

NITROX



The IANTD Diving Magazine

Travel

Recreational

Technical Dive

Gear

Photography

News

SIPADAN, Malasia

IANTD Ambassadors
Public Safety Divers
Interview: Kurt Storms
19th CMAS Photo and
5th Video World Championship



Nitrox | IANTD Diving Magazine | 2024 | ISSUE 01



IANTD UWP Instructor Trainer, Creator and editor-in-chief of several diving magazines in Brazil over the past 15 years, extensive knowledge of the diving market worldwide, also collaborated with the world's largest dive magazines, besides contributing with several others diving and tourism publications.

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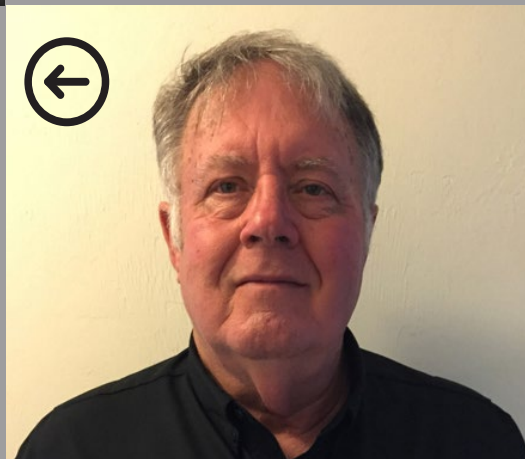
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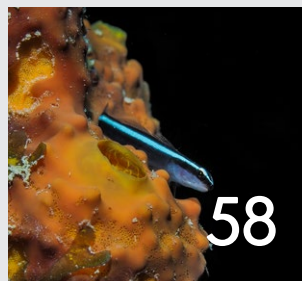
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Luis Augusto Pedro, diver since 1986 and a diving professional since 1991. Trained a great number of divers, instructors, and instructor trainers. Former IANTD Brazil Licensee, author and contributor on some IANTD training materials and others. Presently IANTD Worldwide Headquarters CEO.

NITROX is a IANTD publication that covers topics about diving, equipment, photography and lifestyle activities.

Year 1 | No. 01 | February | 2024

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Unveiling the Depths with the Relaunch Edition of NITROX the IANTD's Scuba Diving Magazine"

Dear Instructors, divers and friends, Welcome to the breathtaking world beneath the waves as we proudly present the Relaunch edition of NITROX, the official magazine of the International Association of Nitrox and Technical Divers (IAANTD). As we immerse ourselves in the wonders of the deep blue, this publication aims to be your compass, guiding you through the latest developments, inspiring stories, and expert insights in the realm of scuba diving.

At IAANTD, our commitment to exploration, education, and safety has fueled our passion for the underwater world. With NITROX, we aim to share this passion with divers of all levels, from novices dipping their toes into the mesmerizing oceanic universe to seasoned veterans seeking new challenges and discoveries. In this inaugural edition, you can expect a curated blend of articles that celebrate the diverse facets of scuba diving. From thrilling adventure narratives to in-depth technical insights, NITROX is your go-to source for staying abreast of the ever-evolving scuba landscape. Our expert contributors, including renowned divers, underwater photographers, marine biologists, and industry leaders, bring you firsthand experiences, cutting-edge research, and practical tips to enhance your diving journey. Explore the latest advancements in diving technology, discover uncharted dive sites around the globe, and delve into the captivating stories of individuals who have made the underwater world their second home. NITROX is more than just a magazine; it's a community of like-minded individuals who share a profound love for the ocean and a commitment to responsible diving practices.

As we embark on this exciting venture, we invite you to be part of the NITROX community. Share your stories, insights, and photos with us, and let's build a vibrant, collaborative space that celebrates the beauty and importance of our oceans. Whether you're a recreational diver, technical explorer, or an underwater conservation advocate, NITROX is your portal to the wonders that lie beneath the surface. Join us in celebrating the inaugural edition of this magazine, and let's NITROX together into a world of endless possibilities beneath the waves.

Happy diving!
Luis Augusto Pedro
IAANTD HQ CEO

SIPADAN, THE PEARL OF MALAYSIA

Text and Photos by Kadu Pinheiro



“I have seen other places like Sipadan years ago. Now we have found again an untouched piece of art”. – Jacques-Yves Cousteau.

Sipadan stands out as one of the premier dive locations globally, captivating divers with its diverse marine life and captivating sights. This mushroom-shaped island, visible as a distant silhouette, boasts 12 distinct dive points. For anyone with even a moderate

interest in diving, the name Sipadan is likely to resonate. Situated off the eastern coast of Malaysian Borneo, this near-legendary island is a product of a reef flourishing atop an extinct volcano, ascending 600 meters from the ocean floor.





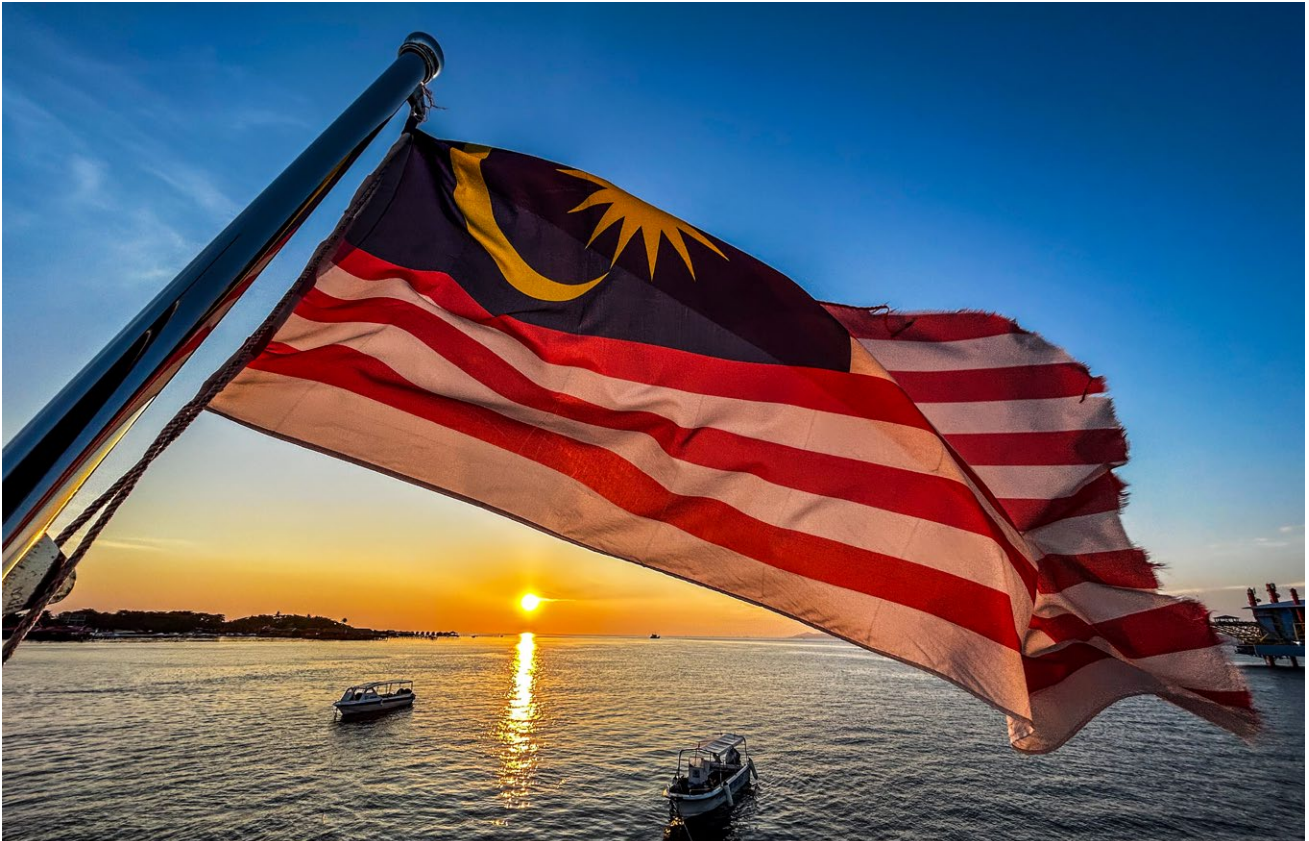
Over the last few decades, Sipadan has solidified its reputation as one of the world's foremost diving destinations, arguably holding the top spot in Southeast Asia. Divers flock to its waters to encounter dense schools of barracudas, majestic

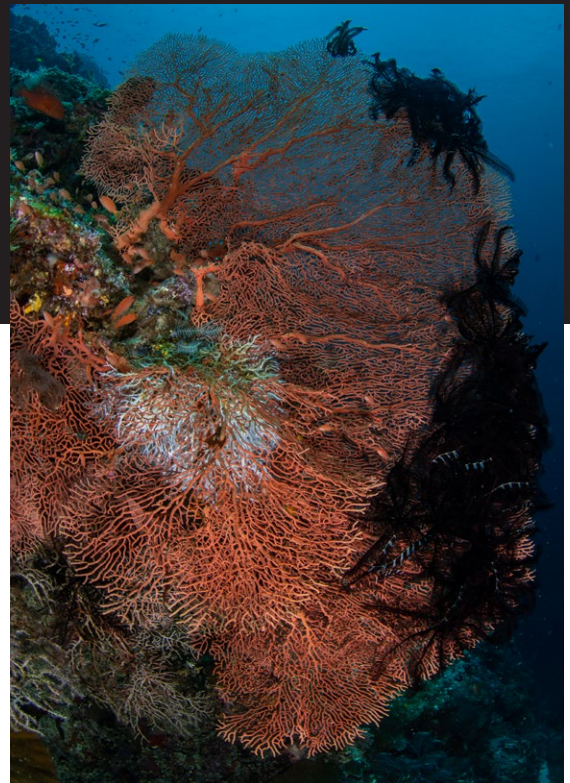
pelagic species like scalloped hammerheads, mantas, and eagle rays. Notably, it is renowned for the remarkable abundance of green and hawksbill turtles, with divers often encountering more than 20 turtles on a single dive—an extraordinary

concentration not easily found elsewhere. This marine wonderland hosts over 3,000 fish species and hundreds of coral varieties, establishing Sipadan as a crucial marine habitat in the region.

