

News, Travel & Events

Fiji Siren



It is not surprising to hear that Fiji is the “Soft Coral Capital of the World”. Indeed, its pristine waters hide more than 4000 square km of coral reefs that are home to more than 400 species of colorful soft and hard corals. Depending on the current, the coral change their colors. At the same time, it is home to an impressive macro life. Pygmy sea horses, imperial shrimps, ghost pipe fish and even the blue ribbon eel.

Underwater pelagic action can also be found. The most impressive are the sharks, with grey reef sharks, silvertip sharks, white tip sharks as well as the great hammerhead shark that can be spotted all over Fiji. The main dive sites where you can find the great hammerhead shark are the Namena Reserve, around Wakaya Island and the Bligh Waters.

A wide variety of turtles can also be found in Fiji. Five out of the seven different species of sea turtles in the world migrate to Fiji to lay their eggs: the Hawksbill, Green, Olive Ridley, Leatherback and the Loggerhead turtle. The most common seen are the Hawksbill and the Green. Many of these nests can be seen in Namena’s beaches.

The Fiji Siren, luxury phinisi liveaboard, gives you the opportunity to discover Fiji’s wonders in a variety of 7 or 10 night itineraries year around. Please contact us for further information or to book your next dive holidays in the Soft Coral Capital of the World!

www.sirenfleet.com



Backscatter & Gates Cinema Workshop November 18-20th, 2015

Backscatter and Gates Underwater Products are sponsoring a 3 day intensive workshop designed specifically for working professionals and new underwater cinema camera operators. We have combined the popular Gates STO Certification (Set-up, Test, Operate) with a real world shooting technique workshop crafted by the professionals at Backscatter.

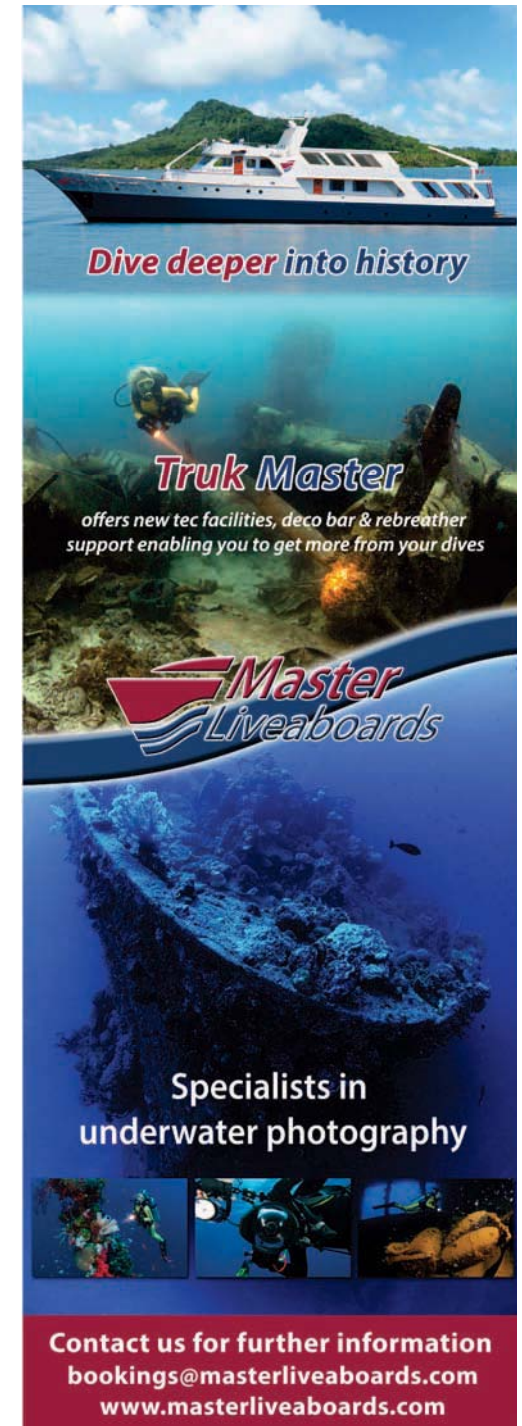
As well as the above dates there is an Optional Evening Social: November 17th, 2015 and an Optional Monterey Bay Diving: Sat November 21st. & Sun November 22nd. 2015

The location for the workshop is Backscatter WEST. Monterey, CA

Workshop Fee: \$495
(introductory price)

Class limit: 9 Students

www.backscatter.com



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UPY LONDON

Could You Be The Next Underwater Photographer Of The Year?

