

# snorkelventure

MAGAZINE

2026 | ISSUE 02

## PHOTO SKILLS - SPLIT SHOTS

How to create eye-catching split shots using affordable, travel-friendly cameras—and why planning matters more than price.

## CHARITY PARTNERS IN ACTION

Explore how our charity partners are creating positive change for oceans worldwide through powerful conservation initiatives.

## SEARCHING FOR THE BIG STUFF

Discover the secrets of pelagic species—sharks, whales, mantas, turtles—and learn how these open-ocean wanderers live, hunt, and interact with snorkelers around the world.

## SHALLOW WATER FREEDIVING

Five simple tips to help you relax, move efficiently and extend your time underwater.





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# EDITOR'S LETTER

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## **Snorkeling... Seriously?**

When outsiders ask what kind of people travel with Snorkel Venture, I usually say: **serious snorkelers**.

Of course, I don't mean we explore the world's most pristine reefs with furrowed brows and solemn expressions. I mean "serious" in the sense of being genuinely dedicated to snorkeling.

Before launching Snorkel Venture in 2019, many of the team had already spent more than a decade running our original company—a dive tour operator specialising in safari-style group expeditions through remote parts of the Asia Pacific. It naturally attracted a loyal following of serious divers. In 2022, we wound that company down to focus wholeheartedly on snorkeling, and we've never looked back.

Because of that history, we've spent years around both serious scuba divers and serious snorkelers. And without stirring the long-standing snorkeler-versus-diver debate, we began to notice something. Our snorkelers were the ones most likely to jump back in for a night snorkel after already spending hours in the water. They showed up in greater numbers for evening marine life talks. And they were just as willing—often more willing—to endure long, challenging journeys in pursuit of a remote reef that promised something rare and unfamiliar. To us, those feel like meaningful markers of what it means to be a serious snorkeler.

In this issue, our tour leaders have curated a series of articles for anyone eager to take their snorkeling skills to the next level. Discover how Paul captures stunning underwater and split-level images, learn five ways to stay underwater longer with Asha's breathing and relaxation tips, get inspired to join conservation efforts with Lydia, and explore the world of camera housings and photography with Alex.

Lydia also reports on the progress of our charity partners in action and how you and Snorkel for Good have played a supporting role, together in 2025 we raised 57,500 USD for our partners.

As always, Dalton returns with his popular Creature Feature section, alongside In Focus with Marcus. We've also caught up on the travels of the operations team - Bernita, Kelly, Crystal and Graham.

Whether you've logged countless hours in the water or only just bought your first mask and snorkel, you'll find a warm welcome on a Snorkel Venture tour—from our leaders and from your fellow travelers alike. In the end, it's not about how serious or skillful you are. It's about loving time in nature, having a thirst for adventure, and being ready to enjoy yourself.

We hope you enjoy reading this magazine, just as much as the team at Snorkel Venture who have created it, no matter how serious a snorkeler you are.

*Ben Stokes*

Editor, Snorkel Venture Magazine



Although we often look to the sky with awe and wonder, we tend to forget there is still much to be discovered at home on planet Earth. Our oceans continue to surprise us, offering endless mysteries and marvels. **Here are some of 2025's latest ocean discoveries.**

🌿 A rare glimpse into deep-sea cohabitation, this newly discovered **octocoral** (soft coral) was found wrapped around a stalked crinoid at a depth of 2,203m. With less habitat variation in the deep ocean, marine life must capitalise on any available surface. This relationship mirrors the way forest epiphytes, like ferns and mosses, grow on trees, with the octocoral using the crinoid's structure for support.

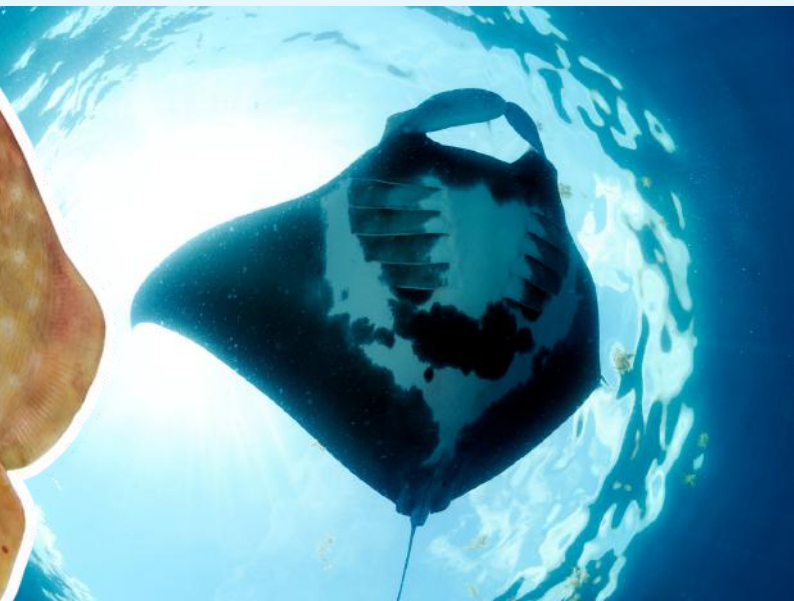
🐟 This newly identified **guitar shark** *Rhinobatos* sp., found off Tanzania, is only the 38th known species of its kind and belongs to one of the ocean's most threatened vertebrate groups

## 800 new species and counting

It is thought that we have only encountered approximately 10% of all life in the ocean. This leaves 1-2 million species still remaining. The Nippon Foundation-Nekton Ocean Census is on a mission to change these statistics. Their census has discovered over 800 new marine species!

This myriad of new life forms includes: a guitar shark, a predatory sponge, corals, crustaceans, sea spiders and sea stars, to name just a few. The census also obtained the first ever footage of the juvenile stage of the legendary colossal squid. Previously only ever seen in the intestinal tracts of other fish.

If you'd like to delve deeper into this treasure trove of newly discovered species, visit [oceancensus.org](https://oceancensus.org)



## A new species of Manta Ray has been described

2025 marked the conclusion of a 15 years suspicion: the existence of a third manta ray species. Until recently, scientists recognised only two - the oceanic and the reef manta. However Dr. Andrea Marshal and her team (who was also the scientist to first make the distinction between reef and oceanic mantas), have now confirmed a third species, *Mobula yarae*, also known as the Atlantic manta ray. This species can be distinguished by its v-shaped shoulder patches and lighter facial markings. This discovery just goes to show how little we know of even the largest marine species.



## The year of the white whale!

Big news amongst the snorkeling community this year was the discovery of not one but two white humpback whale calves. This is a remarkably rare occurrence, given that only one in 40,000 humpback whale calves is born with the lack of pigmentation that results in their distinctive bright white skin.

One of the calves was seen off the coast of Tonga last year and was named Siale - a Polynesian name that means strength and bravery. So, when a white calf was spotted once again in Tonga in 2025 speculations were made that Siale was back. However, using imagery of the whales' tales, it was confirmed that there was a second white whale - this time it was named Māhina, after the moon.

We look forward to further sightings of Siale and Māhina along their migrations as they grow up. In the meantime if you happen to spot them on their travels, please do let us know, we'd love a photo!

## Fourth Element release their **Seeker** mask

Fourth Element say they designed the Seeker mask with two simple goals in mind: give snorkelers a much wider field of view—so it feels as close as possible to not wearing a mask at all—and make it fit just about everyone. They've paired a new face shape with a soft silicone skirt to create a mask that's really comfortable and easy to wear. The low-volume design also makes it easier to equalise for freedivers, while giving you a brighter, more open view of what's going on underwater.



## SNORKELING NEWS



### Coralia Dua set for sail in 2026

Many of you will be familiar with what we consider to be one of Indonesia's premier liveaboards, well the team behind are currently finalising the construction of a sister vessel called Coralia 'Dua', meaning two in Bahasa Indonesian.

Construction is traditional style in the renowned region of Tanah Beru, a quiet coastal village in South Sulawesi, Indonesia. Best known as the birthplace of the legendary Phinisi wooden sailing ships. In 2017, UNESCO recognized the region's traditional boat-building culture as Intangible Cultural Heritage.

Along the shore, Phinisi boats are still built entirely by hand from local ironwood and teak. Bugis and Makassar master builders work without blueprints, shaping each vessel from memory and skills passed down through generations.

Coralia Dua is due to set sail in **September 2026**.

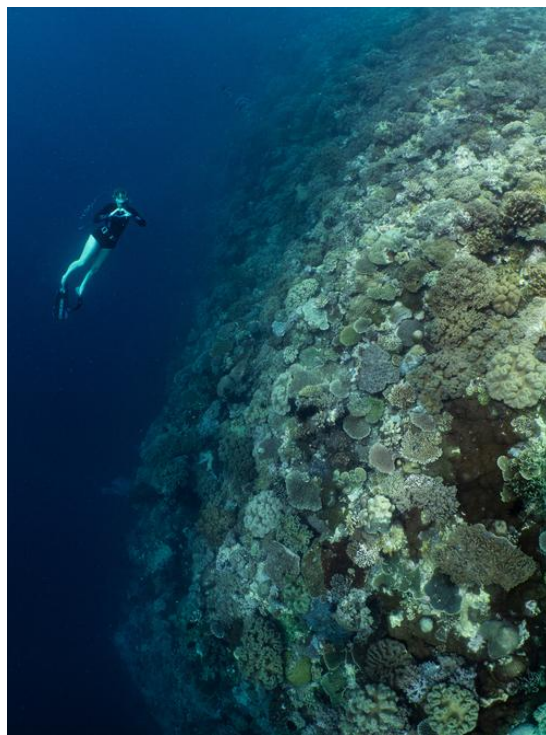
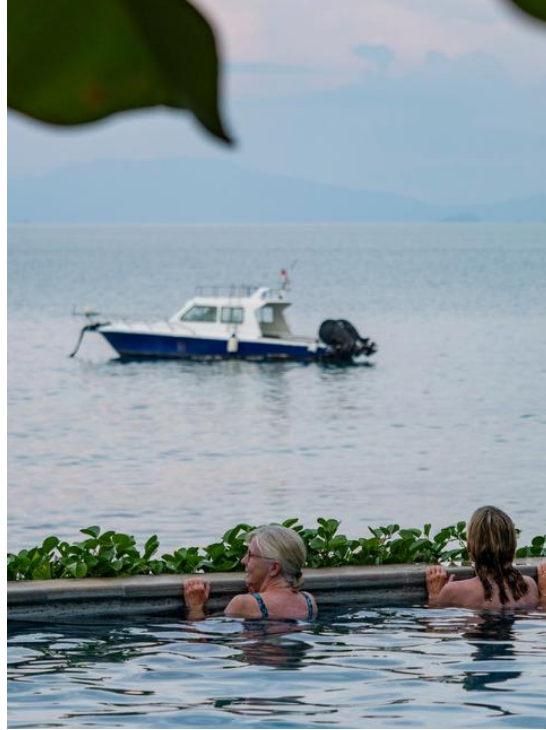
# ON TOUR IN 25 WITH SNORKEL VENTURE



Thank you to each and every one of you that joined us on tour in 2025. We had an absolute blast! **573** of you snorkeled with us, in **8** different countries, over **39** tours. We are beyond excited to dive back in and create many more epic ocean memories with you all in 2026. For now, here are some of our 2025 highlights!















## INSIDE SNORKEL VENTURE: CATCHING UP WITH THE TRAVEL TEAM

If you've ever booked — or even just dreamed about — a Snorkel Venture tour, chances are you've already crossed paths with one of our travel experts: **Bernita, Crystal, Graham, or Kelly**. They're the people behind the scenes bringing each journey to life, overseeing everything from the moment a tour is conceived to the final details before our travellers meet their tour leader at the destination.

Let's catch up with the Snorkel Venture travel team and take a look at where their adventures have taken them in **2025**.

### **Bernita - Dominican Republic**

I was fortunate enough to tick off a bucket list trip in early 2025... a trip to the Dominican Republic to snorkel with the humpback whales that go there to breed and birth their babies.

The trip was liveaboard based. The Silverbank, the Marine Mammal Sanctuary where the humpbacks can be seen, is 80 nautical miles from Puerto Plata. Only 3 boats have permits to enter the sanctuary, each carrying up to 20 guests, so I felt very privileged to be there.

The encounters are regulated to protect the humpbacks; much of the day is spent on the small tender boats looking for whales. They can be seen spy hopping, breaching, tail lobbing and sleeping. We also saw groups of males chasing females trying to mate or fighting amongst themselves.

The area is a shallow underwater plateau with coral formations coming up to the surface, but the trip is not about the coral and no time is spent snorkeling around the coral heads, unless there is a whale there to see.

When we find whales that are slow moving or sleeping, we quietly enter the water and watch them. The moms are mostly relaxed and the babies are quite curious. The sleeping whales come up to breathe every 12 to 20 minutes and come very close to investigate the snorkelers. It's incredible.

The trip is quite difficult in that the crossing to and from the sanctuary is often very rough and takes 9 - 12 hours. I recommend taking precautions for sea sickness.

The days are spent on small tender boats, in varying conditions. While some of the area is



## **Crystal - North Sulawesi & Raja Ampat**

My most recent trip was to North Sulawesi & Raja Ampat, assisting one of our tour leaders, Dalton in October 2025. This was my first time joining this tour, and I was extremely impressed by both the resorts and the snorkeling.

Our first resort, Siladen, offered a wonderfully warm welcome from Anna, Gabriel, and their team. Thoughtful personal touches, including welcome notes and a beautiful beachfront dinner, immediately set the tone for a very personalised stay.

Entering the water was a true “wow” moment, vibrant corals, abundant fish life, and the use of underwater fish ID slates made the experience even more engaging, with guests eagerly discussing their sightings throughout the day

Our second resort was Papua Explorers, and the arrival alone is unforgettable, without giving anything away, they make it incredibly special and memorable. From the very start, it’s clear you’re in the hands of a wonderful, fun, and welcoming

team. Stepping into the overwater bungalows is another unforgettable moment; this resort truly is something special. The restaurant overlooks the house reef, where you can often spot blacktip reef sharks, lionfish, and stingrays in the shallows. If you’re lucky, you may even see a cuscus or tropical birds on the walk back to your bungalow.

Snorkeling sites are just 10 - 20 minutes away along the Dampier Strait, and the house reef is accessible at any time, which I took full advantage of and snorkeled there every day.

I cannot finish this report without mentioning the guests! Each time I finish a tour, the hardest part is saying goodbye to another wonderful group. They came from the US, Canada, and the UK, we met as strangers, and by the end of the trip we had become friends. Thanks to the WhatsApp group, we’ve been able to keep in touch and share photos and videos from the tour. This group truly made the trip extra special!

very protected, the outer areas can be windy and choppy and the group can spend 2 to 6 hours at a time out on the tenders. People with back problems may find this uncomfortable.

The days consist of long periods of looking for suitable whales to engage with, watching others breaching in the near and far distance and observing various behaviours. The group gets into the water a few to several times a day for anywhere from 1 minute (if the whales move away) to an hour (if they’re relaxed and happy) so there is a lot of getting into and out of the water.

All this is absolutely worth it for the time spent in the water with these magical mammals, often heard singing their melodic songs. This was one of my favourite marine experiences.





## **Kelly - Papua Explorers**

Snorkeling at Papua Explorers Resort, located on the island of Gam in Raja Ampat, was an unforgettable experience that blended vibrant marine life, pristine coral gardens, and calm turquoise waters (though there was the odd site with slightly stronger current). The resort sits within one of the most biodiverse marine regions on earth, offering direct access to thriving reefs just steps from the overwater bungalows. And if you suffer from jet lag or are inclined to rise early you can experience some beautiful sunrises!

