



REALM OF PELAGICS
RICHARD ASPINALL EXPLORES
THE MAGICAL TREASURE
ISLAND OF COCOS

MICRONESIAN PARADISE
JIM AND PAT STAYER MARVEL
AT THE UNDERWATER VISTAS
THAT AWAIT OFF YAP

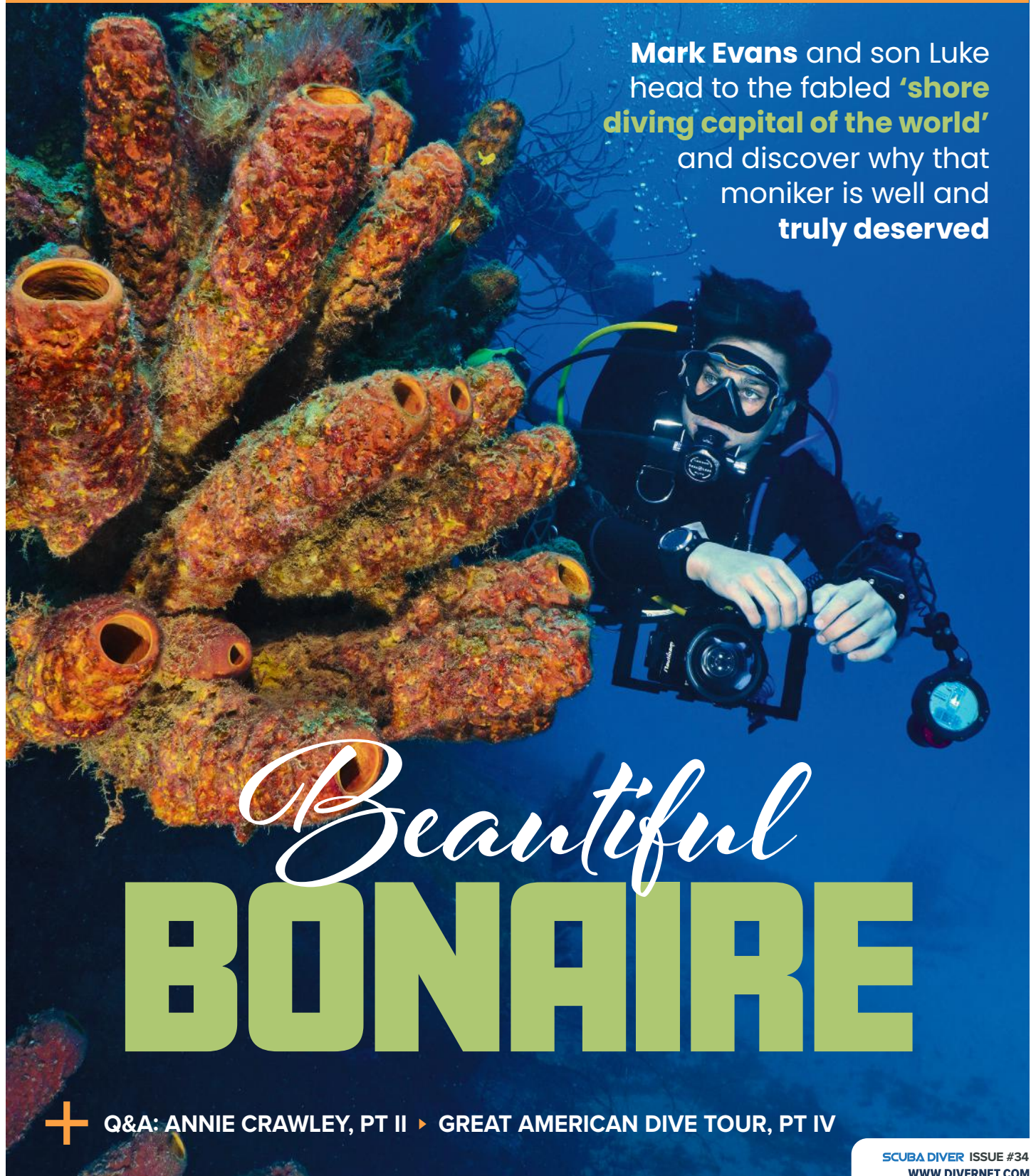
REMOTE INDONESIA
SOL FOO EMBARKS ON A
12-DAY JOURNEY ABOARD
SOLITUDE ADVENTURER

SCUBA DIVER[®]

NORTH AMERICA

GEAR: SHEARWATER SWIFT GPS TRANSMITTER RATED

Mark Evans and son Luke
head to the fabled '**shore
diving capital of the world**'
and discover why that
moniker is well and
truly deserved



Beautiful BONAIRE

+ Q&A: ANNIE CRAWLEY, PT II ▶ GREAT AMERICAN DIVE TOUR, PT IV

SCUBA DIVER ISSUE #34
WWW.DIVERNET.COM



The Boutique Liveboard

Indonesia

KOMODO
RAJA AMPAT
AMBON
ALOR
SPICE ISLANDS
TRITON BAY
HALMAHERA
SULAWESI
BORNEO
FORGOTTEN ISLANDS



24 CREW TO MAX 16 GUESTS
5 DIVE GUIDES
WESTERN CRUISE DIRECTORS

LUXURY CABINS

5 STAR SERVICE



GOURMET FOOD

MASSAGE

WWW.THEARENUI.COM / INFO@THEARENUI.COM



EDITORIAL DIRECTOR

Mark Evans

Email: mark@rorkmedia.com

EDITOR (NORTH AMERICA)

Walt Stearns

Email: walt@rorkmedia.com

CREATIVE DIRECTOR

Matt Griffiths

Email: matt@rorkmedia.com

PUBLISHING DIRECTOR

Ross Arnold

Email: ross@rorkmedia.com

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

Penney Evans

Email: penney@rorkmedia.com

ACCOUNT DIRECTOR FOR TRAINING AGENCIES, EQUIPMENT AND PHOTOGRAPHY

Leo Grower

Email: leo@rorkmedia.com

CONTRIBUTORS

Richard Aspinall, Michael Salvarezza, Christopher P. Weaver, Sol Foo, Annie Crawley, Luke Evans, Jim and Pat Stayer

MAGAZINE

To stock Scuba Diver North America in your centre/store, email: subscriptions@rorkmedia.com

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Annual (12 issues) – Scuba Diver North America & CDN – US \$25 / RoW - refer to website for specific country pricing

PUBLISHERS

Rork Media Limited
71-75 Shelton Street, Covent Garden,
London, England, WC2H 9JQ

Views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily the views of the publishers. Copyright for material published remains with Rork Media Limited. Use of material from Scuba Diver North America is strictly prohibited unless permission is given. All advertisements of which the creative content is in whole or in part the work of Rork Media Limited remain the copyright of Rork Media Limited. ISSN 2633-3902.

Times are changing and to keep the magazines free, we're asking dive stores to cover their own postage costs. If you enjoy reading the magazine, think about helping out your centre with a small donation to help cover their costs. Your continued support is most appreciated.



Soaking up the local diving scene in Florida

When I'm not on the road to someplace far from home, I make time to soak in the local diving scene here in Palm Beach County, Florida. During the second week of August, I dropped in at the Blue Heron Bridge for some fantastic shore diving, then spent the next couple of days offshore — a two-tank dive on the mid-depth reefs in the 60ft range off Palm Beach, followed by a double-dip wreck excursion off Jupiter.

Since it was August, Jupiter was in the thick of its big draw - the large gathering of Goliath grouper that aggregate here through the end of September for their annual spawning. Readers who caught the last issue (SDNA #33) already got a look at these giants in Michael Salvarezza and Christopher P. Weaver's Great American Dive Tour — Part Three.

This time around, Michael and Christopher present their fourth installment of the Great American Dive Tour to cover a few places on roads less traveled. Points of interest include blackwater diving off Kona, Hawaii, and a plunge into the largest man-made reservoir in the US - Lake Mead. Ever wondered what it would be like diving in a flooded mine? Well, they've got that covered with their tour through the Bonne Terre Mine in Missouri. Have a hankering to hunt for meg teeth? Check out what they have to say about their recent adventure at Venice Beach, Florida.

Elsewhere in this issue: two by land, with overviews on Yap Divers on Yap, and Bonaire with Buddy Dive. And two by sea, with Solitude's liveaboard adventure through Indonesia's Maumere and Ambon Islands, plus a voyage to Cocos Island in the Eastern Pacific with the Aggressor Fleet.

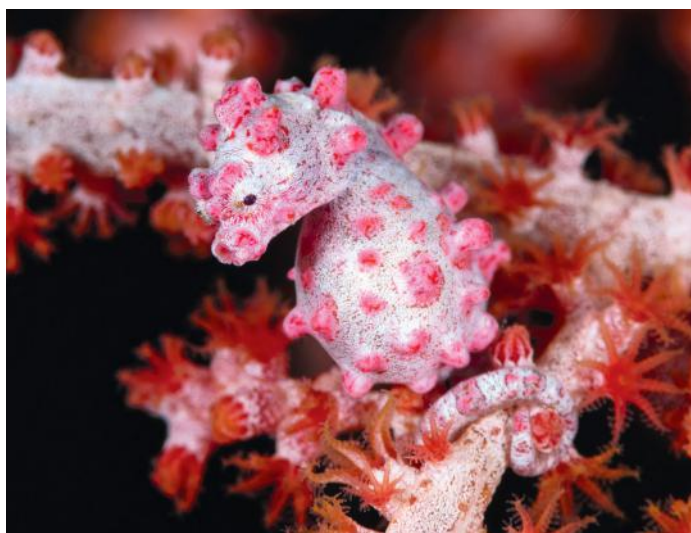
Rounding things out, we wrap up our interview with award-winning producer, author, and motivational speaker Annie Crawley on what keeps her passionate about diving. Another great round-up to fuel your diving wanderlust. Enjoy the issue.

Walt Stearns, Editor (North America)



"This is the best diving I have ever done in 30 years of diving. All of the staff are the most helpful and gracious I have ever met in 50 years of traveling. The staff are as magnificent as the reef!"

~ Russell Graham, Dec 2025

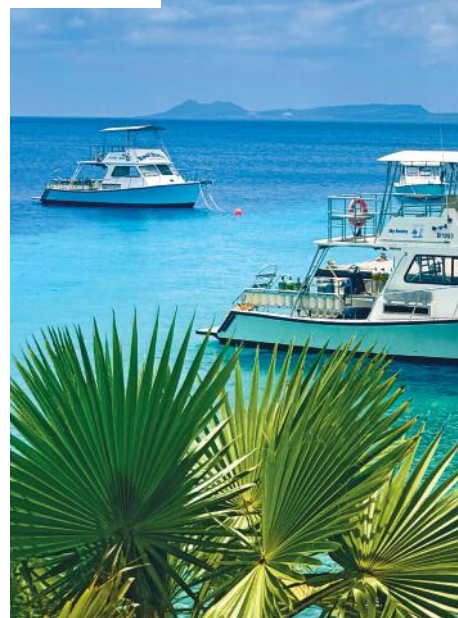
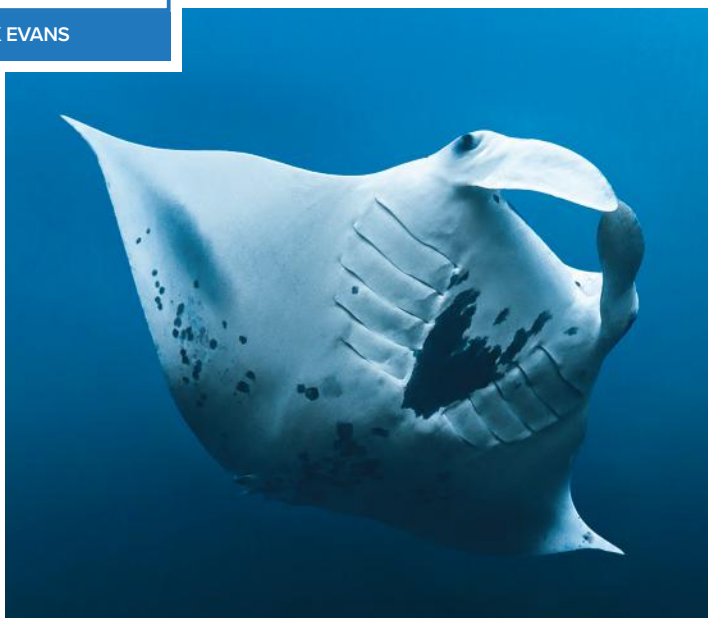
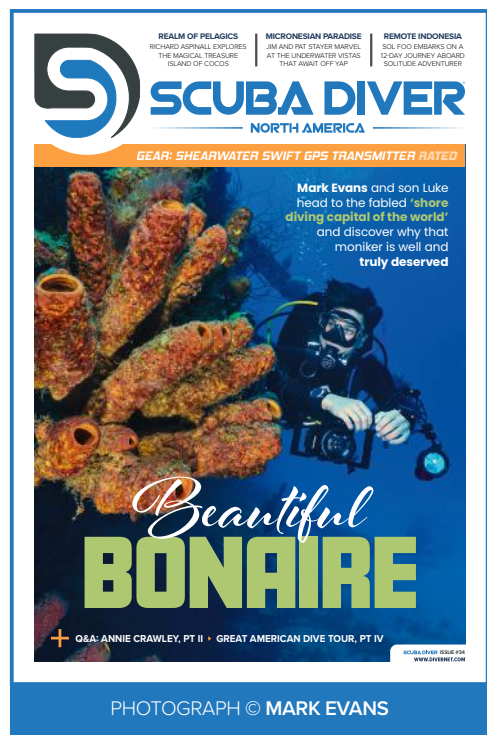


Celebrating 30 years of excellence

For three decades, Wakatobi has offered privileged access to one of the most pristine and biodiverse marine environments on Earth, made possible through our expanding private marine sanctuary and private guest flight direct to the resort. Our dive team, private guides, culinary staff, and management team craft your experience with love and care, ensuring that you leave with memories to last a lifetime. You need only ask, and our team will happily take care of any request you may have. This unmatched combination of world-renowned reefs and elevated comforts put Wakatobi in a category all its own— still an experience without equal.



 **wakatobi**
www.wakatobi.com



Regular columns

10 News round-up

Jill Heinerth wins 2026 21st Century Adventurer Award, the Women Divers Hall of Fame Class of 2026 unveiled, and Buddy Dive launches Bonaire Shore Diver Specialty Course.

52 Divers Alert Network

The Divers Alert Network team explain the importance of keeping your first aid skills up to date and well-drilled.

62 #AskMark

The differences between diving in the USA and UK, and whether to use the BCD or drysuit for buoyancy.

74 Snorkeling column

Discover how snorkeling and eco-tourism can support sustainable travel, and protect marine ecosystems.

Monthly features...

16 Costa Rica

Richard Aspinall explores this magical treasure island that inspired Robert Louis Stevenson and Jacques Cousteau and was the fictional setting for Jurassic Park. He finds out why it is so rich with life, and has an unforgettable diving adventure aboard Cocos Island Aggressor.

24 Q&A: Annie Crawley, part two

We conclude our chat to the acclaimed film-maker, underwater photographer, and author about her mission to protect our blue planet for future generations.

30 Micronesia

Jim and Pat Stayer are enthralled by the underwater vistas that greet them off Yap, and soak up the atmosphere and culture on this unspoilt Micronesian paradise.



...continued

36 Great American Dive, part four

This year the USA celebrates its 250-year anniversary, and for divers, this is an opportunity to explore the best scuba diving opportunities the country has to offer. This is the final article of a series introducing you to the wide variety of dives that can be experienced right here in the United States.

44 Bonaire

Editorial Director Mark Evans is always wary when somewhere is labelled the 'capital of the world' for something, but with Bonaire, that moniker is truly deserved when it comes to shore diving, as he found when he headed to the 'home of diving freedom' with son Luke in tow.

54 Indonesia, part one

A 12-day journey on Solitude Adventurer through Indonesia's

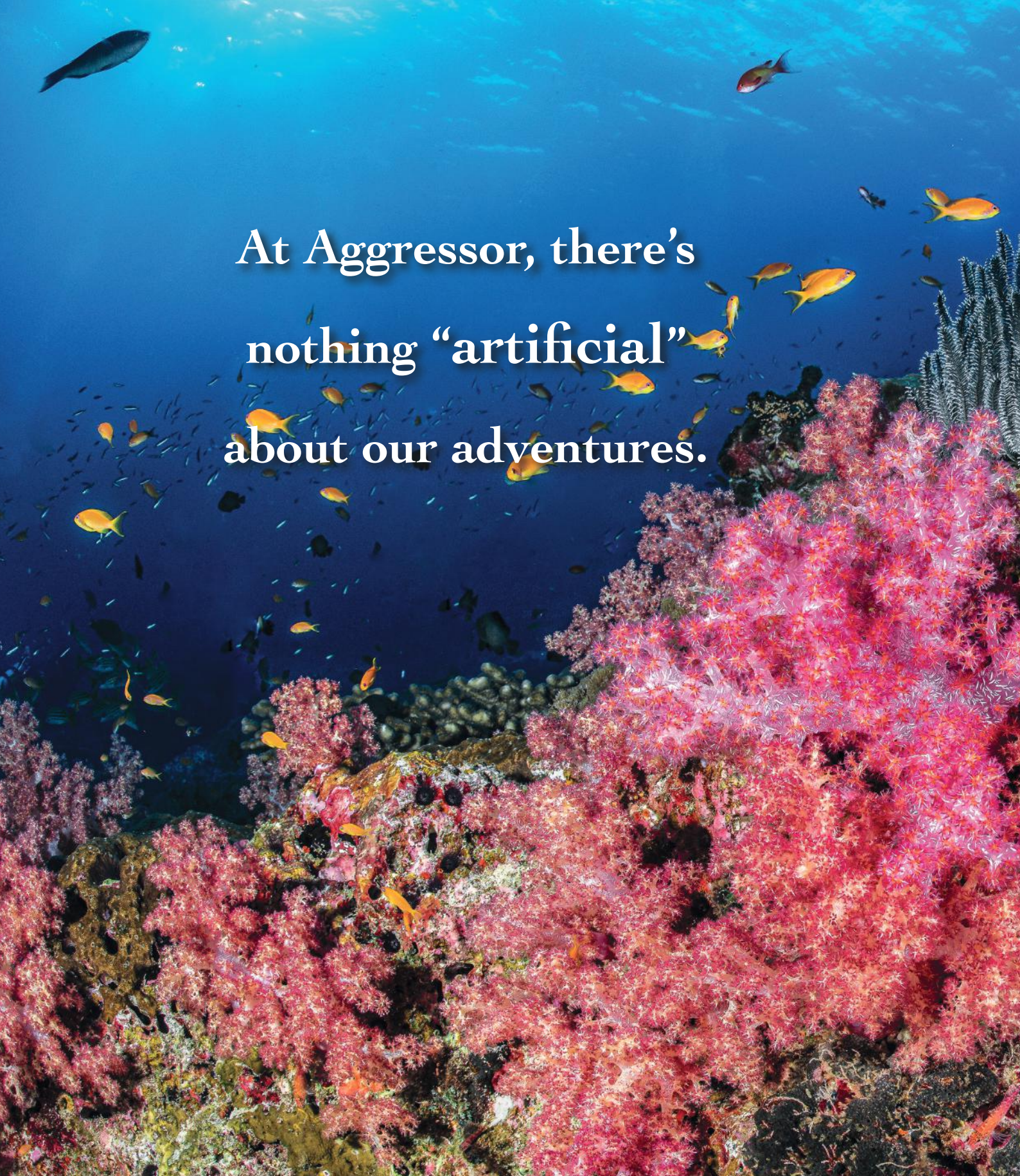
remote waters from Maumere to Ambon reveals how each dive site develops its own signature coral species – mirroring the cultural diversity found above the waves – as Sol Foo explains.

Gear & testing

64 Test Extra

Editorial Director Mark Evans rates and reviews the Shearwater Swift GPS transmitter, the Cressi Aquawing 80th anniversary limited-edition backplate-and-wing, and the Cressi Logica 7/8 semi-drysuit.



A vibrant underwater photograph showing a diverse coral reef. In the foreground, there are large, branching corals in shades of pink, red, and orange. Numerous small, bright orange fish are swimming around the coral. In the background, the water is a deep blue, and a few larger, darker fish are visible. The overall scene is lively and colorful.

At Aggressor, there's
nothing "artificial"
about our adventures.

AGGRESSOR  ADVENTURES®

· Bahamas · Belize · Cayman Islands · Cocos Island, Costa Rica · Dominican Republic · Galapagos · Komodo, Indonesia ·
· Nile River, Egypt · Maldives · Palau · Philippines · Raja Ampat, Indonesia · Red Sea, Egypt · Roatan, Bay Islands of Honduras ·
· Sri Lanka · Thailand-Andaman Sea · Thailand-Chiang Mai · Turks & Caicos ·



Aggressor Adventures pledges to never use AI images in any of our advertising, brochures or promotional materials. We don't have to! The amazing photos you see are real images from real locations you can see up close on any of our exotic adventures. And these experiences are always accompanied by our five-star services and amenities to make your vacation next-level.

For real, organic adventures, choose Aggressor.



Book your Aggressor Adventure today and take advantage of our worldwide liveaboard specials.



Scan for Specials

AGGRESSOR  ADVENTURES

Personalized Small Group Adventures since 1984

800-348-2628 • www.aggressor.com

Aggressor liveaboards, signature lodges, river cruises and floating resorts are independently owned and operated.



Proud Partner
   



INDUSTRY NEWS

Each month, we bring together the latest regional industry news, as well as all over our water planet. To find out the most up-to-date news and views, check out the website or follow us on our various social media channels [@divernetuk](https://www.divernet.com/news) www.divernet.com/news



AGGRESSOR ADVENTURES LAUNCHES NEW AND IMPROVED AGGRESSOR.TV PLATFORM

Aggressor Adventures is proud to announce the launch of its newly redesigned Aggressor.TV platform, which went live in mid-July. The upgraded site replaces the previous version, delivering a significantly improved user experience with faster performance, modern design, and enhanced functionality across all devices.

The previous version of Aggressor.TV had become outdated and difficult to navigate. The new platform has been completely rebuilt to provide a cleaner interface, improved navigation, and a more-seamless way for users to discover and enjoy Aggressor video content.

The redesigned platform is fully optimized for mobile use, allowing viewers to easily stream videos and explore Aggressor Adventures content from anywhere. A new user dashboard has also been introduced, giving viewers quicker access to featured content, series, video podcasts, and destination programming in one centralized location.

"This upgrade represents a major step forward in how we share our stories," said Jay Roberts, CEO of Aggressor Adventures. "Aggressor.TV plays an important role in showcasing our destinations and experiences, and this new platform delivers that content in a way that is faster, easier, and more engaging for our audience."



Aggressor.TV continues to serve as a global hub for adventure storytelling, featuring liveaboard diving, cultural travel, destination highlights, and behind-the-scenes content from across the Aggressor Adventures brand.

The launch reflects Aggressor Adventures' ongoing commitment to innovation and improving how guests connect with its worldwide experiences.

