

News, Travel & Events

British Underwater Image Festival March 17-19th 2006

Underwater imaging is to enter a new golden age in Britain, with the introduction of a festival to celebrate the best in video and stills. The British Underwater Image Festival will run from 17 to 19 March next year at the Birmingham NEC as part of the Go Diving! show.

The competition has been designed for everybody from professional television documentary makers to first-time photographers. Plans are underway for the entries to be shown in an event that will mirror the Antibes underwater imaging festival in the South of France.

Organisers of the show are currently putting together a set of lavish prizes for the winners, which will include top-end liveaboard trips, holidays and diving equipment. The best 50 prints will be displayed on the walls outside the dive theatre, while six finalists in the film categories will be shown throughout the show on Friday and Saturday.

'Britain used to have high-quality imaging festivals representing the work of divers, but there hasn't

been anything of note for a long time,' said DIVE editor Simon Rogerson. 'Now we are putting on something which could grow into a showcase for the incredible talent I know is out there. In France, they have the Antibes Festival, which is a red-letter day for anyone who makes pictures underwater. I believe the British Underwater Image Festival could grow into something just as important.'

Entries need to be submitted by 31st January!

www.divemagazine.co.uk

The Zale Parry Scholarship

The Academy of Underwater Arts and Sciences (AUAS) announced The Zale Parry Scholarship at the NOGI Awards Banquet in Las Vegas in October.

Zale Parry herself made the presentation of this new scholarship in her name that will award \$1500 per Recipient and a \$500 voucher towards travel expenses to the Scholarship Presentation Ceremony.

www.auas-nogi.org

Digital Shootout Palau

April 1-11, 2006

Join Dan Baldocchi, Eric Cheng, Berkley White, and Jim Watt



Improve your underwater photography skills at the 5th annual Digital Shootout. Learn the latest digital imaging techniques from some of the industry's top professionals while diving the legendary waters of Palau.

Berkley White, owner of Backscatter Underwater Video and Photo, Eric Cheng of Wetpixel, professional underwater photographer Jim Watt, and Dan Baldocchi of Light & Motion will be your team of experts for week. Seminar topics include: Underwater photo techniques, Lighting and composition, Adobe Photoshop – multiple sessions, Workflow and file management, Printing, slide shows, and sharing on the web

In addition to instructional seminars the Digital Shootout ends with a photo contest that includes some major prizes for the best images taken during week. Prizes include photo gear, trips, software, and more.

We've created the perfect environment to learn new skills and apply them immediately while diving in paradise. Come join this fun and educational event.

For more information go to:

www.thedigitalshootout.com

Space is limited so sign up today!

Humpback Whales of the Silverbanks with Mauricio Handler April 1 - 8, 2006

During the winter months, primarily between January and April, the North Atlantic Humpback Whales migrate south to the Caribbean to mate and rear their young. One of the best places to observe these whales is around the shallow waters of the Silverbanks just 90 miles north of the Dominican Republic.

It is here that you can go to witness these magnificent animals during moments of courtship, tail and fin slapping, male rowdy behaviour and finding cooperative whales to have “soft in-water encounters” while snorkeling.

This is a non-scuba trip. All in-water encounters are done with mask fins and snorkel only (and your camera of course!). There is little free diving done, as the whales tend to come right up close!

While you wait and search for whales onboard the large day boats, you will have the opportunity to listen and digitally record their song. In addition you will be able to use land (dry) camera gear to obtain surface images while you wait to jump in with



cooperative whales.

You will enjoy truly first-class luxury in Nekton's air-conditioned cabins with private baths and spectacular ocean views in every cabin.

The price is \$2495 per person /all inclusive except for crew gratuity.

Contact Mauricio directly with all detailed questions regarding this trip.

mauricio@handlerphoto.com

www.uwpmag.com

Bunaken & Lembeh North Sulawesi



Dive Operator/Retailer.

Host of Asian Diver Magazine's Photo Shoot-Out
(July/August 2005).

UK-owned dive operator in North Sulawesi.

Specialist in underwater photography. Three resident European photo pros offering photo seminars, rentals, courses & sales.

Bunaken National Park, winner of British Airways' Global First Prize for responsible tourism, offers world-class wall diving.
The Lembeh Strait is arguably the most diverse and rich muck-diving destination on the planet.

Two-centre stays available to dive and photograph both unique environments. Quality resort accommodation available in both locations - Tasik Ria Resort in Manado, for diving Bunaken and Kungkungan Bay Resort in Lembeh.

Guaranteed small dive groups with knowledgeable local Divemasters who understand the needs of photographers.
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snapmania online photo manager



The online photo manager snapmania reaches another milestone with new applications for digital pictures. Design stamps with a personalized portrait, enhance your Weblog with your best party photos or surprise your friends with a giant poster of your most beautiful vacation photo.

