

The Nikonos V

A Statement From Ocean Optics

It is now official that the Nikonos V camera is to be discontinued following a final production run of 3000 cameras.

As users of the Nikonos system ourselves, and as dealers whose name has been synonymous with the Nikonos line since 1976, we very much regret Nikons decision.

However, once Nikon confirmed the news we immediately made a significant investment in Nikonos V bodies, lenses and strobes.

Ocean Optics Ltd, our sister company which has provided servicing of the Nikonos for a quarter century has also stocked up heavily on spares to ensure continued aftersales to existing and new owners. We will continue to manufacture our close up lenses and macro tubes as we have done for over two decades.

We hope this makes our continued commitment to the finest underwater camera ever produced unambiguous!



The Ocean Optics Team
London

Tony White's Underwater Photographic World

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Diving Guernsey

A little known photographers' paradise

By Steve & Jenny Powell

Like many underwater photographers in the UK, we had pretty much given up on UK diving. Living in the Midlands, trips to the coast had to be planned well in advance and were usually blown out by the vagaries of the weather. A move to Guernsey in the Channel Islands in 1998 gave us the opportunity to resurrect our UK diving and with it green water photography.

Guernsey is one of a group of islands off the coast of Normandy in the Gulf of St Malo known as the Channel Islands. Guernsey is the second largest in the group yet covers only 25 sq miles. Since 1066 AD the Channel Islands have remained possessions of the English Crown however they have their own governments and are not part of the EEC. The main industry is Offshore Finance and they enjoy a more favourable tax status than the UK, for example there is no VAT or Capital Gains Tax. The capital of Guernsey is St Peter Port situated on the east coast and surrounding the pretty harbour often described as one of the most picturesque in the world.

Guernsey boasts one of the largest tidal ranges in the world. A spring tide can give a range of up to 10m and even an average neap tide gives a range of 3m. These big tides are both a blessing and a curse for the underwater photographer. The vast amount of water flowing in and out of the Channel causes some very strong currents, which means the exposed sites are covered in current loving species like Jewel Anemones and large Sea Fans. It also means that the visibility often improves very quickly after bad weather. The downside is that picking the time of your dive to coincide with slack water is critical. For the non underwater photographer there is some very exciting diving to be had.

Guernsey may be a small island but the proximity of its sister islands, Herm, Sark, Jethou, and Brecqhou means that the variety and diversification of the dive sites in such a small area is spectacular. It is interesting that many Jersey divers travel to Guernsey and Sark because they consider the diving here to be so much better.

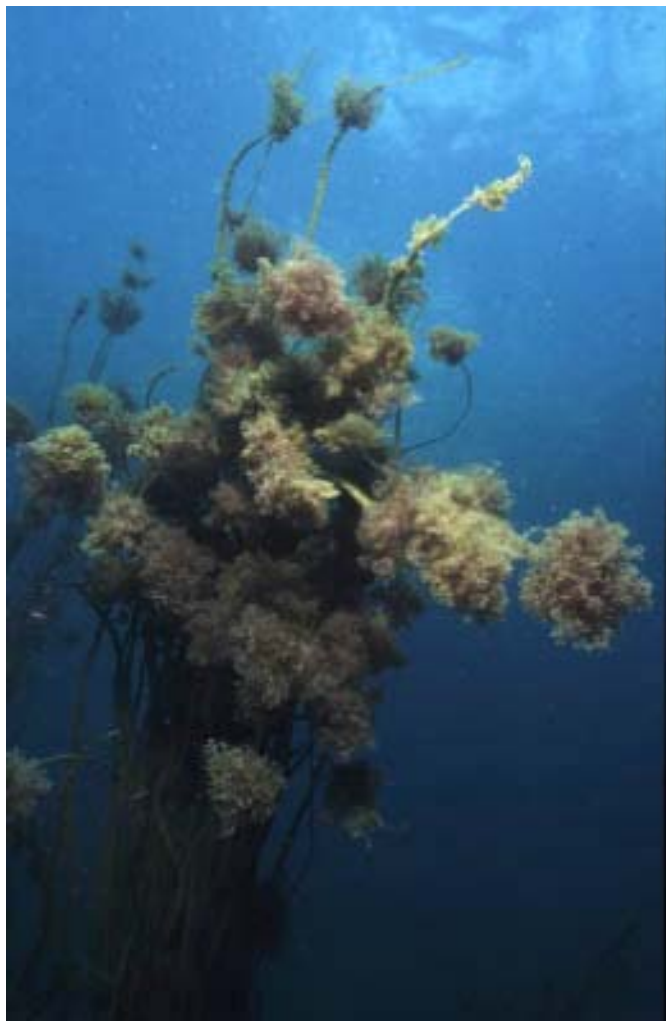
For underwater photography the following sites are some of our personal favourites:



Nikon F5 in Subal housing always set to manual. Flash, Subtronic Mega Colour or SB25. Sea and Sea YS30 slave for macro shots. Set to TTL with -1EV for the wide angle shots. Flash arms, Ultralight. Film, Fuji Provia 100 slide.

The settings are best guess, I bracket a lot and don't take notes underwater!





Havelet Bay, St Peter Port

A shore dive with very easy access that can be dived at all states of the tide except a low spring. The bay is protected from all but strong south easterlies by the harbour wall and the picturesque Castle Cornet, which once served as the military stronghold to protect the town of St Peter Port. Maximum depth is 10-12m. This is superb for macro photography, there being vast numbers of Snakelocks Anemones with resident *Periclimenes sagittifer*, Scorpion Spider Crabs *Inachus* sp and Slender Spider Crab *Macropodia tenuirostris*.