Yet, beneath its serene surface, this seemingly insignificant landmass carries a history as intricate as the coral formations that surround it. Here are

some facts about this remote underwater paradise that unfold a narrative stretching far beyond the arrival of divers.





Barracuda Point is often hailed as the best, offering a unique chance to be surrounded by a mesmerizing whirlpool of barracuda. On the other

hand, some argue that the Drop Off provides an even more exceptional experience, involving a mere 9.14-meter stroll along the beach before

descending into the water. From there, divers can navigate around the island wall, a staggering 600 meters from the ocean floor.

ABOUT THE ISLAND



Did you know that Sipadan's initial claim to fame was as a Bird Sanctuary? Migratory birds, including the wood sandpiper, share the habitat with common sea eagles, kingfishers, sunbirds, starlings, and megapodes.



SIPADAN



For those eager to explore Sipadan's underwater wonders, it's important to note that divers need a permit, with a daily cap set at 176

permits (156 for diving and 20 for snorkeling). Each diver is allowed three dives per day, and permits, valid for a single day, must be obtained

from diving resorts. For more information or to secure a permit, direct inquiries should be made with the respective dive resorts.

ACCOMODATION



While Sipadan itself no longer offers accommodation, divers often choose to stay on nearby islands such as Mabul, Kapalai, or on the mainland in Semporna. These alternative bases provide convenient access to the enchanting underwater realm of Sipadan.

But if you look for the best way to dive in Sipadan I recommend the MV Celebes Explorer 9. Built and launched in October 2019, MV Celebes Explorer 9 is the only Sipadan liveaboard diving option and clearly the best way to dive at Sipadan dive sites every day.



MV CELEBES EXPLORER 9



You can join different lengths of cruises every Tuesdays and Fridays. A full charter is also a great option for groups of 10 to 16 people. This 35m motor yacht is uniquely placed to allow 16 guests to maximize their time underwater at the dive sites around the

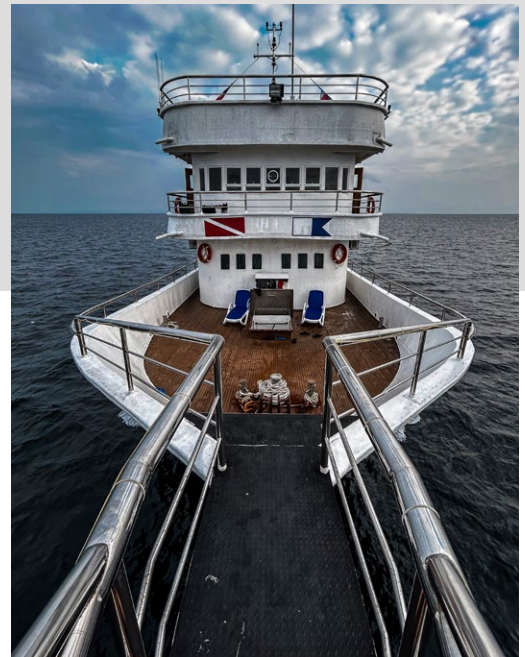
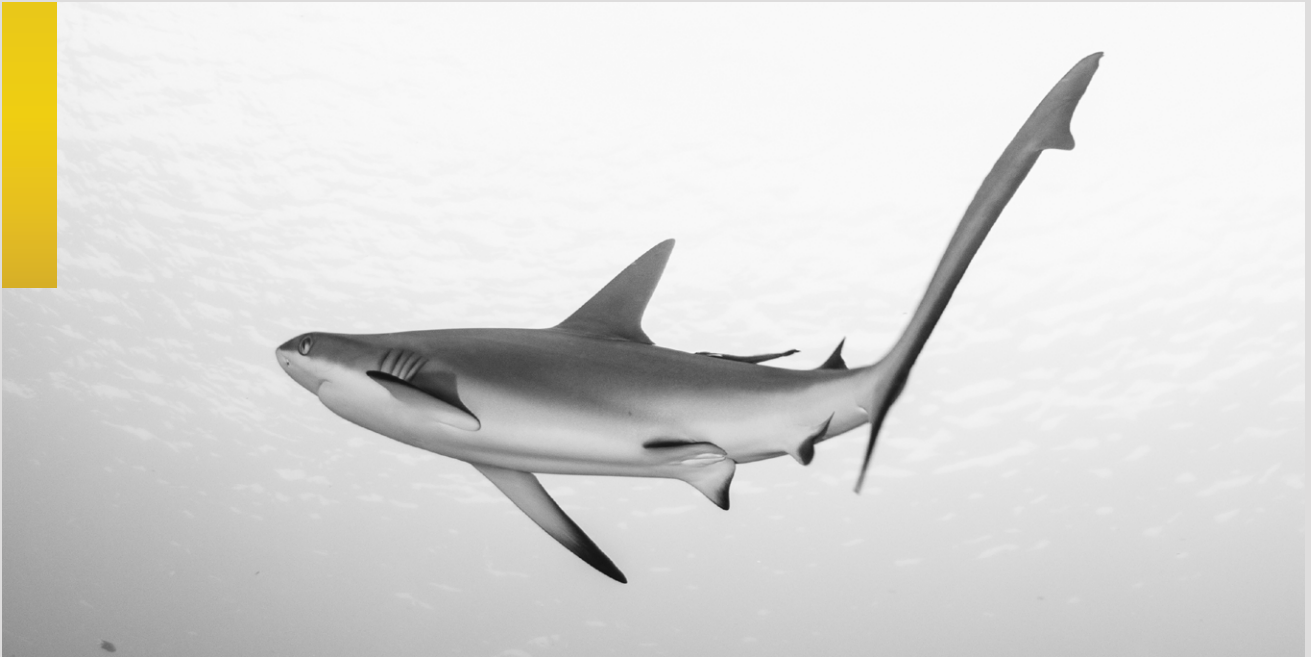
legendary Sipadan island. When not diving, you can hang out in the main deck's air-conditioned saloon reading a book from the library or playing cards. The dining area is also located there, where buffet-style meals are served.



There is also a TV and music system, where you can listen to music and watch films or underwater clips. There is also a 3rd indoor relaxation room on the upper deck where you can lounge on the sofa

and have a drink. Open air chill-out spaces include the sun deck, and the shaded and furnished open-air zone at the stern of the main deck.





Here you can stretch out on sun loungers and soak up the sun or enjoy a cool refreshing drink as the sun sets over the Celebes Sea. All 8 spacious and comfortable cabins have

