

SCUBA News

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Welcome to SCUBA News - our best wishes for Christmas and the New Year. Let's hope next year brings us more diving.

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What's New at SCUBA Travel?



Down below in French Polynesia

The sheer number of islands in French Polynesia makes for a great variety of dive sites. One of the best is Tiputa Pass in Rangiroa - famous for its sharks, manta rays, turtles and dolphins.

[READ MORE...](#)



Guide to Diving Portugal

Dozens of whale and dolphin species, plus sharks, manta rays, mobulas and sunfish, have put Portugal firmly on the map of dive destinations.

[READ MORE...](#)

Featured Liveboard: Socorro's Southern Sport



The World Heritage site of Socorro is one of the very best places to see sharks and mantas. Book now for \$400 off.

[GET DEAL...](#)

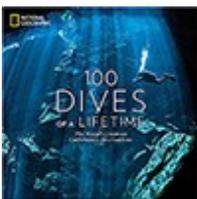
Bestselling Scuba Books in 2021

We're pleased to release the list of our best selling SCUBA books in 2021. There have been some great books published this year which have made the list, plus some old favourites.

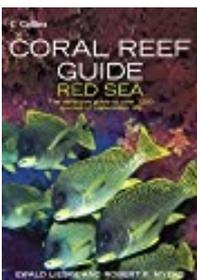
Here are the top ten: figures in brackets show the previous year's position.



1. ***Wild and Temperate Seas: 50 Favourite UK Dives***
by Will Appleyard
From highlands to islands, wrecks to reefs and caves (3)



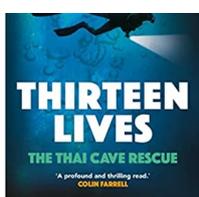
2. ***100 Dives of a Lifetime: The World's Ultimate Underwater Destinations***
by Carrie Miller and Brian Skerry
From National Geographic, includes some beautiful photographs plus marine life guides, travel tips and expert diving advice from world-famous National Geographic divers and explorers. (1)



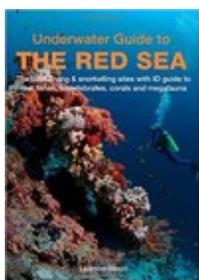
3. ***Coral Reef Guide Red Sea***
by Ewald Lieske, Robert Myers
Excellent guide to the fish and invertebrates of the Red Sea. (8)



4. ***Thirteen Lessons that Saved Thirteen Lives: The Thai Cave Rescue***
by John Volanthen



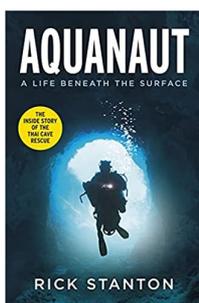
The thrilling account of the dramatic Thai cave rescue which saved the lives of thirteen people, from the diver who led the search.(--)



5. *Underwater Guide to the Red Sea*

by Lawson Wood

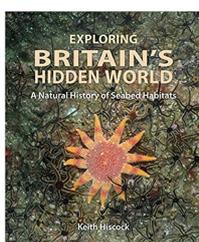
Covers the best dive sites and gives a photographic identification guide to some of the sealife of the Red Sea. A good introduction. (9)



6. *Aquanaut: A Life Beneath The Surface* ♦ *The Inside Story of the Thai Cave Rescue*

by Rick Stanton

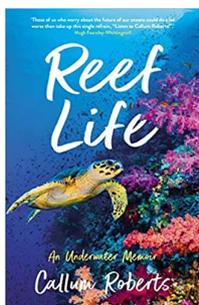
Another account of the Thai Cave rescue this time by British diver Rick Stanton. (--)



7. *Exploring Britain's Hidden World: A Natural History of Seabed Habitats*

by Keith Hiscock

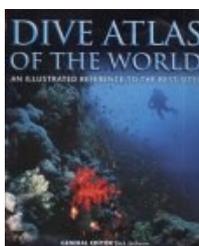
A wealth of information about what lives on and in the seabed has been brought together in one sumptuously illustrated volume. (5)



