

News, Travel & Events

Focus Grand Cayman

Aug 29-Sept 5 2015



Join us for a week of diving and learning in Grand Cayman at Focus on Underwater Imaging!

Take your underwater imaging to the next level with daily photo & video seminars, personal instruction and the latest in underwater imaging gear from Reef Photo & Video and Nauticam, available to demo in the Caribbean's premier dive destination.

This trip will cater to underwater photographers and videographers alike, with extended bottom times to refine your technique and nail the shot! All while enjoying Cayman's crystal-clear visibility, dramatic walls, turtles, rays, wrecks, and more...

Every afternoon, two one hour hands on clinics are available that address specific skills. Evening video and slide shows showcase techniques, with presenters sharing shots from Cayman and around the globe, and sharing the tips and tricks behind producing captivating underwater images.

Demo gear is available for participants wanting to try out the latest equipment. Housings and accessories from Nauticam, as well as lighting systems from Inon, Keldan, and FIX NEO will be available to test.

www.reefphoto.com

www.uwpmag.com

Dive Alor with Downunderpix 29th Aug to 9 Sept 2015

We will be leading a dive trip to the unique archipelago of Alor, Indonesia on 29th August to 9 September 2015.

This is pristine diving amongst the most beautiful setting. It is a must for divers and underwater photographers.

The cost of \$3215 per person includes return Airfares Bali (Denpasar) to Alor, 1 night in Bali, 9 nights at Alor Divers Resort in a beachside bungalow (twin share), all meals, drinking water, tea, coffee, 2 boat dives per day, unlimited shore dives on Alor's amazing house reef, tanks, weights and unlimited air refills, laundry service, airport transfers in Alor and entrance to the Alor Marine Park

www.downunderpix.com



Summer of the Siren
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From May to September 2015

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Indonesia • Philippines

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Underwater Photography

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Whale Sharks trips in
2015



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HERE

Komodo Photo Expedition

Jan 28 - Feb 8, 2017



Komodo National Park is composed of three major islands (Rinca, Komodo, and Padar) and numerous smaller ones, all of them of volcanic origin. The park is best known for the Komodo “dragon” monitor, the world’s largest living lizard, measuring up to 8’ long!

Upwelling of nutrient-rich water from deeper areas of the archipelago is responsible for the rich reef ecosystem. Because of the strong currents for The variety of marine life that you can see in Komodo rivals any of the world’s best dive destinations. From sharks, mantas, tuna, sunfish, mantas, dolphins and eagle rays to pygmy seahorses, ornate ghost pipefish, clown frogfish, nudibranchs and blue-ringed octopus, all are at home amongst a spectacular range of colorful sponges, sea squirts, tunicates and corals on a variety of walls and reef systems.

The Damai I offers a smaller groups (total of 10-12) large luxurious accommodations in space single or twin-share en-suite cabins all with queen or king-sized beds. The vessel has been designed with three large deck areas for relaxing in both the sun or shade, and for enjoying relaxing massage and spa treatments.

Your trip leader Jack Connick from Optical Ocean Sales will be available to help you with equipment assistance and evening presentations on subjects ranging from strobe positioning to Photoshop Lightroom. Prices: Single Cabins (1-2 spaces available): \$7350 Twin Share Cabins (3-4 spaces available): \$5600.

<http://bit.ly/dive-komodo>

www.opticaloceansales.com

www.uwpmag.com

UPY 2015 Exhibition at Plymouth National Marine Aquarium

The prints from the Underwater Photographer of the Year 2015 competition are now on display for the next 12 months at the National Marine Aquarium, Plymouth.

The opening event was highlighted with a talk by UPY Chairman Alex Mustard “Adventures in Underwater Photography” which was attended by over 140 people on a rainy Friday evening.

Mark Parry, Project Manager of the Community Seagrass Initiative based at the National Marine Aquarium said:

“The National Marine Aquarium is proud to host a collection of finalist images from the Underwater Photographer of the Year awards. With 300,000 visitors a year to the NMA the display demonstrates the talents and hard work of the diving community in raising awareness of the variety of marine life to the wider public. The images have captured the imagination of many of our visitors and helps with our aim of driving marine conservation through engagement.

Marine habitats are currently facing the most rapid loss of any habitats on the planet, this is partially due to awareness of where these

habitats are. With a collection of stunning images from the UPY awards these images are helping the NMA communicate to its visitors what is a threat. The exhibit is an excellent example of passionate coastal communities contributing to the message of marine conservation.