The search is on for the Underwater Photographer of the Year 2016, with the return of the prestigious UPY competition, which opened for entries on 1st November. The deadline is 4th January 2016 with the winners announced on stage at the London International Dive Show on 12th February 2016.

The competition will be judged by Martin Edge, Peter Rowlands and Alex Mustard. Major prizes come from APEKS, Fourth Element, Nauticam and Scuba Travel.

The competition is divided into 8 categories **Wide Angle, Macro, Wrecks, Behaviour, Up & Coming, British Waters Wide Angle, British Waters Macro and British Waters Compacts** and the competition will make four special awards:

**The Underwater Photographer of the Year
British Underwater Photographer of Year
Up & Coming Underwater Photographer of the Year**

**Most Promising British Underwater
Photographer of the Year**



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Nuno Sá (Portugal) was named Underwater Photographer of the Year 2015 for 50 Tons Of Me (Algarve, Portugal).

Chair of the UPY judges, Alex Mustard said, “this is a competition run by photographers for photographers, to give our community the competition it deserves to celebrate excellence in all branches of underwater photography.”

Following the success of the inaugural UPY competition, which was immediately established as one of the largest annual events in our community’s calendar, UPY 2016 continues with the same format. Alex adding “we plan to evolve the



Matt Doggett (UK) was named British Underwater Photographer of the Year 2015 for Gannets Feast (Shetland Islands, UK)

Last year’s winning images can still be enjoyed here:

www.upylondon.com/2015yearbook.aspx

competition in the coming years, but we were so overwhelmed by the response in year one that it does not need reinventing.”

“We have tried to keep entry fees as low as possible, provide prizes that photographers really want to win and select the winners with a face to face judging process you can really believe in.”

“We are very grateful for the continued support of Apeks Regulators, Fourth Element, Nauticam, Magic Filters, Scuba Travel, the National Marine Aquarium, the London International Dive Show, the Telegraph Outdoor show, Diver Magazine, Underwater Photography Magazine and the British Society of Underwater Photographers, which makes this event possible.”

www.underwaterphotographeroftheyear.com

www.uwpmag.com



Check out our special
Whale Sharks trips in
2016

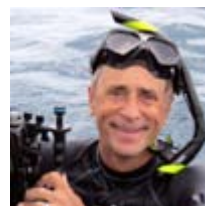


Download our online brochure
HERE

Anilao Reef Photo & Video Workshop April 9-16, 2016

This is a chance to learn and develop with professional instruction, unlimited support and a chance to be guided to striking imaging opportunities – every day.

Anilao is home to some of the finest Muck and Reef Macro diving in the World. The variety of species and environments that can be found within a 15 minute boat ride from the resort is simply staggering. There are also world class wide angle opportunities for those who can pull themselves away from the small stuff. It is not uncommon to hear first time visitors to the area exclaim they have photographed more unusual critters around Anilao a week, than years of international travel elsewhere. The exotic night diving options are second to none.



experience

Kevin Palmer is an equipment specialist at Reef Photo and Video with 25 years of underwater photography



photographic technician.

Chris Parsons oversees all dealer and customer support for Nauticam in the Americas and is a superb



currently freelances for many of the major US dive and travel magazines.

Tanya Burnett is a well known professional underwater photographer who has been Field Editor for Sport Diver and

http://reefphoto.com/shop/index.php?main_page=events&event_id=89

Cabilao Island, Bohol,
Philippines
August 2016



Join downunderpix for an underwater photography focused dive trip to beautiful Cabilao Island in the Bohol region of the Philippines on the 20th to 30th of August 2016. The estimated cost of \$4,499 per person twin share includes:

- 5 days of Unlimited Diving with Sea Explorers – Cabilao
- 2 x day trips to dive with the Whale Sharks in Oslob
- 9 nights' accommodation with Sea Explorers Cabilao including all meals
- 1 night Singapore stopover
- Return flights ex Adelaide with Singapore Airlines
- Transfers and Sanctuary fees

www.downunderpix.com



Liquid Motion Academy

With over 30 years accreditation, awards and acclaim, Liquid Motion Academy is a globally leading Photography & Film School, which focuses on art and specializes in Underwater Imaging.

The Academy provides private instruction and consultation to anybody interested in the field of professional photography, filmmaking, underwater photography, underwater filmmaking or editing.

All Instruction is private and personal, tailored to each client's unique experience, interest and individual requirements.

Award-winning Photographers & Filmmakers work with just one guest at a time.

Whether novice or professional, a personal passion or career goal, The Academy is committed to your creative journey and guarantees exceptional, inspiring, visual results.

