

News, Travel & Events

Blue Whale Cafe with Amos Nachoum

Jan 13 - 28, 2014



Measuring between an impressive 70 to 90 feet, blue whales are the largest creatures on the planet, and every winter they journey home to the Costa Rica Dome to eat, play, mate and most importantly birth and nurse their calves. Unlike any other habitat, blue whales can be observed in almost every stage of their life here. For this reason I call the Costa Rica Dome the “Blue Whale Cafe” — the ultimate gathering place for the sea’s SuperGiants during the months of January through March.

Just 500 miles west of Costa Rica, deep in the heart of the Pacific Ocean, the Costa Rica Dome has attracted scientific interest since the 1950s. Rich in plankton blooms, algae and other nutrients, it is the feeding ground for a variety marine life. Because of its stable, nourishing

habitat, the Dome is critical to the endangered blue whale’s future.

Surprisingly, there’s been only one onsite study of the Costa Rican Dome, conducted five years ago by the BBC and National Geographic. Since then no other scientist, diver or photojournalist has ever explored the Costa Rican Dome, mainly due to logistical issues and lack of in-depth knowledge of the location. But I’m excited to announce that Big Animals has designed an exclusive, authentic, first-of-its-kind expedition to the Costa Rican Dome in 2014 to mingle among the supergiants. This is a peerless and exhilarating expedition for ocean enthusiasts and divers, complete with phenomenal never seen before views.

Partnering with world-recognized best dive operators Undersea Hunter Group on the 130 foot luxury and seaworthy dive vessel ARGO, and world-leading blue whale research Richard Sears, 14 adventurers will dive into the dome to experience and record the most complete picture of the SuperGiants’s life.

www.biganimals.com

www.uwpmag.com

Coming Soon - S/Y Fiji Siren

Siren Fleet Liveboards will begin operating diving safaris in Fiji with the S/Y Fiji Siren from October 2013, run in partnership with the Darling Family’s Volivoli Beach Resort.

Our 7-night and 10-night liveboard dive trips offer diving at some of Fiji’s most highly rated dive sites.

With 20 years’ experience of diving in Fiji, we have the knowledge to bring you to the optimum locations at the best time of year.

Departing from Viti Levu



we visit the Namena Reserve and Savusavu before moving onwards to Taveuni Island and the Somosomo Strait. Also diving Wakaya Island in the Lomaiviti group and the Nigali Passage.

www.wwdas.com

Under Water Visions







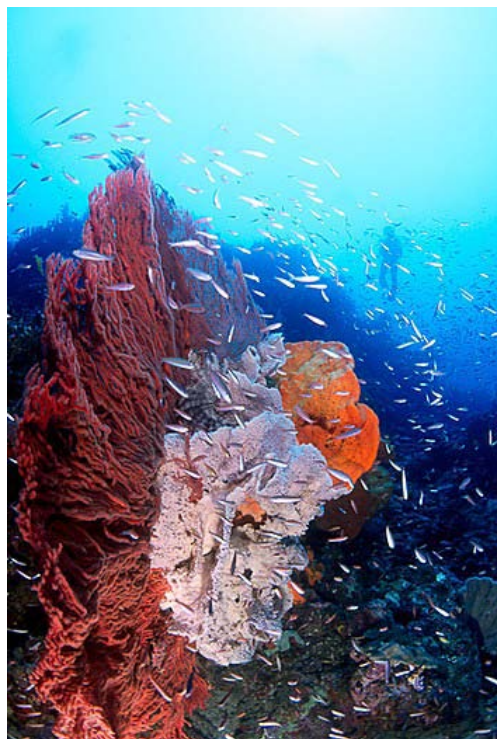
Stand Out from the Crowd

www.uwvisions.com
www.nauticamuk.com

Ultimate Papua New Guinea with Michele Westmorland 9th - 20th October 2013

Michele Westmorland is a well respected and highly regarded freelance photographer, adventurer and explorer! She has extensive experience of photography above and below the waves but her underwater photography skills are what set Michele apart from the ordinary travelling photo journalist. In the early 1990s, Michele made her first trip to Papua New Guinea and made her first foray into photographing underwater life and scenery. Since then Michele has notched up over 25 visits to Papua New Guinea and is widely acknowledged as something of an authority on this mysterious destination.