The staff are great and very friendly, they will point out anything of interest they spot on your snorkels and are on hand to help when needed. The resort itself is very relaxed and has a bare-foot vibe about it. The food is very good, though the choices may be a little limited for some, usually consisting of two choices each of protein and carbohydrate, a vegetable dish and a small salad buffet. They have certain theme nights for meals too such as BBQ night and burger night. It was also a nice surprise one night to have a dance/song performance by the local village children.

## **Graham - Palau**

In all honesty, I hadn't given much thought to Palau until Ben suggested it might be a good choice for my annual SV trip. I am so glad he did. It is by far, one of the best destinations I have ever visited.

As soon as we landed I felt welcome, relaxed and at home! The whole place oozes island vibes and reminded me a little of Hawaii. The snorkeling was incredible and rivals most places I have been in Indonesia! In among 445 limestone islands, islets and reefs we had our pick of shallow perfect snorkeling sites. We were spoilt for choice of soft coral gardens, walls and drop offs, feeding

stations and seagrass meadows. Incredibly varied and absolutely beautiful! Add to this the incredible history (especially war history) and various occupancies and you have a truly stunning and fascinating destination.

We've changed this itinerary to 2 weeks of liveaboard, so this really is for someone who enjoys boat life now. If you love vibrant, colourful snorkeling with myriads of fish, the chance to see Mantas feeding or cleaning, sharks and bigger species, dugongs and grass beds, tropical islands with pure white beaches and true island vibes then THIS is the place and the trip for you!

The house reef alone teems with colourful parrotfish, angelfish, lionfish and swaying anemones. I was also lucky enough on a night snorkel to see a giant lobster and a walking shark. Nearby snorkel sites such as Cape Kri, Citrus Grove, and Manta Ridge reveal encounters with schooling fish, reef sharks and graceful manta rays. The clear, warm waters and excellent visibility make exploring effortless and hugely rewarding. Snorkeling in the mangroves is another unique experience I had where the patterns of light create something particularly atmospheric.

I think Papua Explorers is most suited to anyone - nature lovers, underwater photographers, adventurous travellers seeking an immersive yet tranquil marine getaway. With me at the resort were couples of all ages, families and honeymooners. Whether you're a seasoned snorkeler or a curious beginner, the resort's guided trips, calm bays, and rich marine ecosystems make every dip into the water feel like entering a living underwater gallery.



# 04 SHALLOW WATER FREEDIVING



Words by **Asha Michibata**  
Photos by **Alex Lindbloom**

## 5 Simple Ways to Improve Your Time Underwater

Freediving isn't about forcing yourself to stay down longer. It's really about learning how to relax enough that your body lets you stay down longer. Especially in shallow water, where depth isn't the challenge, everything comes back to your breath, your mindset, and how efficiently you move.

If you're new to freediving or you just want to feel calmer and more comfortable underwater here are five simple things that genuinely make a difference to your bottom time (without pushing or stressing your body).

### About Asha Michibata

*As a freediver, yoga instructor and wellness guide I love helping people feel calm and at ease in the ocean. Through breathwork, relaxation and body awareness I support others in building confidence both in and out of the water. I prefer to keep my freediving style relaxed, mindful and focus on enjoyment rather than performance.*



# Relax First, Dive Longer



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## 1 START WITH Your Breath

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Your dive actually starts before you get in the water.

One of the biggest beginner mistakes I see is trying to “breathe better” by doing too much. Pre-dive breathing isn’t about getting more oxygen, it’s about calming your nervous system.

### Keep it simple:

- Slow nasal breathing
- Longer, softer exhales
- Relax your jaw, tongue, shoulders, and hands

If your breath feels quiet and easy, you’re doing it right. A calm breath tells your body there’s no rush and that’s what helps you stay underwater longer.

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## 2 SOFTEN Your Body

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Before you dive, do a quick body check:

- Are your shoulders creeping up?
- Is your jaw clenched?
- Are your hands tight for no reason?

Let everything soften, especially your face. A relaxed face usually means a relaxed body. Once you’re underwater, think slow, not strong. Every extra movement uses oxygen.

Freediving rewards softness way more than effort.



# 3

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## STAY Long & Streamlined

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Good positioning means less drag, less effort, and more time underwater.

### A few reminders:

- Keep your body long and neutral
- Head in line with your spine
- Avoid lifting your head or bending at the waist
- Let your buoyancy help you, not fight you

In shallow water, efficiency matters even more because you don’t have depth helping you glide.

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## 5 DIVE With Curiosity

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Instead of counting seconds or worrying about how long you should stay down, try **shifting into curiosity**:

- Notice the light
- Feel the weightlessness
- Stay present

When you stop chasing time, time often increases on its own. Freediving is personal. Some of your best dives happen when you let go of expectations and just enjoy being underwater.

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## 4 KEEP Kicks Small

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Big, fast kicks feel powerful but they burn oxygen fast.

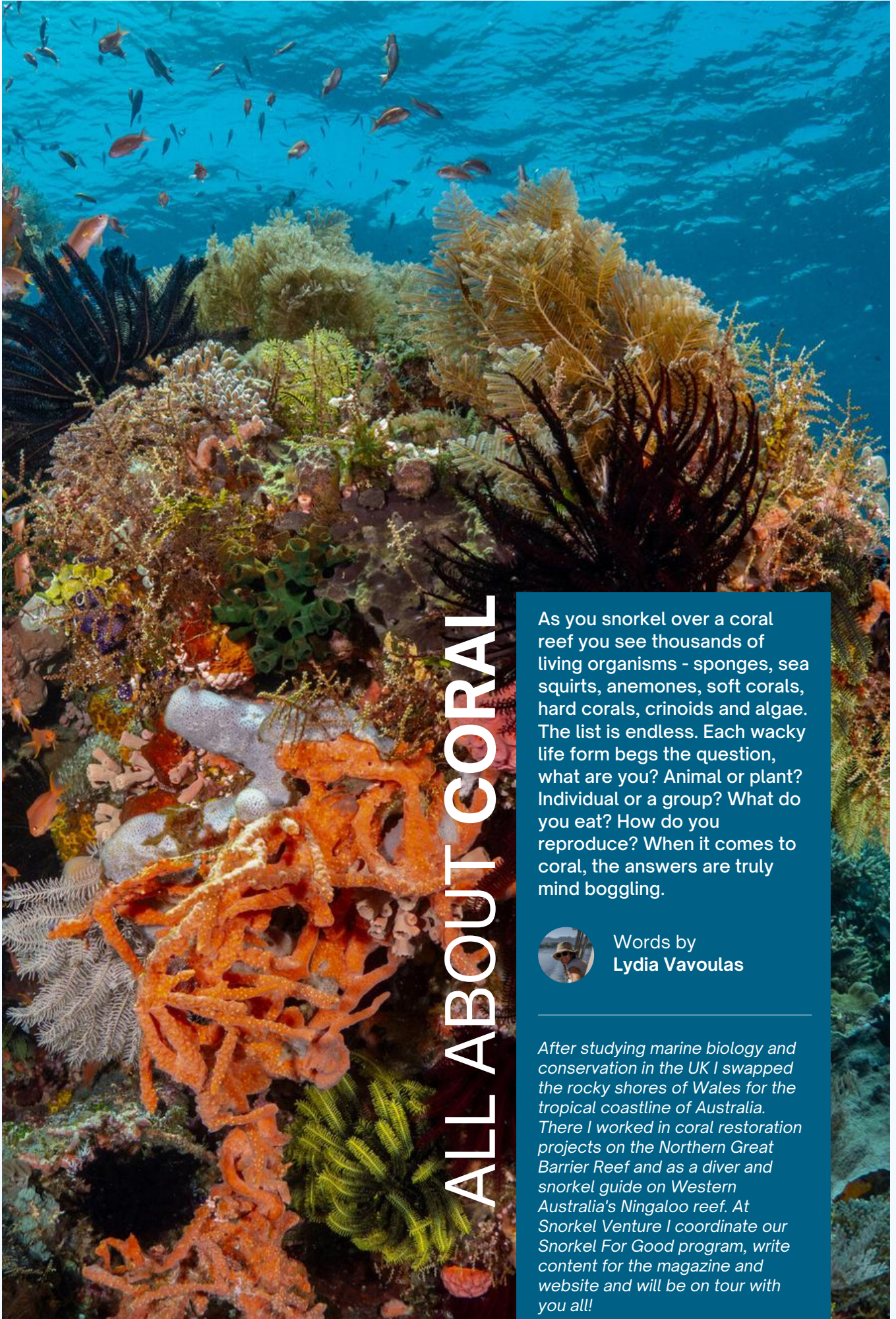
**Instead, focus on:**

- Small, controlled fin strokes
- Movement starting from the hips, not the knees
- Smooth, steady rhythm

Think of your fins as extensions of your legs, not something you use to push against the water. When finning feels effortless, your dive time naturally improves.

**Staying underwater longer isn't about pushing limits. It's about relaxing, moving efficiently, and trusting your body.**

**Shallow water is such a beautiful space to practice this. The calmer you are above the water, the longer and more enjoyable your dives will be below it.**



# ALL ABOUT CORAL

As you snorkel over a coral reef you see thousands of living organisms - sponges, sea squirts, anemones, soft corals, hard corals, crinoids and algae. The list is endless. Each wacky life form begs the question, what are you? Animal or plant? Individual or a group? What do you eat? How do you reproduce? When it comes to coral, the answers are truly mind boggling.



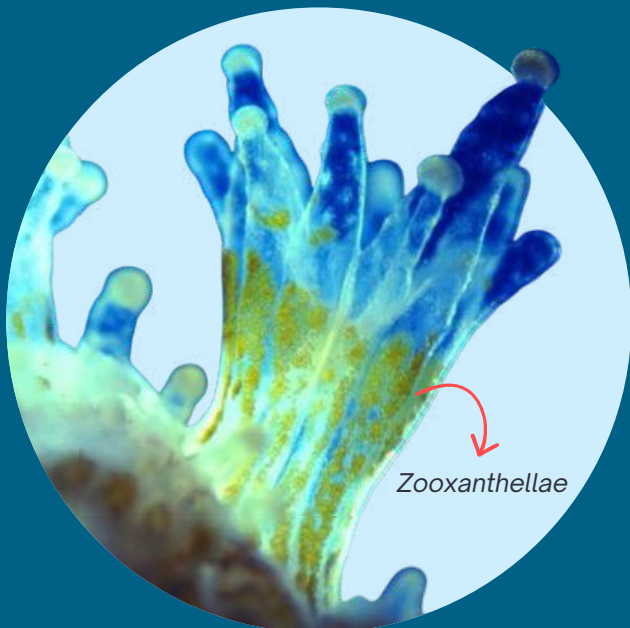
Words by  
**Lydia Vavoulas**

*After studying marine biology and conservation in the UK I swapped the rocky shores of Wales for the tropical coastline of Australia. There I worked in coral restoration projects on the Northern Great Barrier Reef and as a diver and snorkel guide on Western Australia's Ningaloo reef. At Snorkel Venture I coordinate our Snorkel For Good program, write content for the magazine and website and will be on tour with you all!*



## Zooming In...

At first glance corals look like plants but they are, in fact, animals. Most of the corals we see on a reef consist of hundreds, often thousands, of coral polyps that together form a coral colony. The individual polyp is often microscopic, but if we zoom in close we can see that polyps resemble tiny upside-down jellyfish. A coral polyp has a central cavity (its mouth) surrounded by tentacles, which it uses to capture plankton drifting through the water.



**So how can such small animals, feeding on even smaller prey, build habitats visible from space? Millions of years ago, corals formed an extraordinary alliance, a friendship as I like to think of it, with a microscopic, plant-like organism called a zooxanthellae.**

Zooxanthellae are photosynthetic cells that live in coral tissue. They have a symbiotic relationship. Corals provide the zooxanthellae with a safe place to live, and in turn the zooxanthellae photosynthesizes, producing energy that fuels the corals growth and reproduction. Hard corals use this energy to make calcium carbonate, which is the stony outer structure that coral polyps live in and which forms the foundation of coral reefs. This vital step in coral evolution is how minute coral polyps have built reefs the size of countries.



## However, Not All Corals Are Reef Builders.

Some are soft, lacking a hard calcium carbonate skeleton. Others prefer a solitary life, with no zooxanthellae in their tissues and thus no requirement for sunlight, they can grow in deeper, darker water.

*Soft coral in the shallows*

## Is There A Future For Coral Reefs?

The biggest threat to shallow-water corals is rising ocean temperature. On top of that, local stresses like wastewater runoff, severe storms, and overfishing make survival even harder. Yet research shows that corals can adapt to changing conditions if we give them the time and support they need. That means combining local conservation with global efforts to reduce carbon emissions.

As snorkelers, we know there are still vast stretches of thriving reef worth protecting. Fortunately, the global coral community is constantly developing innovative strategies to restore and preserve these ecosystems.

## Coral Color and What It Tells Us

As well as providing corals with their primary food source, zooxanthellae are responsible for giving coral its signature spectrum of dazzling colors. The symbiotic algae in the coral tissue expresses certain pigments that vary from neutral tones of browns and greens, to bright blues and purples.

**The color of a coral can be a useful indicator of its health, if interpreted correctly.**

Like all animals, corals require specific environmental conditions to thrive. Water temperature, clarity, salinity and acidity can all impact coral health. When conditions stay outside the healthy range for too long corals become stressed and react by expelling their symbiotic algae. This process, known as coral bleaching, leaves the coral deprived of its main food source and color. The coral appears bright white. In a bleached state, the coral is still alive, but very weak.

If harsh conditions persist the polyps eventually die, leaving behind only the bare stony structure.

### The good news?

Some resilient species can withstand this bleached state for weeks at a time. So, if conditions return to within their healthy range before the colony dies the corals can welcome back algae into their tissues, restoring both their color and their health.



*Stages of coral bleaching and recovering*

# Coral Planting

Although corals are animals, you can grow them much like plants! Coral planting is a widely used conservation method, and the process is wonderfully simple:

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## STEP 1 HARVEST A Fragment.

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This can be a loose, living fragment that has come loose from the reef or a small piece intentionally taken from a healthy colony.

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## STEP 2 NURTURE The Fragment.

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Fragments are attached to nursery structures either in the ocean or in aquariums where they can grow in stable, protected conditions.

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## STEP 3 OUTPLANT The Fragment.

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Once healthy and strong, the fragment is attached to damaged areas of the reef, where it can grow into a new colony and help restore the ecosystem.

*Outplanted coral*

*Coral nursery*



**Coral planting can be highly effective and has helped reefs recover after major disturbances like cyclones and mass bleaching. But planting alone isn't enough, we must consider the bigger picture.**

## A Global Effort

Coral conservation requires collective action. Organizations globally are collaborating with coastal communities to advance sustainable practices, including promoting sustainable fishing, minimizing pollution, and controlling sedimentation. Simultaneously, others are leading the way in developing renewable energy solutions, reinforcing the growing momentum toward cleaner energy worldwide.

Corals powerfully demonstrate that even small, individual actions collectively lead to massive outcomes. The monumental scale of a coral reef, built by countless tiny polyps, mirrors the collective effort needed for its conservation. It takes millions of polyps to build a reef, just as it takes millions of people to preserve it!



## snorkel for good

Through meeting any of us here at Snorkel Venture you know our love for the ocean is something we wear proudly. Our tours take us to some of the wildest ocean strongholds. The reefs we visit are bustling with life, we swim alongside ocean giants and tiny ocean critters.

However, it is no secret that the marine environment and its wildlife are threatened as a consequence of human activity. We believe that it is our responsibility to help protect and conserve the places we visit. This is the purpose behind Snorkel For Good.

For each Snorkel Venture tour booked in 2025, \$100 was donated to one of our charity partners. Alongside funds raised through our Rash Guard Program, we raised \$57,500 USD for ocean conservation. Using these donations, we proudly support charities working hard to conserve marine environments and the coastal communities that rely on them. Each charity is striving to protect the places we hold dear in our hearts.

