

SCUBA News

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Welcome to SCUBA News - I hope you find it useful. This month we interview Paul Flandinette, one of the authors of Secret Seas, about his book and the unusual diving around Oman.

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- What's new at SCUBA Travel?
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- Meet the author: interview with Paul Flandinette
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What's New at SCUBA Travel?



Get Wrecked in the Red Sea

So many shipwrecks in the Red Sea which are home to masses of sea life.

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Diving St Vincent & the Grenadines

32 islands are waiting to be dived in this Caribbean archipelago.

[LEARN MORE...](#)

Featured Liveaboard: Mini Safaris to Red Sea Wrecks



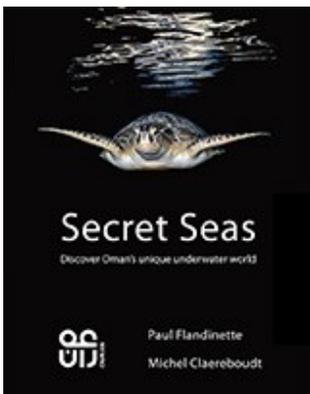


Snefro Pearl is great if you want to combine a liveaboard with a shore-based trip. It visits wrecks like the Thistlegorm & Dunraven + reefs.

[SEE MORE...](#)

Meet the Author: Paul Flandinette

Secret Seas - - Discover Oman's unique underwater world

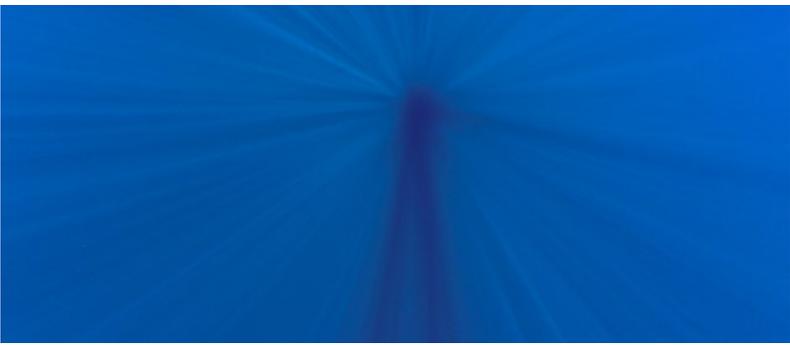


Paul Flandinette wrote *Secret Seas* - a beautiful book which not only has gorgeous pictures but is awash with information on Oman, its seas and underwater life. We talk to Paul about his book and life in Oman.

1. What prompted you to produce the book?

I've been diving for many years and doing underwater photography for about 20 years. I have many underwater photography coffee table books and have long been enthralled by the photographers' art. I've wanted to produce a professional quality underwater photographic book for as long as I can remember, although I didn't think it was a realistic ambition. But that changed in 2014 when I received my first underwater photography commission from Oman's Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Wealth (as it was then known). Spread over six months this project gave me a detailed insight into the beauty and biodiversity of Oman's underwater world. It didn't take me long to learn there was no photographic book on Oman's underwater world. It's rare to find any project that's never been done before so, always up for a challenge, I began this journey which was to last over 7 years.





Whale shark

2. In the seven years it took to complete, was there any time when you thought it might never happen?

After investing so much time and energy in the photography and several years of knocking on a lot of doors looking for a sponsor there were quite a few times when it would have been easier to give up. There were several occasions when I thought I'd clinched it, but finding support for a book, especially in difficult economic times, was quite a challenge. It wasn't until late 2020 when the OMRAN Group agreed to sponsor the publication of *Secret Seas* that I realised it was going to become a reality.



The polyps of octocorals (soft corals and gorgonians) have 8 tentacles, each bearing numerous pinnules that help the polyp to capture its planktonic preys. Ras-Abu-Dawood, PF (f25, 1/200).

3. What is the main thing that you hope your book will achieve?

Oman really isn't on most divers' radars even though it is within easier reach for European travellers than most Indo-Pacific dive locations (current Covid travel restrictions notwithstanding!). For my co-author Michel and me it's not just about creating a beautiful and informative book. We hope that being part of the effort to promote Oman's underwater world *Secret Seas* will help increase awareness of the need to conserve and protect this very special marine environment.





Clarke's anemonefish in Bubble Coral

Paul Flandinette is an award-winning film maker, professional underwater photographer, author and artist. He is passionate about the underwater world and has dived extensively in the in the Far East, Red Sea, Caribbean and the UK. He has been living in Oman since 2013 and has spent the last seven years photographing Oman's underwater world.

Read our review of [Secret Seas](#). To order To order contact Paul Flandinette - secretseasofoman@gmail.com or telephone +968 9138 2281.

More book reviews are at scubatravel.co.uk/interview.html, plus the [ten bestselling diving books](#) are here.

Diving news from around the World



Whale poo saves the world

Restoring whale numbers would mean more iron in the water from their poo, which would mean more phytoplankton and more carbon dioxide taken up from the atmosphere. Whales once contributed to as much carbon removal as forests of entire continents.



Seahorses, sharks and seals found in River Thames

Sharks, seahorses, eels and seals have been found living in the River Thames, a study has found.



Fishing for Tiger Sharks to be banned in Bermuda

Whale sharks are currently the only shark species that have protection in Bermuda. Other sharks besides tiger sharks could also be added.



How dolphins use tools, teamwork, and trickery to get their dinner

There's no question dolphins are incredibly smart. But how they use their intelligence to survive continues to astound marine biologists, who discover new and

fascinating behaviours every year.



Planned fossil fuel output 'vastly exceeds' climate limits, says UN

Despite pledges of action from many nations, almost none have policies to wind down production, report says



Mesmerised crabs' breeding habits inhibited by lure of undersea power cables

Underwater power cables linked to offshore renewable energy facilities are disrupting the behaviour of brown crabs who can't resist their electromagnetic pull, marine scientists have found.



OVERRULING SCIENTISTS, FLORIDA COMMISSION AUTHORIZES FISHING OF THE VULNERABLE GOLIATH GROUPE

For the first time in 3 decades, Florida is planning to allow recreational fishing of one of the world's largest and most embattled gamefish. But many fisheries researchers object to the plan, arguing that state officials have offered no scientific basis for allowing anglers to legally kill the Atlantic goliath grouper, which has seen its populations battered by decades of overfishing and habitat destruction.



Agricultural runoff contributes to climate change

Scientists have discovered how rivers, bearing increased loads of nitrogen, emit greenhouse gases.



Ships could clean up the ocean by turning marine plastic into fuel

Clearing up marine plastic pollution is energy intensive - but ships could convert the plastic they collect into fuel and create a self-sustaining clean-up operation.



What Whale Barnacles Know

For generations, these hitchhikers have been recording details about their hosts and their ocean home.



Global launch of the Great Blue Wall

Movement launched to conserve and restore marine and coastal biodiversity while unlocking the development of a regenerative sustainable blue economy



Due to the warming of the Mediterranean Sea, marine species are migrating 55 metres deeper into cooler waters to survive

Due to the temperature difference across the Mediterranean Sea, fish, crustaceans and molluscs like squid are moving deeper.

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