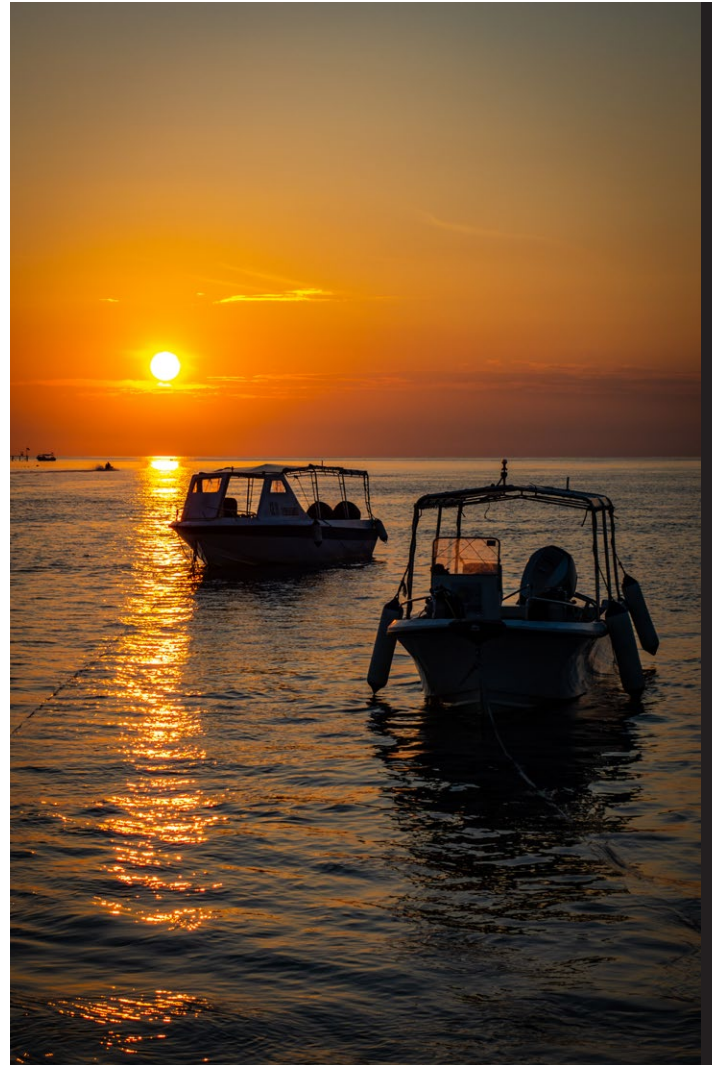
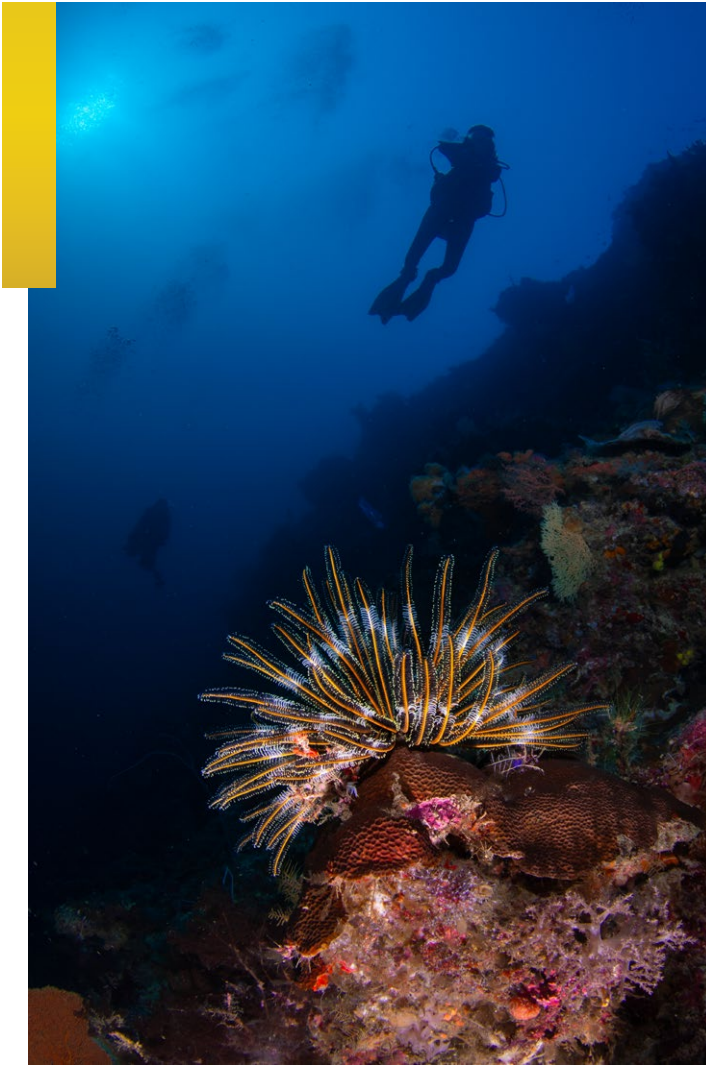
air-conditioning, plenty of storage and ensuite bathrooms. 2 double bed cabins are on the middle deck (with large sea view windows and with doors that open to the outside

deck), 6 twin bed cabins are on the lower deck (with portholes and with doors that open to a central corridor).

Divers suit up and step down to the dive tender where they can put on their BCD, mask, and fins before diving the delights of Sipadan. Note that diving is in Sipadan every day. There

are 3 dives at Sipadan, plus an additional dive at Mabul or Kapalai every diving day. So, if you want to experience more time underwater at Sipadan than any other option can provide.





It is not a luxurious boat, but it is clean and well maintained, it has a very well-trained crew and excellent guides and counts with simple, but very delicious food.

Starting from December 2020 onward, Sipadan Island will undergo a temporary closure every December. This month-long hiatus is designed to provide a period of recovery for coral and marine life.

BARRACUDA VORTEX:

A highlight at Barracuda Point is the captivating sight of thousands of Chevron Barracudas forming a spinning silver vortex or tornado in the robust current.

Ranging from half a meter to a full meter in length, these sharp-toothed predators are typically docile. Exercise caution and avoid wearing shiny gear that might attract undue attention.



Locating the barracuda vortex is no longer a guaranteed occurrence, becoming a rare event in recent years according to information from local guides.



HAWKSBILL AND GREEN TURTLES:



Considered endangered and rare, these gentle giants are a common sight in Sipadan due to local turtle conservation

projects. Divers may encounter as many as 20 to 50 in a single dive. Approach softly for a chance of minute-long

interaction. The presence of a school of Jacks often signals the imminent arrival of sea turtles.





SCHOOLS OF BUMPHEAD PARROTFISH:

These eccentric-looking vertical fish, with a bulbous hump on their heads and razor-sharp teeth, can grow up to 1-1.5 meters (3-4 feet) and weigh up to 160 pounds.

Frequently seen marching along in single file, they consume up to 5 tons of coral and algae annually.



WHITE-TIP SHARKS:

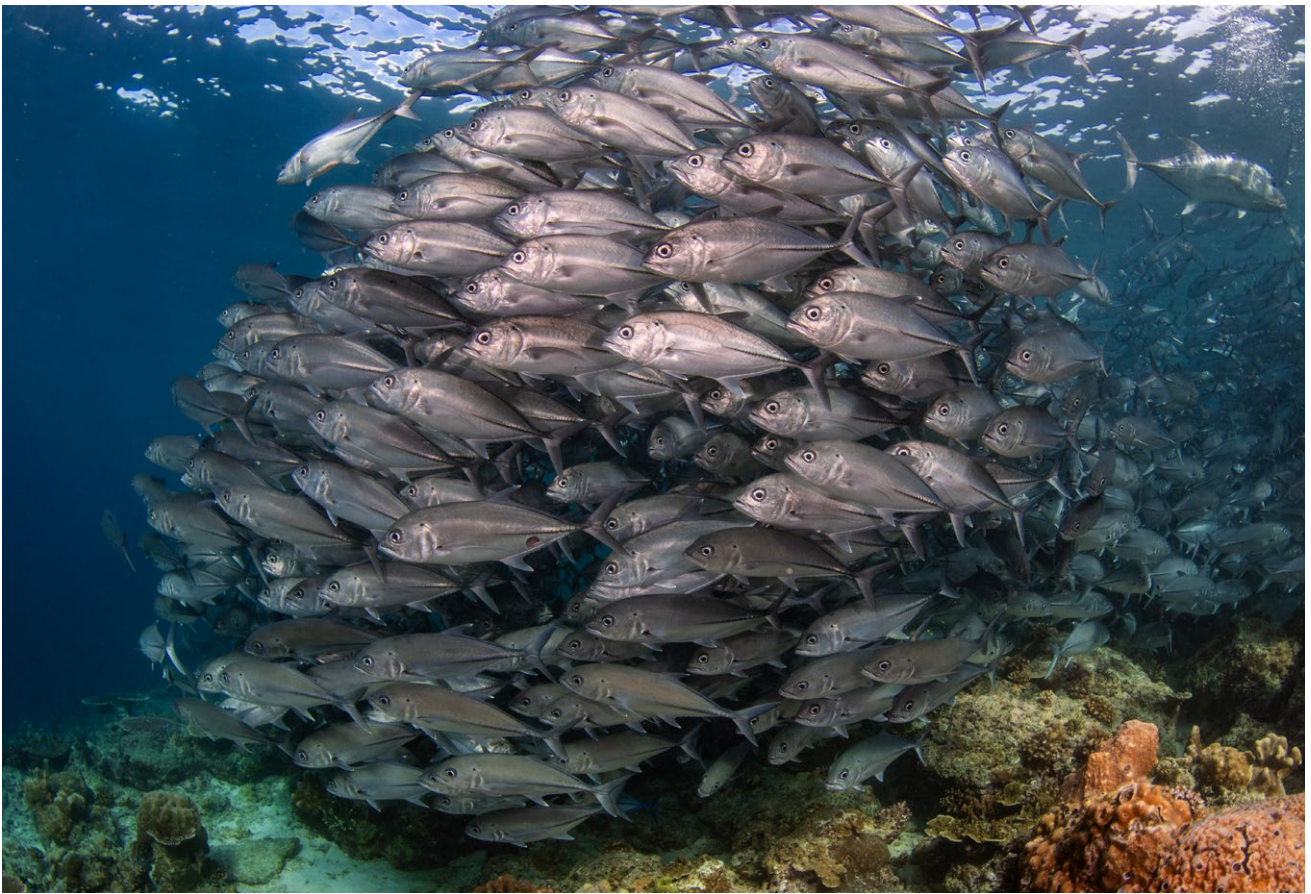


The most common sharks in Sipadan are White & Black Tip Reef Sharks, generally shy during the day but turning into fierce

predators of small fish and crustaceans at night. Often found sleeping along coral reef ledges or inside sandy cavern floors.



SCHOOLS OF BIGEYE TREVALLIES:



Swarming on reef plateaus at depths of 10-15 meters (30-45 feet), Bigeye Jacks form slow-moving, gentle silver tornadoes.

