

News, Travel & Events



Destination Dominica webzine

We are pleased to announce the launch of our exciting & innovative new webzine about Dominica.

The webzine is a PDF file (approx 5mb) downloaded from this website. While people can send it via e-mail, we encourage you to link to this page. That way people will always be able to access the latest version of the webzine and future editions.

www.destinationdominica.com

OWU2008 and DEEP2008 Deadlines



The deadlines for the Our-World Underwater 2008 and DEEP Indonesia 2008 underwater photo and video competitions are coming up shortly after the new year.

OWU2008's deadline is January 13, 2008 and DEEP2008 ends on February 15, 2008.

Get your entries in now to compete for \$80,000 in prizes! In addition, winners will be published in a celebratory issue of Wetpixel Quarterly

www.wetpixelquarterly.com

www.underwatercompetition.com

Ocean Optics Open Day with Mark Webster

12 January 2008

Well known photographer and workshop host Mark Webster will be hosting a second open day with Ocean Optics in London on Saturday 12 January 2008.



Mark will make two technique based presentations during the day with plenty of opportunity to ask questions and get advice on your equipment and technical problems. There will also be a short image critique session for specific issues.

The Ocean Optics day is free but it is necessary to book your place in advance. If you wish to bring images for critique please let us know when you book. Time for this session is limited and will be booked on a first come first served basis.

Contact Ocean Optics for full details and to book your place

www.oceanoptics.co.uk

Tel. 020 7240 8193

Wildlife Photographer of the Year Competition 2008



From sub-Arctic waters off northern Canada to the freshwater springs of North Florida, the search for the year's best wildlife photographer has begun.

The Wildlife Photographer of the Year Competition is the world's greatest wildlife photography contest and an international leader in the artistic representation of the natural world. Every year, it showcases the very best photographic images of nature to a worldwide audience, giving people an insight into the beauty, drama and variety of the natural world.

Now in its forty-fourth year, the 2008 competition is open to anyone with an appreciation of wildlife and a passion for fresh, innovative photography. Entrants stand to win an impressive £10,000 prize if

they are given the coveted title of Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2008 or £23,550 share a prize fund if successful in other categories.

The competition has 11 adult categories including Underwater World. The subjects in the Underwater World category can be marine or freshwater. Judges are looking for pictures that are memorable, either because of the behaviour displayed or because of their aesthetic appeal - and ideally, both.

Entry opens on 17 January 2008 and all images must be submitted by 24 March by post or 31 March online.

www.nhm.ac.uk/wildphoto

www.uwpmag.com

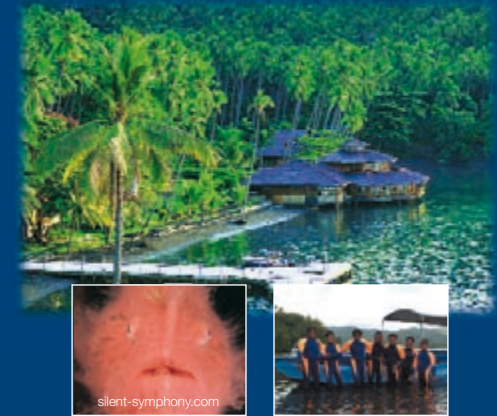
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info@eco-divers.com

eco-divers.com

Kungkungan Bay Resort refurbishment

Kungkungan Bay Resort has just completed a major refurbishment of all its rooms, which has seen a radical change of 'out with the old and in with the new'.

Bedding, pillows, towels, lamps, decorations, furnishings, curtains and cushions have all been replaced incorporating a contemporary yet traditional style, which really reflects the stature of this fabulous resort. All rooms are now fully air-conditioned.

Renowned for its beautiful, secluded setting, fine food and high levels of personal attention and service, the 17-room resort also boasts an swimming pool with bar and an 'over-the-water' restaurant.