For her inaugural Divequest expedition, Michele has chosen to charter the liveaboard FeBrina for a 9 night cruise of its 'Signature Itinerary' taking in Walindi, Kimbe Bay, Witu and Father's Reef. This particular itinerary has long been acknowledged of something of a 'Best of the Best' diving on offer in Papua New Guinea and with someone of Michele's experience at your side, you'll never have a better opportunity to get more out of a trip to one of the world's top dive destinations. Papua New Guinea



Busy reefs of Kimbe Bay (Michele Westmorland)

stands totally apart from the usual travel destination. Those divers with a spirit of adventure and a yearning for discovery should look no farther than Papua New Guinea and in particular the island of New Britain.

www.divequest.co.uk



Issue 71/6

DiveQuest

THE ULTIMATE IN DIVE TRAVEL & UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHY TOURS

Photo: Martin Edge



www.divequest-travel.com

The Cayman Photoquest with Martin Edge 5-15th May 2012

Bali: The Art of Underwater Photography with Shannon Conway 21 November - 1st December 2012

Sharks & Dolphins of The Bahamas with Charles Hood 19 - 26 April 2013

Galapagos: The Art of Underwater Photography with Shannon Conway 11-24th June 2013

Ultimate Papua New Guinea with Michele Westmorland 19-30th October 2013

Truk: The Art of Underwater Photography with Shannon Conway 4-11th May 2014



DPG Expeditions

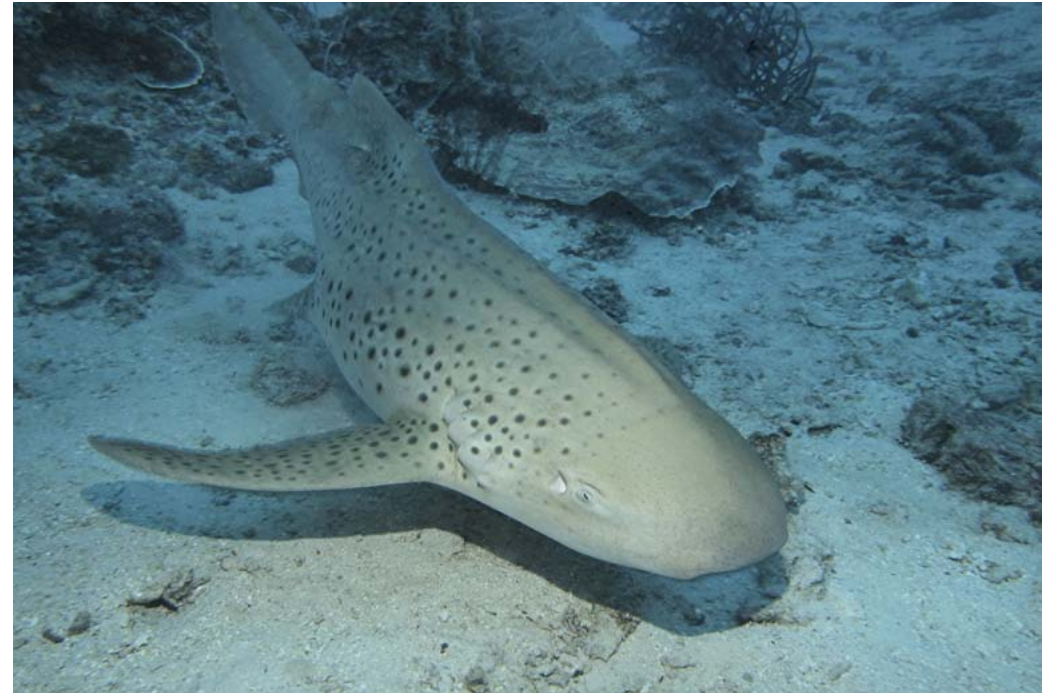
Guadalupe Great White Shark Photography Expedition

September 7 - 11th 2013



For more information contact trips@divephotoguide.com

Wild West Sulawesi



Many world class dive destinations are known around the large and sprawling island of Sulawesi, including Bunaken National Park, Lembeh Strait, and the Tukang Besi chain of islands. Yet very few divers have explored Sulawesi's Wild West coast.

Facing the deep Makassar Strait that separates the islands of Sulawesi and Borneo, this long stretch of coastline boasts a series of great dive sites. Cold upwellings from the depth provide for a good chance to see larger fish, including sharks, trevallies, barracuda and eagle rays.

At the same time, secluded bays and sheltered islets offer tranquil diving rich in macro subjects.

