feature, enables the utilization of Nauticam Full Frame viewfinders for enhanced viewing. For lighting and accessories, the housing incorporates an M10 treaded mounting point, a cold shoe mount, and optional handles and tray equipped with strobe mounting balls. Dimensions 197mm(W) x 154mm(H) x 99mm(D). Weight in air 1.3kg. Buoyancy in Water -14g (Includes camera and battery). Depth Rating 100m. Port Mount N85

www.nauticam.com

UW CAMERA STORE.COM

BACKSCATTER HYBRID FLASH HF1 PHOTO & VIDEO



**GN40, 5000 LUMEN
100M DEPTH
120° BEAM ANGLE
250g UNDERWATER
TTL, HSS, MANUAL**



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LET'S MAKE STORIES TOGETHER!