CAVE DIVING PIONEER JILL HEINERTH RECEIVES 2026 21ST CENTURY ADVENTURER AWARD

Canadian cave diver, underwater explorer, author and filmmaker Jill Heinerth has been named the 2026 recipient of the 21st Century Adventurer Award – presented by Land Rover Defender and the European Outdoor Film Tour (EOFT), the international award was presented to Heinerth in Munich, Germany, on 21 July.

The award celebrates contemporary adventurers whose courage, accomplishments and sense of purpose create an impact beyond exploration itself. Heinerth was recognized for her pioneering underwater expeditions, environmental advocacy and commitment to revealing and protecting the hidden water systems beneath the Earth's surface.

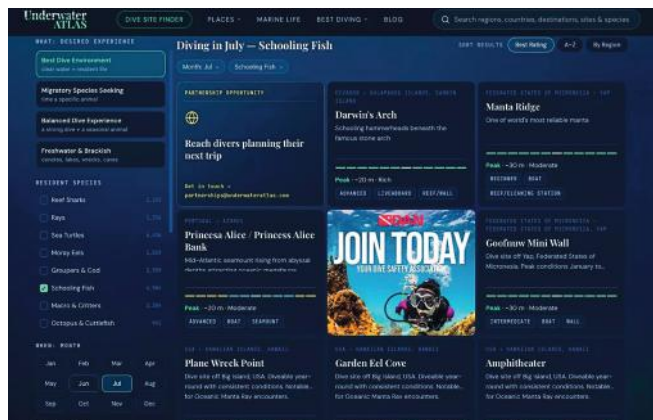
For more than 30 years, Heinerth has explored, documented and mapped submerged caves around the world. Her groundbreaking expeditions have taken her inside an Antarctic iceberg, deep into Mexican cenotes and through some of the longest underwater cave systems on the planet. Her work combines exploration, science, photography and filmmaking to help people understand the essential connection between groundwater and life on the surface.

"This award is a tremendous honour for me and for the diving community," said Heinerth. "Cave divers have the privilege of visiting places that few people will ever see. With that privilege comes a responsibility to document these environments, share what we learn and inspire others to protect our water resources."



INDUSTRY NEWS

UNDERWATER ATLAS: SAVING SCUBA BY REFINING TRIP-PLANNING



The free-to-use Underwater Atlas, which was officially launched in July, has hit the ground running by grading more than 10,300 dive-sites across 133 nations, reflecting their diving conditions and potential for specific marine-life sightings as both shift from month to month. Behind the online facility is a data engine that combines nearly two decades of NASA and NOAA satellite and scientific records and climate data with a wealth of marine-life information gleaned from the world's major databases.

The idea is to report on those ever-changing aspects of the underwater world deemed to matter most to travelling divers, such as water clarity, sea conditions, reef health and those periods offering the best chances of seeing particular species. In this way Underwater Atlas is said to set out the odds of achieving desired underwater experiences at a site, rather than specifying any single, fixed 'best time' to travel.

Founders Tommy Nolen and John Kennerty, based in Tampa, Florida and both with marketing and media backgrounds, are convinced that it has been the lack of such centralised information that has until now held back the sport. "Divers want to be able to compare dive-sites across the world easily and without endlessly searching the Internet but, until now, no one had pulled the whole picture together in one place a diver could compare and trust," says Nolen.

"Underwater Atlas is a free, independent, science-grounded scuba dive-planning platform built to close the information gap that sends new divers home disappointed, and out of the sport."

Underwater Atlas is honest about the trade-offs required when making dive-holiday decisions, claims Nolen. "For example, the nutrient-rich water that draws manta rays and whale sharks is often the same water that clouds visibility. So the clearest conditions and the richest marine life can fall in different months."

Underwater Atlas is expanding continually with new sites, data and features and does not sell dive-trips or take payment for placement, say the founders, although they are now seeking partnerships with tourist boards and travel operators.



EXPLORE • CAPTURE • SIGNAL • SEARCH



INTRODUCING ORCA7

COMPACT PRIMARY
RELIABLE BACKUP

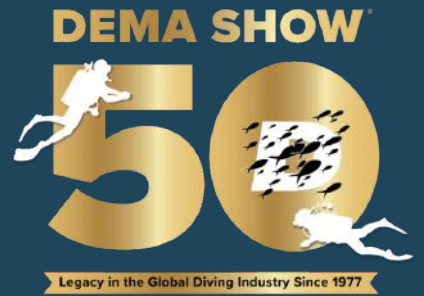
3,000 lumens • 6° beam • Max 3h 40m runtime • SOS signal • 2-Year Warranty

SCAN FOR
ORCA7
DETAILS



Distributor Contact
+86 18666214405
manager@orcatorch.com

DEMA Show® 50th Anniversary Party



Celebrate 50 years of DEMA Show at Mardi Gras World on **Thursday, November 5, from 6:00–9:00 PM.**

Join the people, businesses, and relationships that have shaped our industry while enjoying one of the week's premier networking events in a uniquely New Orleans setting.

What To Expect:

- 🐟 Float Den & Photo Opportunities
- 🐟 Beer & Wine
- 🐟 Appetizers
- 🐟 Raffle Prizes
- 🐟 & More!



**Scan the
QR Code to
Learn More
& Buy Your
Ticket**

US NAVY DIVER FINDS ARMY BOOT ON 'HELLSHIP' WRECK

A US Navy diver searching the wreck of the World War Two Japanese transport ship Oryoku Maru has recovered a US Army boot – in what could prove a significant development in a bid to account for hundreds of Allied prisoners of war who died on the ship's final voyage off Luzon in the Philippines in 1944.

The leather boot, marked 'US Army' on its sole, was found by Petty Officer 1st Class Taylor Lucas while he was excavating the Subic Bay wreck at a depth of around 24m.

Lucas was working through mud, decaying wood and twisted steel inside the collapsed wreckage. Disturbed sediment had reduced visibility to virtually zero, and he was searching largely by touch when he encountered the boot.

The US Defence POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) describes the excavation as one of its biggest and most-complex recovery efforts. It launched the multi-year operation in February in partnership with the US Navy and the Philippine government.

The Oryoku Maru was a 7,363-tonne Japanese passenger and cargo ship used to transport prisoners of war in conditions that led such vessels to become known as 'hellships'. According to DPAA historical records, 1,619 prisoners were packed into the ship's holds when it left Manila on 13 December 1944. They endured heat, severe overcrowding, poor ventilation and next to no sanitation.



US Navy aircraft, unaware that the unmarked vessel was carrying Allied prisoners, attacked it the following day. The damaged ship was beached in Subic Bay and attacked again on 15 December, when an explosion and fire caused more casualties. For those who made it off, further air attacks, untreated wounds, disease, exposure and starvation reduced the original group of 1,619 prisoners to about 500 at the end of January 1945. DPAA estimates that few more than 300 survived the war.

The agency says that the present Subic Bay excavation is the first stage of a multi-year effort. The recovered boot is evidence that personal military material survives within the wreck, but whether human remains suitable for identification can also be recovered has yet to be established.

Buddy Dive



Bonaire

BONAIRE MADNESS
November 14 – December 25, 2026

Your Buddies

Use promo code
MADNESS when booking

RESERVATIONS: +599 717 5080
WWW.BUDDYDIVE.COM
INFO@BUDDYDIVE.COM

Dive into crystal-clear waters, explore vibrant reefs, and bring your buddy along for an unforgettable adventure with their dives FREE!

THE NEXT STEP IN THE EVOLUTION OF DIVING

SPECTRUM FULL FACE MASK



USE YOUR OWN REGULATOR - BREATH NATURALLY
NO JAW FATIGUE - COMMUNICATIONS COMPATIBLE

SEE MORE AT: WWW.OTSCOMM.COM

Facebook @otscommunications Instagram @oceantechnologysystems

WOMEN DIVERS HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2026 UNVEILED

The Women Divers Hall of Fame Class of 2026 has been unveiled, and as usual, it features a select group representing a wide array of influence, knowledge and capabilities. The Class of 2026, who will be inducted in an official ceremony taking place during the NOGI gala awards banquet on 4 November during the DEMA Show in New Orleans, USA, are:

- **Liz Parkinson** – Stunt Performer, Marine Conservationist, Scuba & Freediving Instructor (Liz has been an acclaimed speaker at the GO Diving Shows in the UK and Australia, and at the recent Scuba Shows in Long Beach and Atlantic City, in which she also acted as a superb MC).
- **Margery Spielman** – Educator, Conservationist & Marine Artist
- **Dr. Ingrid N. Visser** – Cetologist, Marine Conservationist & Author
- **Linden Wolbert** – Edutainer, Mermaid Pioneer & Inventor (Linden has also been a popular speaker at the GO Diving Show in the UK)
- **Marni Zabarsky** – Pioneering Saturation Diver, HSEQ Leader & Industry Mentor

These extraordinary women have each made a lasting impact on the underwater world through leadership, innovation, education, conservation, and service.

Wanted: Four Attorneys Who Like Swimming With The Sharks.



Or manta rays, or hundreds of species of reef fish.

The Office of the Attorney General, Ministry of Justice, Republic of Palau, is now recruiting **four Assistant Attorneys General (2 Criminal and 2 Civil)**.

All positions are located in Koror, Palau. Recruitment, and repatriation costs are included.

To live and work in paradise, email: ekrengiil57@gmail.com with the subject line "AAG Palau".

scan for more information



SOLITUDE
GAIA
MALDIVES



SOLITUDE
ONE



SOLITUDE
GAIA
PALAU



SOLITUDE
ADVENTURER



EXPLORE
SOLITUDE
LIVEBOARDS

WWW.SOLITUDE.WORLD

Ask any biologist why islands are special and they will talk about geographic isolation and endemic species. They might also mention Darwin and natural selection, as well as biodiversity hotspots and species richness. This might sound technical, but it is why divers love islands too - the sheer abundance and concentration of habitats and life, of every hue, size, and shape.

Islands shelter oases of life amid empty expanses and allow evolution to take unique directions. Species washed up on isolated shores can become unique endemics over time, subtly different to their mainland ancestors and found nowhere else. Of all the islands divers can enjoy, Isla de la Coco – or simply ‘Cocos’ - is one of the finest, offering some of the greatest wildlife spectacles on Earth. Jacques Cousteau described it as ‘the most beautiful island in the world.’ Who are we to disagree with Cousteau?

Cocos lies 340 miles off the Pacific coast of Costa Rica, one of a series of volcanic sea mounts running down to Galapagos. It is remote, isolated, and save for a few researchers and rangers, uninhabited. Some of its perilously steep valleys are still unexplored and there is a chance, albeit remote, pirate treasure remains unearthed!

The yacht takes 36 hours to reach Cocos from the port of Puntarenas. The crossing can be rough, so seasickness medication is advised for the sensitive. But it is worth it to wake in Chatham Bay to a sky wheeling with sea birds, lush and verdant tropical rainforest tempting you onto land to explore, and all around, the sea is alive with fish breaking the surface, hinting at an underwater world just as rich and complex. After several days of travel, the 22 guests, from Europe and the Americas, were eager to be in the water, and after briefings on safety and dive operations we kitted up for our check dive.

Diving is exclusively from large RIBs (called ‘pangas’), each carrying ten to 12 divers. Kit stays on the panga with cylinders filled using long hoses. Kitting up is easier than expected with the guides and boat-handler helping.

I had little idea what to expect as we headed a short distance from the yacht to a site known as Coral Garden and rolled backwards into the warm water. My first impression

“ It is hard to imagine, but sharks were becoming so common they became unremarkable. In just one dive in Cocos, I had seen more hammerheads than I’d previously seen in over 20 years of diving. Truly astonishing! ”

was fish and lots of ‘em, and current. And, as I found shelter behind a massive rock, I was astonished to see whitetip reef sharks – not one or two, but scores of them, resting up on sandy patches. Snapper shoaled in their hundreds and stunning king angelfish and moorish idols nipped away at morsels of food on the rocks. While this was a great dive, and in just minutes I had seen more sharks than in the last few years of diving, what we were really after were hammerheads.

Scalloped hammerheads are drawn to Cocos in significant numbers, following sea mounts and underwater clues all the way from Galapagos and Malpelo. These large sharks, which can reach around 13 feet, travel to Cocos in their hundreds. The island is one of the few locations on Earth where you can dive with them in such numbers. Their lives are not entirely understood, but many females show wounds that indicate rough courtship and mating had recently been taking place.

While the hammerheads spend much of their time in the blue, they visit the reefs for the services of the barberfish. These small yellow butterflyfish hover in shoals around prominent rocks and will flock around any shark (and often other fish) approaching them and picking away at parasites and old wounds. ▶



cocos

island

Richard Aspinall explores this magical treasure island that inspired Robert Louis Stevenson and Jacques Cousteau and was the fictional setting for Jurassic Park. He finds out why it is so rich with life, and has an unforgettable diving adventure aboard Cocos Island Aggressor

Photographs by Richard Aspinall

Did you know?

Cocos Island is a volcanic island in the Pacific Ocean administered by Costa Rica, approximately 340 miles southwest of the Costa Rican mainland. It is the southernmost point of geopolitical North America, and the only landmass above water on the Cocos tectonic plate.

Did you know?

Scalloped hammerhead sharks are a highlight of Cocos Island, often seen in large schools around seamounts and cleaning stations. These iconic predators patrol deep blue waters, favouring strong currents, and are a major draw for divers seeking dramatic, close-up encounters.



Schooling
hammerhead
sharks



Our first dive would be at Manuelita Island. It offers three amazing shark dives, and we would spend a good chunk of our week around its flanks. Like the rest of the complicated underwater topography, Manuelita is a steep-sided volcanic rock surrounded by car-sized boulders.

The dive plan called for a negative entry and a quick descent to avoid currents before a rendezvous with the group at around 65ft, before heading to the cleaning station and hunkering down amid the rocks. This may not be the trip for novices - Cocos demands confidence and the ability to deal with currents. I should add that every diver is given a GPS beacon, just in case.

“ I have traveled extensively and I cannot disagree with Cousteau – this is, in every way, the most beautiful island on Earth, both above and below the surface ”

Jurassic Park in
real life



Cleaning stations around Cocos, are typically at around 100ft. And with a heavy plankton load in the water, visibility was not great (though it is very variable with the season). But, sure enough, we could see the barberfish and within minutes half a dozen hammerheads approached. I fired off a few shots and quickly learned that strobes were not a great idea as the sharks were spooked. If I was to see any hammerhead action, I'd be shooting on ambient light only.

I'd also not win any friends among the rest of the group if I scared these skittish fish away. The hammers approached the large rocks where, by some 'ancient fishy agreement' between themselves and the barberfish, they would meet. Arching their backs sometimes and appearing to relish the cleaners' attentions, the sharks were astonishing to watch - such muscular powerful animals, yet so sensitive to the world around them.

The hammerheads kept on coming. Large marble rays passed by, and a manta provided a silhouette in the surface waters above, and of course, whitetips littered the floor. We had to remember to watch our depth and dive time with our 32 per cent gas blend. For my first dive with scalloped hammerheads, I could not have been happier!

Manuelita continued to impress over the week with the island's edge forming a channel between it and Cocos. Here, huge shoals of jacks would congregate, sometimes mimicking sea mounts as they were so dense and large. Briefly, what we took to be a school revealed itself to be a whale shark passing above, enjoying the plankton-rich waters.

Cocos owes its rich biodiversity to its location and geography of course, but also to converging nutrient-rich currents. Nutrients are further cycled between the land and the water, maintaining the ocean's foundational planktonic food that in turn feeds fish in their millions, including 14 species of sharks and countless other associated lifeforms.

Cocos sits at the heart of a National Park of over 200,000 hectares. Fishing is banned in this UNESCO World Heritage Site and unlike many other marine protected areas, the rules are enforced. Diving at Cocos is a rare and exclusive privilege, and on occasion, Cocos Island Aggressor is the only yacht there. Rarely do itineraries mean that the island is shared with the other Aggressor yacht, Okeanos Aggressor 2.

Offering a slightly different experience to Manuelita is Submerged Rock, on the other side of the island to the northerly Chatham Bay. Used for the aerial shots in the helicopter scenes in Jurassic Park, Submerged Rock is a ten-minute ride by panga, offering the chance to see more of the island's scenery. As the name suggests, the site is a large sea mount that fails to break the surface - a small squat pinnacle bathed in current.

Did you know?

The island's isolation has led to unique species you won't see anywhere else, alongside abundant ocean-going birds riding the updrafts.



Snapper shoal



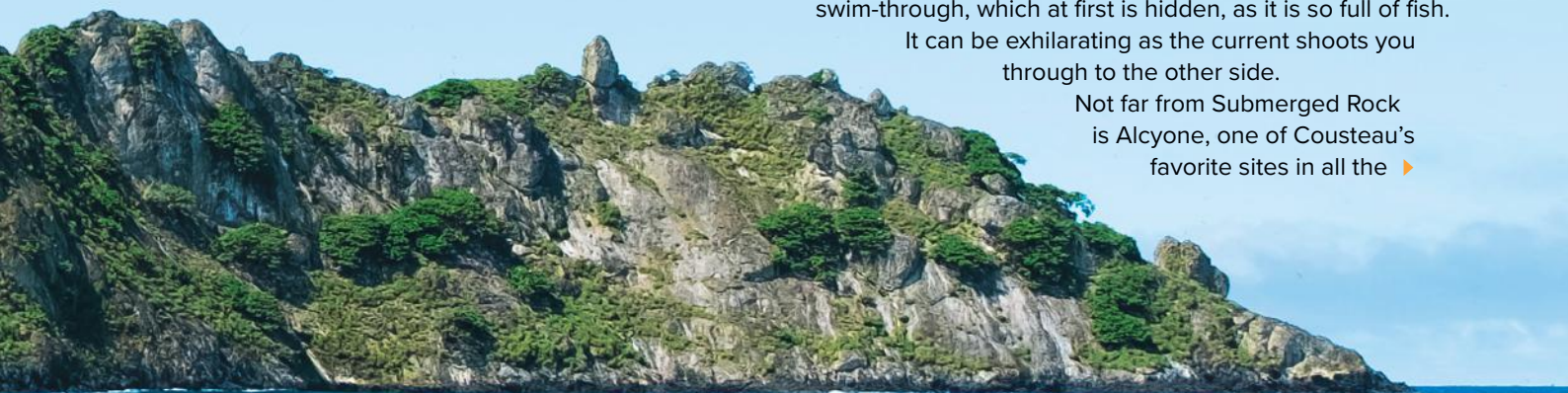
Happy divers returning to the liveboard

The currents, while occasionally strong, tended not to be an issue. Dive plans would adjust accordingly, and most dives were drift dives. The water could get a little chilly at depth, so I would recommend a 5mm suit.

Submerged Rock offered more sharks with a shallow plateau, again filled with whitetips. On closer inspection, the sharks were resting and being cleaned by small and colorful island cleaner blennies. Not for the first time did I wish I could switch between wide-angle and macro while underwater. However, I had a 16-30mm zoom lens fitted and it worked well, allowing me further 'reach' with the hammers – which were passing by once more. This site is noted for a swim-through, which at first is hidden, as it is so full of fish.

It can be exhilarating as the current shoots you through to the other side.

Not far from Submerged Rock is Alcyone, one of Cousteau's favorite sites in all the ▶





Giant hawkfish



Scalloped hammerhead



There are many swim-throughs and overhangs to explore



Yellowmouth moray eel

world and named for his experimental vessel. Our first visit to Alcyone was in warm but torrential tropical rain – this is one of the wettest places on Earth after all. The site, marked by a buoy, relies on divers descending down a line to the mount below. Immediately we settled in among the rocks with Warren (the guide and Cruise Director) indicating where we should stay. Visibility was much better, though a good torch would bring out the colors, showing the bright pink of the barnacle- and algae-covered rocks – empty ones were homes to little blennies, and good numbers of long-spined urchins reminded us not to be complacent.

It is no wonder Cousteau loved Alcyone; I happily shot away at the almost-tame fish, from leather bass to giant hawkfish. Once more we were joined by hammerheads at a cleaning station below. Snapper and rainbow runners and a massive shoal of jacks competed for our attention and at one point a dolphin made a high-speed pass, picking a prize from the throng, and two Galapagos sharks and a blacktip cruised by before we had to ascend.

Most dives would see us repeat this pattern. We would watch the sharks and then ascend slowly away from the rocks into the blue, keeping together as a group. Sometimes we saw little other than large numbers of snapper, grunts, jacks

and trevallies but on two special occasions, we saw a wall of hammerheads, keeping their distance, but providing an iconic spectacle. On one ascent, from Alcyone, a sailfish over four feet long passed by, but it was only a fleeting glimpse.

We returned to Alcyone several times and settled again into the comfortable rhythm of ‘get down, watch the sharks, and enjoy the spectacle’. However, the biologist in me was eager to explore the other habitats Cocos offers, so when the chance came to land on the beach at Chatham Bay, I could not have been happier.

Cocos is thickly covered in dense tropical rainforest, every tree clothed in ferns, mosses and bromeliads. The river and waterfall attracted folks who wanted a swim, but I wanted to find some bird life. I managed to shoot some local lizards before ‘bagging’ the Cocos Island finch, an endemic relative of Darwin’s Galapagos finches. A trek up the hill was a bit muddy but provided spectacular views across the bay to Cocos Island Aggressor moored up in the sunshine. The rainforest behind was dense and lush, with tendrils of cloud reaching into the valleys. Our time on the island was brief and, after posing at Cousteau Rock, we headed back out.

I was keen to find other local oddities underwater, so switched to a macro lens for another dive at Coral Garden. ▶



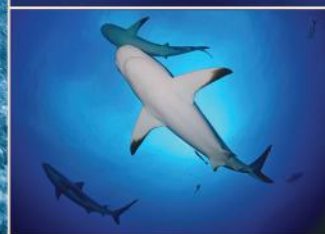
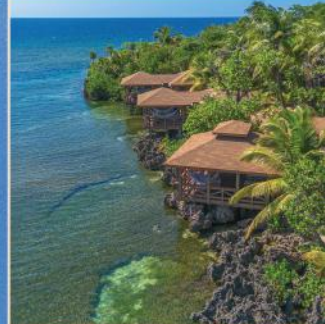
Roatan • Bay Islands
Honduras

Fall into more Savings

Enjoy 50% off on diving and snorkeling packages

*Limited-Time Offer**

**Valid for travel August 15–December 19, 2026*





Dramatic waterfall



Manta ray



Mantis shrimp

My initial hope for the dive would be to find frogfish (easier to find at Cocos than many locations) but, with the help of our excellent guide, Eduardo, other gems were uncovered including a mantis shrimp and a snowflake moray. I also indulged in a little serious fish geekery and found the endemic Cocos triplefin, and the barnacle blenny I had first seen at Alcyone. No frogfish were found and the rest of the day would revolve around hammerheads again.

It is hard to imagine, but sharks were becoming so common they became unremarkable. In just one dive in Cocos, I had seen more hammerheads than I'd previously seen in over 20 years of diving. Truly astonishing! Whitetip reef sharks were almost ignored in their ubiquity, yet just weeks before in the Red Sea I'd been ecstatic to see just one. It is remarkable just how Cocos can provide spectacle after spectacle and wonder on top of wonder.