**If you would like to make a further donation to any of these organisations you'll see the details and a QR code at the end of their feature.**



## CHARITY PARTNERS IN ACTION



## Happy 20th Reef-World and Green Fins!

Green Fins is The Reef-World Foundation's initiative that provides tools and training, enabling marine tourism to work in unison with the marine environment. Over the past 20 years they have become an essential movement, empowering marine tourism operators to work sustainably. Through the Green Fins programme operators are transformed into dedicated custodians of the reef.

The global snorkeling and diving industry is a massive economic force, generating up to 20 billion dollars annually and supporting millions of jobs worldwide. If not done correctly, marine tourism can have a damaging effect on the environment. With countless operators globally, it is a monumental task to assure all are adhering to sustainable practices. Thankfully, The Reef-World Foundation is up for the challenge!

### CELEBRATING SOME GREEN FINS ACCOMPLISHMENTS THIS YEAR

- **346,000** tourists reached
- **1,700** dive and snorkel staff received in person environmental training
- **390** dive guides certified through online training
- **51** recreational divers certified through online environmental training
- **67** Youth Ambassadors trained

### THEY LAUNCHED A GLOBAL CORAL BLEACHING RESPONSE TOOLKIT

The 4th Global Coral Bleaching Event occurred in 2024. As daily visitors to the reefs, divers and snorkelers witnessed this firsthand. Given their financial and often emotional investment in the preservation of the coral reefs, it is crucial that marine tourism companies have an appropriate response strategy for such events.

The Global Coral Bleaching Response Toolkit created by The Reef-World Foundation assists marine tourism businesses in monitoring coral bleaching in their local sites and feeding this crucial data back to a global database. This collaborative response empowers the tourism industry to be a part of the global effort to tackle the impacts of climate change.



### MAKING HEADWAY IN INDONESIA

In February 2025, The Reef World Foundation hosted a Green Fins national workshop in Jakarta. Representatives from tourism businesses, conservation organizations, marine protected area managers and government ministries attended.

The meeting was highly productive and resulted in a commitment to expand Green Fins presence, working towards a more sustainable marine tourism sector in Indonesia.

*"Tourism has such a big impact on marine biodiversity, and we need it to adhere to a certain code of conduct, that is why, through our funding facilities we worked with The Reef-World Foundation advancing Green Fins so that dive operators can become certified with standards"*  
**Mina Epps – IUCN Global Ocean Director**



## JORDAN MADE A SPLASHING IMPACT

In just its second year of implementation in Jordan, the Green Fins programme has achieved an incredible 51% reduction in impacts on the reef from the marine tourism activities in the country's Aqaba Marine Reserve.

This puts Jordan on the map as a leading destination for environmentally conscious snorkeling and diving. Offering a combination of vibrant, biodiverse reefs, alongside verifiable sustainability credentials.

### HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

Look out for Green Fins Members (snorkeling, diving and liveaboard operators) when considering which companies to use for your marine excursions.

Additionally, The Reef-World Foundation is looking to expand their network of individual support. You do not have to be a business to donate to the cause, with each small donation, adding up to make a big difference. Visit [reef-world.org](https://reef-world.org) or scan QR code to dive in!



## Conservation with Teeth

2025 was a busy year for Bite-Back Shark & Marine Conservation. While the organisation was occupied on many fronts, two standout projects ensured it moved its shark conservation goals forward.

The first project saw Bite-Back selected as the recipient of a rare pro-bono outdoor advertising opportunity. As a result, the charity launched the first-ever shark conservation billboard campaign in Europe—positioning the charity at the forefront of public-facing conservation messaging.

Of course, winning people over to sharks was never going to be easy. Sadly, these misunderstood predators don't lend themselves to instant affection. So instead of asking the public to fall in love with sharks, Bite-Back asked something far more powerful: respect. **The campaign focused on the critical role sharks play in sustaining life on Earth—and why that demands a fundamental shift in how we see them.**



Working alongside an award-winning London advertising agency, the team crafted a bold series of headlines designed to stop people in their tracks. In total, 26 different versions on a theme were created, each tailored alphabetically to highlight job titles, hobbies and lifestyles—cleverly linking everyday people with sharks.

For six weeks, the campaign ran in 10 cities across the UK, including London, appearing in more than 50 locations nationwide. It reached an estimated audience of 120 million people, sparked widespread media and social media coverage, and ignited conversations about the **vital connection between sharks, healthy oceans, climate stability, food security and weather systems**. It was incredible to see a shark conservation message achieve so much attention.

#### THE TRUE COST OF CANNED TUNA

Running alongside this high-profile event was an investigation into one of the seafood industry's darkest secrets. Through extensive research, Bite-Back launched 'What's the Catch?'—a consumer campaign developed to expose the devastating scale of shark by-catch linked to industrial tuna fishing.

**Across the globe, industrial fishing vessels use indiscriminate methods such as longlines, purse seines and gillnets to catch tuna. In the process, they also kill millions of sharks, turtles, dolphins, manta rays and seabirds every year—most of which are discarded dead at sea.** The tragedy is compounded by the fact that many of these tuna products are marketed as 'responsibly caught' since the certification schemes only assess tuna stocks and ignore the collateral damage inflicted on other marine species. Sadly, as a result, well-meaning shoppers are unknowingly supporting fishing practices that are ecologically destructive.

Bite-Back's response has been direct and determined. The charity is now engaging with the UK's biggest supermarket chains, sandwich retailers, catering companies and consumers to expose the truth behind tinned tuna—and to champion the best available alternative—tuna caught one fish at a time, by pole and line.

The potential benefit to the marine environment is enormous. When you consider that UK households consume one million cans of tuna every single day and that only 20% of those are currently pole-and-line caught, it means the charity has 800,000 opportunities a day to change purchasing habits—and to save countless marine animals from unnecessary death.



Bite-Back would love you and your friends to support this campaign. Next time you're in a supermarket, all you need to remember is a simple mantra: **'If it doesn't say it was caught by pole and line - can it'.**

As always, huge thanks for your contribution to our breakthroughs for sharks and the marine environment.

Please follow the QR Code below for more information.

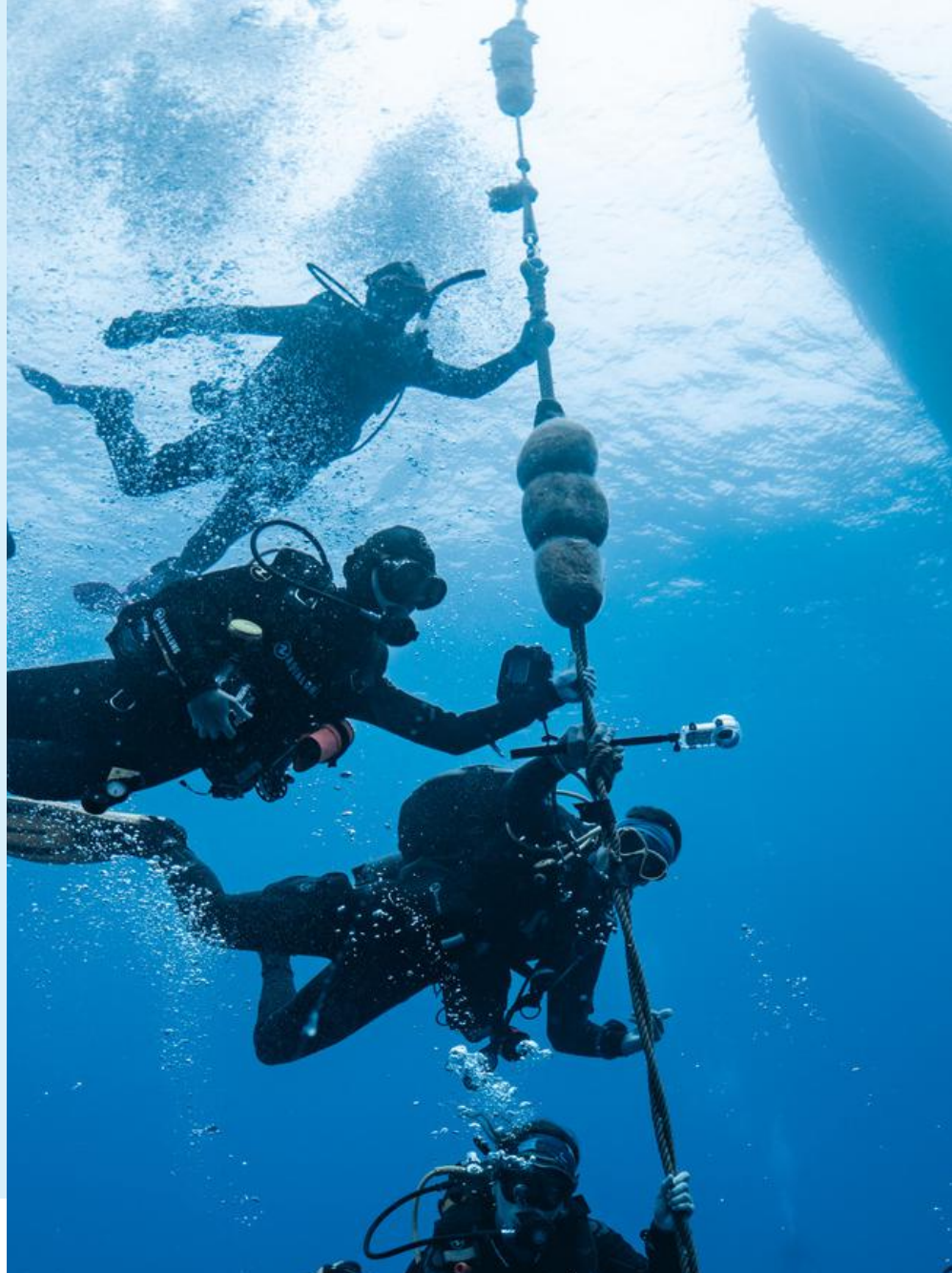


## **Manta Trust Celebrates a Landmark Year for Ray Conservation**



By **Jasmine Corbett**  
Media & Communications Manager,  
The Manta Trust

At the Manta Trust, we've had a year to remember. 2025 brought a historic victory for manta and devil rays (mobulids): all species were granted the strongest international protection through a unanimous uplisting to Appendix I of CITES, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. **This decision bans international commercial trade in these species and is a pivotal moment in safeguarding their future** - a moment made possible by decades of research, advocacy, and collaboration across our global team and our amazing partners.





## 2025 Was Also a Year of Exciting Scientific Progress...

✦ We published our Global Population Declines study and added more than a dozen new research papers to our Research Portal, supporting the IUCN's decision to reclassify the three oceanic devil ray species as Critically Endangered. These studies help ensure that conservation decisions are based on the best available science, and they remind us of how urgent our work remains.

✦ In the field, we continued our long-standing research and outreach programmes. This summer, we travelled to the Azores for our Devil Ray Research Expedition, funded by Carl F. Bucherer, focusing on the Critically Endangered sicklefin devil ray population that aggregates at offshore seamounts. Working alongside local partners, including our affiliate Manta Catalog Azores, we gathered vital data while engaging with local communities to raise awareness and promote sustainable practices.



The journey to this milestone has been built on years of hard work. We, along with our Affiliate Projects and conservation collaborators, provided the critical scientific evidence showing dramatic population declines in all mobulid species around the world. This data underpinned the proposal submitted by Ecuador to CITES and ultimately helped secure the successful uplisting. While the vote was a moment to celebrate, it also marked the start of a new chapter: **turning international legislation into action on the water to help mobulid populations recover from the brink of extinction.**



## **Education and Outreach Remain at the Heart of What We Do**

In 2025, we mentored **23** Ocean Ambassadors from **11** countries and connected with **thousands of students through online education sessions**. Our World Manta Day campaign reached over two million people, inspiring global action and spreading the message that everyone can play a part in protecting these iconic species.

Looking ahead, 2026 promises another pivotal year. The High Seas Treaty will come into force, providing a new global framework to protect biodiversity in the vast areas of ocean beyond any single country's control. This is especially important for wide-ranging species like manta and devil rays, whose survival depends on strong international cooperation. We also celebrate two decades since Guy co-founded the Maldives Manta Conservation Programme, our flagship project. With continued support from our partners and supporters, we are hopeful that this turning point will translate into real, lasting recovery for manta and devil ray populations worldwide.

**As we reflect on 2025, we are reminded of the power of science, collaboration, and community action.** From legislative victories to field research and global education, our work continues to show that when people come together for conservation, meaningful change is possible. Thank you for helping us **#SavetheMantas!**



## THRIVE CONSERVATION IN 2025

# The Thrive Philosophy

Thrive Conservation believes that conservation requires a human focused approach. Recognizing that human impacts are the primary drivers necessitating most conservation efforts, Thrive addresses the issue at its root. By engaging with young Indonesians within the community, Thrive seeks to facilitate lasting, community driven change, ultimately shifting the next generation's approach to natural resource management.

Amongst other projects, since 2021, Thrive has been implementing a human-centric approach on Rote Island. The project is built upon three core pillars: Science, Education, and Community Engagement.



## 2025 Progress Towards a Resilient Rote



*Living among the community and observing both the issues and potential of the coastal environment in Rote, we were inspired to expand our work to target the entire ecosystem, with humans being a part of nature instead of apart from nature. Over the years, we have built a team of young conservationists to champion marine conservation in Rote.*

### SCIENCE

Rote Island serves as the hub for Thrive's manta ray monitoring efforts. In 2025, the team successfully identified 55 reef and oceanic manta rays, in addition to 13 juvenile whale sharks. A significant achievement was the satellite tagging of a manta ray and the smallest whale shark ever tagged in Indonesia.

Beyond these efforts, various surveys were carried out on other elasmobranchs, megafauna, and reef fish, whose results emphasize the area's importance as a biodiversity hotspot. These surveys employed an "all hands on deck" approach, with participation from the Thrive team, local dive operators, and fishermen.





### COMMUNITY

- Schools, local surveillance groups, village government, marine police and the navy all came together to plant **670 mangrove seedlings**.
- Sea turtle nest monitoring is now **fully managed by local rangers**.
- In Lohaen, sustainable seaweed farming expanded from **11 to 20 fishers**.
- **Organic gardens were set up in 25 households - reducing their reliance on mainland markets.**
- Nutrition education reached **30 children and parents**

### EDUCATION

This year, Thrive significantly advanced youth involvement and ambassadorship by establishing Rote's first youth conservation group. This group consists of 22 members who actively lead beach cleanups and mangrove restoration projects. Furthermore, Rote's middle school hosted educational sessions on sharks and rays, as well as a conservation-themed speech competition and 16 children on the island attended weekly classes concerning conservation. Each of these efforts engages local youngsters and encourages them to consider conservation issues within their community.

This vital work is only possible through the support of Thrive donors, including Snorkel Venture. Everyone who joined a Snorkel Venture tour this year is a part of the Resilient Rote story. Thank you to our community for your ongoing commitment to a more sustainable future.

Visit <https://thriveconservation.org/> to find out more or scan the QR code to donate.



## MISOOL FOUNDATION ANNUAL UPDATE

**M**isool Foundation's mission is clear: "Protecting the world's richest reefs, in Raja Ampat, Indonesia." This singular purpose underpins every project the foundation undertakes, each one contributing to the ultimate goal of safeguarding the reef and the life that depends on it.

As 2025 draws to a close, we reflect on the significant progress made by Misool Foundation. Their annual achievements are a direct result of the dedicated hard work of their team and would not have been possible without the generous donations the foundation receives throughout the year from donors such as Snorkel Venture.

### Reef Restoration Project

Historically, small areas of reef within Misool Marine Reserve were subject to localised damage caused by destructive fishing activities. A combination of ranger patrols and community outreach put an end to dynamite fishing and coral mining, with no further activities recorded since 2014. Yet recovery is a lengthy process, and direct intervention provides these reefs with a helping hand to recover more quickly.