Very few divers have ventured this far, yet from June to September, the SMY Tambora offers cruises combining West Sulawesi with Indonesian Borneo or North Sulawesi. With May-September being the best time to visit and dive in this part of the country, Wild West Sulawesi makes for a great dive destination over the summer holiday months.

www.tamboradive.com

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Sea of Cortez with Alex Tattersall

28th September - 5th October 2013

One of the primary focuses of this trip is to spend several days diving with the famously friendly California Sealions in the waters around Los Islotes off La Paz. Our trip is planned to coincide with the young sealions making their first unsupervised dives, catching them at their most curious, cute and mischievous.

The Sea of Cortez offers much more than sealions. This is just one of those places where anything can and often does show up. With luck the Whale Sharks and Manta Rays will be visiting the Sea of Cortez at the same time as you will be. Manta Rays can be very friendly in the Sea of Cortez as they are quite used to diver. As we drop down on to some reefs, the mantas may well find us and treat divers to a personal acrobatic display. Check out the patterns on the undersides of the mantas as this will help in identification and you will know if a particular Manta Ray joins you on another dive.

The focus of this trip is to maximize our time underwater where the real practical learning can take place. As such, formal, directed teaching will mostly give way to a more informal hands-on approach



to improving our photography together in a relaxed, non-competitive environment. Although Alex will be available to share his technical and creative experience and provide feedback and suggestions for developing your individual photographic style, the expectation is for all guests to contribute to a constructive and enjoyable peer-learning experience for all.

www.divequest.co.uk



Tambora Dive Cruises

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aboard SMY Tambora

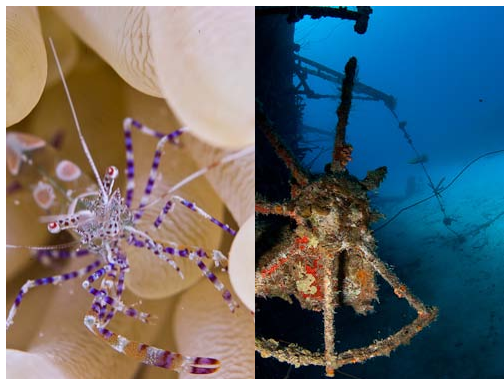


Kei Islands
Triton Bay
Raja Ampat
Fak Fak
Toli Toli
Borneo
Halmaheira
Banda Sea

www.tamboradive.com
info@tamboradive.com

Nauticam & ReefPhoto Bonaire Workshop

July 13th - 20th 2013



We are excited to repeat our Bonaire trip July 13-20, 2013, at the Roomer hotel. Roomer is a very cool family run boutique hotel that provides easy access to Bonaire's excellent southern dive sites with some of the easiest shore diving entries on the island.

Nauticam USA's Chris Parsons and Reef Photo's Alan Egan will be on hand for photo shows, critiques, and gear support. This week long adventure includes lodging, breakfast, unlimited shore diving with Nitrox, and a truck rental for \$1195.

Tanks for shore diving are provided by Belmar Apartment's Dive Shop, which is directly across the street from Roomer. An excellent shore dive is also available at Belmar, as well as unlimited tanks for shore diving, and access to the shore diving and drive through tank station at

Buddy Dive.

As an added bonus, right now flights are cheap! The past few years have seen a significant increase in airfare costs to the island, but right now prices are competitive. R/T from Houston on United is \$620, and we've seen it go for twice that.

Bonaire's gently sloping dive sites have prolific life in as little as 10 ft of water. Most sites are easily accessible from shore, allowing divers to set their own schedule, and stay as long as they wish. This convenience and flexibility makes Bonaire the perfect place to get to know a new underwater camera system, or fine tune your skills!

www.reefphoto.com



Underwater Photography Workshops with Mark Webster
Red Sea 13-20 October 2013
Maluku Divers, Ambon Indonesia 22 February to 1 March 2014
www.photec.co.uk www.oonasdivers.com



ECO DIVE RESORT
Alor Archipelago, Indonesian Seas

ALOR DIVERS www.alor-divers.com



Galapagos with Shannon Conway

11th June - 24th June 2013

Shannon has chosen the infamous Galapagos Islands of Ecuador for his next Art of Underwater Photography expedition. The photographic potential here is immense, however it is for the experienced diver and photographer only! Because of the nature of Galapagos diving, and the prevalence of swift currents, Shannon will not be conducting a formal workshop as he usually might. It is simply not possible to dive and shoot the way he might

usually where conditions are calmer. Shannon will be available and willing to critique and evaluate your work in the evenings. He will also give talks and host discussions on some evenings.