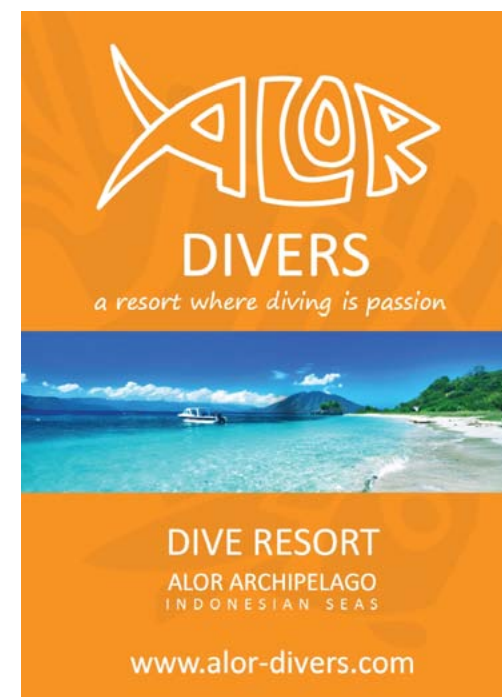


"I learnt more in 9 days than I have ever learned by myself in 50 years - and I did not even have to read a manual!. The opportunity to learn what I did with the people I did made the trip a once in a lifetime event" (Steve Cohen)

Photography or film. Underwater or on land. Pursue your passion. Follow your dream. Live it. Breathe it. We will guide you on your journey.

We encourage you to talk with us to discuss your goals and the path to realizing your dream, in your time, at your speed.

www.liquidmotionacademy.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



Beneath the Sea 2016

1st - 3rd April 2015
New Jersey

Beneath the Sea 2016 is pleased to invite all Photographers and Videographers from the international imaging community to enter this year's open International Imaging Competition

In addition to general prizes, the competition in each category will be for individual recognition from the Grandmaster of that field:

Underwater Photographers will compete for the coveted David Doubilet award for excellence in underwater photography.

Underwater Videographers will compete for the distinguished Stan Waterman award for excellence in underwater video.

Underwater Photographic Artists compete for the celebrated Jim Church award for excellence in creative underwater photography.

Wherever you live in this wide world, accept the challenge, and

submit your underwater photographic work to the Beneath The Sea International Imaging Competition. The contest deadline is December 31st, 2015.

The winners of the Beneath The Sea International Imaging Competition will be announced at the Saturday Night International Film Festival on the weekend of Beneath The Sea's Ocean Adventure Exposition And Dive Travel Show, April 1, 2, 3, 2016, at the Meadowlands Exposition Center in Secaucus, New Jersey.

In addition to the awards that the Grand Prize winners of each category receive, there will also be prizes for all First, Second, and Third place winners.

www.Beneaththesea.org

www.uwpmag.com

Sea Shepherd's Operation Milagro II



Long before the end of Sea Shepherd's Operation Jairo was in sight, our team was already hard at work planning our next campaign: saving the vaquita through Operation Milagro II in the Sea of Cortez.

In Operation Milagro II ("miracle" in Spanish), Sea Shepherd's crew will defend the critically endangered vaquita marina porpoise, the world's smallest and rarest cetacean. During the first Operation Milagro in April, our crew proved the vaquita was not yet extinct contrary to local belief, but the population has diminished to an estimated less than 97 individuals due to their biggest threat: poachers.

There is hope, but we need your help for a miracle. Support Operation Milagro II and bring the vaquita back from the brink of extinction. Your donation is urgently needed.

Your support ensures Sea Shepherd can patrol the vaquita refuge in the Sea of Cortez, the vaquita's only home. During the operation



our team will take action to protect this critically endangered porpoise, enforce laws, collect data, and collaborate with the Mexican Navy, government and scientists.

Give now to ensure this operation is successful. The vaquita porpoises are depending on us all.

www.seashepherd.org

Donate

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Support Sea Shepherd's Cove Guardians

Sea Shepherd Cove Guardian volunteers are now on the ground in Taiji, Japan for Operation Henkaku. The 2015-2016 season marks the sixth year of Sea Shepherd's Dolphin Defense campaign and our promise to the dolphins remains the same – we will not stop until the slaughter ends!

Japan has already attempted to hide the brutal actions of a handful of individuals that turn Taiji's waters red with blood, shaming the entire nation of Japan. In recent days, Cove Guardian Ground Leader, Karen Hagen of Norway and Linda Trapp of the USA were detained, interrogated and denied entry to Japan and deported from the country, just as other returning Sea Shepherd volunteers have been denied before. These obstacles will not stop us in our mission for the dolphins and more Cove Guardians will arrive in Taiji.