Misool Foundation's reef restoration project is assisting coral reef recovery by actively growing coral fragments on metal frames underwater. Once the fragments are healthy and of a good size they are outplanted on damaged reefs. The success of the project has been huge and continues to expand each year.

**In 2025 25,953 coral fragments have been planted and 1,241 m<sup>2</sup> of reef has been restored.**



Coral gardener attaching fragments on to metal frames



High school students learning how to plant coral.



## Community Engagement

Misool Foundation recognises the importance of the local community as a major stakeholder whose involvement is essential to ensuring the longevity of their coral reefs. **Misool Foundation's education programmes engage all generations to become stewards for the reef.**

**In 2025 they completed the build of their second kindergarten!** Serving the two villages of Gamta and Magey, the kindergarten will welcome 20 students with one full-time teacher in place.

Through their high school education program Misool foundation delivers marine conservation modules to students. They learn about the importance of marine conservation and bring their theory to practice by joining the Reef Restoration Team in the field. As students share their passion and experiences with their friends and families the values of conservation are naturally spread throughout the community. This year **174 lessons were provided** to high school students in the local communities.



## Community Recycling Program

Plastic pollution is a major issue in Indonesia, especially on remote island communities with no way of disposing of their waste. Misool Foundation is tackling this issue through a program called *Bank Sampah Sorong Raya* (BSSR). BSSR purchases the rubbish from its members living in outlying islands and ships it to be processed for recycling. This monetary incentive boosts the local economy alongside reducing ocean plastics.

**This year 51,457 kg of Waste was collected through our Community Recycling Program.**

To check out more of Misool Foundations impactful work and to donate to future efforts visit <https://www.misoolfoundation.org/donate> or scan the QR code.





### What Does Pelagic Mean?

The word pelagic generally refers to marine species that spend their time roaming the open ocean, as opposed to residing on the reefs. This includes fish species like tuna, mackerel, jacks, marlin, barracuda, as well as cetaceans—whales and dolphins—and other marine mammals like seals and sea lions. Mantas, sharks, and most other elasmobranchs will also be considered pelagic. We can even lump sea turtles into the pelagic category, as most species will spend a significant part of their lives roaming the open sea.

### Why are Pelagics Special?

Ever since cameras started going underwater, pelagic species like sharks, turtles, mantas, and marine mammals like whales and dolphins have routinely taken center stage in natural history productions and on the covers of wildlife magazines for their enigmatic qualities. Like many of you, I was introduced to the wondrous personalities of these pelagic species through videos and photos, whether it be in a magazine, online, or on television. I was enamored by each species' unique persona as they danced across the screen or pages I was thumbing through, and I was desperate to meet them face to face in their natural habitat—the ocean. Suffice it to say, pelagics are very likely the reason a lot of us continue to jump in the water day after day, year after year, kitted out in mask and snorkel.





# 07

## PELAGICS: YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED



Words and Photos by  
**Alex Lindbloom**

**T**he more we learn about many of these species—take sharks for example, who have been basted with the stigma of being cold-blooded killers, we’re quickly learning that’s not at all true, and swimming alongside most shark species and other stigmatized species is a safe and exhilarating experience! Additionally, marine mammals such as whales, dolphins, and sea lions are widely recognized as sentient beings. What this often means is that interactions with these intelligent and self-aware animals can be far more profound than a casual encounter. When a whale or dolphin stops to look at you, you can feel their gaze deep within you—studying you. When one of these cetaceans accepts you as a non-threatening being and begins to interact with you, that’s a conscious decision the animal had to make and process through cognitive decision-making. **There are no words to truly describe how amazing it is to have a wild animal seek you out and then choose to interact with you on their terms.**

In the case of fish species like jacks, tuna, or marlin, they may not have the brain power of a whale or dolphin, but “these fish ain’t no dummies,” as my colleague Lydia would say. Giant trevally and bluefin trevally have tactical hunting patterns and are not too dissimilar to wolves or Africa’s wild dogs in how they corral and divide their prey. Mexico’s Sardine Run brings in dense shoals of sardine and mackerel, along with striped marlin that hunt these little fish. As you watch the striped marlin hunt the schools of mackerel and sardines, you’ll quickly see that the marlin rapidly flash their luminous scales just before darting into the bait balls. It’s thought that the marlin flash like this as a signal to one another, letting the other marlin circling the bait ball from below know that they’re going in for a quick bite!



## What to Expect from Pelagic Encounters

There are certain pelagic species you can encounter on or very close to reefs, like sea turtles, some jack fish species like giant trevally when they come into hunt, a few types of reef sharks, and mantas when they come to get cleaned on cleaning stations, but most of your pelagic encounters will happen in the open blue water. As the vast majority of pelagic marine life doesn't rely on reefs for habitat, reproduction, or food, you'll need to pull your focus from the reefs and switch your attention to the deep blue.

**D**epending on the species and the behavior, your encounters can vary quite a bit. Pelagic fish like jacks will generally roam just off the reef in the blue. Most encounters with these fellas will be brief as they patrol up and down the edges of the reef in search of their next meal. However, if you happen to be in the vicinity of their food source, such as large schools of fusileers or scads, you might get lucky with a more exhilarating and prolonged encounter as they corral their prey into tight schools and tactically pierce the ball of fish. Other exciting pelagic encounters close to the reef could include reef sharks as they casually cruise along the reef top and edges, and turtles as they rest or munch on the corals. If you're patient with the turtles, you might get a nice face-to-face with one as they slowly rise to the surface for a breath. My personal favorite pelagic species to find around reefy areas is mantas. **These winged beauties are pure magic to watch as they gracefully glide through the water, especially if you find them feeding or cleaning!**

With manta rays – and other highly intelligent species – it's always best to have a bit of patience, as interactions have to take place on their terms. We call these passive interactions. If you try to force the encounter, nine times out of ten, the manta will give you a wide berth before disappearing into the blue. Some mantas will have their pace set on cruise control as they move from point A to point B, and your time with them will be over before you really have a chance to realize what's happening. In instances like this, just count yourself lucky for being able to see the fish with the largest brain. If you happen to get lucky and find one or more feeding or cleaning, these are moments you will want to savor. Depending on the depth of the cleaning station, the mantas might be a bit on the deep side by comparison to the more staple reef creatures you're used to enjoying, with depths varying from five to twelve meters (fifteen to thirty feet). Not to worry, mantas are big, measuring three to five meters (ten to fifteen feet), and are very easy to see even at these depths. Watching the cleaning behavior is



## Where to Find Pelagics


In every single one of the countries we run snorkeling tours to, you can predictably encounter a variety of pelagic species. Here's a quick list of where you can find particular species. Remember, pelagics spend their time roaming the open ocean, and the ocean is rather large, so a bit of patience is required.

great fun and interesting, especially if there is more than one, as you'll be able to watch their queuing behavior as they take turns coming in for a little bath time. **Sometimes their curiosity will get the better of them, and they'll take a quick break from the cleaning station and pop up to the surface to give us snorkelers an inquisitive glance and a wave of their mighty wings!** For me, the ultimate manta encounter is when they're feeding or courting, as this almost always involves multiple mantas right up on the surface, or just beneath it, and the intensity dial has been turned up to eleven! All their inhibitions have been left in the blue, as their primary objective is to either siphon up as much of the plankton as possible, or to be the best dancer in the courtship ballet the mantas seem to perform. Whatever the case, the mantas will very likely involve you in their feeding and courting behavior with elegance and grace.

For the more pelagic pelagics, like dolphins, whales, mobulas, sea lions, marlins, and whatever else we happen to come across in the blue desert that is the open ocean, patience and perseverance are paramount! The ocean really is much like a desert, in that most of these species are relatively solitary creatures, spread out, and locating these nomadic ocean wanderers can be a bit tedious at times. Much like fishing, you can spend hours looking for the telltale signs of life, or it can all happen just after leaving the harbor. However much time goes by though, once you get you get the "GO GO GO!" from the captain or guide and are suddenly floating over a fleet of several hundred mobulas, a fencing guild of marlin, or a mother humpback whale and its curious calf, the time spent swimming alongside these wondrous animals is, for me and other like minded snorkelers, like nothing else I've ever experienced with the residents of the reefs. **The way these enigmatic beauties congregate in masses, hunt, or involve you in whatever underwater behavior they happen to be performing can bring tears to the eyes.**

### INDONESIA

Indonesia is a fantastic place to encounter pelagics, and with so many different destinations across the country, there's a wide array of pelagic species you can come across. Some of the more iconic species people rave about are the mantas, turtles, and various species of jack fish, like the giant and bluefin trevally.

 *Jacks - Tuna, Barracuda, Turtles, Sharks (including whale sharks in specific locations), Mantas, Dolphins (on occasion).*

### PALAU

As the world's first shark sanctuary, protecting not only the shark species within Palau's waters but also all elasmobranchs, including manta rays, Palau is a fantastic place to encounter pelagics. Several species of sharks, turtles, barracudas, jacks, and manta rays can be seen on the surface or just beneath it!

 *Jacks, Tuna, Barracuda, Turtles, Sharks, Mantas*


### SOLOMON ISLANDS

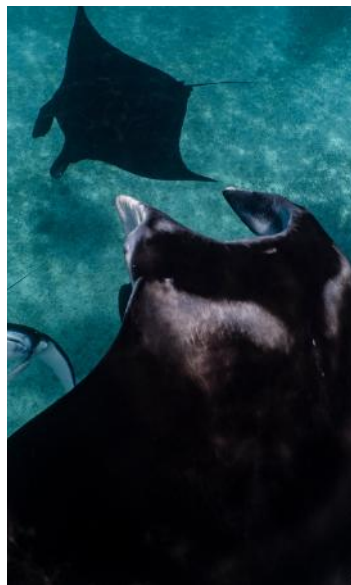
Given its truly remote nature, far removed from the effects of commercial tourism, the Solomons can be a great place to swim with different pelagic species, from bigeye jacks, sea turtles, sharks, and even mantas.

 *Jacks, Tuna, Barracuda, Turtles, Sharks, Mantas*

### THE MALDIVES

For years, the Maldives have been a very popular destination to encounter a wide variety of pelagics. Even though the Maldives is a small country made up of a few tiny islands, it holds the world's largest population of reef manta rays! Whale sharks are not uncommon, along with other species of sharks and rays, like the eagle ray.

 *Jacks, Tuna, Barracuda, Turtles, Sharks (including whale sharks in specific locations), Mantas*




### DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

The Silver Banks off the Dominican Republic host the largest seasonal population of North Atlantic humpback whales. With only three operators permitted to snorkel in the Silver Banks, and an estimated 5-7,000 whales congregating here each year, it makes for some truly mind-blowing encounters with humpback whales!

 *Humpback Whales*


### EGYPT

Egypt is a great country to encounter a variety of pelagic species. Off of most of the reefs, you can expect turtles, jacks, barracuda, and the odd reef shark. But what's really amazing about Egypt is its population of dolphins, who seem to seek out snorkelers! Also, in a few select areas, you can predictably find feeding dugongs.

 *Jacks, Tuna, Barracuda, Turtles, Sharks, Mantas, Dugong, Dolphins*


### MEXICO

There is no better place in the world for predictable pelagic encounters. Every day on the water is different, and every month seems to bring in a new species for its seasonal migration. I've had some pretty magical experiences with pelagics around the world, but every time I visit Mexico for a trip, I inevitably end up having the best encounters of my life!

 *Tuna, Turtles, Marlin, Wahoo, Dorado, Mobula Rays, Whales (including orcas), Sea Lions, Sharks (including whale sharks)*

### BELIZE

Belize, in my opinion, is very much underrated as a pelagic destination. It is an amazing place for species like eagle rays and other large stingrays. More so than any other place we visit, actually. There are also reasonable chances to swim with a curious pod of dolphins and spot numerous sharks. We've even had great hammerheads pass by on multiple occasions!

 *Dolphins, Eagle rays, Sharks, Stingrays, Barracuda, Tarpon, Hogfish, Permit*



**Snorkeling with pelagic species such as sharks, whales, sea lions, marlin, manta rays, and turtles is a profoundly unique experience that transcends the ordinary.**

These unique species exhibit remarkable underwater behavior, from the elegant piroettes of mantas as they feed and court, the calculated hunting tactics of jacks and marlin, to the cognitive displays of interest and acceptance by cetaceans. As a result, each interaction is distinct, shaped by the personality and behavior of the creature you encounter, making every encounter an unrepeatable adventure. However, the unpredictability of these encounters adds to their allure; one may spend time waiting in anticipation, yet the moment a mighty whale locks eyes with you or a playful sea lion approaches can be life-changing. The feeling of being part of their world, even for a fleeting moment, fosters a deep connection to marine life that is both humbling and exhilarating. Such experiences remind us of the awe-inspiring beauty of nature, leaving a lasting impression and a renewed appreciation for the ocean's incredible inhabitants.



TRIP



Words and photos  
by Paul Duxfield

***“How to shoot them  
without breaking the  
bank or your luggage  
allowance”***

SHOTS



## What is a split shot (also known as a half-half or an over-under shot)?



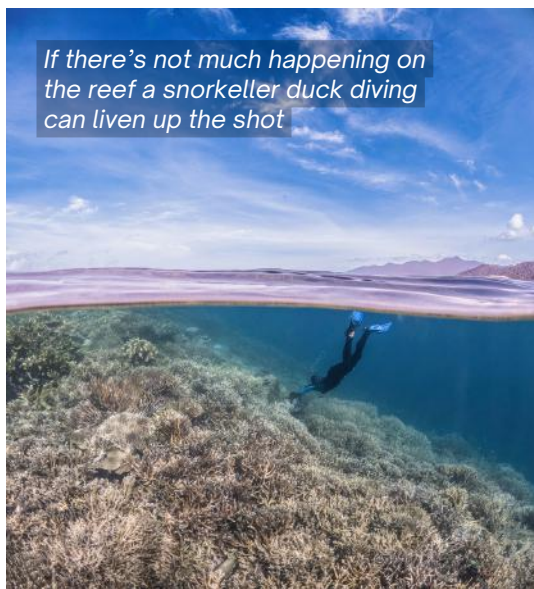
*A good way to practice your technique close to the boat*

Well, in the world of underwater photography, technically they're a way to show the above world and the immediate underwater, all at once, and they're a really fun way to let the viewer know what it is we do, all captured in the one image.

A picture where the topside of the picture and the land or seascape is visible, but the bottom half of the view is the underwater reef scene.

As travellers with Snorkel Venture, we're very lucky to visit some of the most beautiful tropical paradises in the world. And I've always been fond of taking shots that show the viewer exactly what it is we do and where, so what better way than a split shot? It's like two for the price of one click of the shutter.

**And the great news is that they're easier and much less expensive to achieve than you may think.**



*If there's not much happening on the reef a snorkeller duck diving can liven up the shot*

### THE NECESSARY KIT AND EQUIPMENT

Being an underwater photographer, also teaching underwater photography workshops alongside my job as a Snorkel Venture guide, has meant that I have amassed a lot of expensive underwater photo kit over the years.

My bigger camera, lenses, housing, and strobes come to more than \$15-20K, and it allows me to do some extraordinary things with it, but aside from the price, it's huge and costly to travel with.

So it was a revelation that when I started doing more of the Snorkel Venture trips, I could leave it all at home and instead use exactly what the majority of our SV clients use, and that was, in the main either GoPros or similar or the seemingly ubiquitous Olympus Tough range, currently the Olympus TG7.

Admittedly, I was a bit sceptical at first, and being a photo nerd, I felt that 'could these tiny marvels that fit into my carry-on luggage really do a decent enough job, especially for publication?'

Well, I was pleasantly surprised. Having used GoPros and TG cameras for a good few years now alongside my bigger rigs, that they definitely punch well above their weight, and I'm actually finding that in many scenarios, because of their less cumbersome size, they allow me to get shots otherwise impossible on larger equipment, but that's a story for another day.