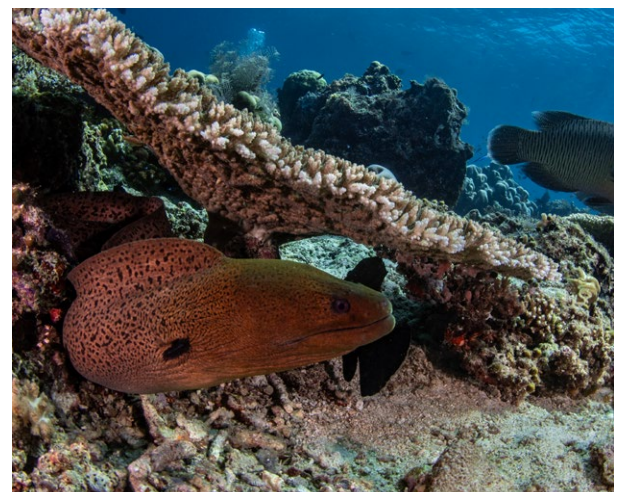
Solitary or smaller groups of Bluefin Jacks and Giant Trevallies may also be spotted.

TURTLE CAVERN



Exploring the Turtle Cavern stands out as a prominent attraction on Sipadan Island, renowned for its extraordinary geological formations and the presence of turtle skeletons.

Situated approximately 18 meters below the surface, the entrance to Turtle Cave unveils a bell-shaped descent tunnel that eventually leads to the lower chamber. Navigating along the left side of the cavern guides you to a tunnel connecting Turtle Cavern with Turtle Tomb, a compact cave system housing numerous turtle skeletons.





This accumulation occurs as a result of the substantial number of turtles that enter the cave but struggle to locate the exit.

Embarking on this dive requires the assistance of an experienced guide and specialized equipment to ensure a safe and fulfilling exploration.

LONGFIN BATFISH:



The common Longfin Batfish, found sheltering among coral gardens or shipwrecks, displays various varieties and colors.

Known for swimming up to boats and closely following divers, these fish seek refuge and contribute to coral reef preservation.





HOW THE ISLAND GOT ITS NAME:

The origins of the name Sipadan are obscured, with various theories. One suggests it may come from the Siparan people, part of the local Bajau ethnicity, who harvested turtle eggs on the island.

A BIRD SANCTUARY BEFORE A DIVERS' PLAYGROUND:



Initially identified as a haven for birdlife, Sipadan served as a megapode bird sanctuary from 1932 until the 1970s when its significance as a marine habitat was recognized.



THE LIGHTHOUSE OF SIPADAN:



The island's disputed ownership with Indonesia was resolved in Malaysia's favor, partly due to the existence of a lighthouse, symbolizing Malaysia's 'effective occupation.'



A WRANGLE OVER TURTLE EGGS:

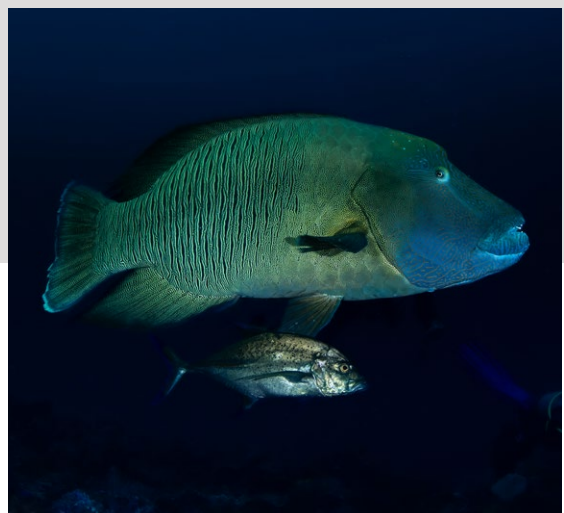
The right to collect turtle eggs were hereditary, granted in perpetuity in 1878. A court battle in the late '80s led to an end of egg collecting on the island.



THE TURTLE HATCHERY ON SIPADAN:

A lesser-known hatchery in Sipadan contributes to sea turtle conservation efforts. Permits for a visit must be arranged directly with the hatchery.

HOW SIPADAN BECAME A WORLD-RENOWNED DIVING SPOT:



Jacques Cousteau's exploration in the 1970s popularized Sipadan as a premier diving site, describing it as an "untouched piece of art."

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE:



Despite surviving storms and controversies, Sipadan faces ongoing challenges, including pollution from increasing diving tours.

However, with responsible management and a ban on development in place, Sipadan's recognition by UNESCO remains a real

possibility. Gazetted as a park since 2009, this natural treasure continues to be a coveted entry in any diver's logbook.





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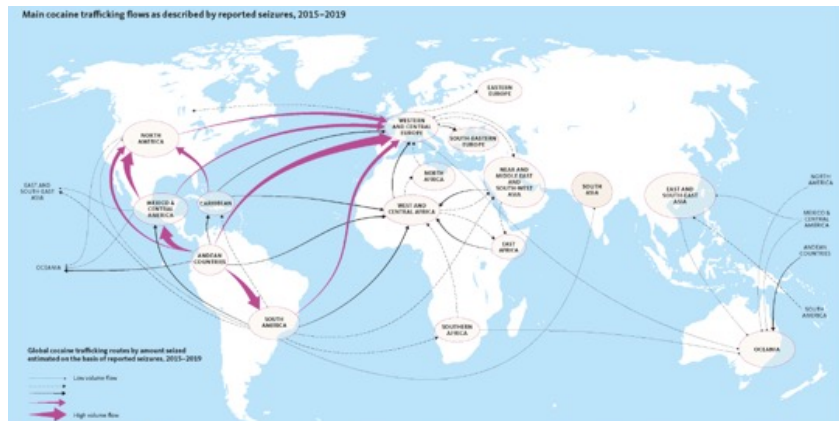
IANTD HULL SEARCH SPECIALIST DIVER IN BRAZIL.

A IANTD COURSE THAT IS GIVING REAL RESULTS.

Text and Photos by Ronaldo Possato



The use of ships for international drug trafficking is already known by port authorities, especially inside dry cargo and containers, but with more modern equipment for checking container loads, a decrease in trade during the pandemic, and with that less containers for inspection and because it is more difficult for the police to track and arrest those responsible for the origin and destination of the seized drugs, this modality has been growing a lot in recent years.



United Nation Office on Drug and Crime. Cocaine market, 2021.





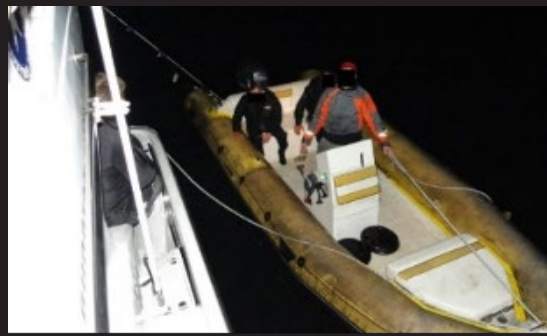
A Norwegian government survey was conducted in 2021 entitled The Cocaine Pipeline to Europe. Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime, estimated that in 2019, between 500 and 800 tons of cocaine entered European ports, of which only 10 to 20% were seized by the authorities.

This new modus operandi used by organized crime gave rise to a new discipline at the Public Safety Diving (PSD), in

courses aimed specifically at police officers. International trafficking to Europe is more profitable than to the United States, the study revealed that a Kg of cocaine in the US would be U\$ 28,000.00, and in Europe it ranged from U\$ 40,000.00 to 80,000.00, depending on the destination.

Although the US has carried out this type of inspection with greater presence since 2002, in Brazil, there was no doctrine about it, PSD

itself was in its infancy. In 2014 we started PSD, Hull Search, and Contaminated Water training and certifications for the first team of COE (Comandos e Operações Especiais-Police Special Operation Team) police divers. The prerequisites for starting the course were: Having a Special Operations course, being certified by a diving agency as, at least, an Rescue Diver, or having the Autonomous Diving Course of Brazilian Navy.



In 2015, the COE carried out the first hull searching operation, named Operation Sea Lion, together with the Customs Authorities, locating 172 kg of cocaine, as well as several signaling objects used to locating the drugs.

Three former Serbian soldiers were arrested, wearing scuba gear, tried to

escape in an inflatable boat. Image1: Former Serbian soldiers arrested during the installation of drugs in the Port of Santos in 2015. We can observe in the second photo the signaling equipment and in the third photo the seized drugs.

We focused on an operation with less manpower, also testing

various configurations of diving equipment, such as mechanical and electronic rebreathers, side mount, steel doubles in back mount, MSP configuration with redundancy and dependent equipment, but it was in surface supplied diving that we obtained the best results.

