

News, Travel & Events

BIDP Bali Photo Dives 3 day/2 night/6 dives for \$268



We begin our dive extravaganza by heading North East to Tulamben, arguably Bali's most diverse diving location.

The stony beach continues under the water in a gentle shelf before meeting a dazzling house reef and dropping away into a steeper dark sand slope dotted with nudibranchs, anemones, and hidden treasures such as ghost pipefish. The Liberty shipwreck lies up against this slope. It is easily visible to snorkellers with the top at around 8 metres but dropping to 30 metres, it is best experienced by the diver. The wreck is easy to dive and provides habitat to a large number of fish in addition to a base for soft corals. Close to this location

our experienced and knowledgeable divemasters have found one of nature's magicians – the mimic octopus.

At the end of the bay a headland protrudes into the sea and provides a deep drop off. Corals and marine creatures cling to the rock face. The gorgonian fans are stunning. The dive site offers the opportunity to see frogfish, boxer crabs, harlequin shrimp and the delightful pygmy seahorses, to name but a few. Larger marine creatures such as humphead parrotfish and sharks patrol the drop off and the edge of the sand slope and the warm, tranquil waters provide ideal conditions for diving.

We will devote two days to this location, allowing divers to experience each of the environments detailed and revisit their favourites! An optional night dive at Tulamben is highly recommended.

After the final dive on day two, we move to Amed for an evening's relaxation before commencing our next days adventure. For most of the year Amed boasts calm water with minimal to manageable currents. Amed has three walls on the most popular stretch of reef which house myriad sea fans, sponges and fish life. Napoleon Wrasse and turtles are

regular visitors with Oceanic Sunfish (Mola Mola) being sighted in the deeper cold upwellings occurring in August to January.

The coral Gardens at Amed also provide excellent photographic opportunities with shallow water and good visibility enabling the jewel colours of the reef fish to be captured at their best.

On completion of the second dive on day three, we will return you to your accommodation in Sanur, Kuta or Nusa Dua.

For further details visit
www.bidp-balidiving.com

Muck-diving and drop-offs - combined two-centre holiday

Eco Divers is offering a combined diving package giving divers the opportunity to dive two resorts and experience two very different worlds of diving in Bunaken and the Lembeh Strait.

Bunaken Marine Park has stunning bio-diversity and drop-offs while over in Lembeh, the world-class muck-diving promises a multitude of rare and mysterious 'critters'

For more information email Eco Divers: info@eco-divers.com or go to www.eco-divers.com

Bali International Diving Professionals



Mola Mola © Robert Delfs

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Finding Dive Spots by Searching for Marine Animals

Two Dutch dive enthusiasts recently launched the website www.divestart.com, a website that helps divers to find worldwide dive locations. By making a selection from a list of sea creatures, the months they'd like to go diving and the region they'd like to visit, they can view a range of relevant results. Worldwide divers can access this information for free but with a message: Preserve the marine environment.

The goal of Divestart is to help divers enjoy the underwater environment and to create an awareness of its delicate nature. "We hope to use our website as a platform to stimulate global and local initiatives to save marine life", says co-founder Geerten van Hooff. "We are aware of the ongoing discussion on the impact of dive tourism on the underwater environment, but we believe that regions often benefit from adding dive tourism to fishing and poaching as the main source of income for locals."

Searching and navigating the website is easy and self-explanatory. Just select "what" you want to see and/or "where" you want to see it and/or "when" you want to go and Divestart will list all places that match

the set criteria, including details and an indication of the probability of encountering the marine life. The chances of actually getting to see the creatures is stated in four percentage brackets, but this is, of course, not guaranteed and is for indication only.

The idea of the website started when the founders were trying to find online information on where to encounter whale sharks and manta rays. "There are many websites that provide useful links to online resources, however, we simply couldn't find any structured information on this. So we started collecting and combining the information we got from various sources into a spreadsheet. We then thought others should benefit from it as well and, well, here's the result", says initiator Mark Kater. He claims that Divestart is "the only site to link data about where and when a particular creature may be encountered, and where this data is easily accessible through a powerful search function."

www.divestart.com

Rod Klein digital workshops

World Class Thailand Liveaboard Ocean Rover & Digital Pro Rod Klein will join forces in 2005 for back to back Digital Workshops.

11 day charters will include the Andaman Sea and Myanmar. Only those interested in taking the Digital Workshop will pay the add on fee of \$250 US.

Beginners and experienced photographers are welcome, but you will be required to supply your own camera and housing system. Minimum system requirements: Digital cameras must have full manual controls, external strobe, and adequate housing. Recommended systems are Olympus 3000-8000 series, Nikon 5000-8000 series and any housed digital slr.