Split shots are by their very nature wide-angle pictures, so a camera that fits that bill perfectly in taking these sorts of images is an action camera like a GoPro. By default, these cameras usually have a baseline wide angle of around 150 degrees, much wider than the baseline on a TG or similar camera.

**A**ction cameras of most of the major brands have been around a while now, so there's also an ecosystem of third-party accessories that allow you to extend what is possible with this tiny tech.

And to do a split shot, a non-negotiable, is that the camera you're using needs to be placed behind an acrylic dome of some description. Typically around 6 to 8" in diameter.

This is because to ensure correct placement of the boundary between the air and the water below necessitates some way of more easily positioning that boundary.

And as you could imagine in a wavy environment like the open ocean, even on the flattest and calmest of days, lining up that boundary layer would be intensely frustrating just trying to do it with the action camera lens on its own, being typically less than an inch across!!

Luckily, the action camera accessory ecosystem is well served, and a quick search online will result in a bunch of dome choices, typically ranging from \$50 to \$100.



*When close to shore look out for opportunities like this, especially if the reef is very shallow*

Handily, they all incorporate a built-in underwater housing too; you just need to make sure you get the correct one for the model action camera you intend to use.

All of the shots I'm sharing in this article have been taken with either the GoPro 9 or 10, so you don't even need the latest model to do this, and you could probably pick one of them up for less than \$200.

The dome I use goes under the brand name of Shoot, although I've seen the same one with different names on it. I've settled upon this one after trying others, as it's seemingly the most robust. It has a dual handle design, comes with a handy line on the back to line up the water level, and the cover slips easily over my arm when I'm using it.

I mention the cover's practicality, as I've lost far too many other neoprene covers over the years, and as it slips easily over my arm, it's almost impossible to lose that way.

The cover is also useful as an 8" acrylic dome is very vulnerable to scratches, and it doesn't take too many scratches to render it unusable over time. As even if the whole lot is only \$50 online, I prefer not to be too wasteful.

To get things in perspective, a dome port for my bigger camera is over \$500, and then there's all the rest of the kit that goes along with it too. Is it better quality? Yes, but not to the tune of 10x better quality, and the results from this less expensive setup speak for themselves.

*Practice makes you lucky !*





OK, WE'VE  
GOT THE KIT.  
HOW BEST  
TO USE IT?

I wish it were as simple as saying you've spent your \$250 now to just get in the water and fire away, and you're guaranteed great results immediately. But like the best things in life, you're going to have to work a little bit for them, but it's definitely worth the effort.

On the Snorkel Venture trips, oftentimes folk see me using the domed GoPro setup, and it piques their interest, and I'm only too happy to lend it out for them to have a go, but first I give them a little mini workshop as to improve their chances of success.

As the GoPro is an action camera, it has a small LCD screen, almost too small to really frame up accurately with a dome, so to increase your chances of success, I always suggest putting the GoPro into both RAW mode and Burst mode. Why?

Ok last first, Burst mode is a setting that most action cameras have that will shoot a bunch of pictures in very quick succession, allowing you to pick the best afterwards. I set Burst at 10/1s, which is ten (RAW) pictures in the moment you press the trigger.

I set RAW as my picture quality setting by default on the GoPro, as it's the highest possible quality available, and the most pictures it's able to shoot in RAW is ten at a time, before the camera needs a little breather of around 10 secs to catch its breath, so to speak, or buffering if you prefer the technical term.



## Why shoot **RAW?**

Ok, I understand that a lot of folk would rather not shoot RAW on their cameras as it means that you ARE definitely going to have to edit or post-process the pictures afterwards in your editing software of choice. I use **Adobe Lightroom** but there's a great free alternative available for Windows or Mac called **Darktable**.

Unfortunately, there is no such thing as a free lunch, and split shots by their very nature really stretch what is termed as dynamic range in photography, and not only do you have to put in a little work at the picture-taking stage, more of that to follow, but you definitely have to process these shots more carefully than you would your regular pictures if you want to see them at their best. Yet another reason why RAW shooting is the best way.

It takes me on average about two or three minutes to edit a RAW split-shot picture, so it's not too massive a headache once you've got a successful workflow learnt. And surely worth the effort for a potentially frame-worthy shot?

Ok, we've swallowed the frog, which is the hard bit first. What is the best way to pick your shots and then to shoot them?

We established that the GoPro screen is tiny, and I don't think that you're going to be peering at it from an inch or so away, desperately trying to frame things precisely with the waves buffeting you, and water coming down your snorkel, that will soon put you off the whole endeavour, I don't.

Try to make your first time doing this in as calm conditions as is practical. Find somewhere that you've got a great, attractive, colourful reef that is really close, if not touching the surface, and as close to land or a visible topside feature as possible.

Luckily, on one of our trips, this happens a lot I've found, and it won't be long until the circumstances favour you.

This next bit is really important. Pick the first or last snorkel of the day when the sun is lower is best, and make sure the sun is behind you.



This means that the light falling on both the reef and the background is most even, and that your action camera's tiny automatic sensor has a chance to record the dynamic range (there's that term again) in its entirety.

The dynamic range is the difference between the lightest and darkest part of the scene, and traditionally, although they are getting better, cameras with tiny sensors like GoPro's, TG series, and phones tend to struggle in scenes with a high dynamic range, especially like a split shot.

Did I mention that shooting RAW helps enormously in this regard?

You can shoot when the sun is higher, but really try to avoid shooting towards the sun for these shots, as the camera will do its best, but there's only so much leeway you have in the edit.

Thinking and planning these shots will pay dividends in your end results.

## FINAL THOUGHTS

Thinking and planning ahead? You might want to be more spontaneous than this and react in the moment when the situation best presents itself, yes? This is why I carry both my domed GoPro on my snorkels alongside my regular TG7 setup.

Isn't that cumbersome and just gets in the way, I hear you say?

I wear a pair of pocketed scuba shorts available from most outdoor stores, and my domed GoPro rig fits neatly inside one of the pockets, secured by a carabiner as it's quite floaty, and my TG swaps places with it if I'm shooting split shots. I even carry a second GoPro that I use for other tasks in the other pocket, and even with all three cameras I'm still way less encumbered than I am with my big Mirrorless underwater rig with two strobes, etc, but you might think that even this was too much, and so in the past without the shorts I've simply stuffed the domed split shot GoPro inside my rash vest so as to concentrate on my TG rig.



The TG-shaped Dugong in the room.

## “What about shooting split shots using the camera I already have? My Olympus TG6/7.”

Well, it's entirely possible and I've done split shots with a TG7, but to do it properly utilising a domed fisheye lens, you'll need to buy some very particular kit, which will cost a lot more than \$250 for the system I've been talking about.

That kit you'll need is an Ikelite Housing, currently the only brand to make a dome to accommodate the Olympus Fisheye lens, and in the UK this is already approx \$700 without the camera and fisheye lens factored in.

I'm lucky in that I own this as well, but to be honest I'd rather keep the GoPro and dome for my split shots and other wide-angle photos and video and the Olympus TG7 for macro and close-ups, as if I put the TG in the Ikelite housing with the dome attached it's no longer useful for anything other than wide-angle shots, so it's much more practical in my opinion to use both separate cameras in all honesty.

**When shooting split shots, try not to think too much about the framing and getting things precisely right, there's a bit of random chance and luck involved.**

A good place to practice the technique before you start in earnest, is at the back or side of the boat either tender or liveboard. You may not have a great reef just under the surface, but the water should be calm, and you'll get the hang of the framing more easily there. And it can make for a fun shot.

And as they say, practice makes you lucky. Enjoy.

*P.S. Please don't hesitate to get in touch and ask more specific questions about this. If we've been on a trip together before, you'll no doubt have my WhatsApp details, or maybe contact me on Facebook Messenger if we're in touch there. If not, just drop me a line via Snorkel Venture.*



### About Paul Duxfield

As well as being one of our trip leaders here at Snorkel Venture, Duxy has been a fixture in the world of Underwater Photography for over twenty five years.

Prior to working as the Sales Manager of Ocean Leisure Cameras in London in the early 2000's, he had a career working as a guide and videographer in the Red Sea resort of Sharm el Sheikh.

Riding the crest of the underwater photography wave allowed him to share his knowledge with a wider audience, writing for UK based magazines, and presenting talks and lectures at travel and photography shows.

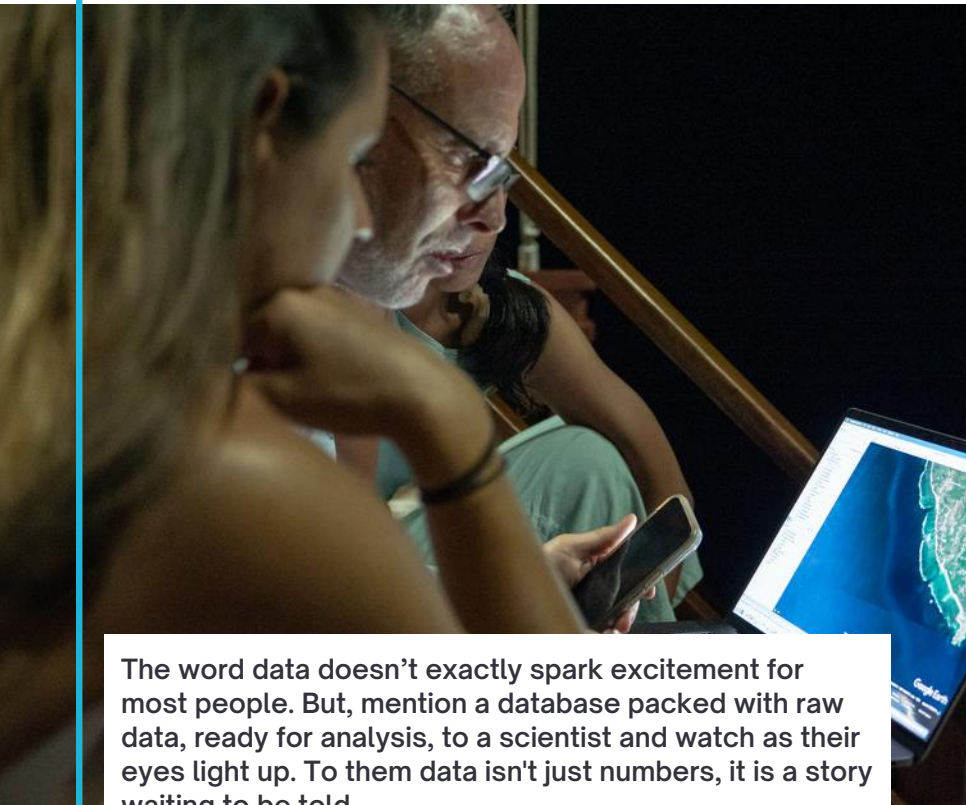
He's well aware that underwater photography can be expensive, so he has a particular interest in getting the best quality and expanding what is possible with equipment costing hundreds and not thousands of dollars.

# CITIZEN SCIENCE - LETS GET INVOLVED



Words by  
Lydia Vavoulas

# 09



The word data doesn't exactly spark excitement for most people. But, mention a database packed with raw data, ready for analysis, to a scientist and watch as their eyes light up. To them data isn't just numbers, it is a story waiting to be told.

The issue is that data is often time consuming and expensive to obtain. Here is where the genius of citizen science comes into play.

## What is Citizen Science?

Citizen science gives you the opportunity to help gather, analyze or report invaluable scientific information. If you are part of the Snorkel Venture community odds are you are a big fan of spending time out in nature. Many of our guests are often extremely well travelled and are lucky enough to have spent time with some of the rarest of species, in remote environments. For a research team to fund and organize a trip to such places, to study such species often takes years of fund raising and planning. Citizen science allows us to skip this step. Handing over data from you, the public, straight to the people that need it most.

## Citizen Science - How Your Snorkeling Can Make a Difference

### MANTA TRUST

A magnificent example of citizen science in action is a method used by one of Snorkel Venture's charity partners, Manta Trust.

Manta Trust is a charity that researches, advocates for and protects manta and devil rays world wide. Manta and devil rays (known as Mobulid rays) are widely dispersed and species like the oceanic manta are known to travel hundreds of miles across open ocean. Therefore obtaining information regarding the movement patterns of these rays can be tricky. This is where we need your help.

If you have ever been lucky enough to spend time with Mobulids in the wild you may have noticed their spotty underbellies as they barrel roll through the water. This spot pattern is a unique identifier for each individual ray, just like a human fingerprint, and can be used to recognize that exact ray throughout its lifetime.



Next time you find yourself in the water with a ray and this article comes to mind, if your photo skills are up to it, try snapping a shot of the rays ventral surface (underside).



The most crucial area for a usable identification photo is the belly, which includes the ray's spot pattern. Additionally, capturing the area toward the tail is helpful for determining the ray's sex. Scars are also valuable indicators for individual ID.

Once you return home from your holiday and flick through your images you can pop onto the Mantabase site, where you can upload your photograph. If you are the very first to have ever uploaded a photo of that ray you even get the honor of naming him or her. **There are now more than 100,000 uploads to Mantabase and through this initiative Manta Trust has used your data to create marine protected areas, publish research and influence policy that protects these vulnerable species.**

## OCEAN EYE

Imagine you are on tour with Snorkel Venture and you have a life changing encounter with a whale shark. You know that whale sharks face threats in the area, and you would like to donate towards their protection. Ocean Eye is a simple platform whereby tourists can log their sightings while on tour alongside making micro donations for each sighting. These donations go directly to local conservation projects. By logging your encounter, your snorkeling experience just became truly life changing!

Over time the money raised through marine animal sightings accumulates and shows locals that a live animal has much greater value than one lying dead in a fish market. Ocean Eye supports projects that work with communities to create financial opportunities, alternative livelihoods and incentives, giving power, knowledge and a path to action back to the local people. They create projects that are not just short term fixes but systemic long term solutions.

Additionally, the data gathered through the platform is extremely valuable, as it is used by scientists and local authority to improve marine management.



**Over time the money raised through marine animal sightings accumulates and shows locals that a live animal has much greater value than one lying dead in a fish market.**



**Waste management is a big issue on remote islands and can be fatal for marine life**



**Tourist donations for wildlife sightings have funded a plastic pick up system in remote Banda island villages. Ensuring less waste enters the ocean, protecting wildlife from entanglement and ingesting marine debris.**

## CORAL WATCH

It is no secret that coral reefs worldwide are suffering in the face of rising ocean temperatures and ocean acidification. As snorkelers however, we know, there is still plenty of bustling, healthy reef out there for us to advocate for. Luckily, there is currently an army of coral fans (pun intended) conjuring up innovative solutions that help give coral a fighting chance.

Coral reefs can be massive. Australia's Great Barrier Reef is approximately the size of Japan. This poses a problem to scientists trying to grasp an understanding of current coral health over such vast areas. There are not enough coral scientists in the world to survey such large areas, however there are enough snorkelers! We as snorkelers have access to remote parts of the reef and thousands of tourists snorkel coral reefs everyday. So how can you help make a difference? Train yourself to conduct coral surveys. I know it sounds intimidating but I promise it's simple.

Coral watch is a citizen science program that provides snorkelers with an easy to do coral survey, anywhere in the world. The survey is simple and doesn't take long. You can start your snorkel with a survey and still have plenty of time left to float about. So, before you hop in for your next snorkel, visit the Coral Watch website for instructions on how to gather and enter your data and to register for your free Coral Health Chart to take along on all your snorkeling ventures.

Corals have been around for 500 million years, yet our understanding of their resilience to heat stress is a constantly evolving field of knowledge, with new vital information surfacing every day. Each data point collected is a piece of the puzzle that helps scientists protect this vital ecosystem.



Daily headlines regarding climate news can often leave us feeling a little helpless and deflated. Citizen science is a great way to be a part of the solution. These are just a few examples of citizen science in action, however, there are countless other ways we can get involved. Take the first step by researching citizen science projects in areas you plan to visit or even in your own back yard.