I should praise the yacht and her crew: the large, capable and comfortable Cocos Island Aggressor was a joy to be aboard. The cabins were roomy and well-appointed and the food exceptional, with offerings of sushi rolls and sashimi on one evening and a Mexican feast on another. The well-equipped camera and charging areas were very welcome also, and the excellent coffeemaker became my best friend.

We enjoyed three dives per day, with every single one offering sharks at the sites I have listed here, as well as Dirty Rock, Small Dos Amigos, and Punta Maria. We had an intriguing dive at Lobster Rock, where lobster were indeed found. This flat site offered sea grass and sand, and finally, a bright orange frogfish resting up in a rhodolith field. Rhodoliths start as pebbles which become encrusted in layers of pink, calcareous algae. As they roll around in the current, they grow and form large patches of potato-sized nodules – again another fascinating habitat. I could have spent a week exploring this one site alone, hunting for critters, but I would settle for my frogfish. I had photographed a good assortment of the island's residents and visitors alike, and my memory cards were full.

When describing Cocos, it is easy to run out of superlatives. It is without question the finest location I have ever dived. It is a biological and cultural wonder and, joyfully, it is protected for future generations with park fees contributing to the island's future care. I have traveled extensively and I cannot disagree with Cousteau – this is, in every way, the most beautiful island on Earth, both above and below the surface. I would go further: a trip aboard Cocos Island Aggressor is one of the finest liveaboard experiences available. If Cocos is not on your destination list, then it should be. Pura Vida Cocos! ■



Need to know

Richard flew with KLM into San Jose, from Amsterdam. Flights into San Jose are available from several American, Canadian, and Mexican airports.

Aggressor and their partner hotel provide an excellent shuttle service to the yacht at Puntarenas. National Park fees are paid locally, and the boat accepts all major credit cards and US\$. Nitrox is available, as are nitrox courses, and kit hire can be arranged.

Wi-fi is available for a small charge. English and Spanish are spoken by the guides and crew.

www.aggressor.com



BLUE PEARL

The Ultimate Dive & Discovery Dream Sets Sail July 2026

Komodo • Banda Sea • Raja Ampat • Alor • Forgotten Islands • Bali



www.pearlfleet.org

SCUBA DIVER Q&A

ANNIE CRAWLEY PT II

We chat to acclaimed film-maker, underwater photographer, author and ocean educator about her enduring love affair with the sea, and her mission to protect our blue planet for future generations.

Photographs courtesy of Annie Crawley



Q: You have written several books, including many aimed at younger audiences – how important is it to get children involved with our underwater world? Perhaps that is a question best asked to ‘Ocean Annie’, as you are known by thousands of kids.

A: Getting children involved in our underwater world is not just important - it's essential.

‘Ocean Annie’ was a name that stuck given to me back in 2006 during one of my first presentations in the Chicago Public Schools. I was on an author tour after publishing *Ocean Life A to Z* with Reader's Digest Children's Division, supported in part by the Save Our Seas Foundation. That experience changed everything for me. I realized that when you bring the real ocean into a classroom, you're not just teaching facts - you're opening a door to connection, curiosity, and care.

My goal has always been to share the ocean with the next generation because understanding leads to love and respect, and this leads to protection. Through my work and research, one truth stands above all: every breath we take connects us to the sea. The ocean produces more than half of the oxygen in every breath through phytoplankton, algae, kelp and marine plants. It regulates our climate, drives weather patterns, and supports nearly three billion people who rely on it as their primary source of protein. A healthy global economy is tied directly to a healthy ocean.

We teach children the names of trees and land animals, but rarely introduce them to the systems in the ocean that sustain life on this planet. We plant forests, but overlook kelp forests, eelgrass meadows, and phytoplankton - quietly doing the work that allows us to exist.





KUBI

EXPEDITION

DRY GLOVES | TRANSPORT BAGS | DRY BAGS

www.KUBIstore.com



Tiger shark cruising in the shallows



A pair of harlequin shrimp

What we don't understand, we tend to fear. And what we fear, we distance ourselves from. That distance has consequences. Not just environmentally, but in how we relate to the natural world and to ourselves. Water is one of the most-powerful sources of regulation, creativity, and connection available to us, yet many children grow up without a meaningful relationship to it.

The ocean does not recognize the boundaries we draw on maps. Whales, sharks, orcas and so many animals move freely across them. Water connects everything - our rivers, lakes, rain, and watersheds all tie back to the sea. The ocean's story is our story.

When children understand that connection early in life, everything shifts. They don't see the ocean as something far away or separate - they see it as part of who they are. And when that happens, protection becomes personal.

That's the heart of 'Ocean Annie'. It's not just a name. It's an invitation - for children to explore, to understand, and ultimately, to become stewards of the world below the surface. During the pandemic, everything we created went online for free for families and schools.

The future of our ocean depends on what children learn to love today. When we give the gift of the real ocean to children, we change our future.

Q: You have traveled extensively – where are some of your favourite diving destinations you have visited?

A: It's always hard to choose favourite diving destinations because, for me, it's less about the place and more about the experience. I'm drawn to behavior - those rare, intimate moments in the natural world that reveal how life beneath the surface truly works. ▶



Annie photographing a baby humpback whale
© Steve Woods



Onboard technology
Electronic Rescue and
Location System
(ENOS) & free
5G internet
connection



TIARÉ CRUISE

LUXURY & DIVING IN INDONESIA

Welcome to Tiaré, a luxurious yet traditional Indonesian Phinisi that will take you on a journey of discovery to some of the most stunning diving spots in the world's largest archipelago!

tiarecruise.com



Contact our
team today to
book your adventure!

+62 811 386 586
reservation@tiarecruise.com
www.tiarecruise.com





CUSTOMER TESTIMONIAL

“ I love the KUBI Dry Glove System because they let me stay underwater in cold water conditions while still giving me the dexterity to use my camera. The o’ring design is genius and so easy to replace elements ”

Shireen Shipman San Diego, California

KUBI
EXPEDITION
DRY GLOVES | TRANSPORT BAGS | DRY BAGS
www.KUBIstore.com

Verde Island,
Philippines



“ So while I’ve been fortunate to dive in places around the world like Mexico and the Arctic, my favorite ‘destination’ is really any place where I can witness and share the extraordinary behaviors of life beneath the surface ”

That said, the Coral Triangle holds a very special place in my heart when it comes to coral reefs. It’s one of the most-biodiverse regions on the planet, and I’ve been fortunate to spend years there, particularly living in Indonesia and working extensively in Papua New Guinea and the Philippines. There is an energy in that part of the world - an abundance of life - that is both humbling and inspiring.

When I moved to California, I fell in love with a completely different kind of ecosystem in the Channel Islands. The kelp forests there are magical - towering, dynamic, and full of life in a way that feels otherworldly. That appreciation for temperate water diving deepened when I settled in the Pacific Northwest. As a drysuit diver, I’ve come to love the Salish Sea and everything it offers, from its biodiversity to its seasonal rhythms.

More recently, my work has taken me into the Eastern Tropical Pacific Marine Corridor, which includes Costa Rica, Ecuador, Colombia, and Panama. It’s an important migration corridor for marine life on our planet, and even though I’ve only explored a small part, it continues to call me back.

And then there are the moments that transcend location entirely - discovering frogfish mating behaviors; witnessing

a river of moray eels hunting in groups with snapper, jacks, leather bass and more; swimming alongside a mother humpback whale and her calf; or filming silky shark migrations. These are the experiences that stay with me and continue to shape my work as a storyteller.

So while I’ve been fortunate to dive in places around the world like Mexico and the Arctic, my favorite ‘destination’ is really any place where I can witness and share the extraordinary behaviors of life beneath the surface.

Q: What is your most-memorable diving experience?

A: Witnessing the silky shark migration at Malpelo Island, Colombia in 2021. It begins above the surface. You watch the water carefully, looking for signs. In this case, it’s the movement of the birds - especially the Nazca booby birds. They dive at incredible speeds, hitting the water with precision, then rest on the surface before lifting off again. That behavior is a signal. It tells you something is happening below. Often, it means a bait ball has formed, with tuna and silky sharks working together to push it toward the surface.

Approaching slowly in the zodiac, everything becomes intentional. You don’t rush in. You read the water, position ▶



CUSTOMER TESTIMONIAL

“I suffer from Raynaud’s disease so wearing dry gloves means that I can keep my hands both dryer and warmer whilst also retaining the dexterity I lose with wet gloves... I’m no use on a dive if I’ve got totally numb hands”

Evie P England, United Kingdom

KUBI
EXPEDITION
DRY GLOVES | TRANSPORT BAGS | DRY BAGS
www.KUBIstore.com

yourself, and enter from the edge rather than the center. Then you slip beneath the surface. And suddenly, you’re surrounded. Hundreds of silky sharks moving together with purpose, as if traveling along an invisible superhighway. There’s a rhythm to it, a flow. They are not chaotic or aggressive - they are coordinated, aware, and completely in their element.

Moments like that are hard to put into words. It’s not just what you see, but what you feel - being immersed in something so much larger than yourself, witnessing a natural phenomenon that has existed long before us and hopefully continues despite us. It’s those experiences that stay with me and remind me why it’s so important to keep sharks swimming in our ocean.

Q: On the flipside, what is your worst diving memory?

A: Some of my most-difficult diving memories are not a single moment, but a pattern I’ve witnessed over time.

Seeing widespread coral bleaching in places like the Maldives and Papua New Guinea is heartbreaking. Reefs that were once vibrant and full of life have turned pale and quiet. You can feel the absence. It’s not just a visual change - it’s a loss of an entire living system. I’ve also dived through areas where the ocean is filled with trash. Witnessing declines in real time hurts. Overfishing is the greatest threat facing our ocean. Returning to locations that were once remote and pristine, only to find them impacted by rapid, unsustainable development and inadequate waste management, is incredibly difficult to witness.

These are the visible signs of human-driven climate change and environmental pressure on the ocean. For those of us who spend time beneath the surface, it’s not abstract - it’s something we see, feel, and carry with us.

When I first began this work, my focus was on the ocean itself - sharing its beauty, its mystery, and its importance. Over time, that perspective has expanded. This work is



Ball of sardines

just as much about humanity as it is about the ocean. Because while the ocean has the capacity to recover over long timescales, we do not. Our survival is directly tied to the health of the ocean. And despite everything, I remain hopeful. We already have many of the solutions needed to address these challenges. What we need now is understanding - an awareness of how deeply interconnected we are with the ocean’s systems. When people truly understand that connection, it changes how we act. That’s where the work continues.

Q: What does the future holds for Annie Crawley?

A: The future holds more diving, more storytelling, and a continued commitment to connection and impact.

I plan to keep diving as much as possible, because that is where everything begins for me - experience, understanding, and inspiration. From there, I’ll continue writing, both articles and books, to share those lessons in ways that reach people beyond the water.

Multi-media storytelling will play an even bigger role. Through film, presentations, and collaborations, I want to create experiences that inspire people to see the ocean differently and understand their connection to it. Storytelling has the power to shift perspective, and with that shift comes the potential for real change.

I’m also deeply committed to elevating the work of other women in this field and creating opportunities for the next generation. There are so many important voices and stories that deserve to be seen and heard, and I want to continue helping bring these forward. At the heart of it all is the belief that storytelling can create impact - by inspiring awareness, connection, and action. And, of course, more diving. I’m just following the signs of my underwater life. ■



Black-tip reef sharks



KIDS SEA CAMP: VOTED THE BEST FAMILY DIVING VACATIONS IN THE WORLD!

**"GIVE THEM A WEEK
THEY WILL
REMEMBER FOREVER."**

AFRICA
ALOR
BELIZE
BONAIRE
THE CAYMAN ISLANDS
DOMINICA
FIJI
THE FORGOTTEN ISLANDS
GALAPAGOS
INDONESIA
KOMODO
LEMbeh
MALDIVES
MEXICO
PALAU
THE PHILIPPINES
RAJA AMPAT
THE RED SEA
ROATAN
ST. EUSTATIUS
ST. LUCIA
TURKS
& CAICOS



FAMILY DIVE ADVENTURES
kids@kidsseacamp.com
803-419-2556 www.familydivers.com

EXPERIENCE DIVING AT ITS FINEST

7 nights / 15 dives
starting at \$1,799*



Manta Ray Bay
RESORT & Yap Divers
mantaray.com

* per diver, double occupancy.

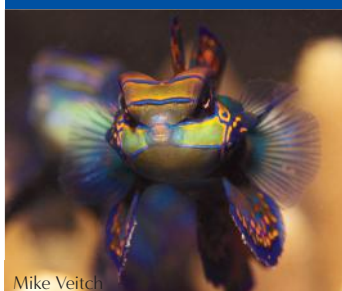
VISIT YAP



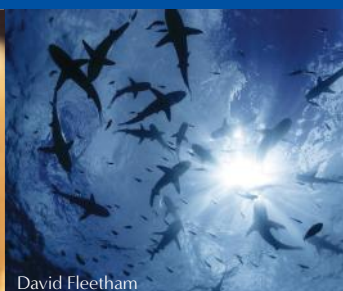
SCAN ME FOR
MORE INFO

Andy Schumacher

World-Class Diving • A Single Airline from the US to Yap • Smooth, No-Hassle Travel.



Mike Veitch

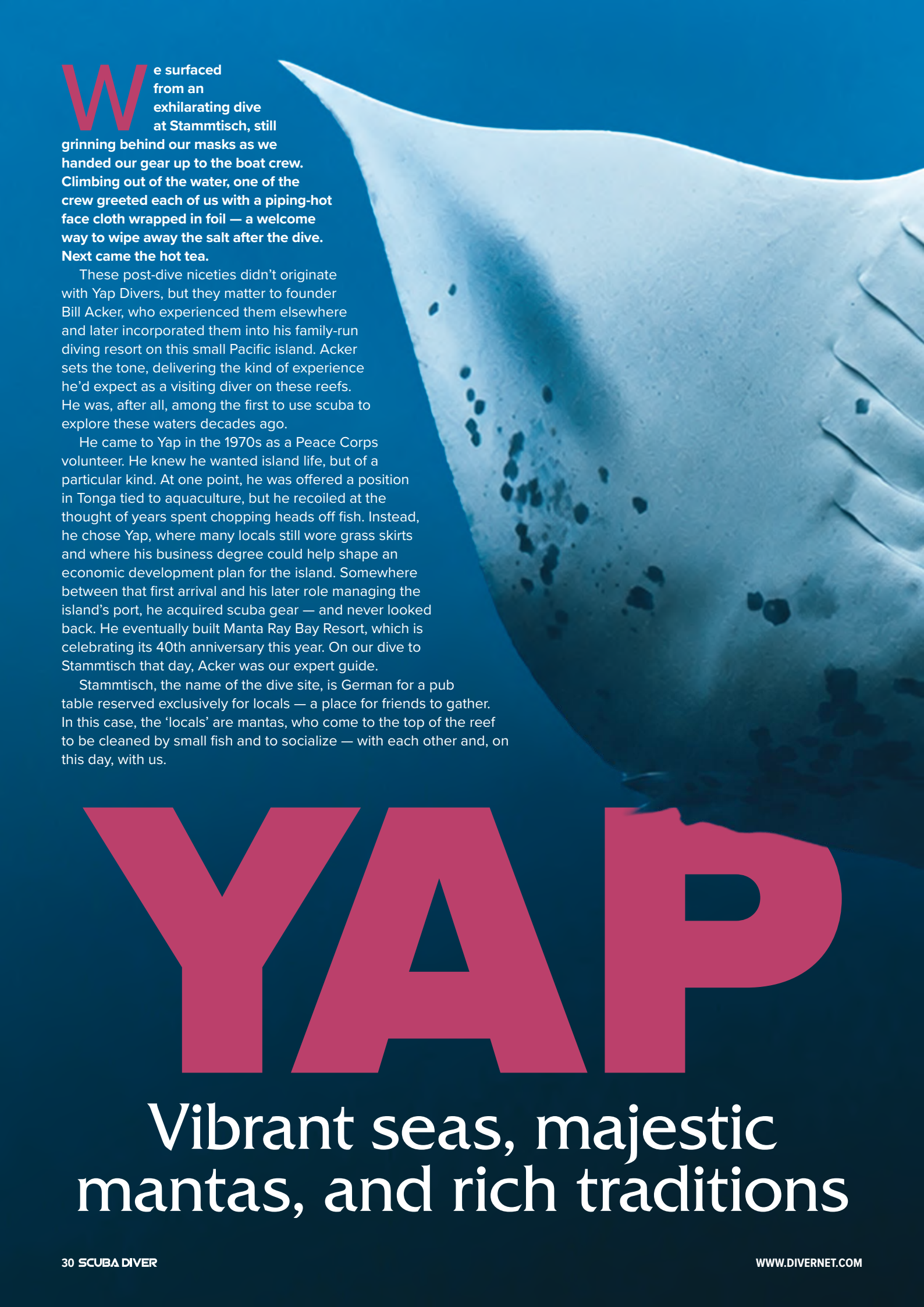


David Fleetham



Tim Rock





We surfaced from an exhilarating dive at Stammtisch, still grinning behind our masks as we handed our gear up to the boat crew. Climbing out of the water, one of the crew greeted each of us with a piping-hot face cloth wrapped in foil — a welcome way to wipe away the salt after the dive. Next came the hot tea.

These post-dive niceties didn't originate with Yap Divers, but they matter to founder Bill Acker, who experienced them elsewhere and later incorporated them into his family-run diving resort on this small Pacific island. Acker sets the tone, delivering the kind of experience he'd expect as a visiting diver on these reefs. He was, after all, among the first to use scuba to explore these waters decades ago.

He came to Yap in the 1970s as a Peace Corps volunteer. He knew he wanted island life, but of a particular kind. At one point, he was offered a position in Tonga tied to aquaculture, but he recoiled at the thought of years spent chopping heads off fish. Instead, he chose Yap, where many locals still wore grass skirts and where his business degree could help shape an economic development plan for the island. Somewhere between that first arrival and his later role managing the island's port, he acquired scuba gear — and never looked back. He eventually built Manta Ray Bay Resort, which is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year. On our dive to Stammtisch that day, Acker was our expert guide.

Stammtisch, the name of the dive site, is German for a pub table reserved exclusively for locals — a place for friends to gather. In this case, the 'locals' are mantas, who come to the top of the reef to be cleaned by small fish and to socialize — with each other and, on this day, with us.

YAP

Vibrant seas, majestic mantas, and rich traditions



Jim and Pat Stayer are enthralled by the underwater vistas that greet them off the island of Yap, and soak up the atmosphere and culture on this unspoilt Micronesian paradise

Photographs by Jim and Pat Stayer

This is a key intersection in the Pacific Ring of Fire. Among the many dive sites, some stand out for their rich marine life and colorful underwater landscapes...

Vertigo – Along the sheer wall, red snapper forage among the ledges, while out in the blue, dozens of blacktip and gray sharks cruise in steady patrols. Individuals sweep in closer, circling with clear curiosity as they investigate the divers.

Yap Caverns – A seascape photographer's dream, with sunlight dancing through dramatic rock formations. Acker guides divers from one swim-through to the next, while a dozen or so three-foot-long bumphead parrotfish hover nearby, adding constant motion to the scene.

Magic Kingdom and Nearby Wall – Like most sites, this area is a cornucopia of coral color that would put even Disney to shame. Baitfish dart between the formations while schools of mackerel and rainbow runners - members of the tuna family - hunt in the water column. Their silvery bodies flash with iridescent blues and greens, built for speed and agility. They stream above the wall, often moving in circular patterns that create the appearance of a living cyclone.

Slow and Easy – True to its name, Slow and Easy rewards patient divers. Coral heads rise from the seafloor like Christmas trees, decorated with colorful reef fish, nudibranchs, and delicate Christmas tree worms. In the sandy patches between them, gobies, blind shrimp, razorfish, and wrasses dart in and out of the sand — many expertly camouflaged and waiting to be discovered.

Mil Channel – With incoming tides, visibility stretches across this wide, deep channel. While more than 100 mantas inhabit Yap's waters, only some pass through the channel, ▶

Did you know?

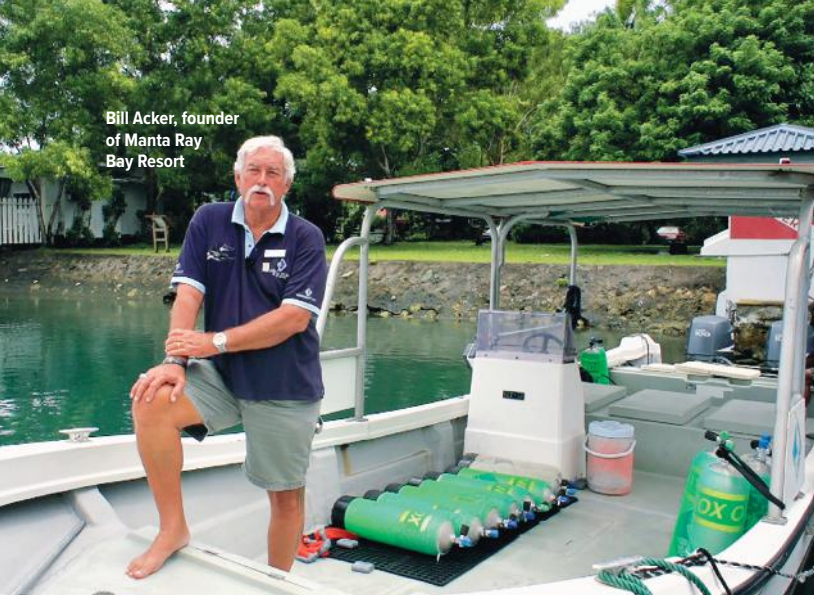
Manta rays and sharks have been protected in Yap's territorial waters since the early 2010s and thus the population of both species is thriving. Fun fact: The German colonial era has left its mark on the Yapese vocabulary to this day.

The reef's mantas are drawn to the plankton-rich water, unfurling their cephalic fins to funnel the nutrient-rich currents into their mouths. As divers kneel just off the reef plateau, mantas swim past, glide overhead, and circle the watching divers. Each manta has distinctive markings, cataloged in a rogues' gallery back at the resort. These graceful giants are among Yap's most-famous residents.

But for all their fame, the mantas are just part of the story. Pristine coral surrounds the four volcanic, mountain-top islands that make up Yap proper. A continuous fringing reef edges the islands, descending toward an abyss. Below lies the 26,000ft Yap Trench, where the Caroline tectonic plate slides beneath the Philippine Sea plate.

“ In this case, the ‘locals’ are mantas, who come to the top of the reef to be cleaned by small fish and to socialize with each other and, on this day, with us ”

Bill Acker, founder
of Manta Ray
Bay Resort



gliding alongside sharks resting on the sandy bottom and schools of fish racing past. Brilliant pink and purple soft corals color the reef, completing the spectacle.

