

# SCUBA News

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<https://www.scubatravel.co.uk>

Welcome to SCUBA News. Our best wishes for a diving-filled new year. To save you money on scuba insurance on your travels we've negotiated a special discount especially for our readers. [Get 15% off from Columbus Travel here.](#)

You can download a [pdf version of the newsletter here.](#)

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10% off published prices, free rental gear and an AquaMarine Goodie-Bundle when you use code **ScubaTravelUK2019** at

[AquaMarineDiving.com](http://AquaMarineDiving.com)



## What's New at SCUBA Travel?



### Wrecks Unlimited

Nowhere else in the world can you find so many shipwrecks in such clear water as Truk (Chuuk) Lagoon.

[LEARN MORE...](#)

### Europe's Best

Europe boasts some world class diving, with



great visibility and masses of underwater life. Plus, of course, wreck diving galore. We've updated our list of the top ten dives in Europe, from Iceland in the north to Malta in the south.

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### **Hurghada Hotspots**

How to dive from Hurghada in the Red Sea - liveaboard or shore-based?

[LEARN MORE...](#)

## **15% off Scuba Travel Insurance - only for our Readers!**

We've negotiated a special discount for *SCUBA Travel* and *SCUBA News* readers on diving travel insurance - get [15% off here](#).



## **Ocean Art announce winners of best underwater photos of the year**

Congratulations to all winners of the [Ocean Art Underwater Photo Competition 2019](#), organised by the Underwater Photography Guide. The 8th annual competition, this was one of the most competitive years. The two new categories, conservation and blackwater diving, had incredible photos and were two of the highlights of the competition.



*1st Place Coldwater and Best in Show by Greg Lecoer.*

This thrilling photo of a crab-eater seal dodging through freezing waters under Antarctic ice won Greg Lecoeur the Best in Show award.

The winner of the Rising Star Photographer Award, the 1st Place Novice Macro and a close runner-up for best of show, was Jules Casey with an superb shot of six seahorses.



*1st Place Novice Macro by Jules Casey, winner of the Rising Star Photographer Award.  
“Seahorse Bus”*

Jules commented “I picked up a second hand TG4 early in 2019 & I’ve spent almost every day in the water with it since. Capturing 6 baby seahorses all facing in the same direction while sharing a piece of weed is an extremely challenging shot. These babies will often pull in different directions & face away from the camera. So I’m absolutely delighted to be able to share such a split second in time before this scene changed dramatically.” He used an Olympus TG-4 Camera, Sea & Sea YS-03 Strobe with settings 1/250, F6.3, ISO 200.



*Panoramic view of the engine room of the wreck of the Chrisoula K at Abu Nuhas, Egypt,  
Red Sea by Tobias Friedrich*

Other extraordinary winning photos include dramatic animal behaviour, stunning marine life portraits, heart wrenching and uplifting conservation scenes, weird and wonderful blackwater creatures and many, many photos that showcase the powerful beauty that is found in our oceans.



*1st Place Marine Life Behavior by Paula Vianna.  
"A friendly ride"*

This amazing photo is of pink whip rays catching a ride on a small-eyed ray on the [Yongala](#) shipwreck in Australia. The photographer says "The theory is that by doing this they seek protection from predators, save energy and also get leftovers from the big ray. This rare behaviour...has been registered on the same dive site for around a decade, with different individual small-eyed rays. Could this be passing on through generations?"



*2nd Place – Paolo Bausani  
Shot in Anilao, Philippines  
"Lethal Fluid"*

The judges included prestigious underwater photographers Tony Wu, Martin Edge, and Marty Snyderman, accompanied by Underwater Photography Guide publisher Scott Gietler. The judges evaluated thousands of entries from 78 countries before selecting the final set of images as Ocean Art winners.