The Lembeh Strait is arguably the best destination on the planet for "Muck Diving", offering a unique concentration of rare and exotic underwater species, or "critters", including the pygmy seahorse, mimic octopus and Ambon scorpionfish.

www.divekbr.com

Three New Lonely Planet Books by Tim Rock

Lonely Planet and Tim Rock of Double Blue Images are happy to announce the recent release of the new Diving and Snorkeling guide books for its colorful and informative series.

D&S Thailand, D&S Belize and D&S Cayman Islands joins Tim's other new books on South Africa/Mozambique and Bonaire.

The guides are in full color and feature numerous popular and also unique sites from each of these hotbed diving destinations. All photos are by Tim as well as the info.



www.doubleblue.com



Upcoming International Photo & Video Competitions

There are only 4 competitions in Jan and Feb, but the year is starting off with some big ones! Good luck!

Jan 10
2008 World Press Photo contest

Jan 13
3rd Annual Wetpixel & DivePhotoGuide International Photo & Video Competition

Jan 31
3rd Annual British Underwater Image Festival

Feb 15
2nd Annual DEEP Indonesia International Underwater Photo Competition



1000th Whale Shark Found



The 1000th specimen of the world's largest and most cryptic fish, the whale shark, has been identified thanks to global efforts by hundreds of 'citizen scientists' and eco-tourists.

ECOCEAN, the group behind a unique, award-winning* conservation effort to save the world's threatened whale sharks, today announced the identification of the 1000th identified whale shark in its online Library which shares data from scientists and ecotourists worldwide.

"It's a major milestone, for science and for conservation," says ECOCEAN project leader Brad Norman, of Perth WA. "And it was achieved with the help of ordinary people worldwide who want to study and protect this wonderful creature."

ECOCEAN tracks individual whale sharks throughout the world's oceans using a web-based photo-ID library of the unique spots that pattern the animals' skins. Researchers and eco-tourists submit images, which are logged to reveal a picture of whale shark movements and behaviour over time.

The 1000th shark was reported by a major

contributor to the ECOCEAN Photo-ID Library, Simon Pierce, a marine biologist studying the sharks that visit Mozambique. It was a 6.5m male. Simon has contributed more than 100 sharks from his three year study in Mozambique.

"We can expect there to be substantially more than 1000 sharks alive in the world today. But, even so it is still a very tiny global population that needs close monitoring to ensure its survival.

Participation in the ECOCEAN Library has increased dramatically in recent years. It took three years to reach the 500th shark milestone but only one additional year to reach 1000. This is evidence of willingness by people worldwide to use the Library to study this cryptic giant.

Brad Norman notes: "We're calling on the public worldwide to become 'citizen scientists' and help us study this wonderful animal by logging their images and sighting details on www.whaleshark.org

"This will build a better understanding of this threatened species and help save the largest fish in the ocean from extinction"



Manta Mania
Yap,
Micronesia
24th - 31st May
2008

Manta Ray Bay Hotel & Yap Divers in association with "Save our Seas" are proud to host Manta Mania 24th - 31st May 2008.

This will be a week of combined science, underwater photography and fun with Dr. Andrea Marshall and Tim Rock. Andrea is the founder of the Mozambique Manta Research Project and is doing some ground-breaking work in the area of manta study and marine science. Tim is a Lonely Planet author and Micronesia-based photojournalist as well as expert Manta shooter.

They will be on the dive boats daily along with Manta Man Bill Acker. The week will include a number of manta dives as well as reefs and walls. Evenings will feature captivating film shows and seminars by Dr. Marshall and Rock about mantas and diving in Yap and throughout the world.

Manta Mania participants will do more than dive. They will learn about identifying manta rays and kick-start the Yap Manta Ray ID program. Their photographs and observations will be used as part of a global comparative study on Manta Rays.

Ask for Code TR01 and get the 7 night / 10 Dive Packages starting from \$1229.00 per person.



Wrecks, Reef and Muck in Tulamben with Mark Webster

26th Nov - 3rd Dec 2008

Bali is already well known as an exotic holiday destination and is now building a reputation as a world class diving destination, particularly amongst experienced photographers.