Between dives, Manta Ray Bay Resort is a comfortable, diving-focused stay. Rooms of all sizes are uniquely decorated, many overlooking the bay and the giant sailing ship that serves as the resort's restaurant and pub. The resort even brews its own signature beers.

Divers are assigned convenient gear storage areas and camera workstations in a building near the dock, next to the bayfront infinity pool, and close to the resort lobby. Daily trips include three dives and a prepared lunch. Locations are picked based on weather, tides, and skill levels. Most dive boats are small, set up for eight or so divers.

Yap's Ever-Present History

For special occasions — both civil and religious — Yapese dancers don traditional ceremonial dress, celebrating and preserving island culture.

Long before the Spanish arrived and brought the still-dominant Roman Catholicism — in fact, even before the time of Christ — it's believed the island's people were walking across engineered stone paths from village to village, paths that remain today.

“ Like most sites, this area is a cornucopia of coral color that would put even Disney to shame ”



The 'Stammtisch' cleaning station is located in such shallow water that even snorkelers can experience the manta rays



Traditions are upheld on Yap at every opportunity

Did you know?

Manta Ray Bay Resort & Yap Divers has been family-owned since its founding in 1986. Operating entirely without franchises or outside investors, Bill and Patricia Acker, together with their daughter Numie, have steered the cozy 36-room resort through every storm — both literal and figurative.

The reef shark hotspot Vertigo is also shallow enough for snorkeling and for extra-long dives



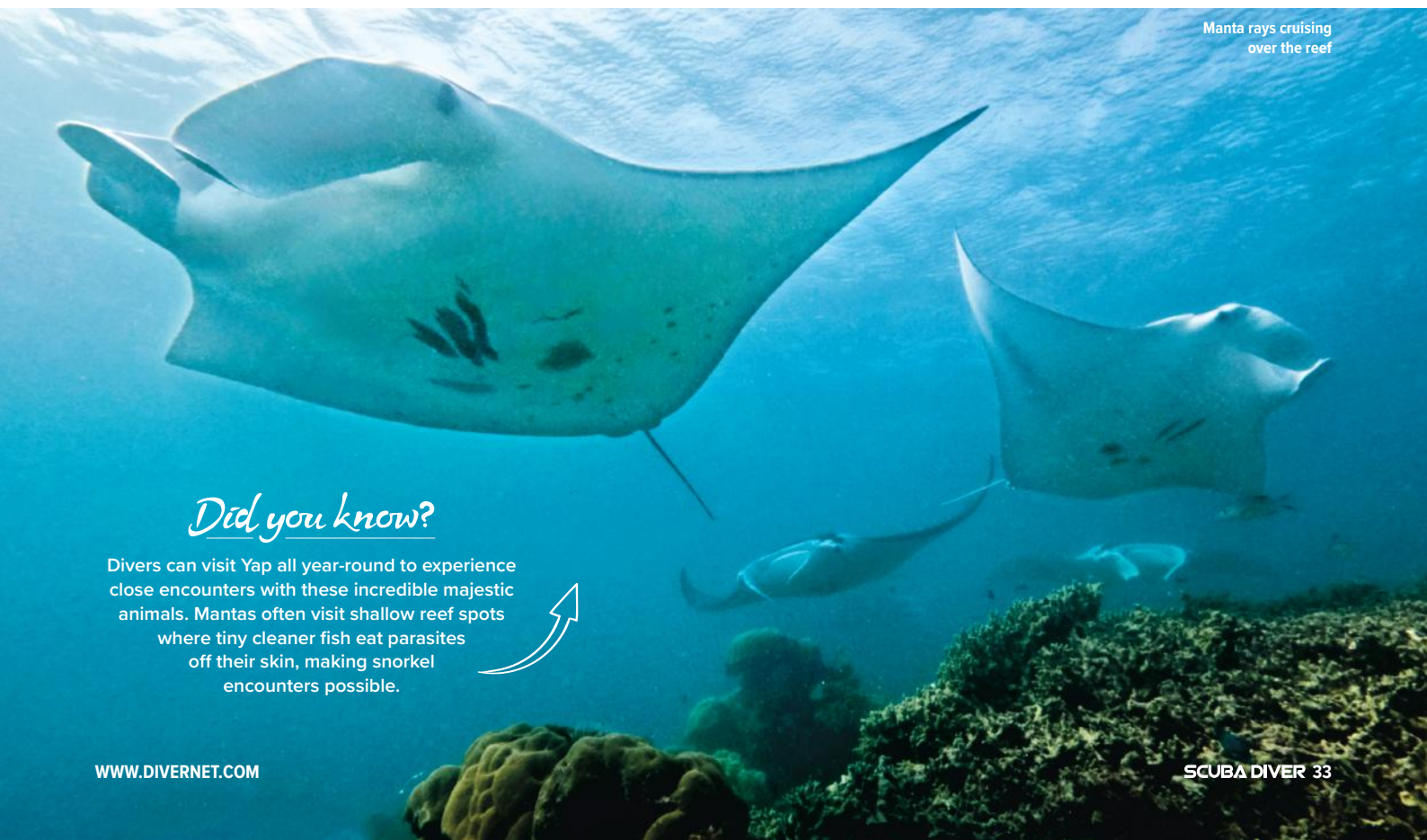


Eventually, islanders looked outward and navigated the distant sea in small boats. When one such expedition visited Palau, 280 miles away, and brought back crystalline limestone, it was highly valued by elders. They sent for more. So began Yap's economy based on giant stone discs.

Today, the quickest way from the resort in Colonia on the east coast to some of the dive sites on the west is through a mangrove-lined canal cut by the German Navy during World War One. Elsewhere, remnants of Japanese encampments, weapons, and airplanes are displayed from yet another island era. ▶



The vault of the Yap Caverns
Above: The famous stone money of Yap



Manta rays cruising over the reef

Did you know?

Divers can visit Yap all year-round to experience close encounters with these incredible majestic animals. Mantas often visit shallow reef spots where tiny cleaner fish eat parasites off their skin, making snorkel encounters possible.



“ Between dives, Manta Ray Bay Resort is a comfortable, diving-focused stay ”

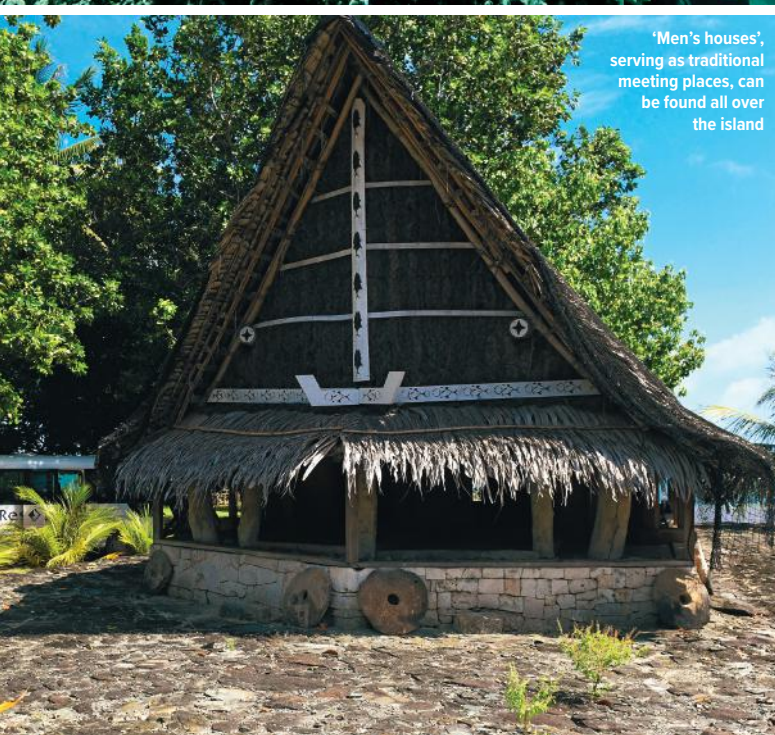
The Manta Ray Bay Resort is within walking distance of the main town of Colonia



Diver up close and personal with a manta ray



A fraction of a second before the magical moment: mandarinfish performing their mating dance



'Men's houses', serving as traditional meeting places, can be found all over the island

About Yap

Colonia itself is a small working town, with a port, grocery stores, and a hospital. A few other hotels and restaurants dot the uncrowded streets. The busiest time of day is when school gets out and uniformed students pack a downtown park next to the dock to await school buses home.

Outside the city, roads are well maintained and peaceful. Speed limits seem real. Yapese people build their homes back from the roads, behind lush foliage, giving most of the island a sparsely inhabited feel.

Beaches are privately owned, as are the fishing grounds within the reef. Land ownership is limited to Yapese people, largely explaining why the Yap of today isn't shaped by foreign investment.

Yap is part of the independent Federated States of Micronesia, which has a Compact of Free Association with the United States, using US dollar and US postal system. United Airlines offers two round trips a week from Guam.

In Yap, every dive, every reef, and every ancient path invites you to step into a world where nature and culture intertwine, leaving an impression that lingers long after you surface. ■

SCUBAPRO



UNMISTAKABLY YOURS.



new

C370 REGULATOR SYSTEM

Discover the regulator that matches how you dive. Compact and travel-ready, with optional, diver-changeable color plate accessories that help you stand out. The redesigned C370 delivers personal style backed by the trusted performance divers expect from SCUBAPRO. Choose the system that's unmistakably yours.



LEARN MORE:

[SCUBAPRO.COM](https://www.scubapro.com)

THE GREAT AMERICAN DIVE TOUR

PART
FOUR

This year the United States of America celebrates its 250-year anniversary. For the country this is a milestone year, one that will be marked with celebrations and events throughout the land. For divers, this is an opportunity to explore the best scuba diving opportunities the country has to offer. This is the fourth article in a now five-part series that will introduce you to the wide variety of dives that can be experienced right here in the USA

Photographs by Michael Salvarezza and Christopher P. Weaver

“ Tiny octopi and squid drifted along later, searching for prey or protection. The only thing that is predictable about these dives is that what you will see will be weird and wonderful ”

Did you know?

Blackwater diving originated in Kona, Hawaii, during the 1980s. It involves drifting in the open ocean at night over thousands of feet of water, suspended in the mid-water column to watch Earth's largest nocturnal migration of deep-sea pelagic larvae, microscopic creatures, and bioluminescent organisms.

In the previous articles, we described some of the great variety of ecosystems and dive environments available in America, visited some of the most-iconic and historic shipwrecks in our waters, and descended below the waves to seek out unique marine life encounters. We will conclude our search for the Great American Dive by exploring some of the most-unique dive sites in this country.

We will start in Hawaii. The lights from the Big Island of Hawaii were but a distant flicker. Above, a curtain of stars reached from horizon to horizon casting their faint glow down towards the water. Below, nothing but the inky black darkness of the Pacific Ocean. All was unsettlingly quiet as the small dive boat bobbed in the water. It was time to make our final preparations for what was surely an insane dive idea. This was a dive known as Pelagic Magic!

The concept sounded simple back at the Jack's Dive Locker during the pre-dive orientation and briefing - motor out to a spot several

miles offshore where the water is several thousand feet deep, drop some lines straight down into the dark water and then dive down to about 50ft where we would hang motionless for the better part of an hour waiting for night time creatures to swim or drift by. Confidence was high on dry land. But now, with thousands of feet of Pacific Ocean beneath the keel of the boat, there were plenty of nervous laughs and a growing sense of trepidation.

"Don't worry," said the Captain. "We haven't lost one yet." Nothing like a little black humor to set the stage for a blackwater dive.

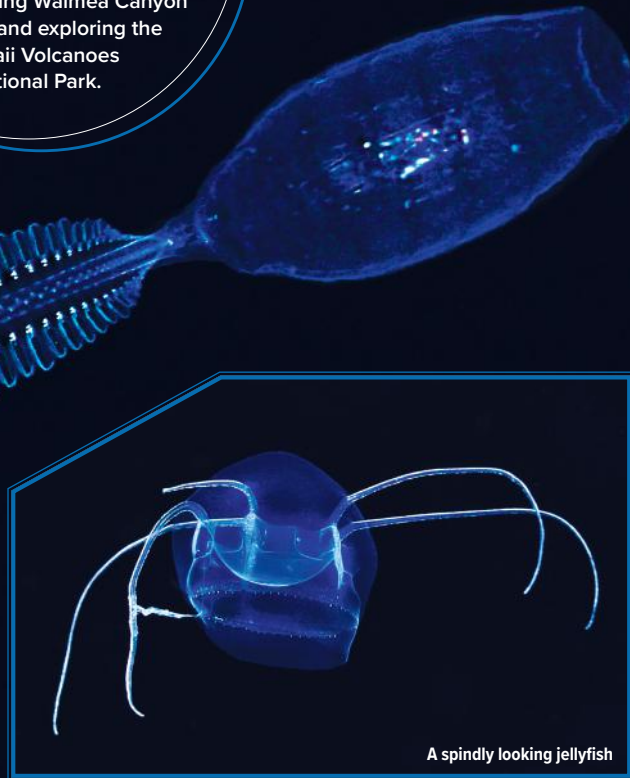
Within minutes, we took a giant stride off the stern, attached a clip on our BCDs to a down line, and descended to the 50ft level. Although this is truly a blackwater experience, there are lights in the water, used to attract microscopic zooplankton, and these helped ease the sense of disorientation.

It was only a few moments before the action began to heat up. This is a macro dive, with all eyes trained on the darkness of the abyssal water searching for tiny drifting organisms. Before long, we were transfixed as salps and other planktonic life, shimmering worms, bioluminescent jellies and larval fish all floated by, sharing the stage for brief moments. Early on in our dive we encountered a Venus girdle stretching several feet in length. Tiny octopi and squid drifted along later, searching for prey or protection. The only thing that is predictable about these dives is that what you will see will be weird and wonderful. ▶

Did you know?

Hawaii offers some incredible topside adventures including touring Iolani Palace on Oahu, driving the scenic Road to Hana on Maui, hiking Waimea Canyon on Kauai and exploring the Hawaii Volcanoes National Park.

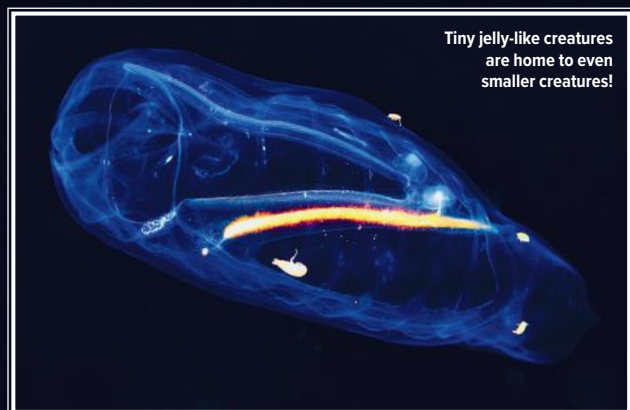
Nature's beauty on full display on a black water dive in Hawaii



A spindly looking jellyfish



Many of the creatures are juveniles or larval forms of much larger organisms



Tiny jelly-like creatures are home to even smaller creatures!



Adopt A Shark

Free US Shipping

- ✓ Name your shark and be listed on our shark adoption wall.
- ✓ Choose from 6 shark species.
- ✓ Shark Angels is a nonprofit focused on protecting sharks.

sharkangels.org



SAVING LIVES
**SUBMERSIBLE
SYSTEMS, INC**
FOR OVER 45 YEARS

The Diver's Reserve Parachute!



CE
0598

SPARE AIR
3 cu.ft.

SPARE AIR
6 cu.ft.

spareair.com



A skydiver wears a reserve parachute,
a SCUBA diver should have a reserve breathing system.
For over 45 years Spare Air® has been a better safety option than an octopus and
buddy breathing. In an out-of-air emergency, why would you trust your life to
anything else? Visit spareair.com and read why sharing air is NOT the solution.

You don't have to travel all the way to Hawaii to experience something unique and different. Located about 70 miles south of St Louis, Missouri, is the town of Bonne Terre, home to a flooded mineral mine and a scuba diver's playground. The Bonne Terre Mine is massive subterranean cavern that was once a working lead mine. When operations ceased in 1962, the pumps were turned off and the entire mine flooded with clear, pure water. In 1975, a dive operation was opened, and divers have been enjoying the many underwater trails that take them through various sections of the mine ever since. With a year-round air temperature in the mine of 62 degrees F and a constant water temperature of 58 degrees F, divers can enjoy this unique location throughout the year.

The diving at Bonne Terre begins with an orientation meeting, complete with a map-assisted briefing and the viewing of a mandatory safety video. Divers exploring the mine will encounter 200-foot solid-rock pillars, mammoth rock archways, a famed elevator shaft, staircases and structures, slurry pipes, calcium formations, and oar carts and other mining tools and artifacts. There are dives for all levels of experience, including deeper technical dives. Bonne Terre Mine is currently closed due to a legal dispute, but divers should keep their eye on when this will be resolved because this uniquely American dive is not to be missed.

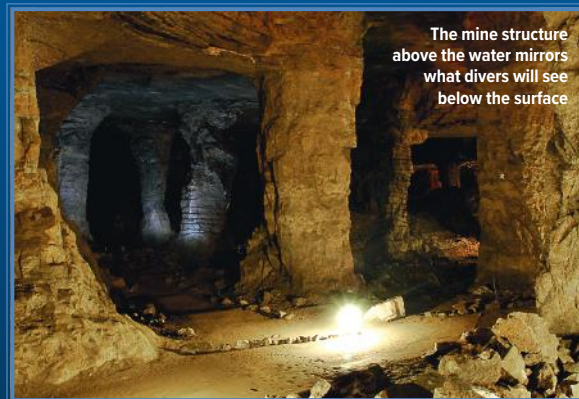
There are numerous quarries, lakes and reservoirs available to hold the interest of divers who are away from the coasts, but one body of water does merit special attention. Lake Mead is located on the border of Nevada and Arizona, southeast of Las Vegas, and was formed by the Hoover Dam on the Colorado River. It's the largest man-made reservoir in the US, serving as a major water source and recreation area for millions, with popular activities including boating, hiking, and fishing amid stunning desert landscapes. For divers, Lake Mead presents the opportunity to dive in the desert. Shore-diving sites include Kingman Wash, Placer Cove and Boulder Beach. In addition, there are several sites accessible by boat, including Cathedral Cove and the Black Canyon in Boulder Basin. Many divers have heard about a lost B-29 bomber discovered by divers in deep water in 2002. This is a protected site and scuba diving on the B-29 is highly regulated.

Diving Lake Mead is a unique opportunity and one that you should consider, for example, next time you are visiting Las Vegas. Imagine, making two dives in the desert and getting back in time to enjoy the lunch buffet at your favorite hotel! ►

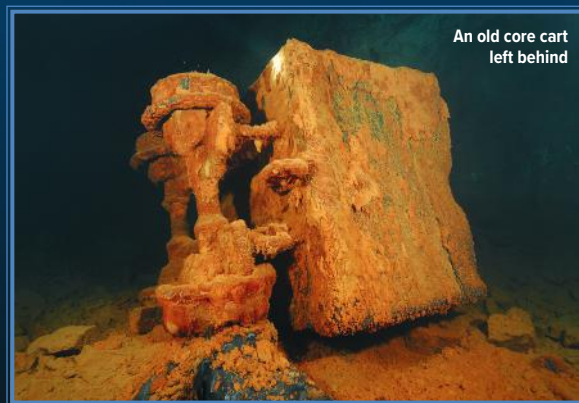
Remnants of the mining operation still in place



Missouri's Bonne Terre Mine has an old-time Americana feel



The mine structure above the water mirrors what divers will see below the surface



An old core cart left behind

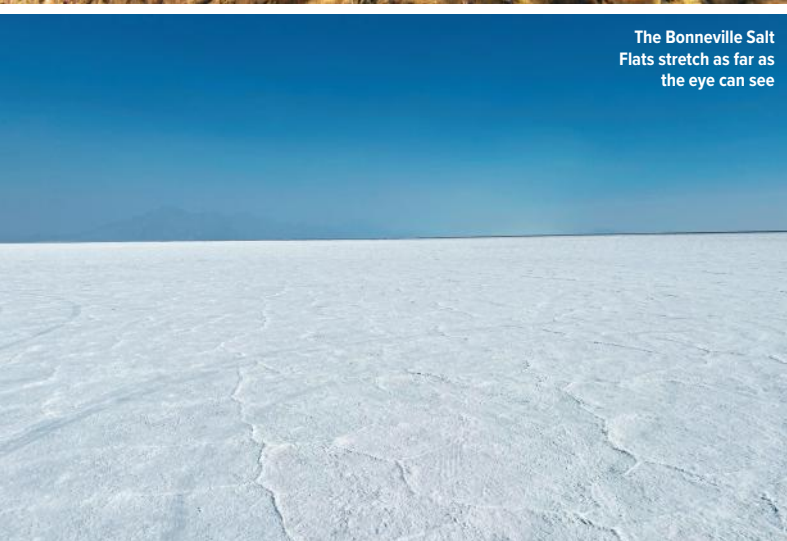
Kingman Wash in Arizona is a unique dive site in the desert



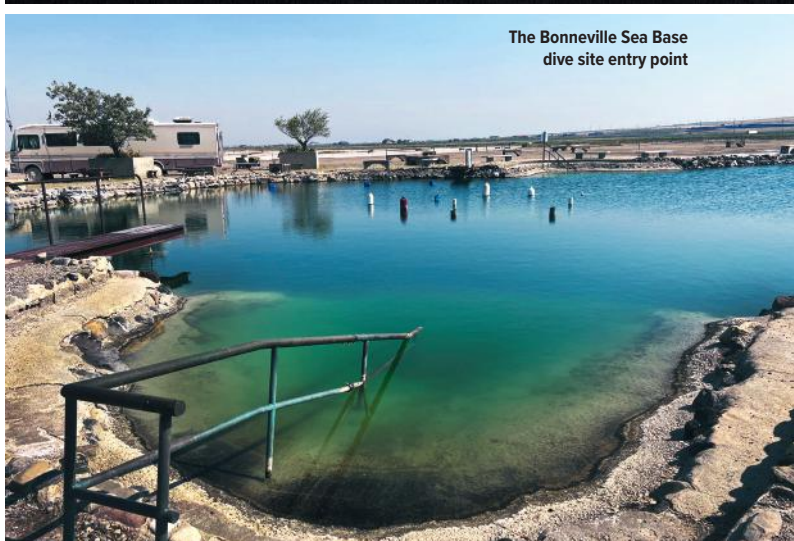
A large bass comes to check out the divers in Lake Mead



The Bonneville Salt Flats stretch as far as the eye can see



The Bonneville Sea Base dive site entry point



“ Diving Lake Mead is a unique opportunity and one that you should consider, for example, next time you are visiting Las Vegas. Imagine, making two dives in the desert and getting back in time to enjoy the lunch buffet at your favorite hotel! ”

Utah is another place not often associated with diving. There are two unique sites here - the Bonneville Sea Base, and the Homestead Crater.

