

News, Travel & Events

Mark Webster's Underwater Photo Workshops 2008

13 - 20 June & 1 - 8 October



The Red Sea is a perfect photographic studio and has long been a favourite location for underwater photographers and with very good reason. The variety of corals, fish, spectacular colour and water clarity are hard to beat.

Mark Webster made his first visit here in 1976, when things were much more basic, and has been returning here every year since. There are so many subjects here that whatever your experience or interest in photography you are going to be spoiled for choice.

For 2008 we have two live aboard photo workshops on offer. The first in June will depart from Hurghada and move south initially towards Safaga and then make the crossing to the spectacular Brothers islands when the weather is right.

The second workshop in October will depart from Port Ghalib near Marsa Alam to dive the reefs of Fury Shoal, Sataya and Ras Banas in the southern Egyptian Red Sea .

www.oonasdivers.com

www.uwpmag.com



Ocean Optics Relocates to Action Underwater Studios

Ocean Optics and Mavericks Diving has relocated to Essex based Action Underwater Studios. The move will provide the underwater photography and diving specialists with access to Action Underwater Studios unique filming tank. The 10 x 12 metre tank is fully 6 metres deep. According to Steve Warren, owner of Ocean Optics and Mavericks Diving, " sharing Action Underwater Studios facilities means that we can provide our underwater photography equipment clients with a basic in - water camera familiarisation session at the time of purchase. We're also consulting with underwater photography guru Martin Edge on constructing a dedicated underwater set to meet the needs of wide angle and other specialised underwater photography courses. Ocean

Visions has already signed up to run underwater photography courses at the tank".

For teaching complex skills, like underwater photography or buoyancy control, being able to talk to the student is highly effective and makes time in the tank far more productive. We think we may be the only UK dive school that offers this service", explains Steve. Action Underwater Studios, located at Archers Fields, Basildon, is equipped with classrooms, individual changing rooms with showers and free car parking. The studio is associated with the filming of the "Star Wars", "Bourne", "Bond" and "Harry Potter" blockbusters.

www.oceanoptics.co.uk



We are excited to announce a very special trip for 2009 to the Revillagigedos Archipelago, more commonly called Socorro, located in the eastern Pacific Ocean approximately 250 miles south of Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, at the tip of the Baja peninsula, on the live aboard dive vessel the Solmar V. These islands have been compared to the Galapagos Islands in Ecuador or Cocos Island in Costa Rica because of the big animal encounters they provide.

The Solmar V and crew have dived this area since 1992. They have hosted many underwater photographers and film crews and have the knowledge to maximize our

big animal experience. We are seeking the best opportunities for giant Pacific Manta Rays, various shark species including schooling Hammerheads, Dolphins, dense schooling fish, Whale Sharks, large Tuna and Humpback Whales.

We have scheduled this expedition for late March when the water varies between around 70F - 74F, when the humpback whales visit Socorro during these cooler water months. You can usually hear these gentle giants singing on almost every dive and underwater encounters with these whales are increasing every year.

www.divephotoguide.com



Upcoming International Photo & Video Competitions

As the summer kicks in, several competition deadlines approach. Good luck!

June 1st
Subios 2008 - Seychelles

www.subios.com

June 26th
GDT European Wildlife Photographer of the Year
www.gdtfoto.de

June 30th
4th annual underwater.com.au photo competition
www.underwater.com.au

July 1st
San Diego Undersea Film Exhibition
www.sdufex.com

July 1st
38th Annual National Wildlife Photo Competition
www.nwf.org



Antibes Film Festival 2008



The 35th World Festival of Underwater Pictures will be held in Antibes – Juan-les-Pins – France, at the Convention Centre from October 29th to November 02nd 2008

During the Festival, the competitors' films, slides and slideshow will be screened into three rooms.

1000 m2 of space will be reserved for exhibitors. The main hall of the Convention Centre will host magazines, the exhibition of works in competition (still photographs)... and the bar of the Festival.

www.underwater-festival.com

Shoot to thrill



Photographers and photojournalists Jeremy and Amanda Cuff have recently published a new brochure called “Shoot To Thrill Policy” which showcases a sample magazine feature article and an accompanying selection of images.

Jeremy said, “The aim of producing “Shoot To Thrill” is mainly for the purposes of expanding our portfolio of photojournalism work and is a good example of the type of commission that we can produce. It will be sent to editors and publishers, but we’re also happy to send a copy to anyone who may be interested in our work.”

Copies of “Shoot To Thrill Policy” can be requested from Jeremy and Amanda’s website.

www.ja-universe.com

WETPIXEL

QUARTERLY



SPECIAL OFFER FOR UWP READERS

Wetpixel are offering UWP readers a **US \$5** discount on *Wetpixel Quarterly* subscriptions.

