

News, Travel & Events

Could you be named the Underwater Photographer of the Year?



That is what this brand new contest, the Underwater Photographer of the Year, London 2015 is hoping to discover. It is a competition for all types of pictures taken with cameras underwater: ocean and freshwater, wide angle and macro, wrecks, divers, models, abstracts and more. We simply want to celebrate the best.

The competition is based in Britain and has been launched to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the original Brighton Underwater Film Festival, in its day, arguably the world's most prestigious contest.

In addition, to the overall award, we will also name a British Underwater Photographer of the Year and a Most Promising British Underwater Photographer, 2015, open to both those that live in the UK and

www.uwpmag.com



International speakers from Brighton 1987 including Sylvia Earle, Stan Waterman, Emery Kristoff, Helmut Debelius and David Doubilet. Eagle eyed readers may even recognise a very young looking Peter Rowlands!



British expats.

A glittering selection of more than 30 prizes from leading brands Nauticam, Apeks, Fourth Element and Scuba Travel will reward the category



winners and more. Winning images will be exhibited at the London International Dive Show and prizes will be presented on the PhotoZone stage at the show, followed by an underwater photography social.

Perhaps, most importantly these days, the judges, Alex Mustard, Martin Edge and Peter Rowlands, will all meet, discuss and pick the winners face to face (no online judging!).

You've got to be in it, to win it!

www.upylondon.com

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Issue 81/5



Backscatter's Berkley White Cocos trip 2015



In 2015, Backscatter's Berkley White will be returning to Cocos Island, known for its hammerhead shark encounters, as well as other big animal action.

My Cocos trips always include a diverse group of people. Our typical mix is a majority of traditional scuba divers and a small group of rebreather divers. While our rebreather divers take their life support practice very seriously, they are there to shoot and explore and not just talk tech all day long. It makes for a great people mix and learning experience for everyone.

As with all my trips, I work with the diving staff to maximize every photo and video opportunity available. I have very specific dive sites and techniques planned for this trip.

As our trip draws near, I work with the world class Undersea Hunter dive staff to customize our itinerary to match current conditions. I can

promise our trip will deliver the best Cocos has to offer during our time there.

On our way out to the island, I'll give a brief presentation on my recommended diving and shooting techniques to help you avoid the pitfalls I experienced many years ago and get your head calibrated for shooting great images.

Once on island, I will give group presentations or personalized help based on requests and group interest. I of course can't fix every gear failure in the field, but my trusty tool kit and I will be by your side.

Join me for a photo expedition of a lifetime!

Contact Dan Baldocchi to reserve your spot. Space is limited!

Dan@UnderExposures.com

Call for entries: Beneath the SEA 2015



The Beneath the SEA International Imaging Competition 2015 is calling for entries. It offers many categories, including the Stan Waterman Award for Excellence in

Underwater Videography, the David Doubilet Award for Excellence in Underwater Photography and the Jim Church Award for Excellence in Underwater Creative Photography.

The deadline for entries is 12 December 2014, with the winners being announced at the event on 27 March 2015. Full details and entry forms can be found on the event's website.

www.beneaththesea.org

(Image is "Macho" By Uwe Schmolke)



The Adventure Travel Show 2015

Olympia

The Adventure Travel Show takes place at London's Olympia on 17-18 January 2015.

This is your chance to immerse yourself in a weekend of adventure travel inspiration and discover off the beaten track travel experiences with the biggest collection of specialist travel operators under one roof. Plus, listen to over 100 FREE Talks from renowned adventurers, explorers, industry experts, guide book writers and expedition leaders who will help you uncover your perfect adventure.

The best adventure speaker line-up of the year will feature at The Adventure Travel Show 2015! Come and hear these incredible presentations and more, for a full speaker lineup please visit www.adventureshow.com

General show tickets cost £8 in advance or £10 on the door, under 16s are free. Weekend tickets are also available for £12 in advance or £15 on the door.

www.adventureshow.com

Speaker Announcements for the Adventure Travel Show 2015



Photo Credit: John Cleare

Sir Ranulph Fiennes, described by The Guinness Book of Records as the "world's greatest living explorer" has broken an array of world records and led many expeditions to remote regions. He truly is an icon for adventurous travel.

Having been the first person to reach both the North and South poles by foot, Sir Ranulph has not just limited himself to one type of adventure – he also led the first unsupported crossing of the Antarctic Continent which was in turn the longest unsupported polar journey in history, ran 7 marathons in 7 days on 7 continents (soon after suffering a major heart attack and a double bypass), climbed the North Face of Eiger and even conquered Everest in 2009 (aged 65).