8. *Reef Life: An Underwater Memoir*

by Callum Roberts

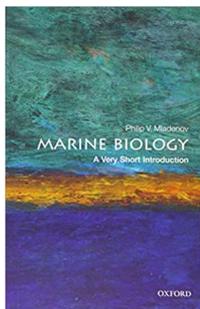
The story of how Callum Roberts, Britain's pre-eminent marine conservation scientist, fell in love with coral reefs and embarked on a thirty-year career. (--)



9. *Dive Atlas of the World: An Illustrated Reference to the Best Sites*

by Jack Jackson

300 pages detailing some of the world's best dive sites. (7)



10. **Marine Biology: A Very Short Introduction**

by Philip V. Mladenov

Accessible and up-to-date overview of marine biology, offering a tour of marine life and marine processes that ranges from the unimaginably abundant microscopic organisms that drive the oceans' food web to the apex predators. (--)

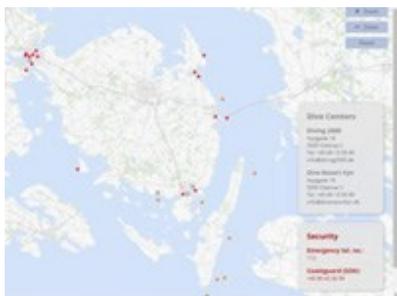
Updated bestseller list is [here](#). Or read our book reviews at scubatravel.co.uk/interview.html.

Diving news from around the World



Helpful tips from the Wildlife Trust for if you see a whale, dolphin or porpoise on a beach.

Helpful tips from .



New interactive map of dive spots around Denmark

Click on a dive spot to get photos and notes about it.



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.



These whales are so decimated that a single birth was cheered by scientists

A sigh of relief spread across the community of Atlantic whale watchers who know critically endangered right whales are as likely to die as they are to give birth. On her path to motherhood at age 39, Slalom - named for a series of callous-like patches on her head that swoop like a ski slope - has survived at least six fishing net entanglements that are known to kill

whales.



Grenada completes a renovation of its underwater sculpture park

The Grenada Tourism Authority has completed the renovation of its Underwater Sculpture Park, which was the first of its kind when it opened in 2006 and has since become one of the country's most popular attractions.



AI Speeds Delivery of Information Critical for Whale Conservation

One of the best ways to understand whales is to listen to them. A new artificial intelligence (AI) program named INSTINCT is helping scientists study whales by learning their calls. Training AI to detect and identify marine mammal calls from underwater acoustic recordings opens new possibilities for more cost-effective marine mammal research.



Dolphin advocates say Kiwi Government's proposed protections are fundamentally flawed

Environmentalists are calling on the New Zealand Government to ban set and trawl nets to protect Hector's dolphins from extinction.



Microplastics revealed in New Zealand marine mammals for first time

Scientists have found micro plastics in New Zealand dolphins.



Blue O Two Dive Travel Company Ceases Trading

Blue O Two has been trading for more than 18 years and developed a solid reputation in the industry. However, the business had seen travel cease during the pandemic with its two key destinations - Egypt and the Maldives - remaining on the government's red list for extended periods. The company has been sold to Scuba Tours Worldwide Ltd



Robotic system to clean litter from seafloor passes test

The cleaning system, which works



similarly to home robot vacuums, was able to see waste on the bottom of the sea and move towards it.



From the ocean floor, a startup livestreams the rise of coral cities

A Portuguese company that was forged in Southeast Asia is building an underwater city for coral in Sultan Iskandar Marine Park, Malaysia, made from food waste such as rice husks.



Underwater Photographer of the Year 2022 Photo competition now open

Judged by Martin Edge, Alex Mustard and Peter Rowlands

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