

Book Review

Magic Beneath the Seas

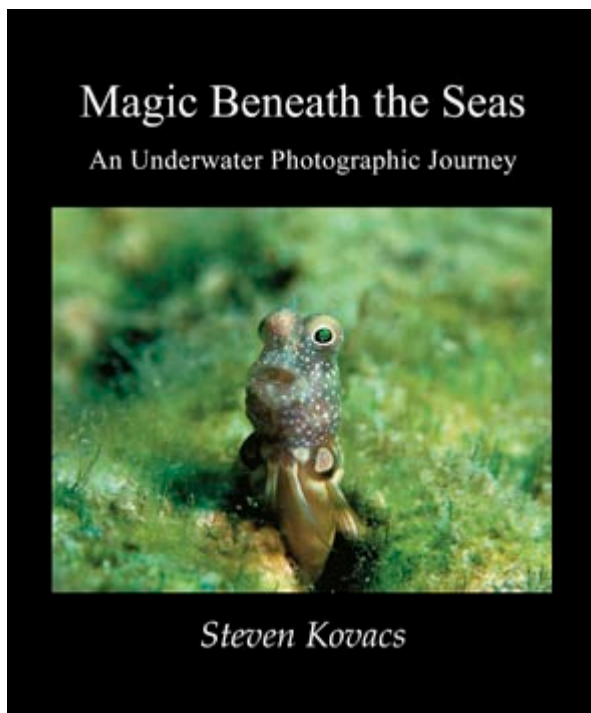
An underwater
photographic journey
By Steven Kovacs

Steven became an avid underwater photographer in 2001 and since then has taken the 317 images which make up this coffee table book. Magic Beneath the Seas is a testament to his talent and is a remarkable achievement bearing in mind that he is not a professional and is in fact a dental surgeon by trade.

To achieve such consistent image quality in such a comparatively short period of time is very impressive and in the majority of portrait shots there is an eye to eye contact which is quite arresting giving me the feeling that I, the alien intruder, am being observed rather than the other way round.

As the title implies this is a photographic rather than a written journey, a visual feast rather than a tome which is good but there were times when I would have preferred to sacrifice the space devoted to splendid images and have them replaced with some textual meat. Some more

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subject or photographic background to enhance the already plentiful, visual feast. That would help me take my mind off how photographically jealous this book makes me.

Price: \$44.95 U.S.
240 pages
317 photographs
10 x 12 hardcover
ISBN-10: 097920870X
ISBN-13: 978-0979208706

www.underwaterbliss.com

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Guidelines for contributors

The response to UwP has been nothing short of fantastic. We are looking for interesting, well illustrated articles about underwater photography. We are looking for work from existing names but would also like to discover some of the new talent out there and that could be you! UwP is the perfect publication for you to increase your profile in the underwater photography community.

The type of articles we're looking for fall into five main categories:

Uw photo techniques - Balanced light, composition, etc

Locations - Photo friendly dive sites, countries or liveaboards

Subjects - Anything from whale sharks to nudibranchs in full detail

Equipment reviews - Detailed appraisals of the latest equipment

Personalities - Interviews/features about leading underwater photographers

**If you have an idea for an article,
contact me first before putting pen to paper.**

E mail peter@uwpmag.com

How to submit articles

To keep UwP simple and financially viable, we can only accept submissions by e mail and they need to be done in the following way:

1. The text should be saved as a TEXT file and attached to the e mail

2. Images must be attached to the e mail and they need to be 144dpi

Size - Maximum length 15cm i.e. horizontal pictures would be 15 cm wide and verticals would be 15cm.

File type - Save your image as a JPG file and set the compression to "Medium" quality. This should result in images no larger than about 120k which can be transmitted quickly. If we want larger sizes we will contact you.

3. Captions - **Each and every image MUST have full photographic details** including camera, housing, lens, lighting, film, aperture, shutter speed and exposure mode. These must also be copied and pasted into the body of the e mail.

Parting Shot

Our particular trip to Grand Cayman, hosted by Dive Tech and Cobalt Coast Resort during Tek Week, included a visit to Stingray City. There was more than a little eye rolling among the tech divers of the group when our divemaster asked how many wanted to go. Two of us decided to say yes and make the forty minute boat ride to North Sound and check it out. Stingray City probably sees more visitors than any other place in the Caribbean, so I just planned on using the 12 foot max depth dive as an extra “safety stop” and not expect too much.

As we pulled up to the sandbar there were at least a dozen boats already there. OK, I thought, just smile and get suited up. Our guide finned us over to a nice clear patch of sand and we settled down. It couldn't have been but a minute or two and all of a sudden a whole squadron of winged southern stingrays descended on us. After another couple of minutes there was nothing but flashes of grey, white, and an occasional swim fin protruding out of the suspended sand ball like a cartoon fight seen. When the large green moray with cataracts showed up it went into high gear.

People started paying less

attention to the rays and started focusing on our big toothed friend. I imagine more than a few folks would have liked to know before the dive that Mr. Green was hard-of-seeing! He (I assume he was male by how he acted) had no problem winding his way sinuously around whomever he felt might have a treat for him.

One of the human guests - who it turns out, loves morays - decided to touch and pet him. Before long they winded their way around the sand bottom in a dance that wasn't to unlike a tango. By this point most of the goodies the dive guide brought down were gone and only a few rays were left buzzing the perimeter. Those of us who followed the action were amazed at how little trepidation our diver had in handling this wild animal. As the moray's partner got bolder, I couldn't help think that he was going to signal that he had had enough in a very moray like way. After a few more minutes the eel decided there just wasn't anymore food around and took off for his next encounter. We could hear a slew of anchors dropping in so it wouldn't be long. I'm just glad ol' Mr. Green was in a good mood for the duration of our visit. As to whether or not the sojourn to Stingray City was



Nikon D2x, Subal ND2 Housing, 10.5mm FE lens, f13 @ 1/160sec, Dual Ikelite DS-125's set at 1/2 power

worth it; well, I shot over 150 photos in less than twenty minutes and had a ball.

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Do you have a nice shot with a short story behind it?
If so e mail me and yours could be the next "Parting shot".
peter@uwpmag.com