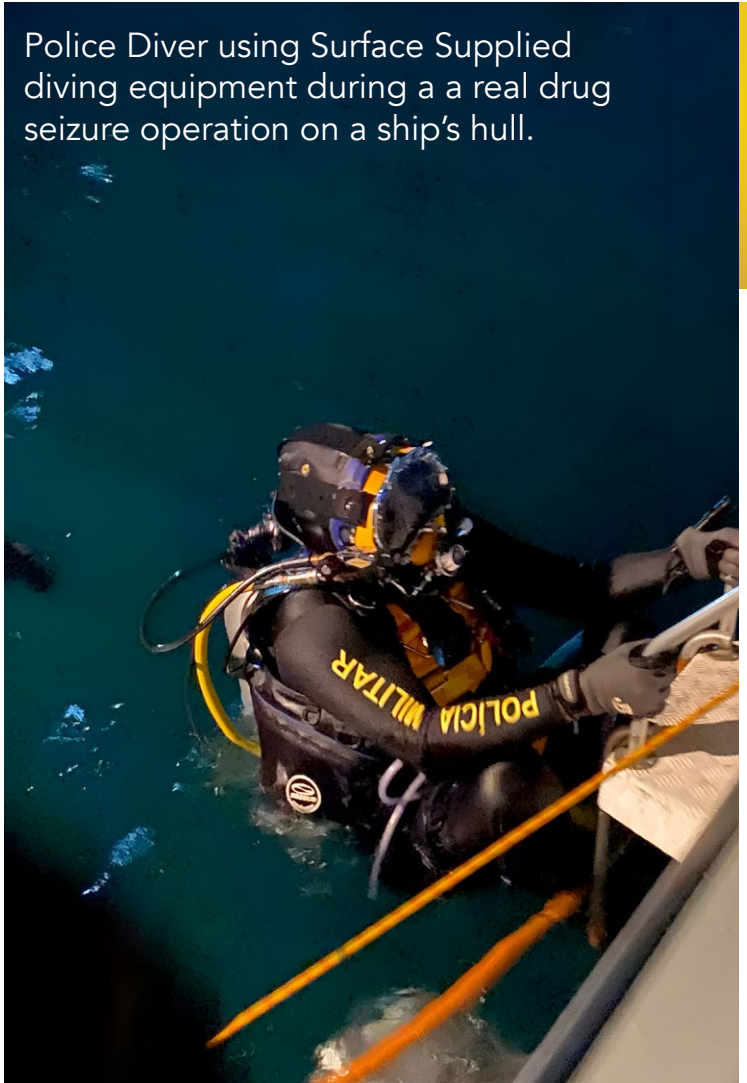
Year	Police Department	Divers
2014	COE São Paulo	8
2014	BOPE Bahia	6
2020	CB Espírito Santo	14
2021	CB São Paulo	13
2021	Federal Police	9
2022	COE São Paulo	7
2022	Federal Police	6

Figure 3 – Hull Search Courses held in Brazil.





Police Diver using Surface Supplied diving equipment during a a real drug seizure operation on a ship's hull.



Surface supplied diving, in which the main source of gas comes from the surface through an umbilical, a sweeping operation on the hull of ships takes 1/3 of the time compared to SCUBA equipment (Self Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus), also reducing the amount of cylinders involved in this operation. In sweeps, the physical effort demanded by the diver, added to the constant need to change cylinders and

decontamination processes, it becomes faster to use the dependent, where the main gas supply, when the cylinder is already at low pressure, is switched to a spare cylinder or bank of cylinders, and the cylinder is changed at the surface, without the diver needing to leave the bottom. There is also a better use of the gas in the cylinders, which can be used up to 35 bar, while in the use of SCUBA, the diver leaves the bottom with

1/3 of the initial amount of gas, usually 70 bar. If the reader wants to go deeper into the knowledge of dependent diving, I recommend reading my book: Public Safety Diving Using Dependent Equipment, which details the equipment, configurations, standards and use of this type of configuration for the MSP.

The hull search specialist diver IANTD course is focused on giving theoretical and practical knowledge to PSD divers in ship hull scanning techniques, dangers in this type of diving, preparing

the hull to start searches, case studies and others necessary to do this type of diving. The course lasts two days, encompassing a real hull search operation.

YEAR	SEIZURES	TOTAL AMOUNT
2018	01	54,81 Kg
2019	02	341 Kg
2020	09	1.150,44 Kg
2021	14	1.793,77 Kg
2022	26	4.347,80 Kg



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Is standardization necessary on diving market?

Have you ever wondered about standardization? Why all the passenger cars in the world have the same tire inflation tips? Or that your phone's charger is so universal that you can use it to charge other devices or ask someone to share it? Of course, voices will immediately rise: "well, you know this company uses such a connector and that one uses another". True. Except that now even very conservative Apple has already introduced a USB-C connector in its latest flagship. It is similar in diving. Different manufacturers or diving organizations are looking for optimal solutions. The diving

market is very diverse. We have professional diving, commercial diving, military diving, which are very strictly controlled by state regulations with clearly defined formal responsibilities for individual members of the diving team. Then there is a recreational market, in which all those who simply want to dive in their free time participate. It is theoretically self-regulating, which means that we, as actors operating in this market, based on our experience and knowledge, create the applicable standards by ourselves. Recreational diving has grown rapidly since the 1960s. Due to the

evolution of equipment, diving techniques or, finally, medical knowledge, these standards are being constantly updated. Still, let's imagine a situation where we are an operator of a dive boat, where divers come from all over the world, and each of them presents a license on which it is written that he or she is a diver. A license that allows you to dive to 18, 30, 40 meters. However, it is not clear under what conditions the course took place. How many dives were performed? What procedures were taught? Is it safe to join a diver with others in the group?



A common diving practice in such a case is a "check dive," where a professional asks the diver to perform a few basic exercises and observes the diver's behavior from the moment he assembles his equipment until he exits the water. But this is not always possible. What if someone only wants to do one dive? Who to pair him with to avoid a dangerous situation? Professional only?

Standardization and good diving practice come to our aid. The latter is, for example, having a log book that records dive history, environment, equipment used, depth range and... the date of the last dive. Standardization, on the other hand, refers to the certificate a diver presents. It should reflect his level of training. When the candidate comes to the Instructor to start the certain level of training should fulfill the prerequisites stated in the Standards. It could be quite complicated to recognize licenses issued by different diving federations unless they are the part of the international standardization system. The names of the same level could be different or sometimes the name is the same but assigned to totally different level. For this reason, the self-regulating diving market has established several organizations that propose guidelines for training organizations to maximize the safety of diving students and their instructors.

How to prove the fulfilment of standards

RSTC in the US market, CMAS and EUF in Europe or ISO with a worldwide reach, have proposed very specific standards, the fulfillment of which allows for the recognition of each other's diving degrees between a very large number of

training organizations around the world. For example the standard ISO24801-2 Autonomous Diver, precisely defines the training and credit requirements for an autonomous diver, that is named Open Water Diver in most training systems.

We currently have 13 such standards on the market, some of which apply to divers:

- ISO13289 Snorkelling Excursions,
- ISO11121 IntroDive,
- ISO24801-1 Supervised Diver,
- ISO11107 Nitrox,
- ISO21417 Environmental Training;

Another part to diving professionals:

- ISO13970 Snorkelling Guides,
- ISO24801-3 Leader,
- ISO24802-1 Assistant Instructor,
- ISO24802-2 Instructor;

And part to the dive center:

- ISO24803 Dive Center,
- ISO13293 Gas Blender,
- ISO21416 Environmental Services.

In order to prove that an organization has and applies standards, it must undergo an audit. Interestingly, a prerequisite for admittance to the audit is to function for a minimum of five years in the market. Another requirement is to invite the auditor to an Instructor Course so that he can assess the correctness and compliance of standards and procedures with those suggested by the certifying body.



Such an auditor is a person with a minimum of 15 years of experience as a diving instructor and well versed in the subject. In addition, the evaluator should be an active diver who is up to date with all changes in the market. Since the five-year validity period of the ISO certification that IANTD obtained through the efforts of Victor Cordoba, the Spanish Licensee, was ending in 2023, it was necessary to find a date and place that would suit both institutions. It was not an easy task. In the end, the Instructor Development Program held at IANTD Facility Beskid Divers in October was chosen as the auditable course. Although it is 500 kilometers to the

nearest sea (the Baltic Sea) from the site, and an hour and a half by car to a popular quarry with a dive base, it is one of the most active IANTD centers in Poland.

First-hand experience with an Auditor

When the auditor, Dr. Steffen Scholz, arrived on site and presented the multi-level assessment process, I knew there was no kidding around and everybody had to get down to work hard. The detailed review of the standards alone and the comparison of their content to ISO guidelines took two days. Issues of the territory in which the standards apply

were taken into account, as well as the consistency of the verbal writing. It is important that all instructors in the world interpret the Standards unambiguously. Sometimes it was necessary to clarify something or add a provision, which for someone who is professionally engaged in training divers might seem less relevant because it "defines the obvious". However, the lessons learnt from real-life experience and analysis of diving accidents are noticeable - all details need to be clearly explained and positioned in the right place. Young instructors undertaking the course must be fully aware of the goals and limitations of training.





Particularly important provisions concern safety, that is, for example, when an instructor should stop a dive. Under what environmental conditions, with what equipment problems and, perhaps less obviously, under what psychophysical condition of the student. The level of detail of the analysis of the training materials (textbooks, student workbooks and presentations) can be seen from the fact that some of the recommendations addressed the inclusion of a photo to illustrate and facilitate better understanding of the text. Other comments addressed specific programs. The diving market is constantly evolving, especially in a pro-environmental direction.

ISO has introduced two standards ISO21417 Environmental Training and ISO21416 Environmental Services. Since five years had passed from the previous evaluation, IANTD Standards and Procedures had to be supplemented to address these issues. A Marine Ecology Diver program was created, including all aspects of the ISO 21417 Standard and course materials (student manual, presentation). And here I need to express my great respect for the diligence of our CEO Luis Augusto Pedro, who spent all night preparing the materials so that they would go to the evaluator in the morning. Issues of Quality Management procedures, legal liability and insurance

were also evaluated. Everyone, including IT, Course Director, Instructor Candidate and myself as IANTD Central Europe Training Director, was invited to speak individually with the evaluator. This was to compare the perceptions of the organization's performance of all participants, representing different levels or positions. Candidates for instructors demonstrated the conduct of theoretical classes and practical diving skills in the pool. Everything, of course, in full accordance with the teaching methodology.