The launch of the UPY exhibit was a huge success with over 140 in attendance to view the images. We received some excellent feedback from the people that left the building feeling inspired to contribute to change in marine conservation after viewing the amazing images. If you feel like you have time to contribute towards a marine conservation project while diving, the NMA is looking for volunteer divers to get involved in the Community Seagrass Initiative, if you like to know more please e-mail

mark.parry@national-aquarium.co.uk

Since the announcement of the UPY results in February the website has had over 32,000 page views and the Yearbook has been downloaded over 2600 times, and the results published all over the world in both print and online media.

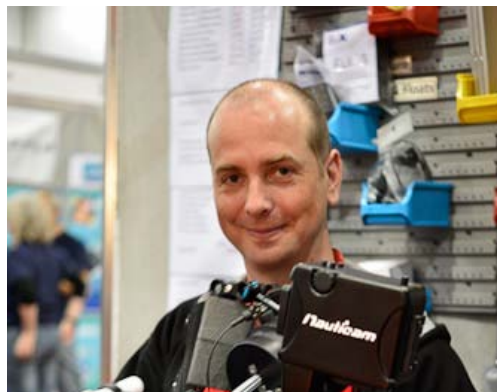
www.upylondon.com



Alex Tattersall workshop

Philippines

21st April - 2nd May 2016



Popular photo workshop leader, Dr Alex Tattersall is an award winning underwater photographer and the founder of UnderWaterVisions/ Nauticam UK.

Following on from some hugely successful photo workshops, Oonasdivers is providing another in Dumaguete, led by Alex, ideal for moderately experienced UW photographers.

Alongside the exploration of 'technical' areas of photography such as exposures, compositions, and camera settings, the course will give a greater understanding and sensitivity to the behaviour of marine life can enable anyone to take award winning photos.

Atlantis Dumaguete has one of the most spacious camera facilities you will find in any dive resort worldwide and easy access to approx

33 dive sites, most of which are under a 10 minute boat ride.

The archipelago is home to more than 3000 species of fish and 448 species of coral – where else can you combine unbelievable muck-diving with pristine coral reefs, shoals of schooling fish, the odd shark, manta, sea snakes, eagle rays or whale shark? The Philippines offers some of the most vibrant, weird and wonderful both above and below.

The course is open to all who are seriously interested in improving their photography skills in an informal, friendly, non-competitive environment. Please contact Oonasdivers to register your interest. Places are booking up fast!

www.oonasdivers.com



Lembeh with Backscatter

Aug 22nd-Sept 2nd, 2015

We're going back to Lembeh in 2015 and we'd love for you to join us!

Lembeh Strait is a name synonymous with "critter" or "muck" diving. Consistently rated among the top dive locations in the world, Lembeh is home to many unique and rare animals. It's not only a macro paradise; there are some equally good wide angle sites nearby.

Lembeh Resort, a spectacular boutique style resort, is situated on Lembeh Island and perched above the beautiful Strait. The property is surrounded by lush tropical gardens and blends perfectly into the landscape.

All guest cottages boast spacious verandahs for perfect views of glorious North Sulawesi sunsets and an intimate connection with nature. Modern amenities including air-conditioning, mini bar,

wifi internet and massage ensure your comfort and relaxation.

Photo Guides:
Jim Decker & Erin Quigley.

Jim is one of the top experts in the world on underwater photo and video equipment and shooting technique.

Erin Quigley is a Adobe ACE certified digital imaging consultant specializing in customized workflows and editing strategies using Adobe Photoshop and Lightroom.



www.backscatter.com

OONAS DIVERS

ESTABLISHED 1983

Dive Adventures

FOR DIVERS, FROM DIVERS

PHOTOGRAPHY & VIDEOGRAPHY

with John Collins in

Marsa Shagra

9-16 September 2015

Successful in competition and widely published, in magazines, brochures and books, John has a big following of underwater photographers, eager to join him and enhance their photo skills. What better place than Marsa Shagra which benefits from an extensive and diverse house reef with hard and soft corals of offshore quality.

PLACES ARE LIMITED. CONTACT OONASDIVERS TODAY TO REGISTER YOUR INTEREST



Egypt
where it all begins



Tel: 01323 648924

Email: info@oonasdivers.com

WWW.OONASDIVERS.COM

Visayas with WWDAS

The Visayas, known as the mecca of diving in the Philippines, offers a wide variety of macro life that will keep you so busy looking for the most incredible sea critters that you won't notice the time pass under the water!