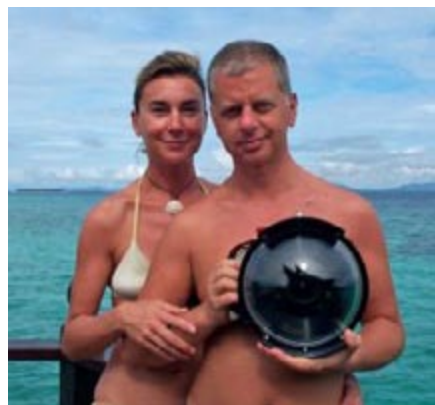
Mark Webster will be hosting a photo workshop at Tauch Terminal in Tulamben Bay, perhaps the best know dive site in Bali and home to the spectacular wreck of the USS Liberty. What makes Tulamben so attractive for photographers is that within a few metres walk you have a truly world class wreck dive, muck diving, shallow reef diving and a wall dive. There is a stunning variety of marine life and different habitats to keep your camera busy for a week or more.

The workshop will include daily presentations from Mark, the opportunity to ask questions throughout the day and a competition to find the best image of the week.

www.photec.co.uk

Ferraris at Kungkungan Bay

June 13th - July 2nd 2008



World-famous underwater photographers and marine life authors, Andrea & Antonella Ferrari, are holding an informal hands-on photo workshop at the newly refurbished Kungkungan Bay Resort (KBR) from June 13 to July 2, 2008.

The workshop is really informal and will look at the creativity and actual underwater action of capturing shots as well as in-depth chats about the subject. Share experiences and make the most of improving your underwater photography with their priceless tips and suggestions.

The Ferraris will also sign copies of their new book, A Diver's Guide to the Art of Underwater Photography - the ideal tutorial for all those diving at KBR.

www.eco-divers.com

International Year of the Reef 2008



Three of the UK's most respected marine conservation groups – Coral Cay Conservation, Blue Ventures and Project AWARE Foundation – announced today they have joined forces to promote coral reef conservation during the International Year of the Reef 2008.

The United Nations has designated 2008 as the International Year of the Reef - a worldwide campaign to raise awareness about the importance of coral reefs and the threats they face. Throughout 2008 the three UK groups will announce public events and activities to promote reef conservation and motivate people to take action to protect them.

It has been 10 years since governments and conservation organizations around the world declared the first International Year of the Reef in 1997. During that first campaign, hundreds of groundbreaking studies were conducted to determine the status of coral reefs and numerous international policies were enacted to protect these vital resources.

Coral reefs have been called the “rainforests of the sea” because of the vast diversity of life they support. Reefs cover less than one percent of the Earth's surface, yet they are home to 25 percent of all marine fish species.

But more than half of the world's coral reefs are at risk from human activities. At the present rate of destruction, 70 percent of the world's reefs will be destroyed by the year 2050.

The three organisations have won international recognition over the years from such bodies as the United Nations, the World Conservation Union and governments worldwide for their work to protect coral reefs in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and the Pacific.

www.projectaware.org www.coralcay.org www.blueventures.org

www.uwpmag.com

Aldabra with John Boyle

14th April -1st May 2009

John Boyle first visited the remote atoll of Aldabra as part of the National Geographic expedition there in 1991, along with David Doubilet. At that time they were the first divers to go there since Cousteau over two decades before. No-one knew what to expect. There was no prior knowledge of where to dive. Only the fact that the Calypso's divers had dared to do it gave them the courage to drift dive the crazy currents of the channels leading from the lagoon to the sea. John's film of that adventure 'Expedition Aldabra' sold to television stations around the world.

The boat itself is one of John's favourites (he says it is the most comfortable motor yachts that he has been on) and the crew is impeccably trained. And our voyage will not only take in Aldabra but a number of other remote and isolated atolls in this uninhabited region of the Indian Ocean, as we island-hop across this beautiful and generally uninhabited archipelago on a voyage from Aldabra back to Mahé in the Seychelles.