See why Howard Hall described *Wetpixel Quarterly* as "a magazine for underwater photographers featuring the best underwater photographers in the world."

To claim your discount, enter coupon code **UWPM2008** at checkout or call **+1.415.449.1456**.

SUBSCRIBE ONLINE:

WWW.WETPIXELQUARTERLY.COM

Plymouth Local Group

Marine Conservation Society
25th anniversary year

OPEN PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

MARINE CONSERVATION THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY

Photos should illustrate some aspect of marine conservation - they could include wonderful coastal landscapes worth conserving, people working with conservation, marine or beach pollution or litter, marine related animal or plant species at risk.....let your imagination roam!

Classes for land and underwater, for adults and juniors.

For a full list of • rules

- judges
- prizes
- copy of the entry form

go to www.mcsplymouthlocalgroup.co.uk/photocompetition

Closing date is Friday 18th July 2008

The winning and highly commended photographs will be displayed at Wembury Marine Centre from 9th to 16th August
Prizes presented Wednesday 13th August

Prizes include

£100 in vouchers sponsored by
Bags2Keep in conjunction with *London Camera Exchange*
£100 in dive shop vouchers sponsored by
Aquanauts and *In Deep*
plus entrance tickets for
Paignton Zoo and *Living Coasts* and more!

bags 2 keep
eco bags
with style



indeep
dive centre



WETPIXEL.COM
digital imaging for divers

8,300 registered photographers
1,330 articles and news items
20,180 forum topics
139,120 forum posts

breaking news
gear reviews
tutorials
image critiques
photo contests
dive expeditions

Wetpixel is the best place to
learn about underwater photography
and videography... and it's free!



Come see why our sponsors and partners work with us!





First Annual Fish ID Challenge

August 9 - 16 or

August 16 - August 23, 2008

Join Sand Dollar and Bonaire Dive & Adventure this summer for their First Annual Fish ID Challenge in conjunction with Fish ID experts Patti & Scott Chandler of ReefNet, Inc. and the island of Bonaire's Dive Into Summer Program.

For many years, Sand Dollar and Bonaire Dive & Adventure have actively supported education and conservation programs designed to contribute to the preservation of Bonaire's magnificent underwater Marine Park. Join them this summer for their latest endeavor, in conjunction with Fish ID experts Patti & Scott Chandler of ReefNet, Inc.. Well known for their work in marine life identification and documentation, the Chandlers have spent the last 17 years documenting fish species, behaviors and creatures for future study and identification.

Participants will enjoy multimedia Fish ID seminars targeting novice to advanced fish watchers

during their stay. Attendees will receive a Bonaire specific, custom printed Fish ID guide of the top 100 most commonly sighted fish found in Bonaire's waters as well as a H2YO Noisemaker (underwater signaling device designed by ReefNet, Inc.) plus one Reef Fish Interactive DVD per couple. During the week, Patti and Scott along with Bonaire Dive & Adventure Naturalist Jerry Ligon will lead guided shore dives on Bari Reef. Several evenings each week, Patti and Scott will share raw, uncut video of these and other dives with participants discussing fish ID and swapping the days "fish stories." One of Scott's specialties is shooting in Hi-Def macro, capturing on tape, interesting fishes and creatures too small to be noticed by the naked eye and fish behavior not normally seen by most divers.

www.sanddollarbonaire.com

www.uwpmag.com

LAYANG LAYANG UNDERWATER DIGITAL PHOTO SHOOTOUT 21 - 27 JULY 2008

PRIZES OVER
30,000
USD
ARE WAITING
FOR YOU.

PACKAGE PRICE 880 USD

PACKAGE INCLUDE

- 7D/6N Twin share accommodation
- All meals
- 12 boat dives (including tank, weight and belt)

PACKAGE EXCLUDE

- Return Flight
- Diving equipment

JUDGE Settimo Ciprianni,
Stephen Wong,
Dr Kurt Svrcula
Rod Klein.

More information and booking please contact

Avillion Layang Layang

Tel: +603 2162 2877

Email: layang@pop.jaring.my

www.layanglayang.com

ORGANIZED BY:



INTERNATIONAL MEDIA PARTNER:



SPONSORS:



Eco Divers - new diving at luxury resort Kima Bajo



From May 2008, Eco Divers will be offering diving and snorkelling services at the attractive upscale boutique Kima Bajo Resort, Manado. The resort beautifully compliments Eco Divers' Kungkungan Bay Resort in Lembeh being of the same high standards. This exciting development sees Kima Bajo and Eco Divers offering highly competitive new dive package prices.