Tiny sea critters hidden in amazing coral reefs such as nudibranch, sea horses or ghost pipefish but also hidden in black sands are frogfish, blue ringed and mimic octopus! Not everything is about tiny



critters! In the Visayas, you will also have the opportunity to dive with big schools of barracudas, trevallies and sardines being hunted by Thresher sharks! As well as snorkel with the majestic whale shark!

www.worldwidediveandsail.com

blue o two photo workshops with Saeed Rashid

blue o two are pleased to offer you exclusive liveaboard photographic workshops hosted by Saeed Rashid. A lecturer at Bournemouth University and popular speaker at UK dive shows, Saeed will guide you through the underwater photography process from start to finish.

Over the course of the liveaboard week, there is plenty of time to learn new skills and the warm, clear waters of the Red Sea provide the perfect environment to practice! You don't even need to own a camera to get involved - you can hire all equipment from blue o two!

12th - 19th June 2015 'In Focus: Red Sea South', M/Y blue Voyager £1199

10th - 17th July 2015 'In Focus: Red Sea North', M/Y blue Horizon £1149

21st - 28th August 2015 'In Focus: Red Sea North', M/Y blue Horizon £1299

2nd - 14th September 2015 'In Focus: Indonesia at Lembeh Resort' £1199

www.blueotwo.com/Specialist-itineraries

Ocean Geographic Cenderawasih Bay and Raja Ampat Expedition on board MSY Seahorse 25 Sep to 6 Oct 2015



To many intrepid scientists and professional underwater photo journalist such as David Doubilet, Alex Mustard, Dr Gerry Allen, Dr Mark Erhman, Michael AW, Raja Ampat is the final frontier, the last remaining coral reefs to be found in pristine condition harboring the world's most prolific marine life.

The area is comprised of 4.6 million hectares of reefs, seagrass beds, mangroves and rocky coastline and it has one of the world lowest resident human populations with minimal industrial development. Raja Ampat is also the only destination in the world where both the reef and pelagic mantas are found in the same site. Of course mantas dives are on our agenda.



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Expedition Platform - the exquisite fine diving & fine dining live-board - MSY Seahorse; Expedition leader is Michael AW - author of Essential Digital Underwater Photography Masterclass. USD 4180 per person twin sharing; deposit is USD 1500.

expeditions@OGSociety.org

Fiji workshop with Joseph Tepper 11th -21st June 2015



On the 11th -21st June 2015, the Siren Fleet is happy to introduce a new underwater photography workshop, specialising in wide-angle photography, hosted by Joseph Tepper in Fiji on board the Fiji Siren.

Joseph Tepper is an award-winning photojournalist, specialising in underwater photography. Whether you want to learn the basics of wide-angle or master advanced techniques, this workshop is just for you!

Whether you want to learn the basics of wide-angle or master advanced techniques, this workshop is just for you! Joe will deliver a number of seminars on different types of underwater photography techniques such as how to create motion in your images as well as giving some post production tips and tricks in Photoshop. He will also spend some time with each guest to help improve particular underwater photography

skills. The colorful Fijian reefs and their large number of schooling pelagics will provide you with many opportunities to practice what has been learned during the classes and seminars, as well as improving your skills on every single dive.

“Built by divers for divers”, the Siren Fleet yachts feature individually air conditioned cabins with en-suite facilities and plenty of space for you to relax and enjoy your time onboard.

www.sirenfleet.com

Your advert could be here for just £50 and will be seen by over 10,000 underwater photographers worldwide. No other publication has such a targeted audience. For more details visit: www.uwpmag.com/?p=advertise