Since there are cameras installed in the pool at IANTD Facility Beskid Divers, we were able to watch and comment the progress of the instructor training in the comfort of the office, in front of the monitors, with a cup of coffee in hand.

After passing internal exams in diving theory, ethics, standards & procedures, classroom and confined water instruction, the Candidates were admitted to an Instructor's Exam, conducted by an Instructor Trainer who independently assessed their

level of preparation for future instructor work during an official Instructor's Exam.

Final remarks and acknowledgments

In retrospect, I think it was great experience and a privilege to work with such a high class professional and perfectionist as Dr. Steffen Scholz who evaluated the IANTD system. Thanks to his insightful analysis, the processes and standards could be traced and discussed together, in great

detail. I am very pleased to see not only the positive conclusion of the evaluation, but also the finding in our private conversation that IANTD has a healthy, stable and turbulence-proof structure.

This bodes well for the years to come, especially since changes in the modern world are extremely dynamic. Having well trained and conscious diving professionals, working safely with proper attitude is the best way to success.






CERTIFICATE

No.: S EUF CB 2006001

The Austrian Standards plus GmbH (certification body in accordance with ISO/IEC 17065) issues this certificate.

Holder of certificate:	International Association of Nitrox Divers Inc. dba IANTD 119 NW Ethan Place Suite 101, 32055 Lake City, United States of America (USA)
Scope:	The scope of this certificate comprises all IANTD regional offices and representatives licensed by IANTD HQ.
Standard(s):	ISO 11107:2009-06 <i>Training programmes on enriched air nitrox (EAN) diving</i> ISO 11121:2009-06 <i>Introductory training programmes to scuba diving</i> ISO 13293:2012-11 <i>Gas blender training programmes</i> ISO 13970:2011-12 <i>Training of recreational snorkelling guides</i> ISO 21417:2019-08 <i>Training on environmental awareness</i> ISO 24801-1:2014-04 <i>Training of recreational scuba divers - Supervised diver</i> ISO 24801-2:2014-04 <i>Training of recreational scuba divers - Autonomous diver</i> ISO 24801-3:2014-04 <i>Training of recreational scuba divers - Dive leader</i> ISO 24802-1:2014-04 <i>Training of scuba instructors - Level 1</i> ISO 24802-2:2014-04 <i>Training of scuba instructors - Level 2</i> This certificate attests the conformity of the service listed with the requirements of the standard referenced.
Service:	Training systems for recreational scuba divers ISO 24801-1 - IANTD Supervised Diver; ISO 24801-2 - IANTD Open Water Diver; ISO 24801-3 - IANTD Dive Master; ISO 24802-1- IANTD Assistant Instructor; ISO 24802-2 - IANTD Open Water Instructor; ISO 11107 - IANTD Enriched Air Nitrox Diver; ISO 11121 - IANTD Open Water Scuba Experience; ISO 13293 "Level 1 gas blender" - IANTD EANx Gas Blender; ISO 13293 "Level 2 gas blender" - IANTD Trimix Gas Blender; ISO 13970 - IANTD Free Diving Divemaster; ISO 21417 - IANTD Marine Ecology Diver
Mark of conformity:	This certificate entitles the holder of the certificate to use the following conformity mark: 
Date of issue:	2023-10-18
Date of initial issue:	2006-04-15
Date of expiry:	2028-03-13

Dr. Peter Jonas
Director Certification

INTERVIEW



NITROX: HOW DID YOU FIRST GET STARTED IN DIVING?

KURT: I was on holiday in Taba (Egypt) with my wife Caroline and my 2 children. Like every holiday, we had booked a boat trip for a fun day of snorkelling. Because diving, I had never thought of. Until I saw a French Instructor explaining an introductory dive to three people. I asked if it was still possible to try it too. My wife declared me crazy, but how happy I was when I surfaced from my dive. The first thing I shouted was, I'm going to do this more often. Once back in Belgium, I found myself a club and started the series of training courses that have made me the diver I am today.





INTERVIEW

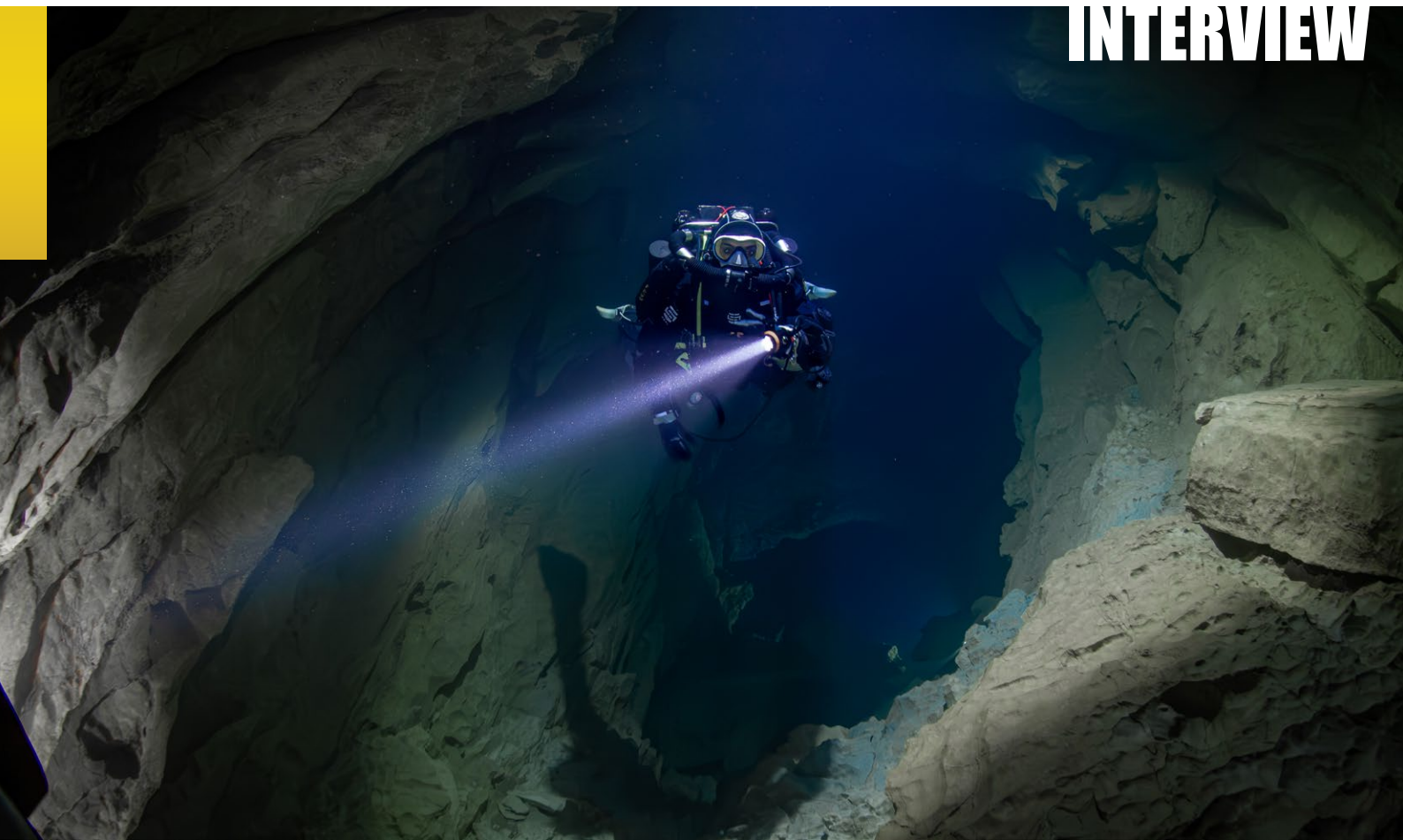
NITROX: WHEN DID YOU FIRST GET INTO UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHY?

KURT: I came to photography 20 years ago, when i was an avid plane spotter. but over

the years this had been diluted to actually no more photos. Through my good friend Vic Verlinden i got the passion for underwater photography. A few years ago we had some projects where Vic acted as photographer,

and I did the exploration. and this triggered me to give it a try too, with Vic's help I got my first equipment together, and followed his tips and tricks. And from then on, I was sold on underwater photography.





NITROX: WHAT IS YOUR RELATION WITH IANTD?

KURT: I started my diving career like many here in Belgium at NELOS, This is an organisation sponsored by the state, under the watchful eye of CMAS. But when I took my first steps towards technical diving, I ended up with an Instructor who teaches under IANTD. From then on, I started looking more into Technical diving, and now let IANTD be the leader in this.

The approach, the knowledge was a revelation to me that I have never forgotten.

I am therefore honoured that HQ chose me to become an ambassador.

And it is not because I became an ambassador that now IANTD is the best organisation, for me it is the best because the instructors are trained to a high level, and pass on their knowledge with passion.





NITROX: YOU ARE GETTING A SOLID REPUTATION FOR YOUR EYE-CATCHING WRECK, MINE AND CAVE DIVING PHOTOGRAPHS. WHAT IS IT ABOUT THESE SUBJECT AREAS THAT CAPTURES YOUR ATTENTION?