Snorkel Venture aims to increase our citizen science output by providing purpose run tours that integrate both snorkeling and science. Kicking off with our 2027 Maldives Manta research expedition.

# PHOTO COMPETITION 2026

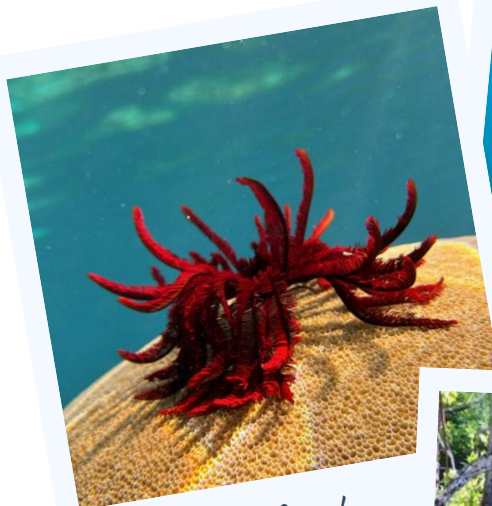
## Win a **500 USD** Snorkel Venture Voucher

Send your best shot to [alex@snorkelventure.com](mailto:alex@snorkelventure.com) by the 1st of September 2026 and the best one as judged by the Snorkel Venture team will receive a 500 USD voucher which can be used towards any tour, whether you have booked already or not.

**Rules:** 1 image per person only. Winner announced 1st October 2026.

### Congratulations to our 2025 Winners

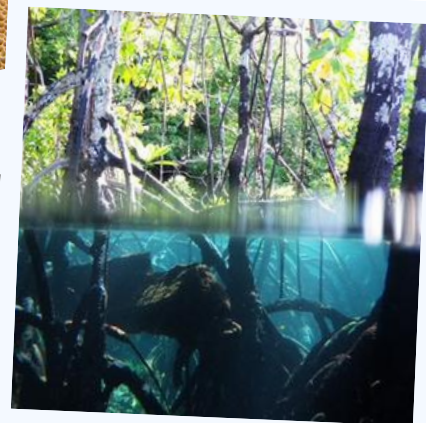
- 1. Winner**  
Mary Shircel | "Dancing on Coral"
- 2. Runner Up**  
Brenda MacAlpine | "Mangrove Magic"
- 3. Runner Up**  
Robert Orrizzi | "Swimming with a Dugong"
- 4. Honorable Mention**  
Pat Goding | "Bounty of Halmahera"



*Dancing on Coral*



*Swimming with a Dugong*



*Mangrove Magic*



*Bounty of Halmahera*



# 2026 TOUR SCHEDULE

## FEB 2026

**Triton Bay & Raja Ampat  
Snorkel Safari**

[6 – 18 February](#)

**Belize Snorkel Week |  
Turneffe Resort**

[13 – 21 February](#)

**Belize Shallow Water  
Freediving Workshop |  
Turneffe Resort**

[20 – 28 February](#)

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## MAR 2026

**Raja Ampat & Misool  
Snorkel Safari**

[3 – 23 March](#)

**Palau by Liveaboard |  
Aggressor**

[7 – 22 March](#)

## APR 2026

**Wakatobi and Misool  
Snorkel Safari**

[2 – 20 April](#)

**Sulawesi & Raja Ampat  
Snorkel Safari**

[4 – 19 April](#)

**West Komodo, Bangka  
& Raja Ampat Snorkel  
Safari**

[6 – 26 April](#)

**Alor & West Komodo  
Safari Snorkel Safari**

[13 – 27 April](#)

**Bunaken, Bangka & Raja  
Ampat**

[14 April – 03 May](#)

**Alor, West Komodo &  
Raja Ampat Snorkel  
Safari**

[20 April – 13 May](#)

**Solomon Islands by  
Liveaboard | Bilikiki  
Liveaboard**

[21 April – 06 May](#)

**Misool & Wakatobi  
Snorkel Safari**

[30 April – 18 May](#)

## MAY 2026

**West Komodo & Alor  
Snorkel Safari**

[6 – 21 May](#)

**West Komodo & Alor  
Snorkel Safari**

[6 – 21 May](#)

**Alor & Beyond by  
Liveaboard | Mermaid I**

[10 – 20 May](#)

**Misool Resort Snorkel  
Tour – 14 Night Tour**

[16 – 30 May](#)

**Egypt Snorkel Safari**

[16 – 30 May](#)

**Komodo & Beyond by  
Liveaboard | Mermaid I**

[20 – 30 May](#)

**Alor & Misool Snorkel  
Safari**

[20 May – 6 June](#)

**Alor & West Komodo  
Snorkel Safari**

[27 May – 10 June 2026](#)

**Belize Snorkel Week |  
Turneffe Resort**

[29 May – 06 June](#)

# 2026 TOUR SCHEDULE



## JUNE 2026

Belize Snorkel Week |  
Turneffe Island Resort  
[5 -13 June](#)

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## JULY 2026

Alor: Hidden Gem of the  
East | Naga Biru  
[6 - 17 July](#)

Alami Alor Big Creatures  
& Small Critters  
[10 - 21 July](#)

Cenderawasih Bay by  
Liveaboard | Coralia  
[15 - 26 July](#)

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## AUG 2026

Halmahera Snorkeling  
Tour  
[17 - 29 August](#)

## SEPT 2026

Wakatobi Resort  
Snorkel Tour | 12 Night  
Tour  
[13 - 25 September](#)

Bunaken, Bangka & Raja  
Ampat  
[22 September - 11 October](#)

Alor & West Komodo  
Snorkel Safari  
[25 September - 09 October](#)

West Komodo &  
Sumbawa: Whale Shark  
Experience | Naga Biru  
[26 September - 10 October](#)

Misool Resort Snorkel  
Tour | 14 Night Tour  
[28 September - 12 October](#)

## OCT 2026

Sulawesi & Raja Ampat  
Snorkel Safari  
[3 - 18 October](#)

West Komodo &  
Sumbawa: Whale Shark  
Experience | Naga Biru  
[9 - 23 October](#)

Forgotten Islands  
Snorkeling Liveaboard |  
Coralia  
[20 October - 1 November](#)

Alor, West Komodo &  
Raja Ampat Snorkel  
Safari  
[23 October - 15 November](#)

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## NOV 2026

Raja Ampat by  
Liveaboard | Coralia  
[26 November - 6 December](#)

Misool Resort Snorkel  
Tour | 11 Night Tour  
[28 November - 9 December](#)



# 2027 TOUR SCHEDULE

## JAN 2027

Triton Bay and Raja Ampat Snorkel Safari  
[8 – 20 January](#)

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## FEB 2027

Triton Bay and Raja Ampat Snorkel Safari  
[5 – 17 February](#)

Belize Snorkel Week | Turneffe Resort  
[12 – 20 February](#)

Raja Ampat by Liveaboard | Coralia  
[15 – 26 February](#)

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## MAR 2027

Palau by Liveaboard | Aggressor  
[6 – 21 March](#)

Misool Resort Snorkel Tour – 14 Night Tour  
[10 – 24 March](#)

Raja Ampat by Liveaboard | Coralia  
[13 – 24 March](#)

Alor, West Komodo and Raja Ampat  
[19 March – 11 April](#)

Bunaken, Bangka & Raja Ampat  
[23 March – 11 April](#)

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## APR 2027

Palau by Liveaboard | Aggressor  
[3 – 18 April](#)

West Komodo & Alor  
[9 – 24 April](#)

French Polynesia by Liveaboard | Aqua Tiki III  
[April 18 – 29](#)

Sulawesi and Raja Ampat Snorkel Safari  
[20 April – 5 May](#)

Raja Ampat & Misool Snorkel Safari  
[20 April – 9 May](#)

Misool & Wakatobi Snorkel Safari  
[21 April – 10 May](#)

Alor & Komodo Snorkel Liveaboard | Coralia  
[25 April – 7 May](#)

Misool Resort Snorkel Tour | 11 Night Tour  
[28 April – 9 May](#)

French Polynesia by Liveaboard | Aqua Tiki III  
[April 30 – 11 May](#)

Belize Snorkel Week | Turneffe Resort  
[30 April – 8 May](#)

West Komodo & Sumbawa – Whale Shark Experience | Naga Biru Liveaboard  
[30 April – 14 May](#)

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## MAY 2027

Belize Snorkel Week | Turneffe Resort  
[7 – 15 May](#)

Ultimate Komodo Snorkel Liveaboard | Coralia  
[8 – 19 May](#)

West Komodo & Sumbawa – Whale Shark Experience | Naga Biru Liveaboard  
[14 – 28 May](#)

# 2027 TOUR SCHEDULE

## JUNE 2027

Bunaken & Bangka  
Island Shallow  
Freediving Workshop  
[4 – 17 June](#)

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## JUL 2027

Alor Snorkel Tour – Big  
Creatures & Small  
Critters  
[3 – 14 July](#)

Alor Snorkel Tour – Big  
Creatures & Small  
Critters  
[13 – 24 July](#)

Egypt Snorkeling and  
Solar Eclipse Tour  
[30 July – 12 August](#)

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## AUG 2027

Halmahera Snorkeling  
Tour  
[01 – 12 August](#)

Maldives Manta  
Research Expedition by  
Liveaboard | Black  
Manta  
[12 – 22 August](#)

West Komodo & Alor  
[27 August – 11 September](#)

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## SEPT 2027

Bangka Island and  
Halmahera Snorkel  
Safari  
[5 – 20 September](#)

Wakatobi Resort  
Snorkel Tour | 12 Night  
Tour  
[12 – 24 September](#)

West Komodo &  
Sumbawa – Whale Shark  
Experience | Naga Biru  
Liveaboard  
[17 September – 1 October](#)

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## OCT 2027

Sulawesi and Raja  
Ampat Snorkel Safari  
[2 – 17 October](#)

Bunaken, Bangka & Raja  
Ampat  
[5 – 24 October](#)

Best of Komodo Snorkel  
Liveaboard | Naga Biru  
[14 – 26 October](#)

Alor & Misool Snorkel  
Safari  
[15 October – 4 November](#)

Misool Resort Snorkel  
Tour | 11 Night Tour  
[15 – 26 October](#)

Alor & Misool Snorkel  
Safari  
[23 October – 11 November](#)

West Komodo & Alor  
[24 October – 8 November](#)

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## NOV 2027

Mexico Sardine Run  
[9 – 16 November](#)

Raja Ampat by  
Liveaboard | Coralia  
[16 – 27 November](#)



# 2028 TOUR SCHEDULE

## JAN 2028

**Triton Bay & Raja Ampat  
Snorkel Safari**  
[14 – 26 January](#)

**Raja Ampat & Misool  
Snorkel Safari**  
[27 January – 15 February](#)

**Raja Ampat by  
Liveboard | Coralia**  
[28 January – 08 February](#)

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## FEB 2028

**Triton Bay & Raja Ampat  
Snorkel Safari**  
[4 – 16 February](#)

**Raja Ampat by  
Liveboard | Coralia**  
[09 – 20 February](#)

**Belize Freediving  
Workshop and  
Snorkeling Tour |  
Turneffe Island Resort**  
[18 – 26 February 2028](#)

**Belize Snorkel Week –  
Turneffe Island Resort**  
[25 February – 04 March 2028](#)

## MAR 2028

**Triton Bay & Raja Ampat  
Snorkel Safari**  
[24 March – 5 April](#)

**Naga Biru Liveboard |  
West Komodo &  
Sumbawa: Whale Shark  
Experience**  
[31 March – 14 April](#)

**Alor, West Komodo &  
Raja Ampat**  
[31 March – 23 April](#)

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## APR 2028

**West Komodo & Alor**  
[02 – 17 April](#)

**West Komodo & Alor**  
[12 – 27 May](#)

**Naga Biru Liveboard |  
West Komodo &  
Sumbawa: Whale Shark  
Experience**  
[15 – 29 April 2028](#)

**Alor & Misool Snorkel  
Safari**  
[16 April – 6 May](#)

**Alor, West Komodo &  
Raja Ampat**  
[24 April – 17 May](#)

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## MAY 2028

**Naga Biru Liveboard |  
Best of Komodo**  
[02 – 14 May](#)

**French Polynesia by  
Liveboard | Aqua Tiki III**  
[04 – 15 May](#)

**Belize Snorkel Week –  
Turneffe Island Resort**  
[12 – 20 May 2028](#)

**West Komodo & Alor**  
[12 – 27 May](#)

**Misool Resort Snorkel  
Tour – 14 Night Tour**  
[13 – 27 May](#)

**French Polynesia by  
Liveboard | Aqua Tiki III**  
[16 – 27 May](#)

**Belize Snorkel Week –  
Turneffe Island Resort**  
[19 – 27 May](#)

# 2028 TOUR SCHEDULE

## JUL 2028

Alami Alor Big Creatures  
& Small Critters

[4 -15 July](#)

Cenderawasih Bay by  
Liveboard | Coralia

[11 - 22 July](#)

Alami Alor Big Creatures  
& Small Critters

[15 - 26 July](#)

Cenderawasih Bay by  
Liveboard | Coralia

[23 July - 3 August](#)

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## AUG 2028

Halmahera Snorkeling  
Tour

[07 - 19 August](#)

Maldives Manta  
Research Expedition by  
Liveboard | Black  
Manta

[15 - 26 August](#)

## SEPT 2028

Naga Biru Liveboard |  
Best of Komodo

[3 - 15 September](#)

Wakatobi Resort  
Snorkel Tour | 12 Night  
Tour

[03 - 15 September](#)

Naga Biru Liveboard |  
West Komodo &  
Sumbawa: Whale Shark  
Experience

[19 Sep - 03 Oct](#)

Alor, West Komodo &  
Raja Ampat

[29 September - 22 October](#)

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## OCT 2028

Sulawesi & Raja Ampat  
Snorkel Safari

[3 - 18 October](#)

Naga Biru Liveboard |  
West Komodo &  
Sumbawa: Whale Shark  
Experience

[4 - 18 October](#)

Bunaken, Bangka & Raja  
Ampat

[10 - 29 October](#)

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## NOV 2028

Misool Resort Snorkel  
Tour | 14 Night Tour

[23 November - 7 December](#)

Raja Ampat by  
Liveboard | Coralia

[26 November - 06 December](#)

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## DEC 2028

Misool Resort Snorkel  
Tour | 11 Night Tour

[5 - 16 December](#)

A large circular graphic is centered on the page, containing text. The background of the entire page is an underwater scene. In the upper half, two divers are visible in the blue water. In the lower half, a banded sea krait with black and white stripes is swimming over a dense, yellowish-brown coral reef.

**/10**

# **CREATURE FEATURE: THE BANDED SEA KRAIT**

Seasoned snorkelers know that the most memorable encounters often come not from chasing wildlife, but from slowing down and letting the reef reveal itself. Few animals reward that patience more than the banded sea krait, a striking black-and-white serpent that moves through coral formations with quiet confidence and precision. In the water, these snakes are composed and purposeful, focused almost entirely on hunting rather than on the presence of nearby snorkelers.