With its own private beach, this phenomenal, unspoilt location is idyllic for diving and relaxation, located just a short boat ride away from world renowned dive sites of the Bunaken National Park. This means that Eco Divers will offer two dives in the morning and one dive in the afternoon with a leisurely lunch back at the resort.



Kima Bajo is the ideal place for divers and non-divers alike with its bar, restaurant, Mayana Spa, private beach and excursions to nearby places of interest.

Accommodation includes 19 luxurious villas with a sunken outdoor bathtub and shower, an exclusive two-villa suite with its own private swimming pool and 12 spacious longhouse suites. The design is constructed from the finest natural materials available locally to create a style that is contemporary and yet very much in keeping with the North Sulawesi image.

Eco Divers will be offering its usual high calibre of customer service to the diving guests and will



be operating brand new, purpose built boats designed by Eco Divers with the diver in mind. They are spacious, built in traditional design but with contemporary interior facilities such as sundecks, rinse tanks, WC, shaded salon and powerful, energy efficient double outboard engines.

The result being that guests travel to the dive sites with speed and in extreme comfort. As with all Eco Divers' diving, the guest-to-guide ratio is kept small at 4 to 1 and with a maximum of just 8 guests per boat. Snorkellers and non-divers are welcome to join any of the trips.

"We are delighted to be involved with Kima Bajo – our experience of Kungkungan Bay and Tasik Ria stands us in good stead and the team is looking forward to welcoming our first guests," explained Eco Divers' owner, Jim Yanny.

www.eco-divers.com

Turks & Caicos Uw Photo Competition June-Sept 2008

This Event has become a major Competition offering \$10,000 US in cash prizes and approximately \$15,000 in subsidiary prizes such as dive travel, cameras, photographic equipment and SCUBA gear from leading manufacturers.

Also, the best twelve photographs taken during the Competition will also be included in the Turks & Caicos annual, international "Out Of The Blue" Calendar with each photograph assigned to a particular month of the year.

Underwater photographers who wish to enter the Competition must take their photographs in the Turks & Caicos during the months of June, July, August or September of 2008 when diving conditions and tropical water temperatures are optimal. Each participant must apply either online or in the Islands for an Official ID Card so they are recognized as a competitor, but the Competition imposes no restrictions on artistic expression.

www.underwaterphoto.tc

The wreck of the El Arish El Tor, Safaga

By Laila Popper, Emperor Safaga dive centre Manager



Captain Karmi starts the two outboards and the speed boat 'Mimi' roars to life. It takes only a few minutes until we reach the site. A back roll gets us into the water where we descend on the line.

All I can see in the beginning is blue water and a school of fusilier but as I continue down, at 17 metres we reach the wreck. She came to rest on her starboard side and we start our dive right at the bow. The name 'El Arish El Tor' is still legible and the anchor chain is covered with soft corals.

We dive past what has once been the bridge, descend further to 35 metres and shine our torches beneath the vessel. The orange rescue boats are tucked underneath and life vests are hanging all over the place. It's an eerie scene, but fortunately the sinking



of this ship did not cost any lives.

On the chimney we discover the logo of the Sayed Nasr lines and I spot a blue spotted sting ray that has made its home here while a very large school of soldier fish attempt to hide in the wreck. We swim through what once was a shaded seating area. Now only metal frames and the roof of corrugated metal are left; fire sponges and purple fan coral give it new life. As we round the stern the two enormous propellers are silhouetted against the surface, covered with huge soft corals and I stop to take a few pictures.

On our way back we encounter thousands (!) of yellow tail barracudas

that are forming an actual layer of fish over the top of the wreck, sweeping back and forth as some large mackerels shoot through them in pursuit. It's time to ascend and during our safety stop we watch a group of Indian mackerels fishing for plankton, their mouths wide open as they swim in synchronised splendour.

As we finally break the surface the captain is ready to help us with

our kit and during the swift ride back we start to discuss all the things we've see on this dive!

We continue recalling more and more details all the way through the beautifully cooked BBQ at the Safaga Beach Club restaurant until it's time for our next dive.

www.emperordivers.com



International Kemer Underwater Days

16 - 19 May 2008

International Kemer Underwater Days (IKUD) is a week of activities organized jointly by the Center for Mediterranean Underwater Archeological Research (AASAM) (www.aasam.net) and the Foundation for the Promotion of Kemer (KETAV) (www.ketav.org), whose goal is to introduce to the world the natural and the archeological beauties of the deep waters of Kemer - Antalya (Turkey) in the Mediterranean. This activity is a member of EUIFA and the partner of UNEP/MAP – Info RAC.

International Kemer Underwater Days includes many activities and a meeting program on underwater imaging and underwater archaeology. It also contains underwater photography and videography competitions which happen in the crystal waters of Kemer at every year in May.

www.kemerfest.net



Experience the best in liveboard diving and learn how to take great pictures underwater at the same time.