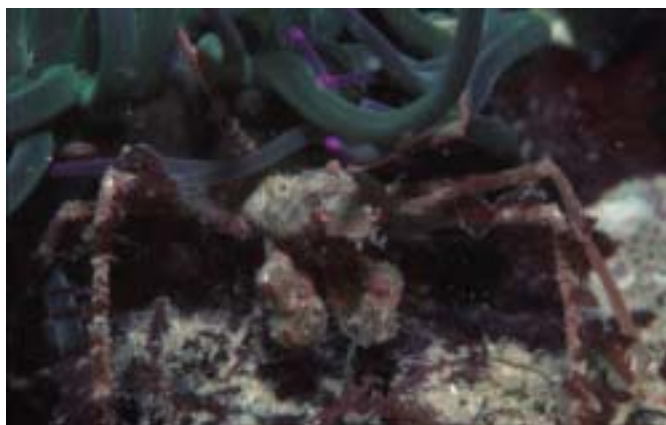
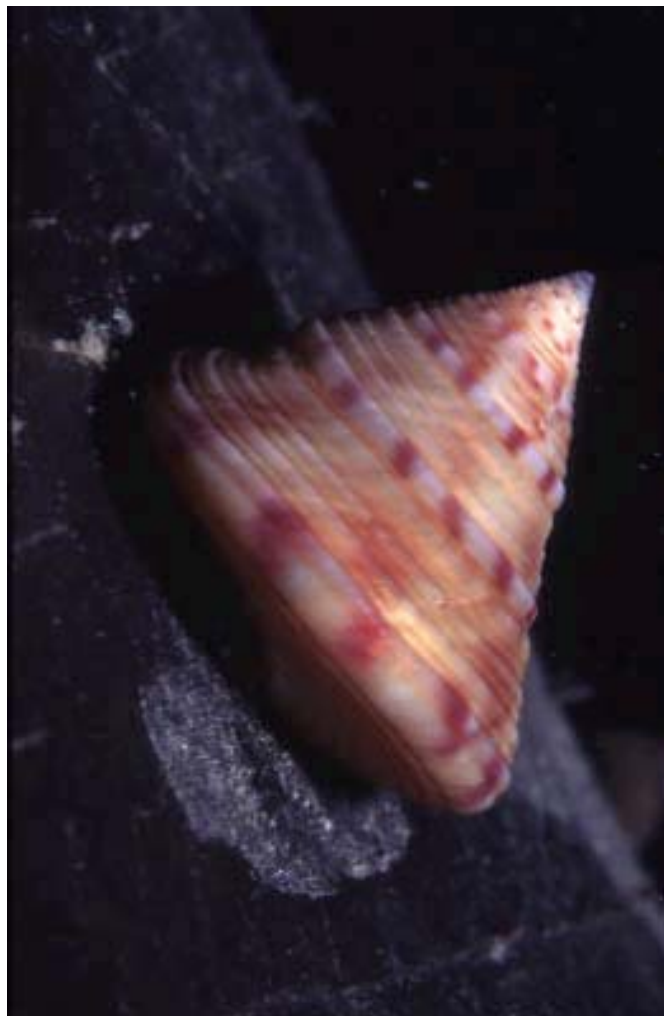
Les Audames Little Russell Channel

This spectacular reef is a small sea mount reminiscent of a Maldivian thila! It can be easily circumnavigated in 20 minutes but it is best to linger on the west and south sides, which are completely covered in Jewel Anemones of every colour imaginable. Many small invertebrates live amongst the anemones. Here you will find the *Periclimenes* shrimp on the yellow boring sponge. The very photogenic Painted Topshell is common here. Across the sand heading slightly south there is often a large shoal of Sandsmelt, a real challenge for wide angle photography.



Parfonde South of Jethou

This is a sheltered reef, very picturesque in the shallows, where masses of granite boulders form swim throughs, overhangs and small caves amongst areas of sparkling white sand domed and carved by the currents. The boulders are home to myriads of fish including Cuckoo Wrasse, Ballan Wrasse, Pollack, Conger Eels, Tompot Blennies and the shy Black-Face Blennie. Moving south there is a superb wall which goes from the surface down to 20m where it becomes a boulder slope down to sand at about 25m. The cracks in the wall are again home to numerous crustaceans.



diving and ex fisherman Graham Eker who owns and runs Dive Guernsey (www.geker.freemove.co.uk) has more than 30 years experience of local waters. He operates a hard boat licensed for 10 divers. He provides diving services to many local divers so it is not necessary to book the whole boat and small groups can be easily accommodated. Accommodation can be arranged through travel agents or the Guernsey Tourist Board (www.guernseytouristboard.com)

L'Etac South of Sark

Many local divers consider this to be the best reef dive in the whole of the Channel Islands. It is subject to very strong currents, is sheer sided, deep and can be challenging for the underwater photographer. Here there is an abundance of the beautiful Sunset Coral. The visibility is often superb making it a good site for wide angle photography.

Winters are mild but windy giving some fairly rough seas. The best time for visiting divers is May to September. Condor Ferries serve the island from Poole and Weymouth. There are easy links from many regional airports. Local knowledge is vital for safe

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