Words by  
**Dalton Hopper**

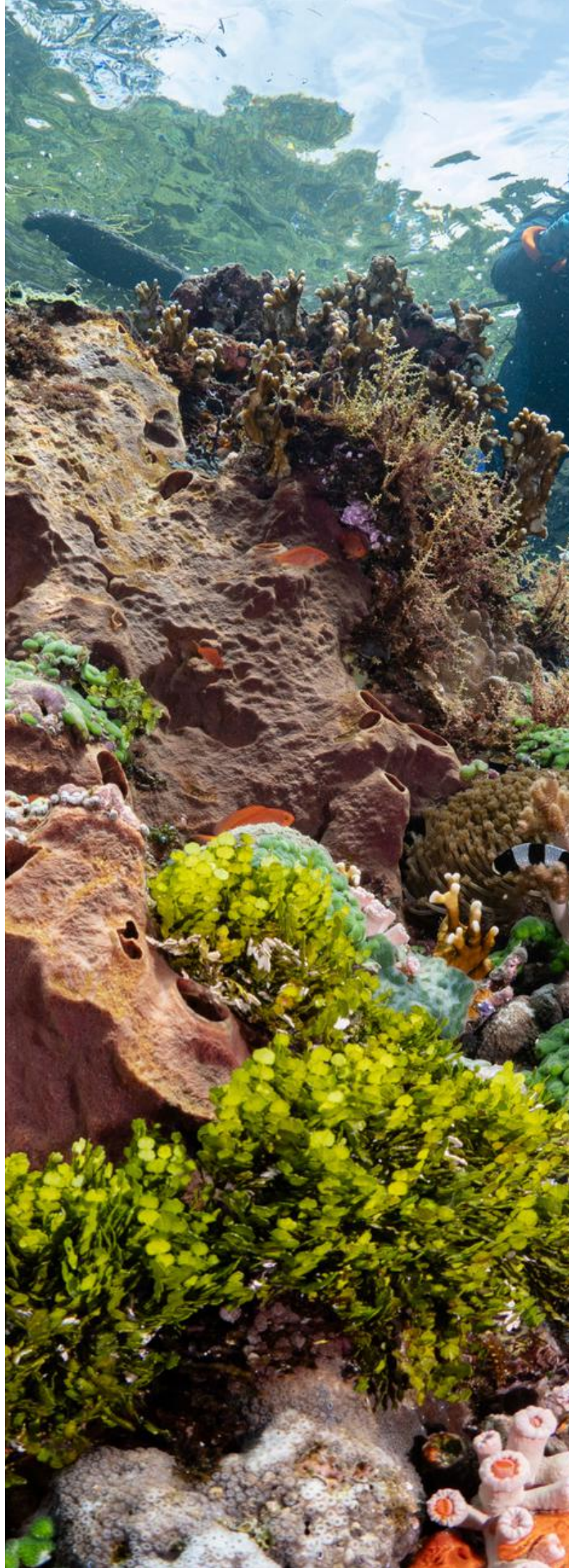


### About Dalton Hopper

I've made traveling a career and have spent the last 20 years living in Asia, where I've run dive and snorkel operations throughout the region. Now, I'm a fully dedicated Snorkel Venture tour leader and feel lucky to visit the most breathtaking underwater destinations in the world.

**V**isually, the banded sea krait is unmistakable. Its stark, high-contrast banding is classic aposematic coloration, a warning to potential predators that it is dangerous, or possibly tastes bad. In this case, it is a clear signal of its potent venom, estimated to be ten times stronger than that of a rattlesnake, a fact that often overshadows the animal's actual behavior. Despite this biochemical firepower, banded sea kraits are notably non-aggressive and remarkably docile. Documented bites are rare and are almost exclusively associated with direct handling, when fishermen attempt to disentangle them from nets.

What sets the banded sea krait apart from true sea snakes is its reliance on both marine and terrestrial environments. It is semi-aquatic, spending its hunting hours underwater while returning to land to rest, digest, shed its skin, and mate or lay eggs. Rocky shorelines and shallow reefs are essential components of its habitat. In many of our snorkel destinations, a house reef is an excellent place to observe these animals.





# 10

Wakatobi is a good example, where I have often seen the same individuals both on the house reef and later above the high-tide line on the jetty.

Adaptations for this amphibious lifestyle are remarkable. A laterally flattened tail provides efficient propulsion, while elongated lungs extending through much of the body contribute to buoyancy control and extended dive times. Specialized valves close the nostrils underwater, and the skin can absorb a small amount of oxygen directly from seawater, an elegant bonus for extended hunting trips.

Diet is where the banded sea krait truly demonstrates specialization. They are eel predators, targeting morays, snake eels, and other elongate reef species that shelter deep within crevices, and swallowing them whole. Their narrow heads and flexible bodies allow access to places unavailable to most reef predators. They are also known to participate in mixed-species hunting associations with trevallies and goatfish. As the krait probes cracks and cavities, escaping prey is flushed into open water, where the waiting hunters capitalize. This behavior is an elegant example of opportunistic reef cooperation.

Since we are accustomed to sharing the water with predators, encountering a banded sea krait is less about adrenaline and more about restraint. If you remain calm and give a sea krait space, it will simply ignore you. You can follow individuals as they weave through coral heads with almost meditative focus, often resulting in prolonged, close-range observation. Individuals typically surface every ten minutes or so to breathe before resuming their search, completely indifferent to a quiet observer.

Ecologically, banded sea kraits are an integral part of reef systems, controlling eel populations and contributing to the overall balance. Their presence is a sign of a healthy, functioning reef and a reminder that predators are essential components of reef ecosystems. They are often misunderstood creatures, not dangerous villains.

So if you're lucky enough to spot one on your next snorkel, consider it a privilege. You're witnessing a perfectly adapted marine hunter bridging the worlds of land and sea, quietly proving that even the most venomous creatures can be peaceful neighbors beneath the waves.

# CAMERA HOUSINGS FOR THE TG SERIES, PLEASE



Words and Photos by  
Alex Lindbloom

It wasn't too long ago that if you wanted to take your precious camera underwater with you, you needed to jam it into a cumbersome metal enclosure so as to keep the water out. This often meant a significant additional expense in purchasing the housing, one more bulky item to pack for your snorkeling trip, not to mention the fact that the housing would increase the size and weight of your camera by two or three times. What was once a small point-and-shoot camera that could easily be operated with one hand has now become a hefty burden that requires two hands to wield.

Thankfully, for those of us who want a reliable camera that fits in the palm of our hand and also functions beneath the waves, there is the Olympus TG series. These cameras have been out for quite a while now, with the most recent model being the TG-7, and have really set the standard for what amphibious compact cameras should offer the shooter. Olympus has done such a superb job of building a camera that's ready to be submerged right out of the box; other camera manufacturers like Sony, Canon, or Nikon have basically backed away from this corner of the market. As a result, the TG series has become the obvious camera choice for snorkelers around the world.

While the TG cameras are ready to start shooting underwater straight away, I'd like to ever so delicately present the idea of purchasing a housing for your TG camera, using only the most rock-solid points. I get that this might sound a little contradictory as I've just set TG cameras on a pretty high pedestal for their underwater readiness sans accessories. In my opinion, the TG camera's pedestal position is very well deserved, and I don't offer these points on behalf of any faults with TG cameras, as their build quality is superb. I only offer this advice-based on years of snorkeling with guests and their TG cameras—because user error has always been the cause of an unhoused camera flooding. Annoyingly, people—by nature—make mistakes. I know you may think you won't make a mistake after purchasing your brand new TG-7 camera, but the statistical odds are stacked against you, I'm afraid, especially when a manta or whale shark suddenly swims past the boat, and you scramble to get yourself and your camera ready to jump in the water. A housing will almost guarantee your camera's safety while also giving you some additional ergonomic benefits. I know there are quite a few of you who are unconvinced at the moment, but please, just hear me out.



## Housings are More Ergonomic

To add to the fact that a TG camera and housing are easily wielded with a single hand by all, they're also more ergonomic, especially where the buttons and dials are concerned. The compactness of a TG camera means the button layout is also compact. On land, the button layout is not much of an issue, but underwater, you're likely to find that it's a bit of a tedious task to differentiate between different buttons, especially with any sort of snorkeling gloves on. The housing, on the other hand, has a much broader button layout, with buttons and dials clearly identifiable by touch. There's no confusion between one button and the next.

## Housings are Cheaper Than a Backup Camera

In the past, I've had people argue against getting a camera housing because they thought the housings would be too big and heavy for them to manage in the water, which we've now learned is not the case. It's the opposite, in fact. Instead, their contingency plan for a flooded camera was to purchase a second camera. While this is one way to keep shooting underwater in the event of a flooding, it's the more expensive option. An Olympus TG7 camera costs \$550 USD, while an Olympus TG7 housing costs \$350.

## Which Housing to Buy?

There are a number of different housings you can buy, some better than others, based on the material and craftsmanship. Our go-to housing is Olympus' model. It's made from polycarbonate, so it's lightweight yet very sturdy and easy to hold in one hand in the water. I've seen a lot of these housings over the years, and they always seem to function as they need to, so long as the user keeps the o-ring clear.

The other housings available for the Olympus TG series cameras are also fantastic, but because most are made from aluminum, the cost increases quite a bit, as does the weight. The one housing I'd strongly recommend against is the Sea Frogs. Although made from polycarbonate the construction quality of this brand has historically been very poor.

## Final Thoughts

I bring this up because my heart breaks a little each time a guest comes up to me with a camera full of water and we still have another week's worth of snorkeling to do. No joke, it happens on nearly every trip. Yes, the TG cameras are waterproof, but only to a certain extent, which does not account for the human condition—mistakes. Inside the housing you get the added assurance that your cameras will not flood, even if you forget to latch the different compartments. With a housing, your camera will float rather than sink, and you can more easily operate it with one hand thanks to the larger buttons it offers. Yes, a camera housing is an additional expense, but you can't put a price on those magical moments you captured, and it's still cheaper than buying a second camera if your first camera drowns. The way I see it, TG camera users stand to gain so much more from putting their cameras inside a housing; there's no reason not to!

# 12 SNORKEL VENTURE RASH GUARDS



Words and Photos by  
**Alex Lindbloom**



If you've been on tour with us you might recognize our personally branded rash guards – it's the first bit of kit our tour leaders pack alongside a mask and snorkel. They are quick drying, loose fitting for extra comfort, and have superb eco credentials being made from recycled ghost nets. In a nut shell they are top quality and we absolutely love them.

The team at Snorkel Venture were very much involved in the unique design process of these rash guards. Alongside creatives at Fourth

Element we wanted to bring color and style to the shirt. Frontside is a colorful reef image with the iconic whaleshark. Our SV logo is on the back and we have a logo for Snorkel for Good on the right arm.

We've pledged **20,000 USD** for the **Misool Foundation** via our **Rash Guard Program**. It's pretty simple, purchase one of our personalized **Snorkel for Good-Fourth Element Hydro-T rash guards** and 100% of the funds go to Misool Foundation.



**T**he Misool Foundation team manages a suite of conservation programmes which combine marine governance, waste management, community empowerment and species conservation.

The founding programme is the Misool Marine Reserve. The reserve protects 300,000 acres/1220 sq. km in South Raja Ampat – that’s the size of all five boroughs of New York City combined. It comprises two distinct No-Take Zones (NTZs) and a linking restricted-gear, blue-water corridor that is closed to all commercial fishing.

Additionally the foundation manages the following marine conservation and social development projects in Indonesia:

- Misool Ranger Patrol – Misool, Raja Ampat
- Savu Sea Alliance – Lamakera, Solor Island, Nusa Tenggara Timur
- Bank Sampah Community Recycling Project – Sorong, Waisai and Yellu, Raja Ampat
- Community Education Programmes – Fafanlap, Raja Ampat
- Reef Restoration Project – Raja Ampat
- Misool Manta Project – Raja Ampat

## Fourth Element Hydro-T Rash Guard

For years Fourth Element has been creating leading products for snorkelers. The **Hydro-T Rash Guard** is made from a thread derived from reclaimed ghost nets, yet the way it fits and functions makes it ultra versatile in or out of the water. The advanced and durable material offers SPF 50+ while also wicking away water from your body keeping you comfortable thanks to the loose fit. In the water it functions just as a rash guard should and then dries rapidly when you surface.

With the **Fourth Element Hydro-T** you don’t have to worry about packing multiple changes of clothes, with this one vest you’ll be set for everything from kayaking, paddle boarding, hiking and of course many hours of snorkeling.

Visit here to purchase a Snorkel for Good Rashguard - [www.snorkelventure.com/rashguard-order-form/](http://www.snorkelventure.com/rashguard-order-form/)



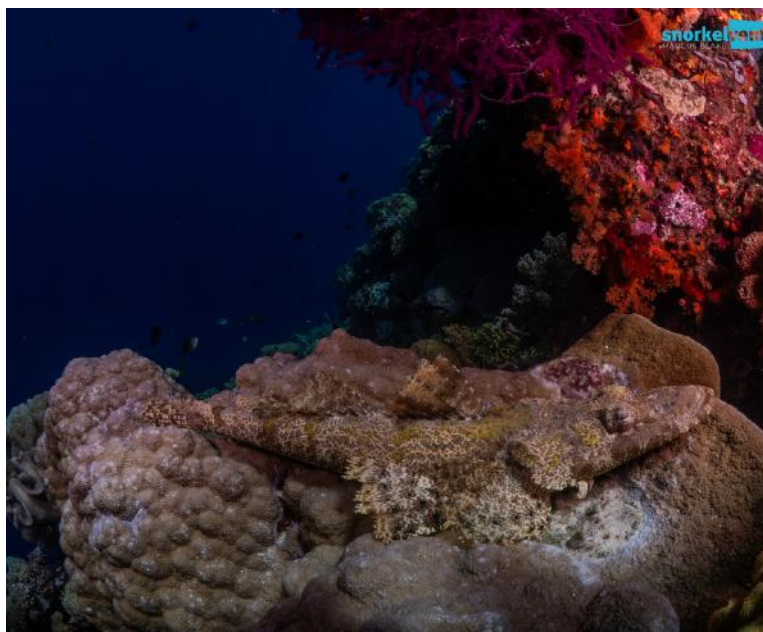
# IN FOCUS WITH MARCUS BLAKE



Words and Photos by  
**Marcus Blake**

## **Wakatobi, South Sulawesi**

Heading over to Wakatobi is always a treat. You know you are in for beautiful reefs and great marine life. By far one of my favourite finds in Wakatobi is the very well camouflaged crocodile fish. Once one of the eagle eyed guides spots one for you, they make a perfect subject for photography. Because of their incredible camouflage, they believe they're invisible, so you can get nice and close with your camera. A rare characteristic of the crocodile fish is that even their eyeballs are camouflaged, making them truly blend in with their surroundings. Stay close to the guide to find them!





## 📍 Mexico - Baja

Arriving in Mexico and heading out looking for Mako sharks was by far one of my most exciting trips ever. Humpback whales breached around the boat, keeping us entertained as



we patiently waited for more animals to show up. Our patience paid off, as the mako sharks began to swoop in, we jumped into our gear and hopped in the water to join them. Makos are the fastest shark in the ocean, making them tricky subjects to photograph. But, their inquisitive nature meant we could get close up and had many attempts at the perfect shot. Playful sea lions also decided to join the fiesta, their comical characters are always a treat to be in the water with. Using a wide angle set up and trying to predict where the animal will be when you press the shutter is a great way to get a good shot of these fast moving creatures.

## 📍 Kalimaya - West Komodo

At the time of this sighting we were observing one of the ocean giants, the manta ray. As we heard our guide call out, we knew it must have been something special, but what could be so intriguing worth pulling our attention away from the mantas? It took a moment for our eyes to adjust and zoom into macro mode. There, on the surface of the water, was a tiny spec - the larval stage of a pancake batfish! This moment just goes to show that you never know what the ocean might offer you. It was a little tricky to switch my camera set up from manta rays to macro. But with a little luck and lots of patience, using a fisheye lens, I managed to get a few great shots of this funny looking baby batfish.



## 📍 Alami Alor



Alor is always one of my most enjoyable places to take photos. With such a variety of subjects ranging from tiny shrimps hiding in the muck sites to giant Mola Mola in the open ocean. One of my favourite subjects are the local children who love to pose for shots which always makes for such a fun interaction! Another highlight of Alor is the world famous Bakalan Jetty. Each jetty pylon is an ecosystem of its own making it the perfect place to find all kinds of fish and critters including the crowd pleasing frogfish. The trick to taking snaps of these is being able to master your duck dive and buoyancy, which take time and practice. But once you have these skills, taking photos underwater will become infinitely easier.