Photoshop sessions will be included and each participant, whether beginner or expert will receive individual attention.

Contact the Ocean Rover for booking information or Rod Klein for any technical questions

2005 Workshop Dates:

Mar 14-26 and Mar 28 - Apr 9

For more information e mail

info@ocean-rover.com

rod@rhkuw.com

Raja Ampat Indonesia Photo Trips

Last Chance for 2004

Nov. 14 - 26, 2004

Nov. 28 - Dec. 7, 2004

Deb Fugitt has 2 spaces remaining on each of 2 underwater photographer specialty trips to Raja Ampat, Indonesia for 2004. These trips are limited to 12 lucky divers and include extra diving, guides and services above the normal liveaboard offering. If you can travel on short notice, contact Deb at tours@cityseahorse.com for details on last minute air travel & prices for diving and photography on the "world's richest reefs".

2005 Trips Announced

Oct. 20 - Nov. 1, 2005

Nov. 3 - 13, 2005

Two back to back charters are set for the 2005 City Seahorse Raja Ampat Dive / Photo Tours. Both are 11 night / 12 day trips with limited participation. This will be our 8th & 9th photo tours we've organized and escorted in Raja Ampat. Cost for 2005 trips is \$3245pp.

www.cityseahorse.com/rajaampat

For details, email:

tours@cityseahorse.com or

call 817 626-0636 in Texas.

Cathy Church's Underwater Photo Centre & Gallery

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NEW!
Cathy's coffee table book
"My Underwater Photo Journey"
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- Check web for summer 2005 week-long digital and film SuperCourse dates! Sign up now.
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at the Sunset House Hotel, Grand Cayman

Cathy Church 2005 SuperCourses

June 18 - 26, July 9 - 17
July 23 - 31, August 13 - 21

A SuperCourse is a week of photo immersion with the best photo help in the world; you get structured instruction mixed with laughs, inspiration and individual help all day long and you are surrounded by others who share your interest.

Classes are limited to 14 and are taught by Cathy at Cathy Church's Underwater Photo Centre at Sunset House in Grand Cayman.

Cathy has been teaching these courses for over twenty-five years, and they just keep getting better.

It's not just a course; it's a wonderful vacation.

And, during the Digital Course, Jack and Sue Drahahl, THE underwater digital guru, will join the digital class to teach you, along with Cathy and her staff.

There is no excuse for not taking this course if you want to take better photographs underwater.

For details visit

www.cathychurch.com

Reef Rainforest offers

Maldives - fabulous new Baani Explorer is now available for 7 night trips from US\$966 person in double ensuite cabins. Flights from UK around 500 sterling.

Indonesia - 16 day Digital photo tour across the Banda Sea from Maumere to Sorong on the Pindito for Oct 20-Nov 5 with Clay Wiseman. There will be a ton of equipment supplied by Amphibico. Truly a once in a lifetime experience! \$4390.00 includes photo seminar.

Galapagos - Galapagos Aggressor Nov 18-25, seven nights to Darwin and Wolf @ \$2675 person. Sky Dancer has a 7 nights Christmas charter to Darwin & Wolf for Dec 19-26 @ \$2795 person.

Tahiti Aggressor Mar 12-26, 2005 - "in search of Tigers" - unique 14 nights dive cruise thru the Tuamotus Archipelago from Rangiroa \$5190.00.

PNG - Febrina Mar 29-Apr 8, 2005 - ten nights from Milne Bay to Rabaul from \$3000.00 pp

Phoenix Islands - May 11-30, 2005 - three week epic adventure trip of a lifetime aboard the fabulous 120ft NAI'A from Apia in the Cook Islands. Price tag of US\$9688

www.reefrainforest.com



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Divequest Secrets of Bali with Alex Mustard September 3rd-16th 2005

The small, exotic island of Bali is world famous for its beautiful landscapes and rich cultural heritage. Its world class diving is a much better kept secret. Dive sites such the Tulamben Wreck have been rightly famous for years, and photographs taken here have filled many coffee table books. Add to this small creature diving sites (frequently referred to as 'muck diving' sites), discovered in the last couple of years, that rival the best in the world, and offshore reef dives that produce regular encounters with Manta Rays.

One main reason that this trip is scheduled for September is that this is the Sunfish season. Sunfish (*Mola mola*) are without doubt one of the most bizarre and mysterious fish in the ocean. Sunfish not only hold the record for the most eggs produced by any vertebrate (one small 1.4metre female has over 300 million eggs), they are also the heaviest bony fish (a 3.1metre-long, 4.2metre high specimen weighed 2.2 tonnes).