KURT: What appeals to me here is the unprecedented. it is not easy to put these images on paper. and now let this be what I am trying to do. but I want to do it in such a natural way. when I started photographing in the early days, more the model was the object I wanted to put on the picture, and the environment of the cave or wreck was an afterthought.

But I started to use a different technique, so now I use the model as an afterthought, and focus on the wrecks and the spaces inside the caves/mines. What appeals to me in these objects is because most of the population will never see these images without them.

INTERVIEW

NITROX: SHOOTING PHOTOGRAPHS IN CAVES, MINES AND OTHER OTHERHEAD ENVIRONMENTS IS A DAUNTING PROPOSITION - WHAT ARE SOME OF THE CHALLENGES YOU FACE WHEN PREPARING YOUR SHOTS?

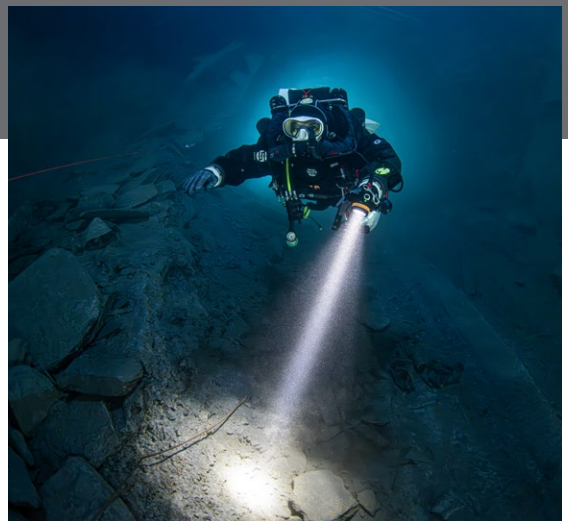
KURT: the biggest challenge obviously depends on the depth, but the biggest is the time we have to create a particular image. Often you surface afterwards, and think wan, darn. i should have brought it from this angle. For wrecks, the biggest

challenge is not to have too many divers in the image. Especially if you are off with a charter, and everyone is diving the wreck at the same time. For photographing caves and mines, the biggest challenge is, try not to create dust. the slightest movement that you do wrong comes at the expense of a good image. This puts a lot of pressure on the people who come along as models, or as illuminators. keeping them out of the picture is also sometimes a challenge, which is why good planning in advance is necessary.



INTERVIEW

INTERVIEW



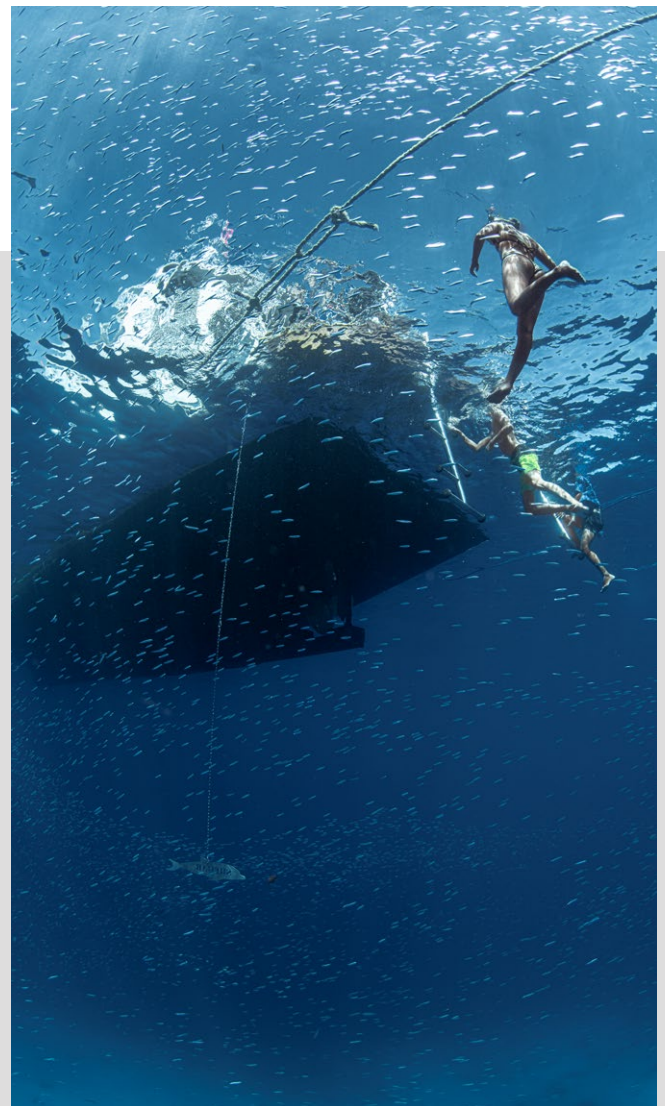
NITROX: WRECKS OR MINES/CAVES - WHICH IS YOUR DIVE OF CHOICE IF YOU HAVE TO CHOOSE BETWEEN THE TWO DIFFERENT TYPES OF DIVE?

KURT: My preference is still for caves and mines. but not everyone appeals to this environment, with that I try to combine. Especially the unknown appeals to me in the caves, what is there after the next turn.

NITROX: YOU OFTEN EMPLOY A CCR WHEN YOU ARE ON A PHOTO-SHOOT DIVE. WHAT ARE THE MAIN REASONS FOR UTILISING MODERN TECH SUCH AS A CLOSED-CIRCUIT REBREATHER?

KURT: I never dive without my Divesoft rebreather anymore. For me, the rebreather is the best gift for an underwater photographer. For any type of photographer, it is the best tool. for

those photographers who like to take pictures of animals, the animals are not startled by the bubbles produced by an OC diver. The biggest reason I use a rebreather is, the time I get at depth with it, the consumption of a rebreather is just your metabolic oxygen consumption. Also, this reduces the Helium price versus an OC dive. Also, the warm air you breathe, making you less likely to cool down in cold environments like mines is an added plus.



INTERVIEW



NITROX: WHAT IS YOUR MOST-MEMORABLE DIVING EXPERIENCE?

KURT: my most memorable dive is at the Laplet mine in Belgium. This one is on private property, but we had permission to map it. I remember one of the first dives, when I went to lay line with my regular buddy so that our photographer on duty could just find his way back afterwards without a problem. Me and

my buddy Willem, at one point ended up in a gigantic space, with several other corridors. i couldn't believe my luck. i kept enjoying myself. afterwards, we were able to make a few more connections from this spot. but at that moment, i was so happy that we came across this and to this day, this is my best dive/discovery.

INTERVIEW



NITROX: ON THE FLIPSIDE, WHAT IS YOUR WORST DIVING MEMORY?

KURT: the worst dive? i find this a difficult question, because what is a bad dive, bad visibility? currents? one learns something from every dive. but should I point out a dive, it is a dive in Bali, on the Liberty wreck. i was on holiday there with my wife, and we decided to do some dives on the wreck, so I could photograph it. I had made clear arrangements in advance with the owner of the dive centre. and we were

provided with a guide. it already started going along in the water, there was some heavy wave action. but it wasn't really a problem. once we were ready, we descended to the wreck where I started to see where and how I would photograph it. However, after about 25 minutes of diving time, our guide decided to end the dive, even though we still had more than half of our gas supply, so after about 30 minutes we were back on the beach taking off our fins. this was normally the first of 3 dives, but I didn't dive again.

INTERVIEW



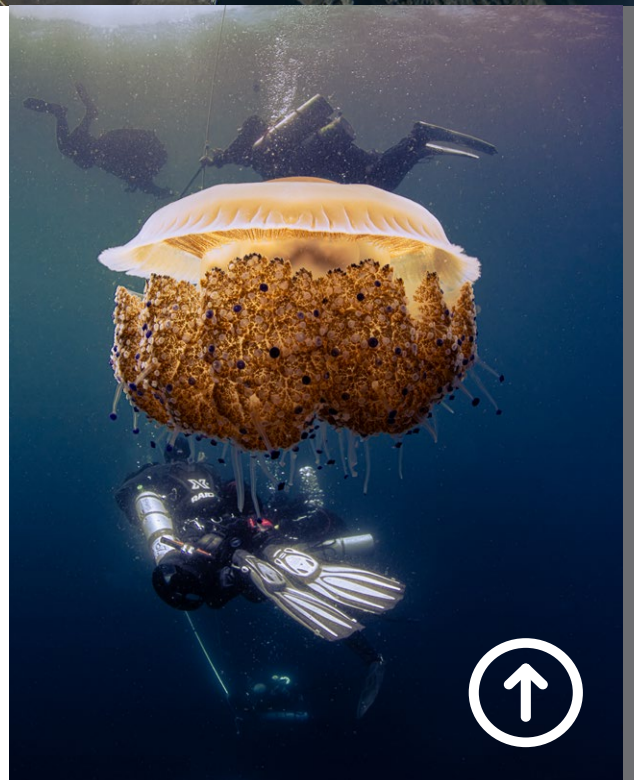
NITROX: WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD FOR KURT STORMS?

KURT: I still have many dreams, but what the future holds? at the moment, a trip to the isle of scily next year.

this winter, we will continue exploring in our Belgian mines and hope to start some nice projects again.

We are also planning a few more trips so we will again have great stories and photos to publish in this esteemed magazine. I have some dreams about Bikini Atoll and Britanica.

Also I hope that I get someday a invitation to get involved in a new exploration with international divers.