Sea Star is a very comfortable, fully air-conditioned teak motor sailing boat with 9 cabins accommodating up to 18 passengers. However, as the flight to



Aldabra can only accommodate 14 passengers plus their luggage, the number of passengers on the boat will be limited to 14 and therefore there will be plenty of space for everyone. The Honeymoon Suite is situated in the bow of the boat and has one double bed and en suite shower and toilet. There are 8 further cabins all with en suite shower and toilet; four have a double bed and four have a double and a single bed. In addition there is a salon with bar and a salon with dining area. There is TV, DVD and stereo for entertainment when you are not searching through your identification guides or working on your images. A washing machine and dryer are available so no need to bring along much in the way of clothing. There is a very pleasant sun deck for enjoying those inter-island cruises.

www.divequest.co.uk

www.uwpmag.com

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Alex Mustard's Red Sea Digital Photography Workshop

7th-14th November 2008



Join leading underwater photographer Alex Mustard on his 2008 digital photography workshop in the southern Egyptian Red Sea, brought to you by Red Sea Safaris and Blue O Two. The trip will focus on photographic diving at the celebrated Elphinstone Reef, The Brother Islands and is timed to coincide with the peak of the Oceanic Whitetip Shark season. If the sharks are around we will



MY Blue Horizon

dedicate plenty time to photographing them. Weather permitting, of course. The area also offers dramatic reefs, exhilarating fish action and several impressive wrecks.

Following the pattern of Alex's liveaboard workshops, digital technique lectures will be split into bit-sized 20 minute morsels and given once or twice a day before dives. Not only does this provide detailed technical information when you need it, but it also frees up the evenings for one to one reviewing of your images, discussing post processing and troubleshooting.

Alex will be joined by Casper Tybjerg, photographer and Nikon Ambassador for Denmark, who will be onboard to provide additional advice and feedback on your images during the evening review sessions.

The trip will be on MY Blue Horizon, widely regarded as one of the best boats in the Red Sea (see the Blue O Two website for more details).

The cost is £1200 which includes diving, accommodation, Alex's digital techniques workshop, food, soft drinks, transfers, Marine Park Fees etc. This price also includes flights from the U.K (London Gatwick) or Denmark (Copenhagen/ Billund). This is just £1 more than a standard trip on this boat in the high season. Given the demand in previous years it is also possible for us to arrange flights from other European airports. The workshop is aimed at DSLR shooters. Some of the divesites may have strong currents and could be exposed to swell. Therefore this is not a trip for those diving with a camera for the first time.

This workshop is a fantastic opportunity to learn from one of the world's most respected underwater photographers. Uniquely, Alex has been an award winner in the BBC Wildlife Photography Of The Year for the last three years running and his latest book "Reefs Revealed" was awarded the "World Grand Prize for Best Book of Underwater Photography" from the Antibes Festival 2007. If you are interested please book early.

To reserve your place please contact Dave Bennett at Red Sea Safaris:

dave@redseasafaris.dk

www.redseasafaris.dk

Shark Angels



Alison Kock, Julie Andersen, Kim McCoy

32 years after the film Jaws showed a defenseless woman being dragged underwater and devoured by an insatiable monster, three women have come together to debunk that largely fictitious image.

Shark enthusiasts Kim McCoy, Executive Director of Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, Julie Andersen, Director of Shark Savers, and Alison Kock, Head Field Biologist of Save Our Seas, have joined forces to create a short feature documentary called Shark Angels. Representing the next generation of shark conservationists, these organizations are coming together for the first time to combat myths about sharks. Production began on November 14, 2007 in the Bahamas.

www.seashepherd.org
www.sharksavers.org
www.saveourseas.com



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February 23rd, 2007



TECH-TALK NEWSLETTER

the e-news for underwater photography enthusiasts

In this issue of URPRO's Tech-Talk News Letter, we'd like to cover 7 different topics including achieving better colors on your images by improving the performance of the filters, facilitating communications, and expediting URPRO filter orders.

Tech-Talk Topics:

- ▶ [Determining the Correct URPRO Filter Size](#)
- ▶ [Location/Position of URPRO Filters in Your Camera/Housing](#)
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Click on the link below to go to the Tech-Talk Newsletter

www.urprofilters.com