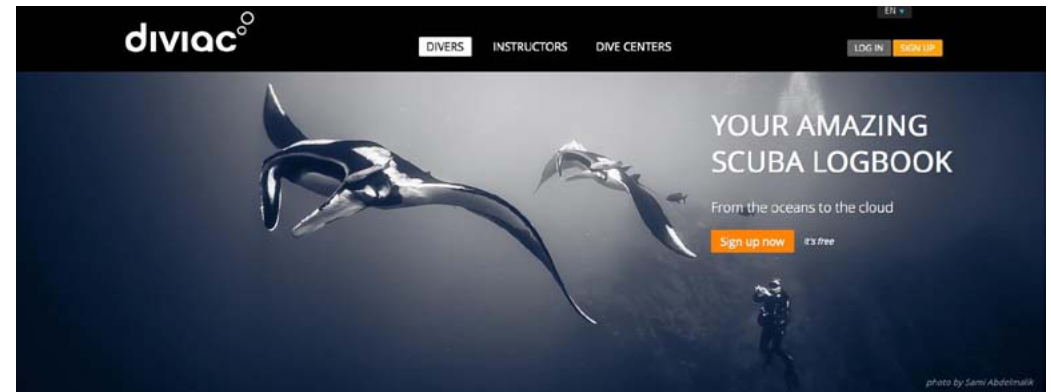
For **\$50**, you could go on a 3-WEEK LONG,
ONCE IN A LIFETIME EXPEDITION to
Svalbard & Greenland with the world's foremost
Artists, Scientists, Explorers to help
Save the Arctic



The Elysium Artists for the Arctic expedition is looking for its 60th and final team member to help give a strong voice to this critically important region of our planet. Elysium Epic promises to be the most exciting, innovative, and inspirational journey of this decade. You can be part of this **Adventure with Sylvia Earle, David Doubilet, Ernie Brooks, Michael AW, Leandro Blanco, Susan Eaton, Stuart Ireland, Alex Rose, Goran Ehlme, Eric Bettens**, and many more – see ElysiumEpic.org

The Epic lottery on RallyUp begins Friday, May 1st and runs for one month. Each “ticket” costs \$50 and enters you for the chance to win the last space on the Elysium expedition (1st place) or a spot on a 2016 Ocean Geographic expedition to Cuba, Gardens of the Queen (runner up). Money raised through the lottery will be used to purchase carbon credits in an effort to make the expedition carbon neutral.

This spot on the Elysium expedition is valued at \$18,500 and for Cuba is \$3000. If you win one of the spots, your expedition on board is covered with the exception of travel costs to and from the arrival and departure cities, port fees, and sanctuary fees. Don't miss out on this incredible journey for just \$50 – you will be helping to Save the Arctic. Sign up at RallyUp.com - search for ElysiumEpic. Welcome to the Adventure!



Diviac Travel is live!

With more than 10,000 dive operators, thousands of reviews from real divers as well as scuba specific destination information, diviac.travel is the most comprehensive website for scuba divers to find, compare & book their next dive vacation.

Diviac's founders are on a mission to bring the best of the Web to the scuba diving industry. After having launched diviac.com, one of the world's most popular cloud-logbook with users from over 135 countries, they have now released their newest platform, diviac.travel, with the simple ambition of becoming the Booking .com of scuba diving.

In the future, the rich information provided by divers in their Diviac logbooks will also be increasingly integrated into Diviac Travel, both as additional content and as ways of creating rich filters.

For example, leveraging other divers' marine life sightings, users will be able to search for the best location at any month of the year to spot any particular species.

When asked about the new business, Diviac co-founder and CEO Joel Perrenoud stated: “We are working hard to build the online travel platform that divers deserve. A place where information is transparent, decisions are based on reliable user-generated content such as ratings and reviews, photos and marine life sightings, and a place where bookings can be made live.

The launch of diviac.travel today is a first step in this direction and much more should be expected in the future.”

www.diviac.com

Reef Check

The Siren Fleet and Reef Check are working together this July to give you the opportunity to learn a little bit more about reef conservation. Whilst on-board the Philippine Siren, you will have the opportunity to participate in several courses and presentations by Dr. Gregor Hodgson from Reef Check.

Reef Check was founded in 1997 as an international non-profit foundation that monitors reefs in over 90 countries, mainly tropical coral reefs. Their protocol is the largest coral reef monitoring program and is used by many national governments as their primary coral reef monitoring tool. The Reef Check Mission is to “empower local people to save their reefs through research, education and active conservation”.

Dr. Gregor Hodgson is a coral reef ecologist and the founder of the Reef Check Foundation. Greg holds a Bachelor's Degree in Marine Biology, specialising in Coral Reef Ecology and Integral Coastal Management, and attained his doctorate studying the impacts of logging on reefs in El Nido, Palawan. the courses and guests who prefer to simply dive the reefs.

The itinerary of the 6 night trip will include Cabilao, Balicasag, Dauin, Apo Island and Pescador Island.