To take in all the characteristics of Balinese diving this group tour will take a circular route around Bali staying at three locations, Menjangan

Island, Gilimanuk or Secret Bay and Tulamben from where we can explore a multitude of very different sites. New sites are being discovered on Bali all the time and we may modify this itinerary slightly to include the hottest dive sites of the moment.

Travelling with knowledgeable and experienced marine biologist, Dr Alexander Mustard, is an ideal way to informally learn about some of the most unusual marine life you will ever see.

Alexander has also been responsible for pushing forward digital underwater photography in the UK, as the main digital speaker at the last two 'Visions in the Sea' Conferences and as a co-ordinator of the international digital photography website Wetpixel.com.

Alex feels that the sheer abundance and variety of subjects in Bali makes this an ideal trip for digital photographers. Throughout the trip, he will always be available for any informal discussions about photography and marine life.

www.divequest.com

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The Galapagos
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Plus Underwater Photography Group Trips and Courses with leading photographers: Martin Edge, Linda Dunk, Malcolm Hey, Charles Hood, Gavin Anderson and Alex Mustard.

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Komodo Underwater Photography Workshop November 2005



Mark Webster will be leading a photo workshop to Komodo and Rinca islands with Kararu Dive Voyages in November 2005.

The workshop will be based a luxury bugis schooner 'Sea Safari III'. The boat is well equipped for both film and digital photographers and daily E6 processing is offered (one film per day is included for film users).

The trip is booked directly with Mark - please e-mail to markwebster@photec.co.uk for booking details.

Visit the Photec website for Komodo workshop details and picture gallery www.photec.co.uk

Visit the Kararu website for details of the boat www.kararu.com

4Day Mola-Mola (Oceanic sunfish) and Pygmy seahorse Bali Package

September to November is the season for sighting the huge Mola-Mola (Oceanic sunfish) off east coast Bali, both at the outlying islands of Nusa Penida and Nusa Lembongan and outside Padangbai and Candidasa; while minute Pygmy seahorses (Hippocampus bargibanti) are found year-round in Tulamben Bay, home of the infamous USAT Liberty shipwreck.

Therefore AquaMarine Diving – Bali has put together a four-day/three night package to allow underwater photographers the maximum opportunity to photograph these unique fishes while staying in delightfully comfortable accommodation.

The price for two people is US\$870/£485 (US\$435/£242.50 per person). The price above is valid 1 October to 19 December 2004 and includes land and boat transport; 3nights twin-share deluxe air-con room; breakfast, lunch and soft drinks/water; diving as above; Divemaster; tanks/weights; all local fees and taxes; beach towels.

Evening meals are not included and sightings are not guaranteed.

www.AquaMarineDiving.com





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www.AquaMarineDiving.com

or email us directly
UwP@AquaMarineDiving.com

We do not work as agents for other companies

Digital SLR Housings



For
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Nikon D70
Nikon D100



Digital SLR Housing

To extend the capabilities of the digital SLR cameras Ikelite has designed a new underwater housing. This housing is injection molded of clear polycarbonate for strength, visual access to the camera, LCD screens and camera controls. The ergonomic design places camera functionality at your fingertips for the ultimate in creative control. The interchangeable port system accommodates a wide variety of lenses from super-wide angle to super-macro. The rubber handles offer excellent grip and a quick release system for Ikelite's new SA-100 Arm system. An external Ikelite connector is provided to connect single or dual Ikelite Substrobes.

Features:

- Clear Molded Polycarbonate
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- Clear View of LCD screen
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Sony DSC-F828



Ikelite also offers a full line of housings for Non-SLR digital cameras. Beginner, amateur, or pro, simply get an Ikelite housing for your favorite digital camera. Choose from Canon, Nikon, Olympus or Sony, Ikelite makes housings for several camera models from each of these manufacturers.



Ikelite supports their underwater digital housings with a full line of accessories. Choose from trays with single or dual handle and quick release of strobes. The DS50 Substrobe is ideal for cameras with zoom lenses or choose the DS125 for use with wide-angle lenses. Many Nikon and Olympus models offer true TTL lighting exposure, or use our EV-Controller that gives 10 power settings in 1/2 stop increments for complete manual lighting control. Ikelite also offers a choice in versatile arm systems to meet your needs and budget.

New digital cameras are being introduced at a rapid pace. For the latest information on new digital housing models visit our web site.

www.ikelite.com

