



Aquatic plants at Nichte Ha Cenote, Sony A7R II, Sony 16-35 mm zoom at 16 mm, ISO-250, F/16, 1/250sec, Ikelite A7R II housing, Ikelite eight inch dome port, Ikelite DS-161 strobes in TTL with dome diffusers.

professional training and technical equipment which can be provided by Yucatek Divers.

Open water divers with no cavern certification should always have a professional guide no matter how simple the cavern dive may appear. Yucatek Divers offers a number of cavern locations where open water divers can take professionally guided tours and begin to appreciate the size and complexity of Yucatan's underwater cave systems.

Water temperature in the caves and caverns runs around 24c (75F)

and is comfortable with a 3 mm wetsuit. Cave divers making deeper penetration with longer bottom times will likely want to opt for a drysuit.

All divers regardless of skill level are required to use the rule of thirds. No more than one-third of your gas can be used entering the cavern with one third for the exit and one third for emergencies. When the first diver has expended one third of their gas everyone in the group is required to turn around and head for the exit. All of the cenotes Yucatek Divers visit with non-certified cavern divers have



Dive Guide Marco Steiner, Ponderosa Cenote, Sony A7R II, Sony 16-35mm zoom at 16 mm, ISO-640, F/8, 1/30sec, Ikelite A7R II housing, Ikelite eight inch dome port, Ikelite DS-161 strobes in TTL with dome diffusers.

permanent lines installed to assist divers in finding the exit. Yucatek Dive Guides also deploy guidelines for the group to follow and groups are kept small so that no-one wanders off during the dive. None of the dives I made penetrated into cavern more than 50 meters and large ambient light sources were always within sight of all divers.

Cenotes with names like "Car Wash" and "Ponderosa" open into massive caverns with stunning light beams penetrating from the cracks in the jungle floor above. These cenotes

are an underwater photographers dream with huge stalactites and stalagmites lining the pathway through the cavern system.

The light entering these cenotes from above is captivating and surreal presenting a great number of wide angle photo challenges. Visibility is more than 50 meters in many of the cenotes and several would make excellent locations for U/W photography and model workshops.

In the Mayan language Nichte-Ha loosely translates to water Lily, Ha meaning water. Nichte-Ha was

also a Mayan Princess of mythology the essence of perfection. I spent an entire day at Nicté-Ha cenote without ever entering the cavern choosing to spend my time instead photographing the abundant verity of water plants and freshwater fish living in the one to three meter deep sinkhole outside the cavern entrance. The ambient light penetrating through the leafy water plants creates an explosion of color against the blue water of the sinkhole. Nicté-Ha is the only cenote where I used my macro lens to photograph some of the smaller fish. Nicté-HA is also a popular site for swimmers and snorkelers wanting cool off while enjoying the beauty of the quite springs.

Yucatek Divers arranges transportation, entrance fees and lunch for most daily outings which include two different cavern dives. Two tank cavern packages run around \$125.00US and multi-day packages can be arranged through the dive shop. Double tank cave dives with transportation and entrance fees run around \$150.00US. Complete rental equipment is also offered.

Yucatek also offers dive and hotel packages including lodging at Casa De Gopala a short walk from the dive center. Casa De Gopala is a small sixteen room hotel with large rooms and a roof top swimming pool that looks out over the city to the Caribbean Sea. Casa De Gopala is one of the truly charming jewels of the Old Playa area where I have stayed many times. Wonderful restaurants are found within a short walking distance and the true old world charm of Casa De Gopala plus Yucatek Divers are a perfect match.

They is also a full service training center with the only 4.5 meter (14ft) deep pool in the area and an on premises class room. PADI courses for all skill levels are available with instructors teaching



Mexican Tetra at Nicté Ha Cenote, Sony A7R II, Sony FE 90 mm Macro, ISO-125, F/8, 1/250sec, Ikelite A7R II housing, Ikelite Macro port, Ikelite DS-161 strobes in TTL with dome diffusers.

Ponderosa Cenote, Sony A7R II, Sony 16-35mm zoom at 16 mm, ISO-800, F/5.6, 1/30sec, Ikelite A7R II housing, Ikelite eight inch dome port, ambient light.

in English, German, French, Spanish, Dutch and Italian. Technical training is also offered for Cavern Diving, Full Cave Courses, Advanced Nitrox, Extended Range Technical, Trimix and more. Handicapped scuba diving courses are also offered along with Kids club courses in snorkeling.

Yucatek Divers also has an on site gear storage facility where I left my dive gear during my entire stay. Yucatek Dive Center is located in the heart of old Playa on Ave. 15 Norte between Calle 2 and 4 Centro, Phone +52 984 803 2836. Yucatek is open from 7:30 am to 5:00 PM. You may also want to consider a package which includes ocean diving in Playa Del Carmen or Cozumel. Yucatek also offers trips to Hotbox Island in northern Yucatan



during the June to September season to snorkel with Whalesharks.

Special thanks to Yucatek Instructor and Dive Guide Marco Steiner for his assistance during my stay. For additional information you can checkout their website.

www.yucatek-divers.com
Phil Rudin

www.uwpmag.com

Small ads



SOLD! – Ikelite housing for a Canon 5D MKII

Ikelite housing for a Canon 5D MKII, Ikelite 8" dome port (no scratches) for a Canon fish eye lens, Ikelite ports Canon 17-40mm and a macro 100mm IS lens. I am based in Scarborough, U.K. £1100 ovnoroaminrobin@hotmail.com

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For sale – extrem'vision(up to 100 m!!) and video camera sony vx 2000

I'm selling a fantastic underwater housing extrem'vision(up to 100 m!!) and video camera sony vx 2000 in really good condition!!!coming with a pelican case!!!!The underwater housing is coming with :- 2 lenses (1 macro and 1 wide angle) - 1 red filter. - 2 set of o'rings - Sillicon for the o'rings. - Digital screen.The sony camera vx 2000 is coming with : - A set of batteries (2 large,i medium,1 small) - 5 new dv tapes. - 2 cleaning tapes.Extrem'vision is a French Brand known worldwide.it's strong,reliable and easyto repair if any problems....REALLY GOOD CONDITION!!!2000 euros!!!!!!fabien mouret

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Subtronic Nova analog version no ttl converter

The strobe is 3 years old in good condition

All sockets in S6

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Ref C146

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For sale – Aquatica housing 5D, 8 inch dome, dome shade and canon 5D body

Aquatica housing 5D, 8 inch dome, dome shade and canon 5D body including 2 spare batteries and spare charger for sale £1600 + p&p.Housing:Aquatica 5D housing - good to 90m, 8" optical acrylic dome port – some minor scratches but not visible in photos, 8" dome shade / guard, for wide angle lenses, Spare O ringCameraCanon 5D, 3 Batteries, 2 Chargers, StrapAll for £1600+ p&p, will accept paypal, or cashPlease feel free to ask any questionThe equipment has not been used for a while but I have just upgraded to a canon 5D mark II package so have this for sale.I am based in London and if you wish to come round and have a look/examine the equipment prior to parting with your money we can arrange that.

Email: martin.abela@hotmail.co.uk [Ref:c145]

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