The Bonneville Sea Base is home to a natural spring that rises through the ancient remnants of Lake Bonneville and reaches the surface as salt water. In fact, the salinity of the spring is equal to that of sea water, which enables the existence of ocean fish in this inland location.

But how do the ocean fish get here? Well, in an inspired move, the owners of the Bonneville Sea Base work with nearby universities and research facilities to take their fish after they have been studied and relocate them to the sea base. Otherwise, these fish would be euthanized. Over the years, the fish have reproduced, and local populations are now resident. Divers can find butterflyfish, mullet, black drum, jacks, snapper, grunts, schools of pinfish, tunicates and much more.

The Bonneville Sea Base consists of four separate dive sites - White Rocks Bay, Habitat Bay, The Trench and the Abyss. The Bonneville Sea Base is about 40 miles west of Salt Lake City and is worth a try.

In the small town of Midway, located about 28 miles southeast of Salt Lake City and situated on the opposite side of the Wasatch Mountains, we find the Homestead Crater.

As melting snow found its way deep into the Earth on this spot about 10,000 years ago, it percolated upward after being heated by forces in the interior. Rising to the surface, the warm water gathered minerals, and the result was a limestone mound that is now known as the Homestead Crater. It continues to be a geothermal hot spring to this day, with water temperatures always holding steady at 90-96 degrees F.

With water temperatures as high as they are, a wetsuit is not needed. Divers descend along the rocky walls of the chamber to the bottom, reaching a depth of about 65ft. There isn't much to see, but the experience is certainly a one of a kind. Directly on the bottom, we found the source of the hot water - a roiling mud pot which was spewing extremely hot water into the chamber.

The Homestead Crater is at an elevation of 6,000 feet, so this is an altitude dive. Divers must calculate the dives properly and adhere to safe altitude-diving practices.

Both the Bonneville Sea Base and the Homestead Crater offer divers a great way to dive the interior of Utah.

Heading back to the coast, we journey next to Venice Beach, Florida, and join a dive in search of fossilized Megalodon shark teeth. Although fossil shark teeth can be found in many locations across all North America, Florida, ▶



NORTH HALMAHERA BY LIVEBOARD: INDONESIA'S NEW DIVE ROUTE

Remote reefs, unexplored sites, and rich marine life.
North Halmahera is Indonesia's newest liveboard adventure.

"Explore North Halmahera with Malaillo Liveboard"

www.malailloliveboard.com



☎ 443-730-0300
✉ sales@easternsports.com
📍 Baltimore, Maryland
www.easternsports.com



EASTERN SPORTS

Next day delivery available
on all new/pre-owned dive gear,
or collect direct from our store!

Are you ready for an upgrade? Trade in!

Eastern Sports wants to pay you for used scuba gear, pre-owned good quality, modern diving equipment and accessories, and all other sporting goods. Items we're looking for but are not limited to:

- BCDs (Buoyancy compensation devices)
- Regulators, octos & alternate air
- Inflators such as Air 2's
- Dive Computers & gauges
- Scuba tanks, pony bottles & spare air units
- Dive knives & dive lights
- DPVs (Dive propulsion vehicles)
- Underwater photo & video equipment
- Wetsuits, boots, gloves & hoods
- Commercial diving helmets & hats
- Masks, Fins & Snorkels
- Kayaks & paddleboards
- Drysuits
- Soft & hard weights
- Equipment bags & hard cases
- DAN O2 kits
- Dive shop tools & equipment
- Working air compressors & fill stations

Get a quote, ship for free and get paid. It is that simple.



Treat yourself to something new!

We have a huge inventory of brand new and pre-owned water sports gear for sale online and in-store. All our pre-owned gear comes with a one-of-a-kind in-house warranty.
Buy with confidence from Eastern Sports today!



and particularly the waters off Venice in the Gulf of Mexico, is an ideal location to find these fossils.

‘Touch everything, go slow, keep your focus and if you are in doubt, bring it up and let’s have a look’ - those were the simple instructions from the dive briefing moments earlier. It sounded easy on the surface, but now that we were crawling around in 30ft of water with almost no visibility, the dive was more challenging than we had thought. To our untrained eyes in the dim light of the cloudy water, everything looked like a fossil!

As our hands skimmed over the bottom, fossils began to emerge - black colored bones from long-lost dugongs and fossil teeth from mammoths, horses and whales were the largest and easiest to find. Smaller items, such as the fossilized mouth plates and barb tips of a stingray, were next to emerge from the silt. And then, as we lifted the mud and clay into the water from beneath a small rock, there it was! A three-inch tooth! This was the fossil we had been searching for - a tooth from the long-extinct Megalodon shark. Research has shown that the size of the teeth of these sharks are roughly a tenth of the size of the shark, so this one came from a shark that measured about 30 feet in length. Now that we had one, we wanted more...

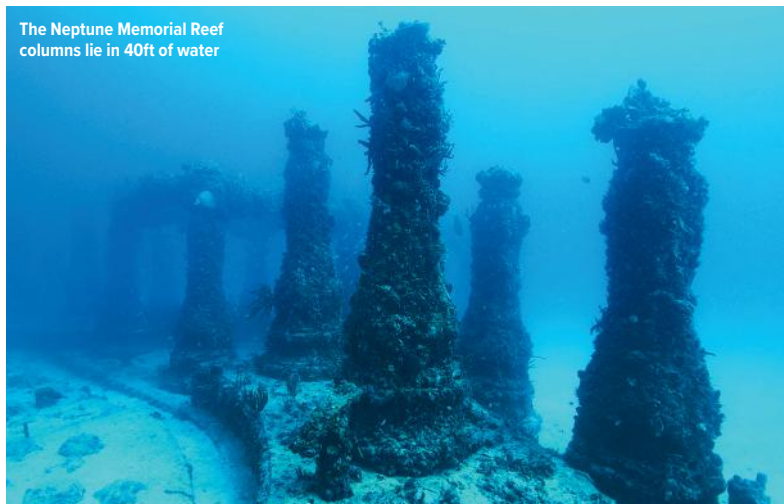
On the other side of Florida, near Key Biscayne, lies a very unusual dive site known as the Neptune Memorial Reef, designed as an underwater columbarium to cover 16 acres of ocean bottom. First opened in 2007, the site, which features man-made structures resembling the Lost City of Atlantis, is sometimes referred to as an underwater mausoleum or underwater cemetery, but it is neither. Because cremated remains are mixed with reef building materials and then installed onto the structure, a more-accurate description is that it is a cremation memorial site. And it is open to divers.

Diving on a memorial site might sound morbid, but the Neptune Memorial Reef is designed rather as a celebration of life. The project is environmentally sound and meets the strict guidelines and permitting of the EPA, DERM, NOAA, Florida Fish and Wildlife and the Army Corps of Engineers. The Neptune Memorial Reef is certified by the Green Burial Council. Diving on the reef is an oddly joyous and inspiring experience. Situated in 40ft of water, the site is accessible to divers of all skill levels and because of the good visibility often found here, the massive structures are even visible from the surface for snorkelers.

Because more than 14 species of coral have taken up residence, the Neptune Memorial Reef can be accurately described now as a living reef. As we explored the structure, we encountered large schools of grunts and snapper, along



Author Christopher Weaver holds a megalodon tooth



The Neptune Memorial Reef columns lie in 40ft of water

“ And then, as we lifted the mud and clay into the water from beneath a small rock, there it was! A three-inch tooth! ”

with several large green moray eels and other reef inhabitants more commonly found on the offshore reefs.

As we peered into some of the prefabricated holes in the structures, we spotted arrow crabs, banded shrimp and small gobies delightfully tucked securely away from predators. Indeed, the reef is fulfilling its purpose both as the final resting place for a growing number of people, and as a thriving marine habitat rich in marine life.

For divers in the United States, the possibilities for exciting diving seem endless. Icebergs can be found in Alaska and ice diving takes place throughout the northern tier of states during the winter. Historical Diving Equipment rallies will occasionally provide the opportunity to submerge in an authentic Mark V hardhat outfit. Altitude diving and diving in National Parks make exploring the country underwater a rewarding pursuit. And for true adrenaline junkies, helicopter diving is now available for those willing to make the plunge! ■

NB: Originally designed as a four-part series, we have decided to add a fifth installment, which will take us away from the 50 states as we explore the offshore territories of the United States and examine their unique dive opportunities.



Julie Child's remains are on the reef

SeaLife®

For
**iPhone®
& Android™**
Phones

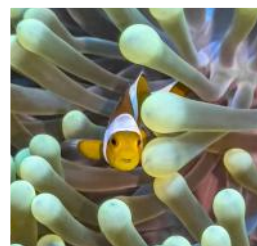
Compatibility Checker



Check
if your
phone
fits here



Images taken with SportDiver Housings



SportDiver® Underwater Smartphone Housing

-  For iPhone® & Android™
-  Dual Audible / Visual Leak Alarms
-  Color Correction Filter Included
-  Bluetooth® Wireless Technology
-  Depth Rated to 130ft / 40m
-  Available with Sea Dragon lighting
-  Multiple Light/Accessory Mounts
-  Two Sizes for Regular and Ultra Sized Phones



SportDiver



SportDiver® Ultra



Did you know?

It can be very hot on the island, so make sure you have plenty of water with you, and stay hydrated.

When there is a somewhat-cooling breeze, it is easy to forget how fast you are losing liquid from your body.

A scuba diver is shown underwater, holding a camera. The diver is wearing a mask and a watch. The background is a deep blue with some bubbles. The title 'Beautiful BONAIRE' is written in a large, stylized font at the top. The word 'Beautiful' is in a white script font, and 'BONAIRE' is in a large, bold, orange sans-serif font.

Beautiful BONAIRE

Mark Evans is always wary when somewhere is labelled the 'capital of the world' for something, but with Bonaire, that moniker is well and truly deserved when it comes to shore diving, as he found when he headed to the 'home of diving freedom' with son Luke in tow

Photographs by Mark and Luke Evans

When an island has 'Diver's Paradise' on the bottom of all of its numberplates, it gives you a clear indication of just how vital scuba diving is to the country's economy and very identity. Bonaire was quick to realise what it had in the waters surrounding this tiny speck of land in the western Caribbean, just north of the coast of Venezuela, and the Bonaire National Marine Park was set up way back in 1979! This means that the reef is in great shape compared with some of the other islands in the vicinity, with permanent moorings and a ban on using anchors helping to protect the colorful corals and sponges.

While the dive centers on the island offer boat diving, it is the lure of shore diving and 'doing your own thing' that draws many of the dive tourists, with most resorts offering drive-n-dive packages including pick-up trucks, and from talking to my fellow divers during my time on-island, it was amazing how many are multiple repeat visitors, with this factor being one of the main attractions. Several made annual pilgrimages, while others came two or more times every year. Given how easy it is to get to from North America, it is perhaps not surprising that many of the divers are from the USA.

The entire west coast of Bonaire is dotted with shore-diving sites, and finding them is a doddle. You just drive along the coast road and look for football-sized rocks painted bright yellow, with the dive site names written on them. Once at your chosen site, you simply park your pick-up, set up your gear, and head into the water.

There are additional yellow-painted stones marking the designated entry/exit points at most sites, to further limit unnecessary damage to the coral reef. Entry and exit for nearly all of the sites is over dead and broken coral, so sturdy boots are a must, and just be aware that some locations are easier to get in and out of than others, so watch your footing and take your time.

The beauty of this set up is that you can head out with the intention of diving a specific ►



Our trusty rental pick-up truck



Luke getting some camera practice in at Salt Pier



Luke checking pressure and nitrox mix at the drive-thru gas station

site, then once you arrive, you find there are several other vehicles already there. You can then just trundle along to another, quieter dive site if you so wish, or park up alongside your fellow divers. Once in the water, you can dive for however long you want, in whatever direction you want, at whatever depth you want.

Most of the dives involve a short swim in 6-9ft of water over a sandy plateau to get to the top of the sloping reef in 16-19ft. Many of the sites slope off down to 115-130ft at around a 45 degree angle, although to the south you encounter a double reef system, and the further north you go, the reef gets steeper until it is more a wall dropping into the depths once you reach the likes of dive site Karpata. The reefs boast large sponges, particularly tube, barrel, vase, stovepipe and elephant ear, as well as gently swaying fields of sea fans, sea plumes and sea rod, alongside elkhorn, staghorn, brain, pillar, fire and star corals.

This colorful landscape is home to myriad varieties of Caribbean reef species, such as angelfish, parrotfish, chromis, spiny lobster, sergeant majors, snapper, grouper, goatfish, lizardfish and boxfish, as well as larger species like jacks, barracuda, eagle rays, stingrays,

impressive tarpon and turtles, plus the odd reef, blacktip or nurse shark if you are lucky. I was on Bonaire with my son Luke (he was staying on-island as I headed home after a week to do his PADI Divemaster, followed by a six-week

internship – watch this space for future articles about his experiences of ‘going pro’), and staying at the long-established Buddy Dive Resort.

Buddy has the whole Bonaire diving scene nailed – we were staying in one of their well-appointed one-bedroom suites, which boasted a decent-sized kitchen for those who want to go the self-catering route; had one of their fleet of well-maintained pick-up trucks as transport (the new Renault Oroch compact pick-ups are ideal, complete with wooden tank racks in the flatbed); and had been given a locker in the dive center for our gear, which could be accessed at any time.

At Buddy’s dive center, there are banks of cylinders – air and nitrox (usually 32-33%) – there for the taking for diving on Buddy’s House Reef. You

just grab a tank, check the contents, both for pressure and the mix if using nitrox using the handy spring-loaded gauge/ analyser, and then set up your gear. There are steps into the water, and this reef is a stunning dive in its own right, with

“
This trip was his first time to get the new system in the water, and Bonaire is the ideal place for photographers of all levels, as there is so much marine life whether you are shooting macro or wide-angle
”



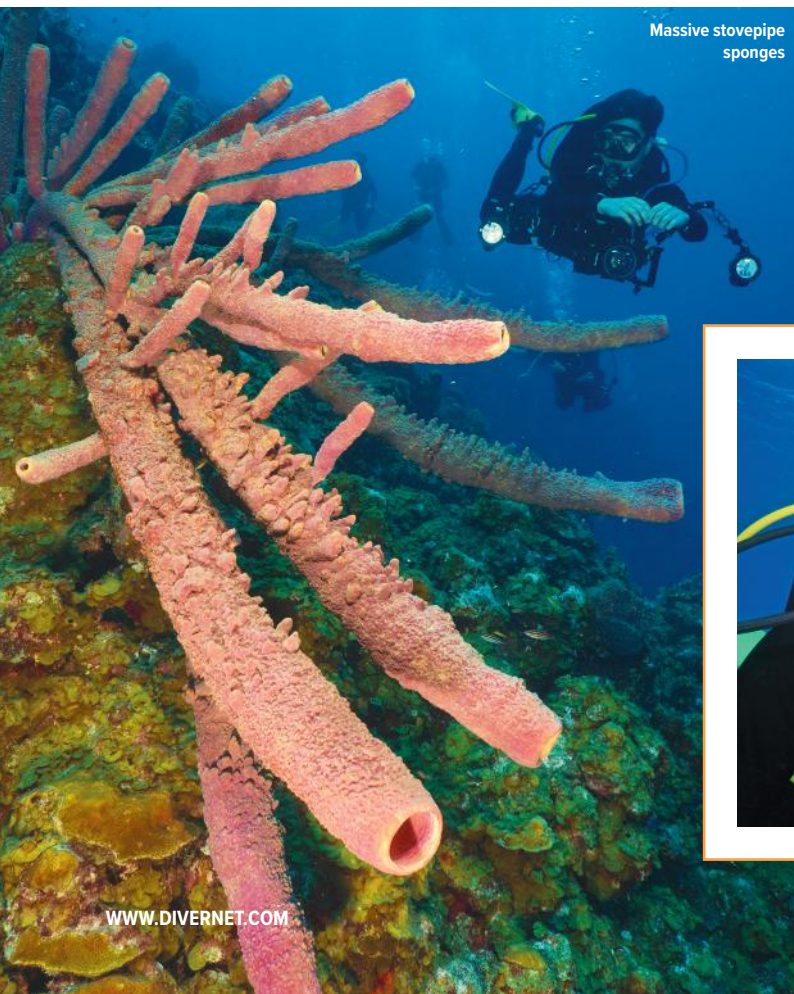
Luke with a huge elephant ear sponge



Luke checking out the salt deposits



Scorpionfish

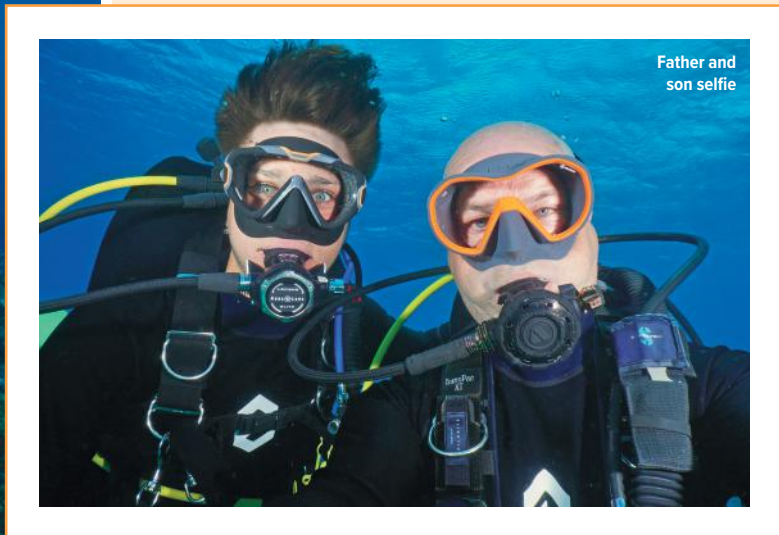


Massive stovepipe sponges

prolific coral and sponge growth in all directions. There are several rinse tanks, with dedicated camera buckets, and the two docks are where Buddy's fleet of boats dock to pick up and drop off divers.

If you are heading out to other shore-diving sites, you can go through their nifty dual-lane drive-thru gas station, where you can pull up, grab some full cylinders of nitrox or air, check the contents/pressure, dump any empty ones, and get on your way again with the minimum of fuss. There are several rinse tanks here as well, so at the end of a day you can drop off your used cylinders, rinse your kit, and then stash it in your locker (there are also racks of lockers at the drive-thru).

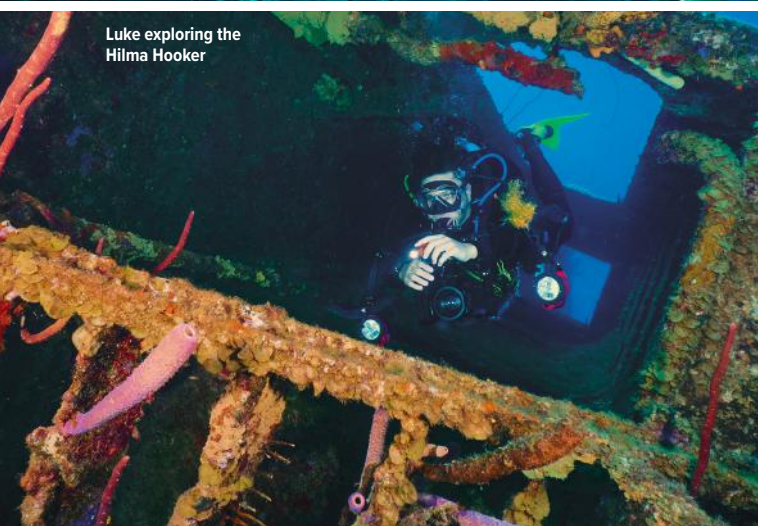
Dive sites of particular note – and bearing in mind there are more than 60 shore-diving sites off Bonaire itself and another 26 boat dive sites off Klein Bonaire, so you have plenty to choose from! – include the 236-foot cargo vessel Hilma Hooker, which is home to large tarpon and is well covered in corals and sponges; Salt Pier, which has pilings smothered in marine growth but can only be dived when no cargo vessel is docked; Oil Slick Leap, where entering the water involves a giant stride from a height of several feet off the rocky shore; 1,000 Steps, where the actual 64 steps can feel more like a 1,000 at the end of a long dive; the aforementioned Karpata, which boasts a true vertical wall dropping into the depths and has an ancient anchor embedded in the coral; and Playa Frans, where you have to negotiate a rough and pitted dirt track for a few miles to get to the entry/exit point. ▶



Father and son selfie



Snapper shoal under Salt Pier



Luke exploring the Hilma Hooker

I moved on from my trusty Sony NEX-5 mirrorless camera in an Aquatica housing a couple of years ago to a Sony A6600 in a Nauticam housing, but I had kept my original system, with an eye to passing it on to Luke for his first set-up. But as the housing had started to leak, we found a second-hand Nauticam housing and Sony NEX-5n camera, which used all our existing lenses, and could be paired up with the arms and Inon D2000 strobes we already had.

This trip was his first time to get the new system in the water, and Bonaire is the ideal place for photographers of all levels, as there is so much marine life whether you are shooting macro or wide-angle. He was soon getting to grips with his rig, and is looking forward to honing his skills over the next couple of months.

Now photographers and experienced divers will be in their element, but this whole diving freedom lark is not just for the veterans. Perhaps you don't feel that confident in your navigation if you are still a relative novice, but I have to say, Bonaire is the perfect place to build up your confidence. Most dives, you get in and then head off with the reef on your left or right shoulder, and then at half a tank, you just turn around and put the reef on the opposite shoulder and swim back to your entry point. Simple.