Monty Halls, a former Royal Marines Officer, formed his own expedition company, leading diverse teams through some of the most demanding environments on earth. His projects have taken him on four circumnavigations of the globe over a five year period. Some of his expeditions have included the discovery of a sunken city off the coast of India, exchanging gunfire with poachers on the Nyika Plateau in Africa and many others. This year alone he has not

only run 6 UK dive expeditions, diving in remote locations that rarely, if ever, have been dived before with small groups of clients, as well as filming a new series for Discovery covering Guyana, Borneo and Venezuela. Monty has also presented five series for the BBC and is a successful writer and adventurer.

www.adventureshow.com



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Tonga

July 21- August 1, 2015



The Kingdom of Tonga is located in the very heart of the South Pacific, lying east of Fiji and south of Samoa. It is one of the most scenic and unspoiled of the Pacific island nations.

Tonga is the only remaining Polynesian Kingdom and is not a mass destination like Fiji or Hawaii. Tonga has a NNE/SSW orientation with 176 islands ranging from high volcanic to low coral terrain that creates scenic variety unlike anywhere else in the world.

The islands are divided into four groups with Nuku'alofa, the

capital, located on the main island of Tongatapu. It is more developed than its neighbours but still maintains an unhurried and peaceful lifestyle. English is widely spoken, and travellers are sure to receive a friendly greeting from the locals.

The Kingdom of Tonga is located in the very heart of the South Pacific, lying east of Fiji and south of Samoa. It is one of the most scenic and unspoiled of the Pacific island nations.

booking@scubasympphony.com

Photo credit : BK CHIN

Oasis Photocontest 2014



The new edition of Oasis Photocontest 2014 is finally here, promoted by Oasis magazine. It's the major Italian competition of nature photography and one of the most important worldwide.

Registrations are open until 31 December 2014.

With a total money prize of 30,000 Euro the overall winner will receive a cash prize of 2,000 Euros and the prestigious Oasis Photocontest trophy, a valuable sculpture in bronze made by the Italian artist Michele Vitaloni. The best Italian author will receive a prize of 1,000 euros. Important cash prizes will be given to the top three winners in each section.

Another great prize that we have consists of the publication of your photo in the official Oasis Photocontest 2014 catalogue, the most important showcase of nature photography in Italy and at

international level, printed in English and Italian. In addition to the best 103 awarded images, the catalogue will feature a thousand photographs that will have reached the final.

This contest is divided into 9 sections (young people under 18 can participate in a category reserved for them):

LANDSCAPES. MAMMALS. BIRDS. ALL THE OTHER ANIMALS. STORYBOARD: STORIES TOLD THROUGH PHOTOGRAPHY. UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHY. PEOPLE. PLANTS. PETS

The deadline is December 31, 2014.

www.oasisphotocontest.com

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More flights to Wakatobi

When we launched our charter flight program a decade ago, we cut travel time and transfer hassles between the resort and Bali dramatically.

In the years since, our guests have enjoyed the convenience of landing at Wakatobi's private runway on Tomia Island, then taking a short boat ride to the resort. This reduction in travel time has allowed our guests to devote more of their holiday time to their experiences rather than their transits, and the average length of a Wakatobi stay is now 10 to 14 days.

In recognition of our guests' desire for more flexible and longer itineraries, we will soon expand the flight schedule. Beginning in mid March of 2015, flights to and from the resort will increase from five or six times a month to twice a week. Flights are scheduled each Monday and Friday, creating a more uniform calendar for arrivals and departures that allows guests to schedule stays in increments of seven, 11, 14, 18 and up to 21 night segments (even more if the guest desires). A complete flight schedule can be found on the Wakatobi website under Bookings.

The increased flight service will prove especially beneficial for



those wanting to book a combination land and sea package at the resort and aboard the Pelagian dive yacht. Once the new flights are added, the Pelagian's schedule will move to cruises of seven night durations, which will mesh with flight arrivals and departures. That said, the resort is still offering the possibility for guests to request or organize an extended cruise of 10 to 14 nights at select times of the year.

www.wakatobi.com



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Photo by Martyn Guess



www.divequest-diving-holidays.co.uk

Ultimate Manado: Nick and Caroline Robertson-Brown 6-20 September 2015

Thresher Shark Expedition: Amanda Cotton 17-27 August 2015

Bali Mola Mola Safari - Steve Jones 20-30 October 2015

COMING SOON - Raja Ampat with Shannon Conway in 2015

COMING SOON - Manatees with Shannon Conway in 2016

EMAIL: divers@divequest-diving-holidays.co.uk



New to Worldwide Dive and Sail: The Junk

Worldwide Dive and Sail, the owners of the Siren Fleet and Master Liveboards, are now also the proud new owners of The Junk.

S/Y June Hong Chian Lee or The Junk, as she is known, is a restored teak wood Chinese merchant sailing vessel, that offers a unique liveboard diving experience in Thailand.

She has already started operations offering 6 night trips around The Similan and Surin islands. The Marine National Parks of the Similan Islands and the extensive reefs in the Surin Islands are without



a doubt the best diving in Thailand. All this as well as one of the best dive sites in the world, Richelieu Rock, and the chance to see the majestic whale sharks!

www.wwdas.com

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