Sea Shepherd's Cove Guardians

will continue to document and live stream from Taiji, ensuring that no dolphin or pilot whale is captured or slaughtered unseen by the eyes of the world. This year's campaign will also have an increased focus on raising crucial awareness of the inextricable link between the slaughter in Taiji and the global captive industry. It is the international demand for live cetaceans for captivity that is the economic fuel driving the hunting boats each day in search of pods to be taken forever from the sea. Just one trained captive dolphin can be sold by the Taiji hunters for \$ 250,000 USD. The most effective way that you can help bring the slaughter to an end is to never patronize aquariums, marine parks or swim-with-dolphin operations that hold whales or dolphins captive.

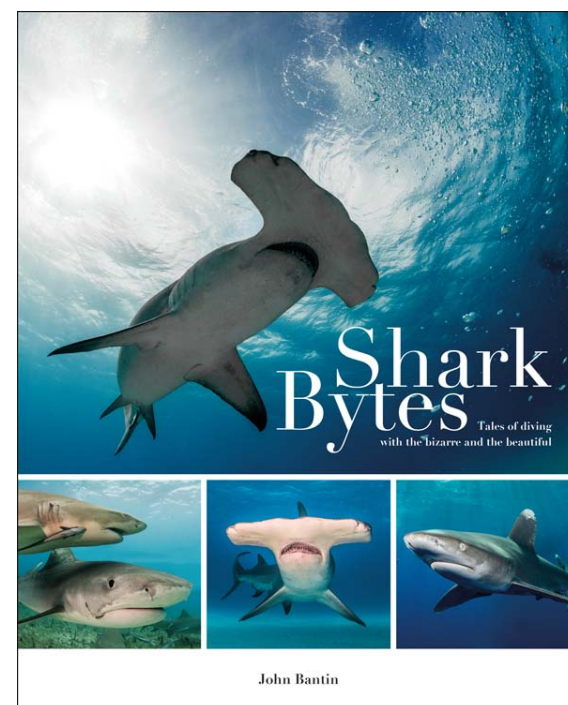
www.seashepherd.org

Shark Bytes by John Bantin

There are few underwater experiences more exciting than diving with sharks, and in his new book, *Shark Bytes: Tales of Diving with the Bizarre and the Beautiful*, diving veteran and best selling author, John Bantin, has animated the experience like never before, making it a thrilling 'must read' for all dive enthusiasts.

During his exhilarating career as a dive journalist, Bantin has spent over two decades observing and interacting with many of the species of shark. Well known in the diving industry as an accomplished raconteur, *Shark Bytes: Tales of Diving with the Bizarre and the Beautiful* collates Bantin's favourite anecdotes of his inspiring, exciting and sometimes shocking encounters with sharks and other marine animals.

In this beautiful book, tales of outstanding natural beauty and mesmerising underwater serenity rub shoulders with dramatic accounts of razor-sharp teeth and voracious, deadly predators. Bantin's detailed, affectionate and thrilling stories include his eventful first dive, when he met a shark and his boat sank; a heart-stopping confrontation with a



tiger shark; and the many characters – both marine and human – that have crossed Bantin's path along the way.

This 224-page compilation of Bantin's incredible experiences is accompanied by over 80 stunning colour photographs, taken by the author himself during his exhilarating underwater career.

Published on 15 September 2015 in the UK by Fernhurst Books, *Shark Bytes* is priced at £17.99, printed in flexibound format and will be available to buy from all good bookshops and book websites and direct from

www.fernhurstbooks.com



Barry Brown Curaçao

In 2004 Barry's wife received an offer to work on the Caribbean island of Curaçao. They quickly sold off their house and cars, left their jobs and friends, and moved to this small desert island 30 miles off of the coast of Venezuela. Barry bought an Ikelite housing right before the move and got ready to transition from nature photography to underwater photography. Now Barry works for Substation Curaçao, taking underwater photos of a 2.5 million dollar manned-submersible and photographing new finds discovered by visiting scientists.

In conjunction with the Curaçao-based submersible Curasub and the Smithsonian Institution, Barry has spent the past 4 years searching depths up to 1000 feet (300 meters) for new fish and invertebrates. In addition to major contributions to scientific research, this dedicated effort has resulted in a magnificent series of 10 Curaçao postage stamps! The results heighten awareness of our profound responsibility to protect the planet's oceans and exemplify the benefits of the people-to-people ties that intertwine Curaçao and the United States.



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