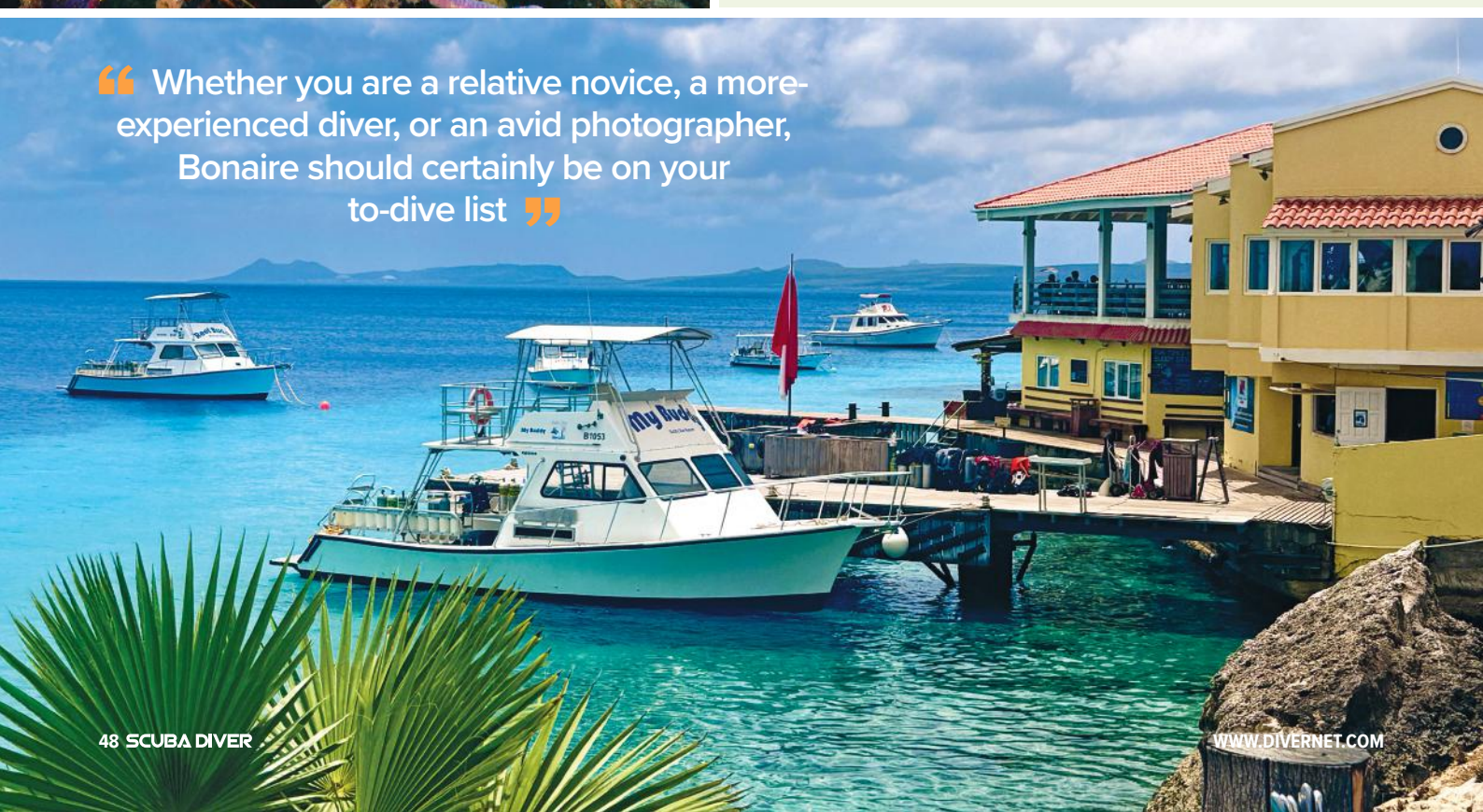
Go by boat

If you just don't want to go your own way, or just want to chill out on a boat with all your diving buddies, never fear, Buddy Dive Resort has got you covered on that front too. They run a fleet of five dive boats that can offer two-tank dive trips, single-tank jaunts and even night dives.

The 26 dive sites around Klein Bonaire are also very pretty, and they can only be accessed via boat, so it is worth scheduling a day or two of boat diving into your holiday to experience this picturesque little island that lies a short distance from the main island. Most of the shore-diving sites on Bonaire itself can also be done via boat if you so wish.

On boat dives, a staff member gives a thorough briefing of the dive site, and then leads the divers along the reef, pointing out any interesting critters along the way. ►

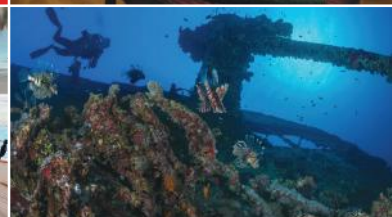
“ Whether you are a relative novice, a more-experienced diver, or an avid photographer, Bonaire should certainly be on your to-dive list ”



Adventure Awaits RED SEA

All Star Scuba Scene

One of the largest most luxurious liveaboards in the Red Sea offering specialty trips including Shark Weeks, Wreck Weeks and Tec Diving



Up to
30%
OFF!

Announcing

ALL STAR GHANI



The same incredible Red Sea diving, now at a fraction of the cost. Enjoy All Star Ghani's private cabins with en-suite bathroom, but save big without the frills to focus on what's important...diving!



All Star
LIVEABOARDS

Tel: 001.954.734.7111 • info@allstarliveaboards.com • www.allstarliveaboards.com



A friendly welcome from the front-of-house team



Martien diving with Robbert van Vonno

Buddy Dive Resort

Buddy Dive Resort has been in existence for over 45 years, and in that time has grown from a small apartment complex into a sprawling property of one-, two- and three-bedroomed accommodation options, with two swimming pools, two restaurants – Blennies, and the a la carte Ingridients – as well as the dive center, classrooms, drive-thru gas station and plenty of car parking.

Originally opening in 1980 with 46 apartments, 20 rental trucks and three boats, it was purchased by Martien and Ingrid van der Valk in 2002, and has expanded year on year since then. In 2004, the adjacent Lions Dive Hotel was acquired, increasing capacity by over 30 apartments, in 2007 Buddy Dive Tek was launched to provide technical diving support and training, and in 2012, the Reef Renewal Foundation Bonaire was established to protect local coral reefs. Buddy Dive Resort now has over 70 apartments, six dive boats, and more than 100 vehicles in its rental fleet, and is a respected PADI five-star IDC centre.

Martien and Ingrid's daughters Michelle, Barbara and Steffie and their husbands head up the Buddy team now, and while I was on-island, Barbara's young son Martien Zandstra experienced his first dives at age ten with instructor Robbert van Vonno – it was nice to see Martien Senior there to see his grandson venturing beneath the surface, the next generation of the Buddy Dive family.

www.buddydive.com



French angelfish

I personally much prefer doing my own thing when I am diving, but the Buddy Dive team are very relaxed and you never feel hurried or under the cosh with any of their dive guides/instructors, plus, they can often be the best when it comes to finding elusive critters.

At Forest on Klein Bonaire, our dive guide Olivia found a vivid-yellow frogfish nestled in a coral head on the way out, and on the way back, virtually under the boat, she spotted a seahorse. You can't miss the dive team in their bright-orange rash guards, so keep an eye on them for when they are pointing out any marine life.

In summary

Bonaire is undoubtedly the 'shore diving capital of the world', as I don't know of any other location which is so well set up for diving along the shoreline. I love just being able to

chuck some tanks in the back of a pick-up and then head off for the morning and seeing where I end up. Bonaire is not a big island – it is some 21-24 miles long, and three to seven miles wide – so nowhere is particularly far to drive, and we often went out, did a couple of dives in the south of the island, came back to the resort for lunch and to rinse kit/sort new cylinders, and then headed off to some of the northern sites. Some of the roads are little more than rough and pot-holed dirt tracks, especially if you head off to the likes of Nukove and Playa Frans, but the trucks are more than up to the task.

Whether you are a relative novice, a more-experienced diver, or an avid photographer, Bonaire should certainly be on your to-dive list. From the USA it is easy to get to, with regular direct flights from many of the hub airports across the States. ■

DISCOVER AUSTRALIA'S BEST ISLANDS FOR DIVERS

COME AND DIVE AUSTRALIA'S UNIQUE ISLANDS
AND GET SOME REAL BRAGGING RIGHTS!



From coral cays on the Great Barrier Reef to volcanic outposts in the Tasman Sea and far-flung Indian Ocean atolls, Australia offers a remarkable mix of island diving experiences.

Each of Australia's islands is unique in its own special way and offers a wide range of underwater experiences. From manta trains and leopard sharks on Lady Elliot Island, huge populations of turtles and rays on Heron Island, to the dramatic underwater landscapes and unique endemic species of Lord Howe Island and Christmas Island.

CONTACT THE TEAM AT DIVEPLANIT TRAVEL AND BOOK A FREE 15-MINUTE CONSULTATION.
DIVEPLANIT.COM



Diveplanit

Your personal dive travel agency

REFRESH YOUR FIRST AID SKILLS

The Divers Alert Network team explain the importance of keeping your first aid skills up to date and well-drilled

Divers are sometimes surprised to learn that their first aid certifications expire after two years. There are two reasons for this: Skills diminish quickly, and guidelines evolve continuously.

Research shows that first aid skills can deteriorate in as little as six months without practice. Most recent studies recommend retraining at least annually. The following are some of the key evidence-based changes DAN has recently made to its first aid curriculum:

- **Foreign body airway obstruction (FBAO):** Research shows that back blows are more effective for choking and cause fewer injuries than abdominal thrusts (Heimlich maneuver). Rescuers should now start with back blows, and then use abdominal thrusts, repeating as needed until the airway is clear. Chest thrusts are now reserved for cases in which abdominal thrusts are not feasible, such as with obese or pregnant people and infants.

- **Infant chest compressions:** Rescuers should now use either the heel of one hand (as with children) or the two-thumb encircling technique to give chest compressions to an infant. The two-finger method is no longer recommended because it often results in incorrect hand placement and insufficient compression depth.

- **Automated external defibrillator (AED) use with bras:**

The International Liaison Committee on Resuscitation (ILCOR) clarifies that there are no safety concerns with using an AED on someone wearing a bra, even one with underwires. Defibrillation requires direct contact between the pads or paddles and bare skin, which usually means exposing the chest. Studies have shown, however, that this can make some people hesitant to help women. Allowing rescuers to simply adjust the bra instead of removing it can reduce discomfort and fears of inappropriate contact, making it easier for bystanders to act quickly and save a life. DAN recommends incorporating this topic into training and using manikins with breasts to better reflect real-world scenarios.

- **In-water rescue breaths:** The recommendation to give rescue breaths while still in the water has been updated. Although evidence suggests that breaths that interrupt the drowning process can improve survival by as much as 49%, opening the airway in water can allow additional water in. The provider must also consider personal safety and



distance to shore when determining whether to perform in-water breaths. The current recommendation is that in-water rescue breaths should be performed only by rescuers trained in the technique and when conditions are safe, such as calm water without waves. In all drownings, trained rescuers should administer supplemental oxygen as soon as possible.

- **Airway management:** When giving CPR to an adult with a suspected head or neck injury, opening the airway is the top priority. Start with a jaw thrust. If that doesn't work, trained rescuers should use the head-tilt, chin-lift method to allow breathing, even if it means some spinal movement. Ensuring ventilation is more important than keeping the head perfectly still.

Between natural skill degradation and the continuous advancement of medical practices, regular recertification is critical. Divers and dive professionals should renew their training at least every two years to remain prepared and effective when emergencies occur. ■



EVERY DIVER SHOULD BE A MEMBER

- 24/7 Emergency Hotline
- Medical Information Line
- Access To Purchase DAN Dive Accident Insurance
- DAN *TravelAssist*® Benefits
- Online Safety Resources
- *Alert Diver*® Magazine
- Medical & Safety Consultations



DAN membership includes automatic enrollment in DAN *TravelAssist*® and this is only a brief description of the coverages available under that program. Refer to the DAN member benefit handbook for reductions, limitations, exclusions, definitions, and termination provisions. Coverage may vary by state or may not be available in all states. DAN membership alone does not provide coverage for costs of a dive accident; dive accident insurance must be purchased separately for each member.

JOIN TODAY
DAN.org/Join

Underwater NEIGHBORHOODS

PART I

Cruising through Indonesia's eastern archipelago from Maumere to Ambon, I didn't anticipate discovering that each site along this route would reveal its own dominant 'personality' – distinct marine communities as specialised as the diverse cultures found on the islands above.

Indonesia's Marine Tapestry

Indonesia's position at the heart of the Coral Triangle – where the Pacific and Indian Oceans meet – has created the planet's most-biodiverse marine environment. With over 17,500 islands scattered across three time zones, this archipelago hosts more than 3,000 fish species and 600 coral species.

The same tectonic forces that built Indonesia's volcanic islands and deep ocean trenches also created the varied underwater topography that allows such specialised marine communities to flourish. From shallow coral gardens to abyssal walls, each depth and current

regime supports distinct ecosystems, much like the varied altitudes and climates of the islands above support different communities and traditions.

At the foundation of this marine richness lies the coral itself. These remarkable organisms grow into massive three-dimensional reef structures over centuries that result in the formation of countless niches – crevices, overhangs, caves and channels that provide shelter, breeding grounds and hunting sites for an extraordinary variety of marine life. This architectural complexity allows more species to coexist in any given area, each occupying different microhabitats within the reef's intricate framework.

This abundance of reef fish creates a magnet for larger predators; grouper lurk in coral caves, ambushing passing prey, sharks patrol the

“ Alor is home to over 50 different ethnic communities, each preserving their ancestral ways of life in traditional settlements scattered across the island's dramatic, volcanic landscape ”

reef drop-offs where the shallow coral gardens plunge into deeper water, and tuna and other pelagic hunters sweep in from the open ocean, drawn by the concentration of food. Even manta rays and whale sharks – the gentle giants that feed on plankton – are attracted to the reef's productivity, gliding through areas where currents carry clouds of plankton into the water column.

Maumere

Located on the northeastern coast of Flores Island, Maumere offers some of the country's most-pristine and underrated diving experiences. The region is renowned for its vibrant coral gardens, dramatic underwater topography and exceptional marine biodiversity. Its relatively remote location means Maumere remains blissfully uncrowded compared to Indonesia's more-famous dive destinations. Visibility typically ranges between 50-100 feet, and water temperatures hover comfortably between 76-84°F year-round.

The area was significantly impacted by a 1992 earthquake and tsunami, but the reefs have since made a remarkable recovery. We did only one dive

A 12-day journey on Solitude Adventurer through Indonesia's remote waters from Maumere to Ambon reveals how each dive site develops its own signature coral species – mirroring the cultural diversity found above the waves – as Sol Foo explains

Photographs by Pieter van den Abeele & Adrian Stacey

here as a checkout dive before our journey towards Ambon, and we were told this would be the warmest dive of the trip. My dive computer already recorded a low 80°F!

Topside, Maumere and the surrounding Sikka district offer a fascinating cultural tapestry that sets this corner of Flores apart from the rest of Indonesia. As one of the first regions to experience Portuguese influence and Catholic missionary activity, the area boasts a rich Portuguese-Catholic heritage that remains deeply woven into daily life, with historic churches dotting the landscape and religious festivals bringing communities together throughout the year. ▶

Did you know?

Maumere, located on the north coast of Flores, Indonesia, features over 30 diverse dive sites blending exceptional muck diving, pristine coral gardens and dramatic wall drop-offs. Visibility ranges from 50-100 feet depending on conditions.

The indigenous Sikka people, who call this east central region home, have preserved their distinct language and traditions while embracing centuries of cross-cultural exchange between Portuguese, Dutch and Indonesian influences. Perhaps most captivating is the region's renowned ikat weaving tradition - Sikka remains one of East Flores' most-celebrated weaving centers, where artisans in villages like Watublapi continue to create intricate textiles using age-old techniques, natural dyes and hand-spinning methods passed down through generations.

The annual 12-day crossing to Ambon on Solitude Adventurer starts in Maumere. So if you're traveling from halfway around the world and want to maximise your diving holiday, I highly recommend arriving a few days early to spend time at the resorts around Maumere.

You can recover from jet lag, enjoy some relaxing island life on the beach, and explore the local dive sites as a warm-up before the expedition begins. Taking the time to acclimatise in Maumere will ensure you're well-prepared and able to get the most out of this epic adventure to Ambon.

Alor

Alor stands apart from the rest of Indonesia as one of the archipelago's most-ethnically diverse islands, where dozens of distinct tribal groups maintain their unique languages, customs and traditions across remote mountain villages.

Huge barrel sponges



Honeycomb moray



Nudibranch hiding in-between coral



Weedy scorpionfish

Unlike more homogeneous regions of Indonesia, Alor is home to over 50 different ethnic communities, each preserving their ancestral ways of life in traditional settlements scattered across the island's dramatic, volcanic landscape.

The island's rugged topside scenery — with its volcanoes, waterfalls and steep mountain terrain — has helped preserve this cultural diversity by keeping villages relatively isolated from one another and from outside influences. This ethnic complexity extends even to the waters surrounding Alor, where local maritime traditions have evolved around the powerful nutrient-rich currents that define the region.

This combination makes Alor a rare destination for a true cultural immersion that goes far beyond Indonesia's typical tourist experiences. ▶



MERIDIAN ADVENTURE  DIVE

THIS IS YOUR SURFACE INTERVAL

ONE PLANET | ONE COMMUNITY | ONE OCEAN



EASY TO GET TO



24/7
WIFI ACCESS



PHOTOGRAPHY



NO MINIMUM
PERIOD OF STAY



ECO &
COMMUNITY
FOCUSED



DIVE BOATS
AND GEAR

RAJA AMPAT INDONESIA

- Access to the most Dive Sites in Raja Ampat
- Custom-built eco-conscious spacious Dive Boats
- Valet diving with On-Site Professional dive Specialists
- Fusion restaurant, Honest Food
- Cleanest Boutique resort in the jungle
- Community Driven, eco-conscious, socially responsible

Explore Raja Ampat/Dive with Us
raja.meridianadventuredive.com



Divers hoping to encounter hammerheads



As the last major landmass for liveboards heading east, Alor is considered the gateway to the Forgotten Islands. The islands of Alor help define the northern boundary of the Savuu Sea that funnels nutrient-rich waters from the Indonesian Throughflow, a major ocean current that moves warm Pacific Ocean water to the Indian Ocean, redistributing heat around the planet.

Here are some of the signature sites:

Bakalan Jetty - The pylons holding up the jetty are so encrusted with soft corals with its accompanying fish and critter residents, it feels like you are floating through an enchanted forest. Visibility is so good, it's easy to get wide-angle shots of the entire site. Shallow enough to do a long dive, explore the pylons for juvenile filefish, frogfish, nudibranchs and pygmy cuttlefish, and search among the rubble nearby for cute little yellow spotted boxfish in different stages of development. I was also told that huge swarm of juvenile convict blennies (slightly away from the pylons) are always there, and mesmerising to watch as they move as one fluid entity, forming ever-changing shapes in perfect synchrony underwater, much like starlings performing their famous murmurations across the sky.

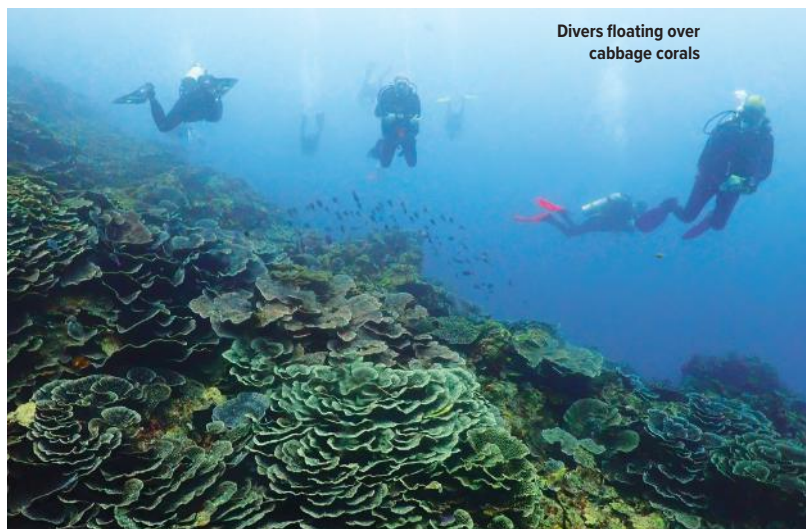
Babylon Wall - The aptly named Babylon Wall stands as the crown jewel of Alor's diving, and I immediately understand the biblical reference. Like the legendary Hanging Gardens, this wall dive showcases spectacular coral overhangs that cascade downward in a riot of color and diversity.

The overhangs themselves have become the dominant feature - not a single species this time, but an architectural marvel where every surface blooms with marine life. The richness and variety of colors painting these coral terraces feels like an underwater metropolis as magnificent as any ancient wonder. ▶

“ Like the legendary Hanging Gardens, this wall dive showcases spectacular coral overhangs that cascade downward in a riot of color and diversity ”



Bakalan Jetty is covered in growth



Divers floating over cabbage corals



Two cuttlefish pose for a photo

ABOFA

Aqaba Blue Ocean Future in Action

About the Event

ABOFA – Aqaba Blue: Ocean Future in Action 2026 is a comprehensive international exhibition & experience platform dedicated to Diving, Marine Technology, Water Sports & Adventure, Tourism & Ocean Lifestyle.

Taking place in the heart of the Red Sea, ABOFA aims to transform Aqaba into the region's leading hub for diving, marine innovation, & coastal adventure industries.

The event brings together global brands, innovators, researchers, divers, investors, & marine professionals to connect, collaborate, showcase technology, conduct demonstrations, & engage in Themed Activities & B2C experiences.



9-12

September 2026

Aqaba International Exhibition Center (AIEC)

Join global leaders

→ www.abofa.jo

Target Sectors



Diving & Underwater Sector



Marine Technology & Innovation



Water Sports & Adventure



Underwater Photography & Gaming



Boats & Marine Equipment



Tourism & Lifestyle



Education & Training Workshops & Startups



Themed Activities

Show Summary

80+

Exhibitors

20+

Workshops

50+

Speakers

4000+

Visitors

Organized by



International Partner

salonnautico
INTERNACIONAL DE BARCELONA



Host Partner





Camouflaged octopus



Yellow rhinophylla



Diver exploring beneath a jetty



Batfish

Payan Village - Perhaps nowhere is the concept of distinct underwater neighbourhoods more dramatically illustrated than at Payan Village. Here, the reef creates three separate zones with startling clarity – as if someone had drawn invisible boundary lines underwater. The dive begins over a vast expanse of black volcanic sand and rubble stretching down the slope, a moonscape that speaks to Alor's volcanic origins. Then, as if crossing a threshold, the seafloor transforms into a zone of total hard coral coverage – staghorns, tables and brain corals form a bustling coral city filled with reef fish. Move a few feet further, and another invisible line marks the beginning of soft coral territory, where leather and finger corals, and sea fans take over completely, their flowing forms creating an entirely different ecosystem from their hard coral neighbours.

Clown Alley - Once renowned for its abundance of anemones and clownfish (which are now gone), the site is still vibrant with a good diversity of macro life like nudibranchs, crabs, reef fish and an amazing coverage of varieties of branching corals. You can hardly see any seabed or rock. The coral coverage is absolute and stretches as far as the eye can see.

Malal - This dive site reveals yet another specialised ecosystem – this time dominated by a type of sea plant I've not seen elsewhere. These marine algae have claimed their territory with remarkable consistency, creating a completely different underwater landscape from the sponge gardens and coral forests we've encountered elsewhere. ■

About Solitude Adventurer

Solitude Adventurer operates year-round itineraries throughout Indonesia's most-pristine diving destinations, specialising in accessing remote sites that showcase the incredible marine diversity described here. Her experienced crew and dive guides understand the unique characteristics of each region, helping divers appreciate the subtle specialisations that make each underwater neighbourhood distinct from one another. From the barrel sponge gardens of Wetar to the coral overhangs of Babylon Wall, Solitude Adventurer's commitment to exploring Indonesia's lesser-known waters ensures encounters with these specialised marine communities that few divers ever experience.

<https://solitude.world>



fourth element

HALO A°R UNDERSUIT



Free **J2** baselayer set
with every **HALO A°R** suit

Offer only available through participating fourth element dealers.
Offer is for a free set of J2 leggings and top with a purchase of a Halo AR undersuit.
Valid from the 20th Aug to the 30th Sep 2026 (whilst stocks last).
Offer cannot be combined with other promotions.

fourthelement.com

#ASKMARK

#AskMark is our scuba diving Q&A section to answer your scuba diving questions. Have a burning question about buoyancy control, or big dreams of becoming a Divemaster? Mark Newman, a Pro Diver since 2009, is here to answer your questions and share his expert knowledge – no question is too basic or bizarre! **So, gear up, dive in, and let's #AskMark**



@katiecline1897

#AskMark: My boyfriend is from the UK and I am from the United States. Although he doesn't dive, what are the biggest differences in diving in the UK or other countries?