Cameras Underwater have teamed up with Tony Backhurst Scuba Travel to bring you "Snapper School" - the opportunity to enjoy diving at its very best and whilst you're at it we'll show you how to get the best out of your camera underwater.

Aimed at the diver who is just taking their first pictures underwater or someone who feels they could do with a little help, you'll learn simple techniques like how to use manual white balance and the benefits of wide angle lenses to more elaborate ideas like using exposure compensation. We'll have equipment on board so you can try out the latest kit without any commitment to buy. This is underwater photography for all, no exotic equipment and no terrifying price tags. You'll work with down to earth guides like Paul 'Duxy' Duxfield.

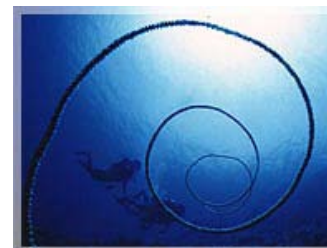
You'll be staying aboard Typhoon, part of the illustrious Tornado Marine Fleet. They are fitted



out to a standard of luxury that puts the rest most definitely in the shade. Jacuzzi, plasma screen and a host of other mod cons including a fridge in every cabin! Are we talking about a liveboard here or a five star hotel! Price for all this? Just £995.00.

See you on board.

www.camerasunderwater.co.uk



With some of the most diverse macro underwater photography dive sites in Indonesia, classic Indonesian muck diving, and great wide-angle underwater picture and underwater video opportunities, it's no wonder the best underwater photographers visiting Indonesia always dive Bali. Whether you are just starting out in underwater photography, or are already an experienced marine photographer, our specialist underwater photography guides can help you achieve your goals in Bali.

For underwater pictures or underwater video of big pelagics in Bali, Manta, and Oceanic Sunfish/ Mambo (Mola mola) then join us for speedboat diving in Nusa Penida.

For macro underwater photography in Bali, Tulamben is the most well-known dive site. Those with more time can also dive 'Secret Bay', Seraya, Pemuteran and PJ dive sites, all of which offer classic

muck diving with a wide variety of underwater critters.

Our specialist underwater photography macro guides have been guiding underwater photographers around Bali for years, and have a practiced macro photographer's eye.

From a simple one day (two dive or three dive) trip, up to an extended Bali Diving, Transport & Accommodation custom diving safari, let Bali Scuba handle all the diving logistics leaving you to concentrate on capturing your perfect marine image.

Depending on your diving itinerary we are happy to provide FREE NITROX to divers already Nitrox certified.

Let us know how many divers & how many diving days, and any special requests, and we'll get back to you with some suggested dive itineraries.

www.baliscuba.com

Discover UNDERWATER Photography



Canon

EOS 5D
EOS 20D
EOS 30D
EOS 40D
EOS 350D, Rebel XT
EOS 400D, Rebel XTi
EOS 450D, Rebel XSi

Fuji

S-5 Pro

Nikon

D40, D40x
D50
D60
D70, 70s
D80
D200
D300

Olympus

E-330
E-410
E-500
E-510
E-3

Sony

A100
A-700

SLR-DC Housings

The Ikelite SLR-DC housing takes full advantage of the digital SLR camera's innovative features. The housing is injection molded of clear, lightweight polycarbonate for strength, visual access to the camera, LCD screens and camera controls. The housing provides controls for most camera functions. Most Ikelite SLR-DC housings include conversion circuitry that provide TTL compatibility with the latest Ikelite DS Substrobes. Many housings also include a Flash Compensation Module which provides over and under-exposure compensation in the TTL mode and easily allow you to switch to Manual Exposure Mode which provides eight power settings. All exposure compensation is done on the back of the housing. There is no need to access complicated camera menus.



Underwater Systems
50 W. 33rd. Street
Indianapolis, IN
46208
317-923-4523

www.ikelite.com

Ikelite Compact Digital Still Housings for

Canon • Fuji • Nikon • Olympus • Sony

Ikelite offers housings for more than fifty different digital still camera models to meet the diverse demands of the underwater photographer community. Ikelite's Compact Digital Still Housings are molded of clear polycarbonate. Dive while knowing your system is safe and have complete visual access to the camera, LCD, monitor and control functions. Most housings are rated to 60m (200').

Ikelite AF35 AutoFlash Kit

Fits most compact digital camera housings.

Ikelite • Canon • Olympus • Sony

The AF35 AutoFlash replicates your camera's flash for automatic exposure in any situation. You only have to know how to point.

The AF35 AutoFlash kit is an effortless and affordable way to add an external flash to your point-and-shoot camera system. Everything you need to get started is in the box - just attach it to the bottom of your housing and start taking pictures!