For USD 39.90 per year, with 2 GBytes of storage, or for USD 59.90 per year, with unlimited storage space, snapmania offers you triple storage redundancy, editing, management and comprehensive use of digital pictures on the Internet.

snapmania is the ultimate online photo manager. Securely saved photos, practical editing, clever organization, uncompromised useability. And all of this without any software installation on your computer as snapmania is online!

www.snapmania.com



Raja Ampat Archipelago

21st April - 6th May 2006
with Malcolm Hey

Unlike Captain Cook, you will arrive in this land from the steps of a scheduled aircraft at Sorong Airport, situated on a small island separated from the mainland of the Bird's Head peninsula, Papua's westernmost point. You will be met by the smiling and welcoming faces of Papua Diving staff; your dive bags and camera gear will be stowed aboard their speedboats and you head off in a northwesterly direction into the Raja Ampat archipelago some 40 miles out to sea and seemingly on the very rim of the Earth.

One and a half hours later, after cutting through a millpond sea splattered with picture postcard islands, you reach your destination - Kri Island, uninhabited and accessed only by boat. There can be few places in our oceans that have remained undiscovered by scuba divers yet this, to all but a few adventure travellers and liveaboard divers who have been lucky enough to call en passant, the Raja Ampat archipelago, has been left virtually unexplored.

www.divequest.co.uk

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Manado, Kungkungan Bay

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Bikini Atoll
Australia's Coral Sea
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French Polynesia
Fiji, Hawaii,
Sea of Cortez
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The Galapagos
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Wetpixel Picture of the Week



Wetpixel is proud to announce the return to an interactive Picture of the Week contest, with public, member submissions and voting. As before, members may enter up to 2 images per week, and each weekly contest will enter a voting period for a week before the results are tallied and presented. It's the perfect opportunity to enter some of your hard-earned images into a friendly, public contest.

During testing of the system last week, their tireless staff uploaded some beautiful images for you to vote on. There is already a new POTW contest accepting entries, so ... go show off! The contest can be found at

<http://wetpixel.com/competition>

www.uwpmag.com

Beneath the Sea's 30th

March 24-26th 2006



In celebration of Beneath the Sea's 30th Anniversary Undersea Exposition and Dive Travel Show at New Jersey's Meadowlands Exposition Center in Secaucus, New Jersey we shall take as our theme: Legends of the Sea. If you are to tell Legends of the Sea, it is best to begin at the beginning, and the people who began it all way back in the early 1930's are Hans and Lotte Hass, the first people in the sea. Now in their eighties, they continue in their spirit of adventure and will voyage from their home in Vienna, Austria to be at Beneath the Sea and help celebrate our 30th Anniversary.

Discover for yourself what's going on Beneath the Sea at

www.Beneaththesea.org

Fathoms Expedition to Similan Islands, Thailand

14-25th March 2006



Join Ethan Gordon, Fathoms' editor and experienced photojournalist, on an eleven-night expedition to Thailand aboard the areas premier live aboard, the Ocean Rover. Explore the Similan Islands where you'll dive into a world of pinnacles and giant underwater boulders with over 500 species of hard and soft corals and a vast array of marine life. Mantas, Ornate Ghost Pipe Fish, Leopard Sharks, nudibranchs, Whale Sharks, Harlequin Shrimp and Guitar Rays are just some of the creatures that you might encounter while exploring these exotic waters.

\$3750.00

Optional Land Excursion March 25-30, 2006 additional \$995.00 per person

www.reefrainforest.com



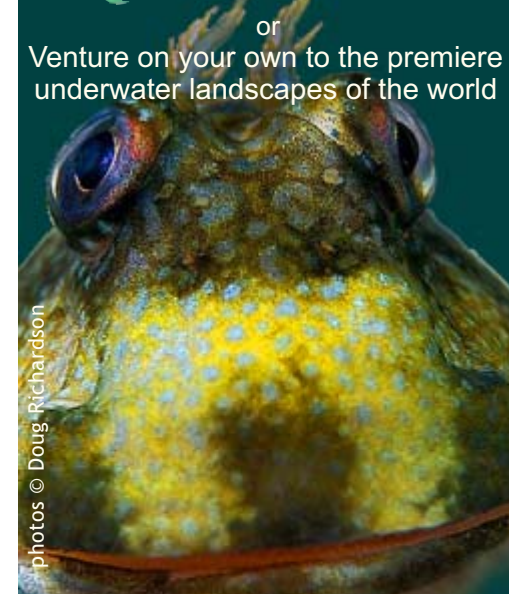
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Let our Experience be your Guide

Toll free(US & Canada) 1 800 794 9767
International +001 415 289 1760
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photo@reefrainforest.com
www.ReefRainforest.com