The biggest difference is probably going to be units, American divers most often use feet for depth and PSI for gas pressures, whereas in the UK we use metres and BAR. And communicating those underwater can use different hand signals so, it's best to brief before any dives.

A lot of UK diving is drysuit diving, it isn't that the water is always colder, there's more of a drysuit culture here and while there are plenty of wetsuit divers here, most invest in a drysuit for year-round diving. And DIN is more common on cylinders in the UK. Adaptors are common but, it's best to check before going out on a boat.



@N-A-A-63

#AskMark: When diving with a drysuit, do you use the wing for inflation, or do you still just use the suit?

I was taught to use the drysuit for primary buoyancy underwater, and keep the BCD/wing as backup and surface flotation. It's cleaner because you're relieving the squeeze and you only need to vent from one device while ascending. But it does require good weighting and drysuit control.

Personally, I still use both underwater now. I start with the drysuit to relieve the squeeze, but then I'll use the BCD so I don't have too much gas inside my suit shifting around. My drysuit has an automatic dump valve, so I don't have to think about it, and the wing maintains my trim position during the dive.

@zeekeno823

#AskMark: Why can't the front zipper be like the back zipper, across the upper chest for example?

We do have front-zippers on wetsuits and drysuits, but they are much less common.

The problem with zippers, especially dry-zips, is that they don't like to bend. Folding zippers puts strain on the joining teeth and can pull them apart. Zippers

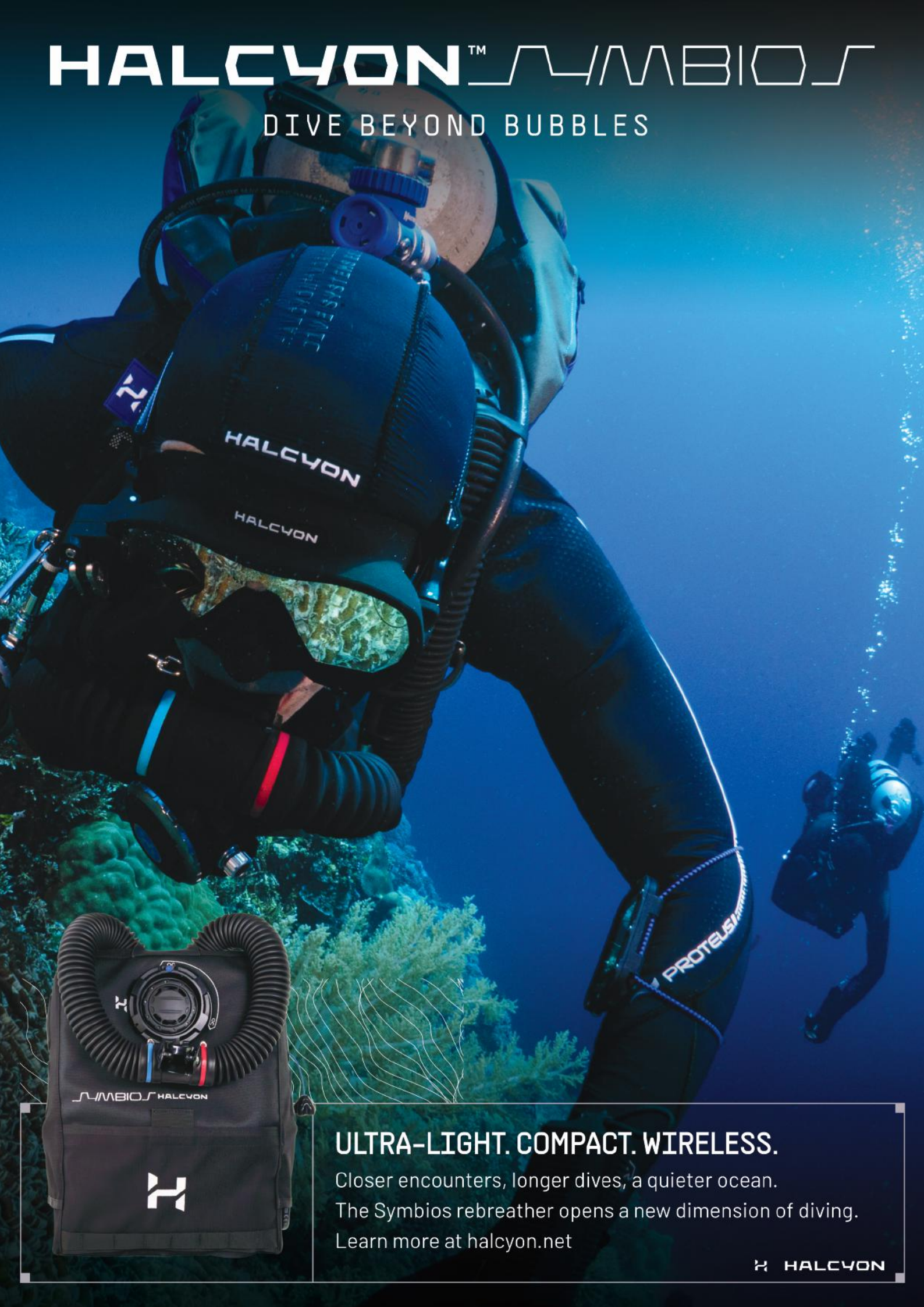
across the back of your shoulder maximise space to get into the suit while minimising pinch points where the zipper is folded in one spot with normal use.

Zips are also the least flexible and hardest part of the suit. Reducing your ability to bend your arms forward, and a hard point under your BCD straps is going to be an uncomfortable suit. With modern plastic zippers, they are much more flexible but, if a rear zip or a diagonal front-zip design works, there's little demand or need for a chest zipper.



HALCYON™ SYMBIOS

DIVE BEYOND BUBBLES



ULTRA-LIGHT. COMPACT. WIRELESS.

Closer encounters, longer dives, a quieter ocean.
The Symbios rebreather opens a new dimension of diving.
Learn more at halcyon.net

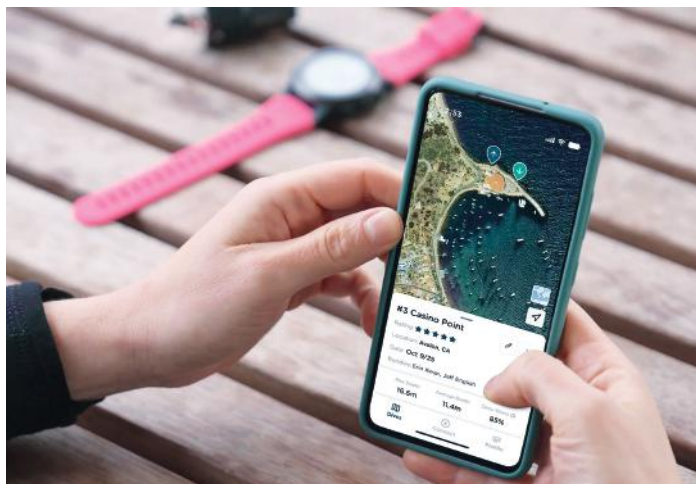
 HALCYON



GEAR TEST EXTRA

Each issue, the Scuba Diver test team bring you the latest product and equipment releases from the dive industry. Cannot wait for the next edition? Keep up-to-date with all the latest gear news and reviews by heading over to the Scuba Diver YouTube channel!
www.youtube.com/ScubaDiverMagazine

SHEARWATER SWIFT GPS TRANSMITTER | SRP: \$445



Mark Evans: The Shearwater Swift GPS Transmitter is the latest evolution of Shearwater's air-integration system, adding precise surface GPS logging alongside the reliable pressure monitoring divers already know and trust from previous units. I am old-school and still like to have a good compact SPG on a hose as a back-up in case the transmitter goes down mid-dive, but to be honest, with the modern suite of transmitters, incidents of this nature are few and far between as they are so reliable. That said, most regs these days have two high-pressure ports, so you can cover all your bases by having a transmitter and an SPG, as I do.

Shearwater being Shearwater, rather than limiting GPS to a single new computer, the Canadian powerhouse has made this capability available across its entire range of air-integrated dive computers (Perdix 2, Perdix AI, Perdix 3, Petrel 3, Peregrine TX, Teric, Tern TX, and NERD 2) - allowing divers to upgrade their existing set-up without replacing their computer. A fantastic idea, and one that

those already owning
Shearwaters will welcome
with open arms.



Using multi-constellation GNSS (GPS, Galileo and BeiDou), the Swift GPS automatically captures entry and exit coordinates at the surface. When synced with the redesigned Dive Shearwater app, dives are displayed with mapped locations, site names (where available), and a global overview of your full dive history.

Alongside its new GPS functionality, the Swift GPS retains everything that made the original Swift transmitter so dependable - real-time pressure monitoring, LED status indicator, advanced collision-avoidance technology for multi-transmitter use, fast and stable data transmission, and a rugged 650ft depth rating. Power is supplied by a user-replaceable CR2 lithium battery, keeping the system simple and travel-friendly, and the 'no-tools-required' installation and removal is another handy feature.

If multiple transmitters are used on a single set-up, only one Swift GPS transmitter is required to record location data. And if you are diving with fellow Shearwater-users, your buddy – or any other nearly

Shearwater computer wearer – can pick up the GPS signal, so you can share the info with the dive boat. The Swift GPS transmitter comes in a little zippered case with a handy karabiner, and a dinky allen key for battery replacement.

www.shearwater.com





SCUBA™

SCHOOLS OF AMERICA

**#1 RATED DIVE
STORE WITH
THE LARGEST
DIVE CLUB**



GET READY FOR LOBSTER SEASON WITH THE BEST SYSTEMS IN THE GALAXY!

SAN CLEMENTE ISLAND

On the Premier-Expedition Class 90ft Dive Vessel **THE VISION**

OCT 24TH-25TH

DEPART SAN DIEGO
7PM OCT 23RD

RETURN
OCT 25TH 5PM

\$899 CLUB MEMBER

\$999 NON-CLUB MEMBER

ALL-INCLUSIVE GOURMET MEALS

EXPLORE THE UNTOUCHED HIDDEN REEFS OF SAN CLEMENTE ISLAND

SCUBA
SCHOOLS OF AMERICA

ADVENTURE. EXPLORE. DISCOVER.

CORTEZ BANKS

On the Premier-Expedition Class 90ft Dive Vessel **THE VISION**

JAN 16TH-17TH 2027

DEPART SAN DIEGO
7PM JAN 15TH

RETURN
5PM JAN 17TH

\$899 CLUB MEMBER

\$999 NON-CLUB MEMBER

ALL-INCLUSIVE GOURMET MEALS

EXPLORE THE UNTOUCHED HIDDEN REEFS OF CORTEZ BANKS

SCUBA
SCHOOLS OF AMERICA

ADVENTURE. EXPLORE. DISCOVER.

INTERNATIONAL TRIPS WITH SXT ADVENTURES

Sea of Cortez | 10/30 - 11/06/26

New Year's in the Philippines | 2026/27

Bahamas Adventure | 04/03 - 04/10/27

Cocos Island | 07/06 - 07/18/27

SXT ADVENTURES

EVENTS CALENDAR

- Sept 12th-13th** – 2 Day PacStar San Clemente Island
- Sept 12th-13th** – 2 Day PacStar Santa Barbara Island
- Sept 19th** – CLUB AQUARIUS Lobster Theme, 6PM
- Sept 20th** – Raptor Anacapa Island
- Sept 25th-26th** – 2 Day PacStar San Catalina Island
- Oct 10th** – Lobster Opener, Night Dive
- Oct 24th** – Catalina Island
- Oct 24th-25th** – Vision Expedition San Clemente Island

ALL NEW CUSTOM Z90 BUOYANCY SYSTEMS

FULLY CUSTOM LOW PROFILE SYSTEMS STARTING AT \$1199

STREAMLINED PERFORMANCE | PREMIUM DURABILITY | MODULAR DESIGN | MADE FOR ADVENTURE

SCUBA SCHOOLS OF AMERICA

FREE POOL USE

TO ALL DIVE CLUB MEMBERS AND STUDENTS

Do you want to practice your scuba skills when you want to?

You can use the Scuba Schools of America Ocean Simulation Pool for free as an active club member or a current or former student.

LEARN. PRACTICE. IMPROVE. ANYTIME. WE'RE HERE WHEN YOU ARE.

SCUBA SCHOOLS OF AMERICA

RIDE WITH SSA EVERY FRIDAY

SCUBA SCHOOLS OF AMERICA CYCLING TEAM

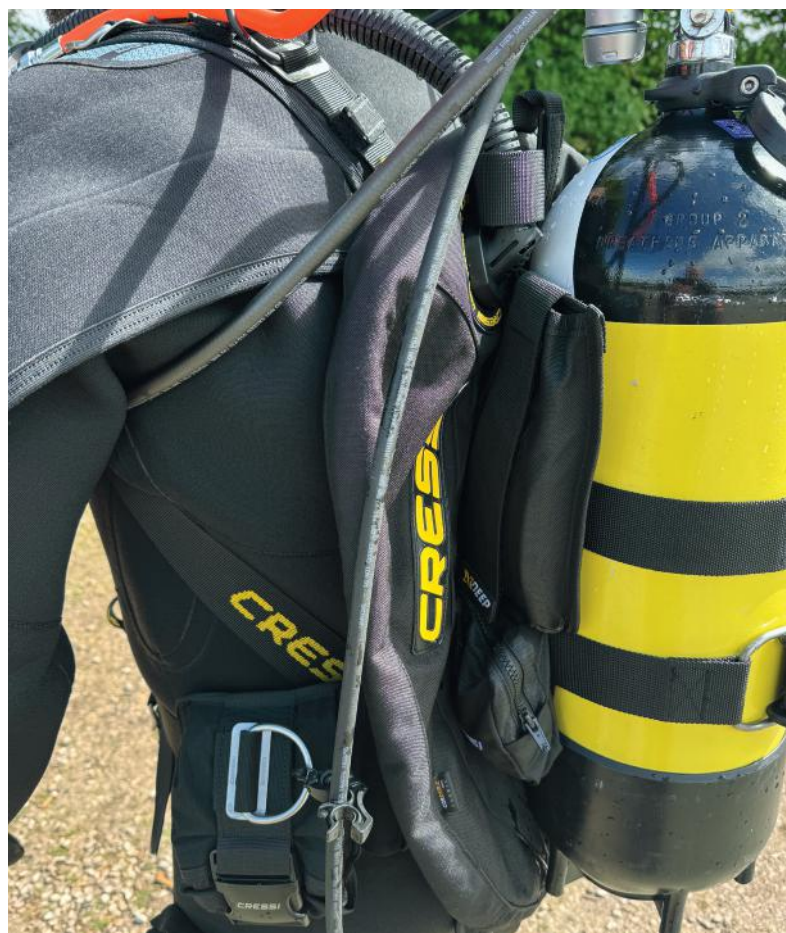
SPONSORS: BARE, mares, SXT ADVENTURES, ZENITH, STURGEON



GEAR TEST EXTRA

Each issue, the Scuba Diver test team bring you the latest product and equipment releases from the dive industry. Cannot wait for the next edition? Keep up-to-date with all the latest gear news and reviews by heading over to the Scuba Diver YouTube channel!
www.youtube.com/ScubaDiverMagazine

CRESSI SUB AQUAWING PLUS BCD - 80TH ANNIVERSARY | SRP: \$889.95



Mark Evans: Cressi Sub is the oldest diving equipment manufacturing company in the world, and as it celebrates an incredible 80 years in existence, it has released a line of colorful anniversary gear which certainly stands out from the crowd. The limited-edition Dive Yellow collection pays tribute to the history of the business, and embraces the vibrant color that best represents the brand. It also features the original Cressi logo.

There is a Dive Yellow version of the Cressi Aquawing Plus, a one-size-fits-all donut-style BCD. These backplate-and-wing BCDs are getting increasingly popular, especially ones like this, which come complete with integrated weight pockets, and non-dumpable trim pockets, as standard. Often these pockets are optional extras, which can add a couple of hundred dollars on to the basic price, so that is certainly worth bearing in mind.

The Aquawing Plus is a good-looking, yet subtle, set-up, which wears the Dive Yellow well. It is mostly back apart from the Cressi branding on the webbing, and some fairly low-key logos on the bladder and backpad. The light-gray



Air-Net material that lines the shoulder straps and covers the back plate is soft and padded, drains quickly and is neutrally buoyant, but it also adds a splash of contrast between the black and yellow.

The Aqualung Plus comes with Cressi's industry-leading Modular Adjustment System (MAS), which offers a custom fit for both men and women - the continuous weave harness system allows you to fine-tune the adjustment of your harness so that it fits snugly to the shape of your body. You simply tighten the shoulder straps by pulling the waist straps, then loosen them in seconds by releasing the waist buckle and pulling up on the shoulders.

This impressive adjustment range means you'll always get a perfect fit, whether you're drysuit diving or T-shirt diving, and I found it certainly makes getting the backplate-and-wing off at the end of the dive much easier than having to wriggle out of a non-adjustable webbing harness. If anything, it was quicker slackening off the shoulder straps on the Cressi than it is on my trusty Dive Rite Transpac II, which has standard pinch-clips.

The donut shape air cell is compact and streamlined, and looks very minimalist when you are wearing it. The wing nestles neatly around the cylinder, and I found that it offered stable, reliable buoyancy, with the air migrating easily around the bladder, allowing

“ The light-gray Air-Net material that lines the shoulder straps and covers the back plate is soft and padded, drains quickly and is neutrally buoyant, but it also adds a splash of contrast between the black and yellow ”



for precise trim control. The small power inflator is efficient, both at filling the bladder and emptying it, and there is also a pull dump on the lower left side of the bladder.

A crotch strap ensures the BCD stays in place during your dive, and I liked that this secures with a pinch-clip – it means you can get the waist strap properly closed, and then just fasten the crotch strap in place afterwards. There is an anodized aluminum backplate hiding behind that padded backpad, though you can barely see it, and I liked the cut-away shape of this, which helps reduce unnecessary weight – essential for the traveling diver. However, for those who require it, there is an optional 5.5lb backplate bar available.

The aforementioned integrated weight pockets are securely attached to the backplate, and these have large D-rings built in (alongside the D-rings on the shoulder straps and the crotch strap). These mount so that the weight pocket slots in from the bottom of the pocket, and a pinch ▶



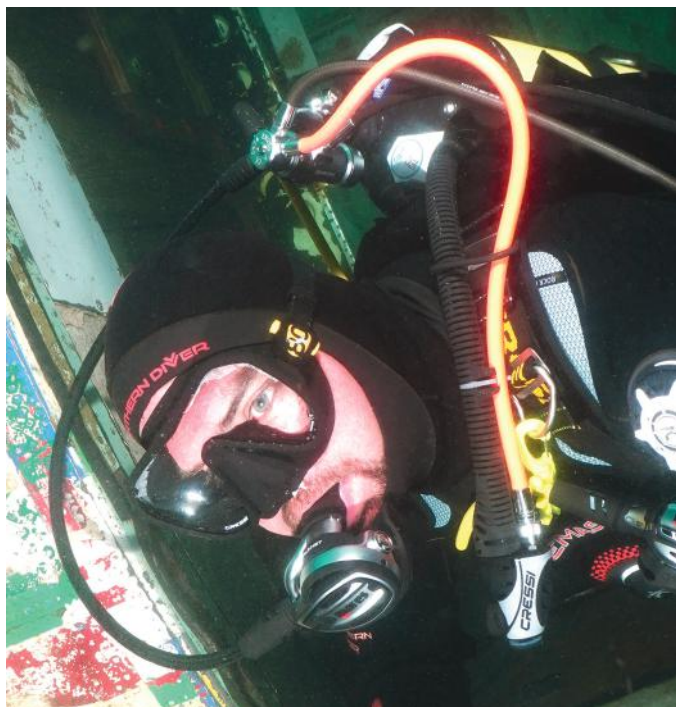


GEAR TEST EXTRA

Each issue, the Scuba Diver test team bring you the latest product and equipment releases from the dive industry. Cannot wait for the next edition? Keep up-to-date with all the latest gear news and reviews by heading over to the Scuba Diver YouTube channel!

www.youtube.com/ScubaDiverMagazine

CRESSI SUB AQUAWING PLUS BCD - 80TH ANNIVERSARY



clip holds them securely in place. This makes jettisoning them in an emergency a doddle – just squeeze the pinch clip and away they go. However, you just need to be a bit more careful when you are releasing them to hand up to a RIB, for instance, but a large loop on the top of the weight pocket helps facilitate this.

The trim weight pockets on the lower of the two cylinder bands allow for further adjustments to optimise buoyancy when you need to add additional weight, such as when you are in a drysuit.

The Aquawing Plus is a great choice for divers seeking a compact backplate and wing configuration that is already kitted out with integrated weight and trim weight pockets. In the Dive Yellow guise, it is an eye-catching 'old-school-style' piece of kit, with plenty of modern features, and it adjusts quickly and easily from warm-water wetsuit diving to cold-water drysuit adventures.

www.cressi.com

TUSA®

BB REACT

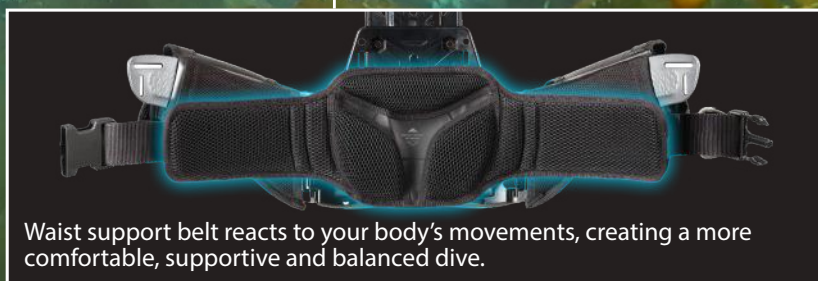
**DITCH STANDARD.
DIVE RIGHT.**



Rugged, tapered bladder design for improved posture and stability. Built with quick dry abrasion resistant TPU double-laminated 420D nylon.



React panels secure weights close to lungs improving buoyancy control.



Waist support belt reacts to your body's movements, creating a more comfortable, supportive and balanced dive.



Visit [TUSA.com](https://www.tusa.com) for more info.



GEAR TEST EXTRA

Each issue, the Scuba Diver test team bring you the latest product and equipment releases from the dive industry. Cannot wait for the next edition? Keep up-to-date with all the latest gear news and reviews by heading over to the Scuba Diver YouTube channel!
www.youtube.com/ScubaDiverMagazine

CRESSI SUB LOGICA | SRP: APPROX \$550

Mark Evans: Semi-drysuits. Something I have never personally got my head around. I am a full-suit person, so in my arsenal I have 3mm and 5mm full-length wetsuits. Anything colder than can be tolerated in my 5mm, I break out one of my trilaminate drysuits with appropriate undergarments. The idea of struggling into a 7mm – or thicker – neoprene suit and then needing a shedload of lead to sink just did not float my boat.