*For the last 4 years I've been a tour leader for Snorkel Venture, so my year is spent snorkeling in some of the best places in the world for marine life encounters. I'm originally from the UK but now live year round in Indonesia. I previously spent 5 years managing a dive and snorkel resort in Indonesia. I love photography above and below the water's surface!*

*Marcus Blake*

# LET'S GO TO



# THE BANDA SEA

(INDONESIA)

The Banda Sea is a large, semi-circular body of water that lies northeast of Alor and runs up to the Seram Islands just south of Raja Ampat's Misool. The western part of the Banda Sea is open to the Flores Sea. At the same time, the eastern border of the Banda Sea is fringed by an arching chain of islands, atolls, and numerous semi-active volcanoes, commonly referred to as the Forgotten Islands. It is this chain of volcanic islands that gives the Banda Sea one of its more popular monikers, *The Ring of Fire*.



SUMATRA

BORNEO

SULAWESI

JAKARTA

JAVA

BALI

KOMODO

WEST KOMODO & S





BANGKA ISLAND

BUNAKEN & SILADEN

HALMAHERA

RAJA AMPAT

KUSU ISLAND

MISOOL

CENDERAWASIH BAY

AWESI

PAPUA

BANDA ISLANDS

WAKATOBI

AMBON

TRITON BAY

BANDA SEA

FORGOTTEN ISLANDS

ALOR

Map data ©2026 Google



Words and Photos by  
**Alex Lindbloom**

**T**he Banda Sea is, in my opinion, one of the most interesting bodies of water in all of Indonesia. As you can see from the map, many different seas border the Banda Sea, like the Ceram Sea, Maluku, Flores, Timor, Arafuru, and the Aru Sea, all of which flow into the Banda Sea and deliver an abundance of nutrients that feed not only the corals but also the marine life, big and small. As a result, you can find more species of coral in the Banda Sea than you can see in [Raja Ampat](#). Wakatobi, for example, in the western Banda Sea, has an estimated 750 coral species. Raja Ampat’s coral count is estimated at around 550.

Another aspect that makes the Banda Sea so special is its remarkable remoteness. Only a handful of tiny villages can be found on its islands, and with the exception of Wakatobi, which has had to build its own airstrip to comfortably and conveniently service its luxury resort, there aren’t any resorts in the area. The inaccessibility of the Banda Sea’s Islands has almost entirely spared the area from widespread tourism and development. Again, except for Wakatobi\_Resort, the only way to experience the Banda Sea is to visit it by liveaboard, and by doing so, you leave civilization behind, allowing you to experience Indonesia’s most pristine reefs in peace.

## The Banda Islands

The Banda Islands are a group of small volcanic islands—ten in total—at the very north of the Banda Sea, just south of the Seram Islands. The Banda Islands are commonly referred to as the “Spice Islands” because nutmeg and mace are indigenous to these small tropical islands. Back in the day, there was significant trade among the Dutch, Portuguese, and English. Given that these three colony-collecting nations were vying for exclusive trading rights and ultimate occupation of the Banda Islands, several cannon balls were fired, forts were built, locals were enslaved, and a “rich history” was born.

On our liveaboard itineraries that include the Banda Islands, we’ll generally spend 2-3 days exploring the many different reefs. It also allows us to stretch our legs a bit, as Banda Neira — the largest of the Banda Islands — has a small town with a rich colonial history and some functional nutmeg plantations, which we’ll visit.

The Banda Islands are a playground for snorkelers, as each of the emerald-green islands is fringed by stunning hard coral plateaus that abruptly drop into the deep,



sapphire-blue water. While the bulk of the corals we'll encounter around the Bandas are of the hard variety, there are still swaths of leather corals and colonies of sponges. If you can dive down a little, you'll find massive red and orange sea fans lining the wall, along with some of the most enormous barrel sponges you'll ever see!

Where marine life is concerned, the Bandas are a reef fish enthusiast's dream, with endless waves of red-tooth triggerfish ebbing and flowing from the reef's edges. Mixed in with masses of red-tooth triggers, you'll also find the very distinctive pyramid butterfly fish in vast numbers, especially if there's a little bit of current. The shallow reef top is a great place to spot schools of goatfish and snapper, as well as many more species of butterflyfish and damsels, pufferfish, honeycomb morays, and even the occasional turtle. Given the remote nature of the Bandas, there's really no telling what could swim by, as we've encountered pods of dolphins, melon-headed whales, hammerheads, and even several whale sharks in the past!

## **The Forgotten Islands**

The Forgotten Islands refer to some of the most remote islands in the Banda Sea, stretching approximately one thousand kilometers from

around Timor and arching their way up to the Seram Islands. This chain of islands is known as the Forgotten Islands due to their remoteness, lack of development, and sparse population, as if the rest of the world has forgotten them.

The snorkeling around the forgotten islands is—you guessed it—incredible! Separated by vast distances, each island or set of islands is entirely different from the last. Some are snaking atolls whose shallow reefs stretch for hundreds of meters but are only noticeable by a small sandbar that breaks the surface at low tides. Others are more limestone in nature, lined by white sand beaches, and sprout dense tropical forests. And of course, since these are the islands that inspired the name “The Ring of Fire”, many of the islands are your quintessential conical volcanoes, abruptly presenting themselves from the deep blue sea.

The reefs and marine life are just as diverse as the islandscapes are. Around the volcanic islands, you're likely to find many more leather corals and sponges mixed in with hard encrusting corals. You'll also see patches of chocolate colored sand where any number of invertebrates could be found. Two of the volcanoes in the Banda Sea are ultra-unique in that they are home to hundreds, if not thousands, of black-banded sea kraits, which are very different from the black and white

banded sea snakes that we're used to seeing. Depending on the time of day, you can see groups of five or more of these snakes hunting together with the jacks and emperor fish. These are two of the only islands in the world where you can witness an abundance of sea snakes such as this. Don't worry, for you non-snake lovers; there are plenty of other species to goggle at in the Forgotten Islands, the reefs are teeming with life!

## **Banda Sea by Liveboard**

My personal favorite way to experience the Banda Sea is by liveboard. While Wakatobi Resort is a great option to immerse yourself in the Banda Sea's turquoise waters, a liveboard will give you the unparalleled freedom to explore its most remote islands and atolls. It might be hard to tell from the map, but every island or set of islands is roughly eighty to one hundred miles from each other. Snorkeling the Banda Sea by liveboard means you'll experience a variety of islands, with reefs and marine life that are unique to that individual island or islands. As you travel through the night to the next destination, every morning you're presented with a whole new vista above the water, and an entirely new adventure below the water. Also, given that there are multiple starting and finishing points for the liveboards, there are a number of itineraries that visit different parts of the Banda Sea. For example, one itinerary could start in one of the easternmost ports in Indonesia, Saumlaki, before heading north through the Forgotten Islands with stops at islands like Manuk and the Banda Islands, before finishing in Raja Ampat. Another itinerary could start around Alor, offering you the opportunity to explore some of the most colorful reefs in all of Indonesia before heading east to islands like Wetar and the atolls around Damar, followed by the Forgotten and Banda Islands, and finishing with some world-class muck snorkeling in Ambon. These are just two of about a dozen different Banda Sea Liveboard itineraries!



## **Wakatobi Resort**

If liveboards aren't your thing, then an excellent option for you to experience the surreal beauty of the Banda Sea is from Wakatobi Resort, off the southeast coast of Sulawesi. Wakatobi is a very upscale resort situated on a small palm-studded island, fringed by white sandy beaches, turquoise waters, and reefs that come right up to the surface, exploding with life and color. From the shores of this resort, you'll be able to experience for yourself what all the fuss is about when it comes to the Banda Sea.

While you won't necessarily get the whole experience of being able to cruise from one unique island to the next, you also won't be subject to the motion of the ocean for the better part of two weeks. Around Wakatobi, the snorkeling sites are close, with a maximum distance of fifteen minutes, and they are spectacular. The reefs in the area are typically characterized by a shallow coral plateau composed of a mixture of hard corals, soft corals, and sponges, with numerous sea fans and barrel sponges found where the reef transitions into a wall. The redtoothed triggerfish—the mascot of the Banda Sea—are a staple on most sites, as are things like sea snakes, crocodile fish, and every type of anemone fish you could imagine!

## **Snorkeling Highlights** **of the Banda Sea**

As you've learned by now, the Banda Sea is a vast area with numerous islands, atolls, and underwater environments, each of which supports a unique habitat for various species. With that in mind, here's a little list of some of the things that guests have found to be the trip highlights in the past.

### **MANUK'S SEA SNAKES**

The reefs around Manuk—a sulfurous volcano in the chain of Forgotten Islands—are second to none, but the thing that makes this one of the biggest spectacles is the sheer abundance of black-banded sea kraits. Depending on the time of day and current, on one snorkel, you can see anywhere from twenty to one hundred of these sea snakes scouring the reef for their next meal or coming to the surface for a quick breath of air.

### **THE BANDA ISLANDS' MELON-HEAD WHALES**

In the past, a resident superpod of melon-headed whales has been known to cruise around the Banda Islands. With a bit of luck, we'll cross paths with them as we transit between the different islands, and they'll ride the boat's bow wave. This pod is absolutely massive, with up to a hundred or more individuals. We have been lucky enough to snorkel with them in the past, but encounters are very brief, as they do tend to dive as soon as you even think about getting in the water with them.



### **KOON'S BIG FISH AGGREGATION**

With the Banda Sea at its southern edge and the Ceram Sea to the north, the Island of Koon is home to Eastern Indonesia's largest aggregation of spawning fish. While catching it in time for a mass spawning, which can last a few minutes to a few hours, requires an abundance of luck and precision timing, there is never a shortage of fish on this site, and they do tend to be at a depth accessible to us snorkelers.

### **THE WALLS AND REEFS OF WETAR AND DAMAR**

Every island we'll visit will have stunning reefs, but there's something about the reefs around Wetar Island and the Damar Islands that gives me goosebumps. Soft corals and sea fans cling to the islands' walls, not offering even a glimpse of their limestone foundations beneath, while hard corals mixed with sponges and leather corals carpet these islands' shallow plateaus.

### **HONEYCOMB MORAYS**

For whatever reason, these big and beautiful honeycomb morays can be found on just about any reef in the Banda Sea. I don't think I've come across one anywhere else in Indonesia, only in the Banda Sea!

### **AMBON'S CRITTERS**

While we don't generally spend more than a day in Ambon, as we use it as a point of disembarkation, we can find some truly magnificent critters in the shallows. Much like Alor or the Lembah Strait, Ambon is one of the critter capitals of the world, and everything from seahorses, frogfish, flying gurnards, ghost pipefish, and even rhinopias can be spotted here.

### **BIG BLUE WHALES**

If you happen to be in the Banda Sea between May and October/November, there's a very good chance of encountering the mighty blue whale. These behemoths migrate up to the Banda Sea each year to give birth and court, and can be spotted from the boat as we cross between islands. If given the opportunity, we'll even try to get in the water with the blue whales—the largest animal to ever live.





**GREEN  
FINS**

# WHY SHOULD WE CHOOSE OUR SUNSCREEN CAREFULLY?

**Sunscreen is widely used when swimming, diving and snorkelling.**

However, studies have shown some chemical components in sunscreen, including **oxybenzone, octinoxate, nano zinc oxide and nano titanium dioxide**, can have negative impacts on the environment, even in very small doses.

Toxic sunscreen  
**will wash off into  
marine or freshwater  
and could harm corals  
and other aquatic life.**

These chemicals have **harmful and sometimes deadly effects** on a wide range of species – including on their immune systems, reproduction, behaviour and resilience.

**THESE EFFECTS CAN LAST  
MULTIPLE GENERATIONS.**

You can prevent harmful chemicals entering the water by

**COVERING UP  
IN THE SUN**

and/or use sunscreens that

**ONLY HAVE NON-NANO  
ZINC OXIDE OR TITANIUM DIOXIDE**

in their active ingredients list.

Do not rely on claims like "reef safe".

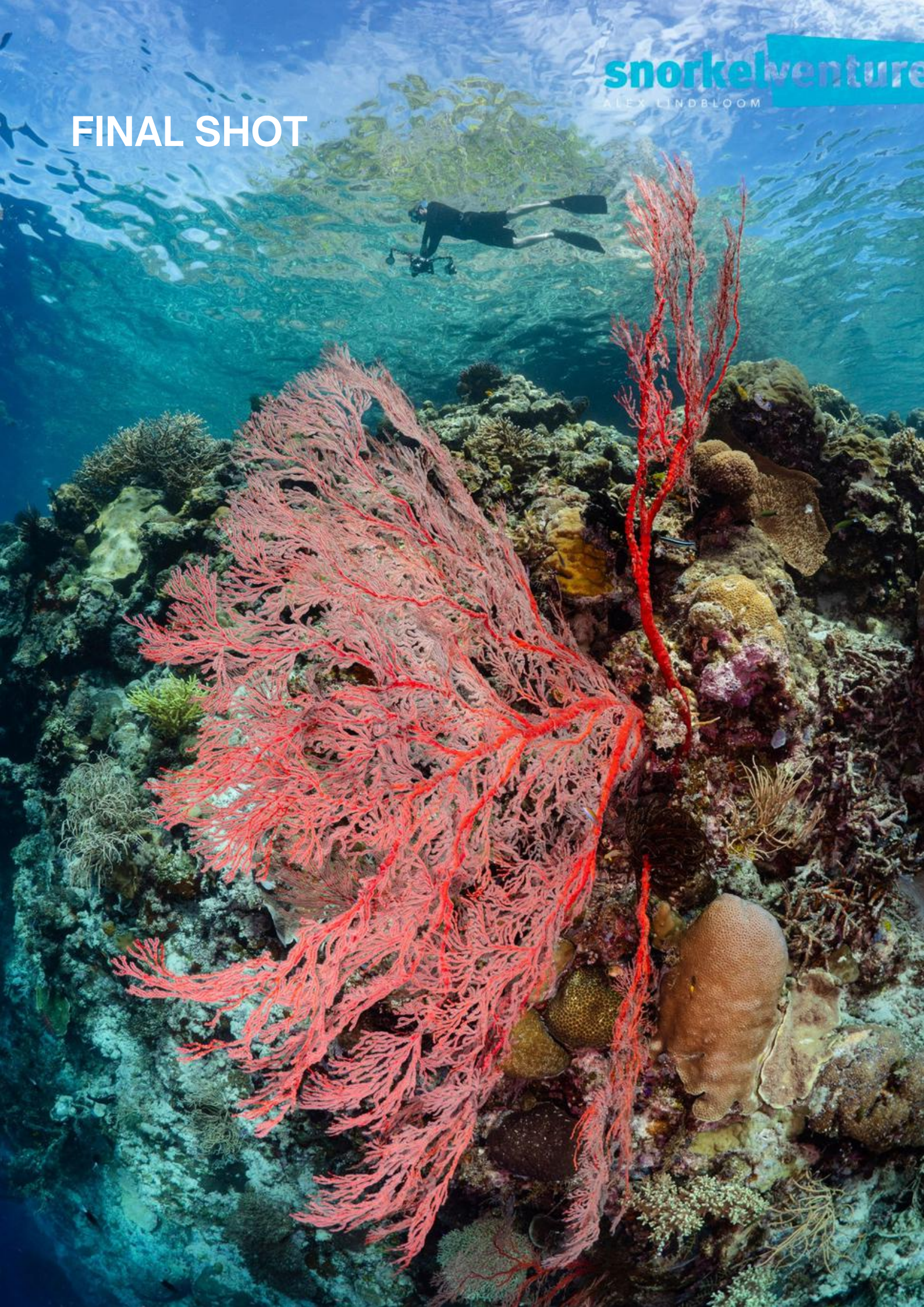
This is not backed by science.



snorkelventure

ALEX LINDBLOOM

# FINAL SHOT



**snorkelventure**

# STAY CONNECTED TO THE SNORKEL VENTURE COMMUNITY



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