*1st Place Nudibranch by Jenny Stock  
"Treats from Maloolaba River"*

Over \$85,000 in prizes have been awarded, making the Ocean Art prize value among the highest in the world. The most lucrative included a luxury liveaboard trip on the [Socorro Vortex](#), Indonesia liveaboard trips (and 50% off a companion) on the [S.M.Y. Ondina](#) and [M.Y. Oceanic](#), a 7 nights Palau liveaboard trip on the Solitude One, a 7 or 8 nights Indonesia liveaboard trip on the Coralina and a 7 nights liveaboard trip with Bilikiki Cruises.





*1st Place Blackwater – Fabien Michenet  
Shot in Tahiti Island, French Polynesia  
“Snaketooth Swallower”*

The quality of images submitted this year was exceptional – making judging very difficult and demonstrating that the winning images are some of the best in the world. Underwater Photography Guide publisher, Scott Gietler commented, "I continue to be amazed by the wonderful images that today's underwater photographers are producing. The two new categories, Conservation and Blackwater, were true standout categories."



*3rd Place Conservation – Brooke Lori Pyke  
“Plastic Soup”*



*5th Place Blackwater  
Tianhong Wang  
“Bride”*

[See all the winning photos](#)

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### Save USD 400 on trips to Socorro



Save on selected trips to Mexico in February, March and May 2020 - famous for sharks, manta rays and whales

[Get Discount...](#)

## Diving News From Around the World

Our round up of the best underwater news stories of the past month. For breaking news see our [Twitter page](#) or [RSS feed](#)



### [Malaysia changes dates of Sipadan Closure](#)

Rated one of the best diving areas in the world, Sipadan will be closed this year during November - a change from the previously flagged December closure.



### [Where to dive in February?](#)

Last minute January trip? There are loads of fantastic places to go at the start of the year. Mexico scuba diving in January is all about huge megafauna. The small African nation of Djibouti is also at its best this month, offering the chance to snorkel with numerous whale sharks. For manta rays go to the Maldives.



### [easyJet to resume flights to Sharm El-Sheikh this summer](#)

Following the recent lifting of government restrictions on UK flights to Sharm el Sheikh, easyJet will offer two flights a week to the Red Sea diving destination commencing on 7 June from Manchester and 30 September from London Gatwick. The airline is also extending its winter flights from Manchester to Hurgada



### [Why action on climate change gets stuck and what to do about it](#)

Climate initiatives can get stuck because the momentum they generate is not always in the direction of substantial change. For instance,



moving from coal-fired to natural gas electricity production can lower emissions. However, turning to this bridge fuel reinforces dependence on fossil energy. Political coalitions that support and benefit from such an initial change might not favour more aggressive action.



### **[Shark sightings shouldn't deter Kiwis getting in the water, expert says](#)**

Shark expert Riley Elliott said more shark sightings are nothing to be afraid of. With technology like drones and cell phones, it's not surprising that there are more sightings. At the end of the day everything around you is more dangerous than a shark is



### **[German WWI wreck Scharnhorst discovered off Falklands](#)**

The wreck of a World War One German armoured cruiser has been located off the Falkland Islands, where it was sunk by the British navy 105 years ago.



### **[WWF calls out MSC for proposed certification of bluefin tuna](#)**

WWF has formally objected to the first Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification of an Atlantic bluefin tuna fishery, warning that this would provide a dangerous incentive to the market and compromise the long-term recovery of the stock.



### **[Trump weakened environmental laws after BP lobbying](#)**

Letter suggests oil firm pushed for changes whereby fewer projects would need impact assessments.



### **[New walking sharks discovered strolling off coast of Australia](#)**

Scientists have discovered four new species of walking sharks that can use their fins to crawl about in search of prey, according to a new study published by Conservation International.



### **[Four animal species surviving extinction against the odds](#)**

There are species of animals that have, thanks at least in part to human intervention, come back from the edge and continue to survive today against the once seemingly insurmountable odds.

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#### CONTACTING THE EDITOR

Please send your letters or press releases to:

Jill Studholme

SCUBA News

The Cliff

Upper Mayfield

DE6 2HR

UK

[news@scubatravel.co.uk](mailto:news@scubatravel.co.uk)

#### PUBLISHER

SCUBA Travel Ltd, 5 Loxford Court, Hulme, Manchester, M15 6AF, UK