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“Built by divers for divers”, the Siren Fleet yachts feature individually air conditioned cabins with en-suite facilities and plenty of space for you to relax and enjoy your time onboard. Siren Fleet offers 4 Guided Dives per day in small groups with free scuba equipment rental and Nitrox. All this surrounded by their professional, experienced and friendly crew.

Book today and receive a 10% discount! Have you already been onboard the Siren Fleet? Quote Summer of Sirens when you contact us and receive something extra special!

www.sirenfleet.com

ADAM HANLON



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Komodo – Indonesia ,
Visayas – Philippines , Palau and
Fiji - Experience these incredible
destinations on board the Siren Fleet.
“Built by divers for divers”, the
Siren Fleet offers affordable luxury
liveaboards in Indonesia, Philippines,
Palau and Fiji all year round with
a variety of itineraries from 6-14
nights. All this surrounded by their
professional, experienced and friendly
crew. All vessels feature a/c cabins
with en-suite facilities and plenty of
space for you to relax and enjoy your
time onboard.

Each yacht has a dedicated
camera set-up and charging station
with plenty of additional storage for

all your extra lenses, strobes and
batteries. It is thoughtful touches such
as these that make Siren Fleet the
best choice for both professional and
amateur photographers.

The Siren Fleet offers 4 Guided
Dives/Day in small groups, free
essential scuba equipment rental and
free Nitrox.

Dive Fiji, Palau, Philippines or
Indonesia with the Siren Fleet from
May to September and receive a 10%
discount on all destinations!

Have you already been onboard
the Siren Fleet? Quote Summer of
Sirens when you contact us and
receive something extra special!

<http://sirenfleet.com/liveboard-offers.html>

www.uwpmag.com

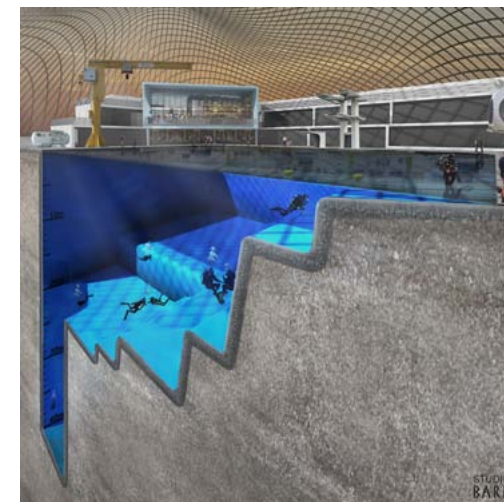
Proposed 50m Blue Abyss pool, UK

John Vickers, a former IT
consultant from London, revealed his
plans for the Blue Abyss on Facebook
earlier this month.

The pool is set out to be
50m deep and 40m wide, holding
22,000m³ of water - five times the
capacity of Y-40 which opened near
Padua, Italy last year.

‘We compliment them [existing
indoor diving pools] by adding
the layer of training not currently
available to the diving community;
namely indoor, 360+ days a year, in a
totally controllable environment.’

Next to recreational divers,
the pool is designed to be a training
facility for tech and freedivers, police
and fire service rescue teams and
commercial dive operators. While
both the European (ESA) as well as
the North American Space Agency
(NASA) have confirmed the unmet
need for such a facility, researchers
and students of human physiology
programmes and underwater ROV
(Remotely Operated Vehicle)
developers are also believed to benefit
from the controlled underwater
environment. Features of the £25
million project include a permanently
installed loading crane to heave



vehicles and other obstacles in and
out of the water to create a range of
underwater scenarios.

Water temperature and light
will be regulated manually and high-
definition cameras installed to record
all training sessions.

With a hyperbaric chamber on
site, class rooms and a hotel, the
vision of the Blue Abyss will be
the world’s most comprehensive
underwater training facility if the
project goes ahead.

The team aims to realise the
project by October 2016, given that
the funding comes through and the
ground survey delivers positive
results.

www.facebook.com/BlueAbyssPool



Jacques de Vos South Africa

At the end of 2007 while enjoying 'days off' from his position as an engineer in the oilfield services, Jacques de Vos was inspired by his scuba instructor (also a talented underwater photographer) to purchase his first underwater compact camera and Ikelite housing. Since then he has qualified as a SCUBA instructor and Commercial Diver, and upgraded through numerous camera systems. He now shoots both stills and video and has developed the skill set to do all of this while freediving.


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