www.divequest.co.uk



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22nd - 24th March 2013



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www.uwpmag.com

2013 Underwater Photography Workshops with Rico Besserdich

Professional underwater photographer Rico Besserdich has announced the dates of his 2013 workshops:

30th April to 7th May 2013:

“Shooting Big Fish“

Location: Yap Pacific Dive Resort - Yap, Micronesia

7 nights, 5 days of diving. USD 1,699.00 per person (includes B&B accommodation, dives & workshop) for more informations & reservations :

www.yap-pacific.com

22nd -29th June 2013:

“Creative Underwater Photography“

Location : Oonas Dive Club - Sharm El Sheikh, Red Sea

7 nights, 5 days of diving. EUR 749.00 per person (includes B&B accommodation, dives & workshop)

www.oonasdiveclub.com

10th -17th November 2013:

“Creative Underwater Photography“

Location : Oonas Dive Club - Sharm El Sheikh, Red Sea

7 nights, 5 days of diving. EUR 749.00 per person (includes B&B accommodation, dives & workshop)

www.oonasdiveclub.com

The main objective of Rico’s workshop is to develop a creative, individual style of uw photography, the idea is to become different and (as a photographer) stand out from the masses. There will be no teaching of photography basics or main functions of a camera since candidates will be expected to know this already. The workshops are ideal for those who already master the basics of uw photography, but want to bring their results to the next level.

ricobesserdich@gmail.com



Mantas, Dolphins, Sharks & Baitballs Socorro Islands May 23rd - June 1st, 2014

The Revillagigedos Islands, also known as the Socorro Islands, are located 250 miles offshore southwest of Cabo San Lucas, Mexico. They form an oasis for pelagic life amongst their volcanic shores. Many hammerhead and silky sharks, giant manta rays, dolphins, sailfish, schools of jacks and tuna come to feed, mate and get cleaned by small pandemic Clarion Angelfish.

These animals tend to be quite friendly towards divers at times, allowing for fantastic interactions and blue water photo opportunities.

Optical Ocean Sales has organized a trip to go at a perfect time of year to find baitballs; schooling small fish that the predators encircle and feed on. These swirling “balls” of fish are attacked above and below water by sailfish, sharks, and dolphins - and are a mass of action for underwater photography.

Our expedition will be on the Solmar V, a luxury liveaboard, which has been sailing these waters for many years, with probably the most experienced and friendly crew around. Best of all, our head guide will be Erick Higuera, a biologist and photographer, who just won the



Beneath the Sea “Stan Waterman Award for Underwater Video” for his film “Baja”. He has worked for many years on the Solmar and has extensive experience in the islands.

He will be joined by Optical Ocean Sales owner Jack Connick (making his 4th trip to the islands), to help you get the most of your underwater photo opportunities.

www.opticaloceansales.com



Backscatter Expedition to Komodo & Alor with Berkley White and Erin Quigley

Imagine islands where every dive features reefs teeming with life and some of the world's most unique and tiny creatures, where dragons roam the beaches, and where local villagers free dive with you. This is what you will experience on an epic adventure to Komodo and Alor.

Backscatter Owner Berkley White first explored Komodo in 1995 and his images were some of the first extreme macro and wide angle scenics to come from an area that many consider the homeland of Indonesian underwater photography.

Berkley now has logged hundreds of dives and years of boat charter experience across the Indonesian archipelago from Bali to Raja Ampat. With all of this experience, Berkley specifically chose to return to Komodo and Alor for his Indonesian adventures in 2013.

Berkley has teamed up with Erin Quigley to bring you the ultimate in learning during your photo dive adventure. Erin Quigley is an Adobe ACE certified expert specializing in customized workflows and editing strategies. She is an award-winning underwater photographer and video editor, and creator of GoAskErin.com, which provides custom tutorials and one-on-one instruction specifically developed for the underwater photographic community.

Each of the 10 guests on this exclusive trip will have access not only to Berkley's extensive and inspirational photographic techniques, but also to personalized one-on-one editing and workflow sessions with one of the world's top Photoshop and Lightroom gurus.

www.Backscatter.com

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Photo: Annie Crawley, Family Dive Adventures

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