However, in parts of the world, semi-drysuits are extremely popular, and there are many cold-water divers who relish being able to get their semi-dry out of storage for the summer months in their native waters. So when the team at Cressi Sub suggested sending me a Logica suit for test, I was not overly excited – great, I thought, when I saw it was 8/7mm, that'll be me battling to don it, and then I will need to source every bit of lead I own!

Well, first off, I was totally wrong about the fight to get it on. While it is a thick suit, it is made from extremely stretchy neoprene, and so I found it no harder to don than a normal 5mm – a complete revelation! It is also so comfortable and easy to move around in, feeling no more restrictive than a 5mm. There is plush Thermospun lining on the 8mm neoprene chest and back panels, which is not only very comfy it adds a whole new degree of thermal protection around your torso, where you need it the most.

The 7mm sections on the arms and legs of the suit feature Powertex material on the high-wear zones, like the knees, shoulders and seat area. The seams are double-glued and blind-stitched to stop water from seeping through the stitching, while Hydrosealing cuffs at the wrists and ankles help prevent water from entering the suit.

The fact that the Logica has an integrated hood also helps prevent water movement. There is a nifty Hydrobarrier panel, which effectively is like an internal bib,

and gives an additional layer of neoprene around your neck, chest and back. The hood itself has smooth edges on your face for a good seal/comfort, and an air-release seal on the top vents any trapped air.

There is a handy large pocket on the right thigh that has two D-rings and is big enough for a spool/DSMB, etc.

And what about the need for lead? Yes, I did require more than I do in my drysuit, but I have to say I was surprised that I did not need to overload myself.

Now Cressi reckon this good-looking suit is ideal for 44-53 degrees F. I was not brave enough to try it in those temps, but it was still in the mid-60s when I went in, and I managed nearly hour-long dives before I started to feel even a bit chilly. So I do believe hardy types would tolerate lower temps. This suit would be awesome in the likes of Malta in winter as a viable option over a drysuit.

The Logica comes in at a compelling price for the thickness and quality of the suit, and it might well sway people who were in the same boat as me when it came to semi-drysuits and thick wetsuits.

<https://store.cressi.com>





SWIFT GPS

LOCK IN YOUR LOCATION

Every Shearwater air-integrated dive computer pairs with the Swift GPS to lock in dive site coordinates. Enjoy the benefits of air integration with real-time gas pressure data, plus log your entry and exit points for a global view of your dive adventures in the new Dive Shearwater app.

www.shearwater.com/swift-gps



UNITED STATES

ALABAMA

UNDERWATER WORKS

24208 Hwy 98 Suite B, Fairhope, AL 36532

ARKANSAS

J&T DIVE SHOP

1610 North Culberhouse Rd, Jonesboro, AR 72401

ARIZONA

SUMMIT DIVERS & WATERSPORTS

t: 928-556-8780

e: info@summitdivers.com

103 S Milton Rd, Flagstaff, 86001-5516, AZ

We have a great selection of scuba and water sports gear. We offer scuba certification from beginner - instructor.

www.summitdivers.com

CALIFORNIA

DIVECATALOG.COM

17855 Fitch, Irvine, CA 92614

PACIFIC OCEAN SPORTS

936 Detroit Ave#E, Concord, CA 94518

SCUBA.COM

1781 Newport Blvd Suite A, Costa Mesa, CA 92627

COLORADO

PLANET SCUBA TRAVEL

703 Wilcox St Ste D, Castle Rock, CO 80104

CONNECTICUT

DIVERS COVE LLC

t: 860-767-1960

e: info@diverscove.com

7 Essex Plaza, Essex, CT 06426

Full service shop - well trained staff - fun trips - exceptional dry suit repairs.

www.diverscove.com

FINTASTIC DIVING, LLC

t: 203-605-9590

e: gotair@fintasticdiving.net

4 Brushy Plain Rd, Suit 516, Branford, CT 06405

Full service dive shop, offering equipment sales to fit your budget, scuba certifications for all levels and exciting dive vacations.

www.fintasticdiving.net

SCUBA SHACK

t: 860-563-0119

e: info@scubashackct.com

1275 Cromwell Ave A6, Rocky Hill, CT 06067

Central Connecticut's PADI 5-Star Instructor Development Center. Full-service dive center to meet all of your needs. Providing training, equipment, service and travel since 1977.

www.scubashackct.com

FLORIDA

ACHI DIVERS

2031 B Wilton Drive, Wilton Manors, FL 33305

ADVENTURE OUTFITTERS

4316 South Manhattan Avenue, Tampa, FL 33611

AQUATIC CENTER OCALA

8769 S US Hwy 441, Ocala, FL 34480

ATLANTIC SCUBA, INC.

724 Ridgewood Avenue, Daytona Beach, FL 32117

AUSTIN'S DIVING CENTER

10525 South Dixie Highway, Miami, FL 33156

BROWNIE'S PALM BEACH DIVERS

3619 Broadway, Riviera Beach, FL 33404

BROWNIES YACHT DIVER STORES

1530 Cordova Road, Ft Lauderdale, FL 33316

CALYPSO DIVERS OF TAMPA BAY, LLC

401 East Bearss Avenue, Tampa, FL 33613

CORAL DIVING CLUB, LLC

222 North Federal Highway, Dania Beach, FL 33004

CRUISE FISH DIVE

28811 South Tamiami Trail, Bonita Springs, FL 34134

DEEP BLUE DIVERS

4348 Ocean Drive, Lauderdale by the Sea, FL 33308

DEEP SIX DIVE & WATERSPORTS

2525 NW Federal Highway, Stuart, FL 34994

DISCOVER DIVING DIVE CENTER

92 Dunlawton Avenue, Daytona Beach, FL 32127

DIVE ODYSSEY, INC.

621 North 2nd Street, Ft Pierce, FL 34950

DIVE RITE

175 Nw Washington St, Lake City, FL 32055

DIVERS COVE

2335 South University Drive, Davie, FL 33324

DIVERS DIRECT FORT LAUDERDALE

180 Gulf Stream Way, Dania Beach, FL 33004

DIVERS PARADISE

4000 Crandon Blvd, Key Biscayne, FL 33149

DIXIE DIVERS

455 S Federal Hwy, Deerfield Beach, FL 33441

E.A.S.E./DEEP SIX WATERSPORTS

416 Miracle Mile Plaza, Vero Beach, FL 32960

FORCE-E SCUBA (BOCA RATON)

2621 North Federal Hwy, Boca Raton, FL 33431

FORCE-E SCUBA (BOYNTON BEACH)

270 N Congress Avenue, Boynton Beach, FL 33426

FORCE-E SCUBA (POMPANO BEACH)

1312 North Federal Highway, Pompano Beach, FL 33062

FORCE-E SCUBA (RIVIERA BEACH)

155 East Blue Heron Blvd, Riviera Beach, FL 33404

GROVE SCUBA

2809 SW 27th Avenue, Coconut Grove, FL 33133

HATTS DIVING HEADQUARTERS, INC.

2006 South Front Street, Melbourne, FL 32901

JUPITER DIVE CENTER

1001 Alternate A1a, Suite 113, Jupiter, FL 33477

KIRK'S DIVE & SURF LLC

1991 North East Jensen Beach Blvd, Jensen Beach, FL 34957

LAUDERDALE DIVER

2830 West State Road 84, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312

LETTS DIVE!!

3010 49th St N, St Petersburg, FL 33710

LIVE BLUE, INC.

259 Commerical Blvd Suite 2, Lauderdale By The Sea, FL 33308

NARCOSIS, INC.

528 East Tarpon Ave, Tarpon Springs, FL 34689

NO SHENANIGANS DIVING, INC

1324 North University Drive, Coral Springs, FL 33071

NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

NSU-DOSA-Campus Recreation-Aquatics, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33314

OCEAN SAFARI

677 Sw 1 Street, Miami, FL 33130

PINEAPPLE SCUBA

3329 East Oakland Park Blvd, Ft Lauderdale, FL 33308

PURA VIDA DIVERS

2513 Beach Court, Singer Island, FL 33404

SCUBA MARCO

1141 Bald Eagle Drive, Marco Island, FL 34145

SCUBA WORKS

351 South Us Hwy 1, Ste 103, Jupiter, FL 33477

SCUBA WORLD ORLANDO

5167 East Colonial Drive, Orlando, FL 32803

SEA DOGS DIVE CENTER

111 Flagler Avenue, New Smyrna Beach, FL 32169

SEA EXPERIENCE

801 Seabreeze Blvd, Ft Lauderdale, FL 33316

SEMINOLE SCUBA

3869 Lake Emma Road, Lake Mary, FL 32746

SOUTH BEACH DIVERS

850 Washington Avenue, Miami Beach, FL 33139

SOUTH FLORIDA DIVING HEADQUARTERS

101 North Riverside Drive Ste 111, Pompano Beach, FL 33062

SPACE COAST DIVE CENTER

4651 Babcock Street NE, Palm Bay, FL 32905

SPLASHDOWN DIVERS

640 E Ocean Avenue #2, Boynton Beach, FL 33435

SPRUCE CREEK SCUBA

t: 386-767-1727

e: divingscs@gmail.com

1646 Taylor Rd, Port Orange, 32128-6753, FL
WELCOME TO SPRUCE CREEK SCUBA. "Any Diver, Any Course, Any Gas, Any Gear, Anytime"

www.sprucecreekscuba.com

SQUALO DIVERS

16604 Ne 2nd Avenue, Miami, FL 33162

STARFISH SCUBA

735 Casa Loma Boulevard Slip #11, Boynton Beach, FL 33435

SUPERSONIC SCUBA

6550 Pensacola Blvd, Pensacola, FL 32505

TARPOON LAGOON

300 Alton Road, Suite 110, Miami Beach, FL 33139

TARPOON SKIN DIVING CENTER

3200 Palm Avenue, Hialeah, FL 33012

THE SCUBA CLUB, INC.

607-A Northlake Boulevard, North Palm Beach, FL 33408

WORLD OF WATER

1416 West Kennedy Blvd, Unit 1, Tampa, FL 33606

HAWAII

HDA INC

1215-c Mookaula St, Unit C, Honolulu, HI 96817

IOWA

SCUBA ADVENTURES QCA

1104 State Street, Bettendorf, IA 52722

MARYLAND

CHESAPEAKE UNDERWATER SPORTS

416 4th Street, Annapolis, MD 21403

EASTERN MARINE SERVICES, INC.

1923 Old Eastern Ave Ste A, Baltimore, MD 21221

MICHIGAN

AQUATIC ADVENTURES OF MI

9996 East Highland Road, Hartland, MI 48353

DIVE & GLIDE SCUBA, SNORKEL & TRAVEL

t: (989) 486-3627

e: shop@diveandglideinc.com

600 Cambridge Street, Suite 3, Midland, MI 48642

Since 1997, we've been Mid-Michigan's premier dive shop for diving, snorkeling, and travel. We are affiliated with NAUI, PADI, SSI, SDI/TDI and SEI.

www.diveandglideinc.com

SEA THE WORLD SCUBA CENTER

29469 Ten Mile Road, Farmington Hills, MI

MISSOURI

DIVE ODYSSEA

225 Historic Route 66 E, Waynesville, MO 65583

GREAT AMERICAN DIVERS

4510 Central School Rd, St Charles, MO 63304

NEW HAMPSHIRE

AQUATIC ESCAPES

2 Mercury Drive, Londonderry, NH 3053

DC AQUATICS SPECIALTIES

704 Milford Road DJ Square Rt 101-A, Unit 8, Merrimack, NH 3054

NEW YORK

DUTCHESS SCUBA DIVING

t: 845-444-9015

e: chris@dutchessscubadiving.com

1164 Route 9G, Suite 3, Hyde Park, NY 12538

We are a full service scuba diving center catering to all your diving needs.

www.dutchessscubadiving.com

SCUBA.COM

50 W 17th St, New York, NY 10011

OHIO

DEEP SIX SPECIALTIES

1074 Brown St, Akron, OH 44301

PROFESSIONAL DIVING RESOURCES

7976 Broadview Rd, Suite 105, Broadview Heights, OH 44141

SCUBA ZONE

t: 234-678-3708

e: sales@scubazone.com

1709 Wooster Rd W, Barberton, OH 44203

We are Barberton, Ohio's only Family-friendly full service SSI Dive Center. We offer training, sales, service, rental and travel. We've been in the dive business over 30 years.

www.scubazone.com

PENNSYLVANIA

SCUBAVENTURES

2501 Penn Ave, Reading, PA 19609

SCUBA ERIE

1111 Greengarden Rd, Erie, PA 16501-1550

diveLogs.com
Your diving memories deserve
the best home
www.diveLogs.com
Recreational, Instructor, and Technical Dive Logs - Custom Dive Logs
Log Book Stamps - Gear ScubaTags - Compact Lightweight Binders
Custom Dive Slates - Dive Maps - Fish Identification - Certification Card Holders

TEXAS

DIVERS DOWN UNDERWATER ADVENTURES

100 E NASA Pkwy, Suite 205, Webster, TX 77598

PHANTOM TRAINING CENTER

847 County Road, 3340, Kempner, TX 76539

THE SCUBA SHOP

8451 Blvd 26, North Richland Hills, TX 76180

TENNESSEE

ALPHA DIVERS

t: 865-951-0691

e: info@alphadivers.com

2001 N. Broadway, Suite B, Knoxville, TN 37917

PADI & RAID recreational and technical training facility. We offer open water through Full Cave, Tec Trimix and more. We are located in Knoxville, TN.

www.alphadivers.com

OCD DIVERS

4903 Queensbury Way E, Colleyville, TX 76034

OHANA DIVE CO

1101 Bell Grimes Ln, Nashville, TN 37207-1605

SMOKEY MOUNTAIN DIVERS

6635 Kingsport Hwy, Gray, TN 37615

UTAH

NORTH AMERICAN DIVERS

350 E 800 S, Orem, UT, 84097

WISCONSIN

GREAT LAKES DIVING CENTER

652 S Pier Drive, Sheboygan, WI 53081

CANADA

TORPEDO RAY'S SCUBA ADVENTURES

625 Windmill Road, Dartmouth, NS, B3B 1B6

TRAVEL SPORTS EQUIPMENT

t: (519)-434-2611

e: sales@travelsportsequiment.com

67 Wharnccliffe Rd. North, London, N6H 2A5, ON

www.travelsportsequiment.com

SNORKELING AND ECO-TOURISM

Discover how snorkeling and eco-tourism can support sustainable travel, protect marine ecosystems and help local communities thrive.



Roatan • Bay Islands
Honduras

There is something uniquely humbling about slipping beneath the surface of the sea. A few feet below the waves, colorful fish move through coral gardens, sea turtles glide effortlessly through clear water, and entire ecosystems unfold in ways that can feel almost otherworldly.

For travelers, snorkeling offers an accessible way to experience this underwater world without the equipment or training required for scuba diving. But as marine tourism continues to grow, an important question is emerging - how can we enjoy these remarkable environments without damaging them? The answer lies partly in eco-tourism and sustainable travel.

When thoughtfully managed, snorkeling tourism can do more than provide memorable holidays. It can create incentives to protect marine habitats, support coastal communities, encourage environmental education and give travelers a direct connection with the natural world.

What Is Eco-Tourism?

Eco-tourism is more than simply traveling to a beautiful natural destination. At its best, it is tourism that aims to minimise environmental impact while contributing positively to conservation and local communities.

For snorkelers, this can mean choosing operators that follow responsible marine-tourism practices, respecting wildlife, avoiding physical contact with coral and marine animals, and supporting businesses that invest in the protection of the destinations they showcase. This approach is increasingly important as popular coastal destinations face pressures from climate change, pollution, overfishing, coastal development and growing visitor numbers.

Why Sustainable Snorkeling Matters

Marine ecosystems can be surprisingly fragile. Coral reefs, for example, support an extraordinary variety of marine life but can be damaged by physical contact, pollution and changes in water temperature.

A seemingly harmless action — standing on coral, touching marine animals or using unsuitable sunscreen — can have consequences beyond a single holiday.

Sustainable snorkeling starts with recognising that visitors are guests in these ecosystems.

That means observing rather than interfering.

Travelers should maintain a respectful distance from marine wildlife, avoid chasing or feeding animals, and never collect shells, coral or other natural souvenirs. Snorkelers



should also be mindful of their fins, particularly around shallow reefs where accidental contact can cause damage.

Small individual choices become increasingly significant when thousands of visitors make them.

Choosing Responsible Snorkelling Operators

One of the most-effective ways travelers can support sustainable tourism is by choosing the right tour operator, like Anthony's Key Resort, which runs dedicated snorkel boats. Before booking a snorkeling excursion, look for companies that demonstrate genuine environmental responsibility rather than simply using terms such as 'eco-friendly' in their marketing.

Travellers can also ask direct questions. Where does the tour fee go? Does the company support local conservation? What measures are in place to protect reefs and wildlife?

These questions encourage transparency and help distinguish genuine sustainable tourism from greenwashing.

Sustainable Travel Starts Before You Enter the Water

Responsible snorkeling begins long before a traveler puts on a mask and fins. Choosing a destination carefully, traveling during less crowded periods where possible, selecting environmentally responsible accommodation and reducing unnecessary plastic consumption can all contribute to a more sustainable holiday.

Travelers should also consider what products they take into the water. Reef-conscious personal-care products can help reduce the introduction of potentially harmful chemicals into sensitive marine environments, although they should not be considered a substitute for responsible behavior.

The simplest approach is often the best - avoid touching anything, leave nothing behind and take only photographs and memories. ■

+1 954-929-0090 | reservations@anthonyskey.com | www.anthonyskey.com

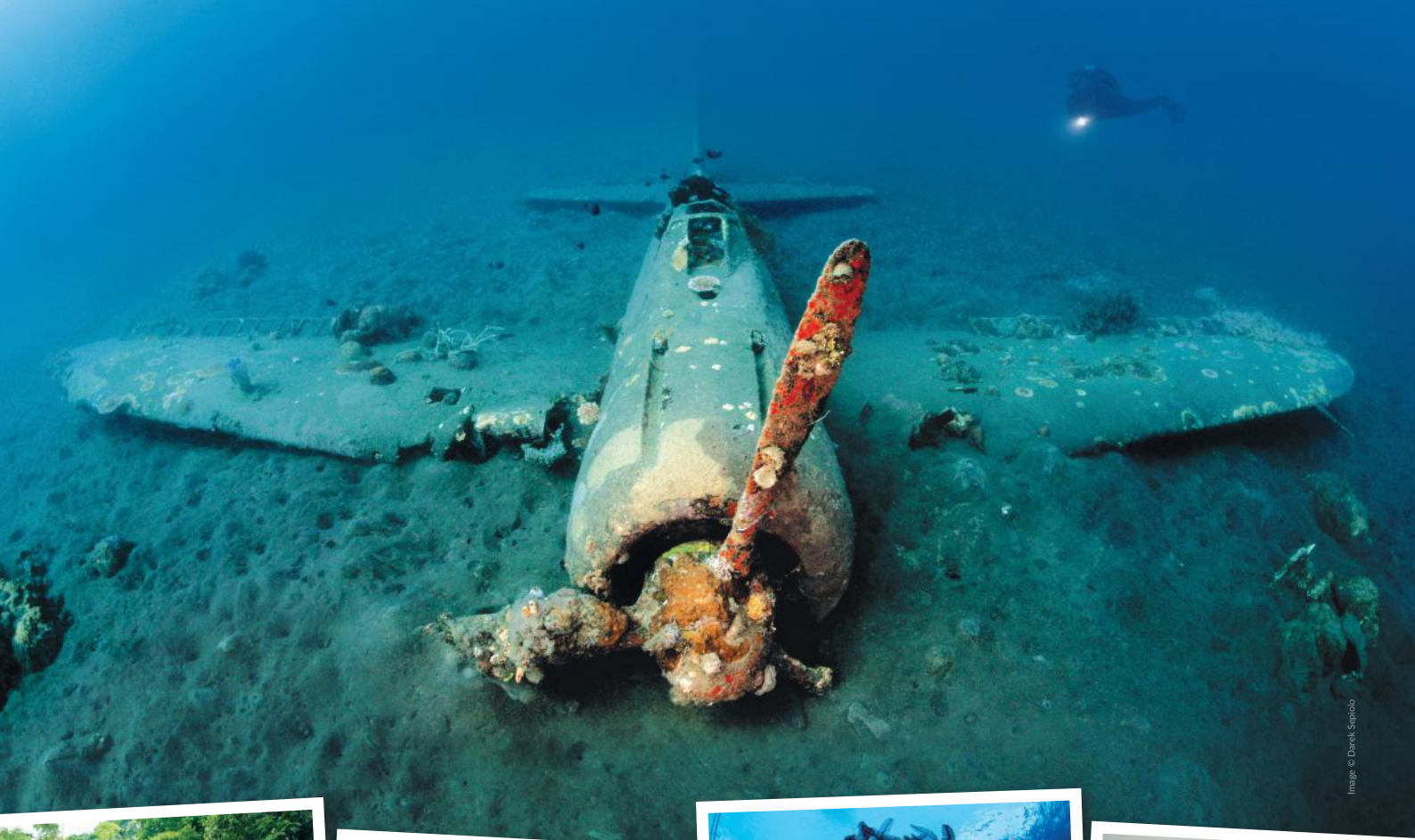


Image © Derek Sepuldo



Image © Peter Lange



Image © Grant Thomas



Image © David Doubilet

Discover Papua New Guinea

Dive the majestic reefs of Kimbe Bay and the Bismarck Sea

Choose from a resort stay at Walindi Resort or a trip on one of the two liveaboards, MV Febrina and MV Oceania – or combine land based and liveaboard diving!



In operation for 40 years, Walindi Resort features private bungalows nestled amongst tropical gardens along the shoreline of Kimbe Bay. Explore the amazing Kimbe Bay Reefs diving from specialty day dive boats.

www.walindiresort.com



Our newest liveaboard operating out of Walindi Resort, MV Oceania, a 27 metre catamaran fully refitted for up to 16 divers in 8 cabins. Her itineraries include Kimbe Bay, Northern New Britain, Milne Bay and beyond.

www.mvoceania.com



MV Febrina has been operating from Walindi Resort since 1991. A boutique, traditional style live-aboard catering for 10-12 guests in 7 cabins, including large and small singles diving the waters of the Bismarck Sea and Kavieng.

www.mvfebrina.com



Contact our friendly reservations staff and discuss a package that suits your requirements
info@walindiresort.com | reservations@mvoceania.com | reservations@mvfebrina.com

DEEP
EUROPEAN MADE

NX ZEN

Perfectly streamlined, ultra-durable, and technologically advanced BCD.
Years of innovation combined for easier, safer, and more relaxed dives.



NX SERIES

Built for unmatched performance and comfort.
Epic look is just a side effect.