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DIVERS SERVICE, INC

deepsixdivers.com



DIAMOND
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19TH CMAS UNDERWATER PHOTO AND 5TH UNDERWATER VIDEO WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP | CUBA 2023



In October 2023, the CMAS World Championships Underwater Photography were held in Varadero Cuba. Every photographer worked together with an assistant as a team. This assistant was the model for the wide-angle with model category and also the person who was the 'searcher' for macro subjects.





THERE WERE SOME SPECIFIC RULES DURING THE COMPETITION:

- No decompression diving. But you were allowed to use every computer you wanted.
- 200 bar of useable gas. This meant that there must be at least 220 bars in the cylinder before entering the water. If you got less, you needed to ask for another tank.
- Not deeper than 30m (in Varadero impossible, the deepest divesite was a wreck of only 29m)
- A maximum of 300 pictures allowed per diving day (2 dives)
- A maximum divetime of 90 minutes after the start signal, so not the computer ruled, but the time of the startsignal. The dive ended at the time you went up again. So if the start was at 12, everybody must be up again 90 minutes later.
- Changing lenses or replacing a battery was only allowed under supervision of a judge.



There were 4 competition divesites and every diver should dive every side once. This means the competition was held over 2 days and 4 dives. There was 1 practise day on 2 of the 4 competition sites. The competition hotel was a luxury 5* all inclusive hotel, but we read that the country has very serious problems with food, medicines, fuel, etc. Also Cuba has a lot of culture and you cannot see this from a luxury resort.

My buddy and I decided to go before the championships. Not only to do some trainingdives, but also to see something from the country. The complete trip started with trying to find some nice 'casa particulares' because we wanted to see the real country. We found adresses to stay on airbnb, but it was quite hard to communicate sometimes. Most Cubans don't speak English and I only speak a little bit Spanish.



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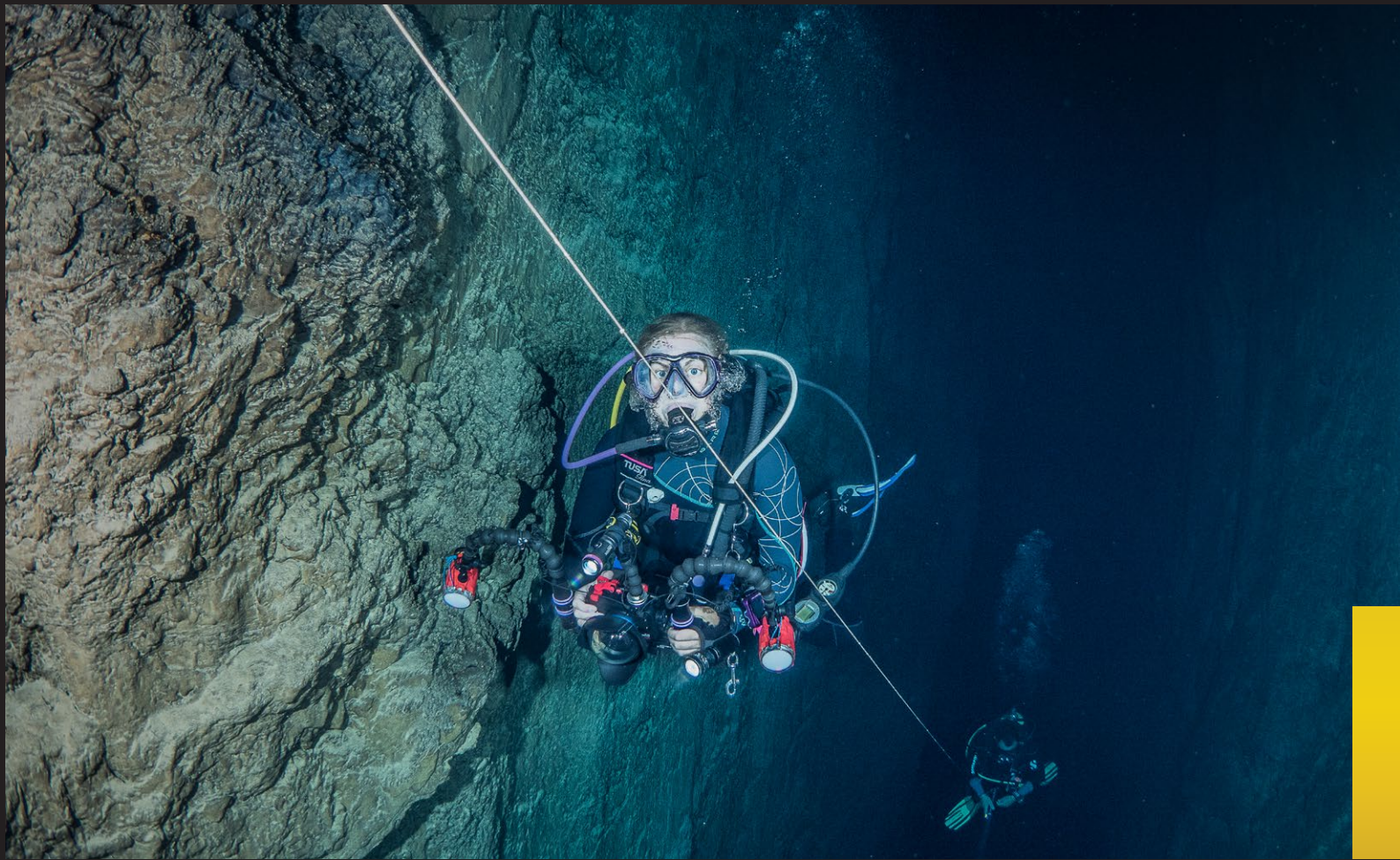
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And there was another point that had my interest when going to Cuba and that is that Cuba is also a 'Karst country', so this means it must have caves. But there is no cave diving community in the country, or at least I could not find it. I could not find a lot of information about cave diving in Cuba at all. But after some searching we found a private diveguide who also had rooms in his house and he said he does cavediving. My buddy was not a cave diver, and all the diving in Cuba is recreational diving, so even if it are just caverns, that is not a problem. All dives

under the ground are nice. So we ended up with doing the trainingdives in the Bay of Pigs. Our plan was to dive 4 days there and do some 'cavedives' also. We agreed with 3 dives a day. The price for the diving in the Bay of Pigs is 25 dollar/euro per dive including all equipment and a 'cavedive' was 40 dollar/euro. You pay in dollar or Euro and they calculate 1:1. The local peso is not favorite and almost worthless and not very usable. So bring cash in dollar or Euro if you visit the country.





The country really has problems with medicines and a lot of things we can buy easy in our country. Because there is nothing, the government of Cuba allow you as tourist to bring a maximum of 10kg per person of medicines in the country. My buddy and I decided to buy a lot of painkillers, but also toothpaste, sanitary pads, plasters, etc to give away to the local people. The fuelproblem was not a problem for tourists said our diveguide, so we didn't

have to worry. But there was outside Havana and Varadero (tourist area) every day a period of 3-6 hours of no electricity. Never more than 3 hours, but sometimes twice a day. You don't know when, it can be during day, during night. Because we needed to have our own equipment for the championships, we did not need to use the rental gear from the diveguide. But what he had was not that bad, sometimes a little bit old fashioned, but he also had fairly new things. The tanks

are very different from ali80 to 12 liter steel short and 15 liter steel. You dive with what they bring for you. So we sometimes had an ali80 and sometimes had a 12 liter steel tank. Din and yoke are available. To bring us to the divesites, our guide arranged an orange Buick oldtimer from 1952. The car was big enough to hold 3 dive equipments and 9 tanks. And the color orange was the right color for Dutch divers.

The divesites were not far from the official road, but if you did not know where to go, you would not find them. The shore looks a little bit like Bonaire, but here everything is old, not maintained and sadly also rubbish. We saw on almost every divesite parts of stairs, but none had functioning stairs anymore to get out of the water. We dove every dive on a different spot between Playa Larga and Playa Giron. It was really faded glory here. There seems to be 1

divecenter left in Playa Giron and they told us they do 2 dives per day on 1 divesite. 1 dive of 45 minutes to the left and 1 dive of 45 minutes to the right. Our guide took us to 3 different spots every day and the divetime was limited to the amount of gas in the tank. This means we had dives of 65-85 minutes, only in the caverns the dives were shorter. There are some things that must be known if you go diving the way we did. There is no nitrox available in Cuba, divecenters don't

have it, our guide also did not have it. For emergency, our guide also did not have oxygen. If divecenters have this, I don't know. They said they had it for the championships. The diving in the Bay of Pigs is very easy and relaxed. No current, so suitable for every diver. All dives here are shore dives with quite easy entries (a jump most times), but the exit can be a little bit more challenging due to no stairs anymore. But our guide knew exactly where to go out and helped if needed.





The reefs are nice. The first part in shallows is quite sandy with some corals, but the reef starts already around 8m in most cases. Every divesite had a dropoff. The depths of our dives were not more than 35m, but you can go from shore to over 200m if you look at depthmaps. So theoretically technical diving is possible here. But there is no oxygen and no helium available. You go some years back in time

with diving here. There was less fish than in Bonaire, but the reefs were quite healthy. We only did not see healthy braincorals. I took some pictures and some biologists think this is the Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease (SCTLD). It is not strange that this disease is also found here. Fishing boats we did not see, we did not see a single boat moving. Probably due to the fuelproblems of the country.

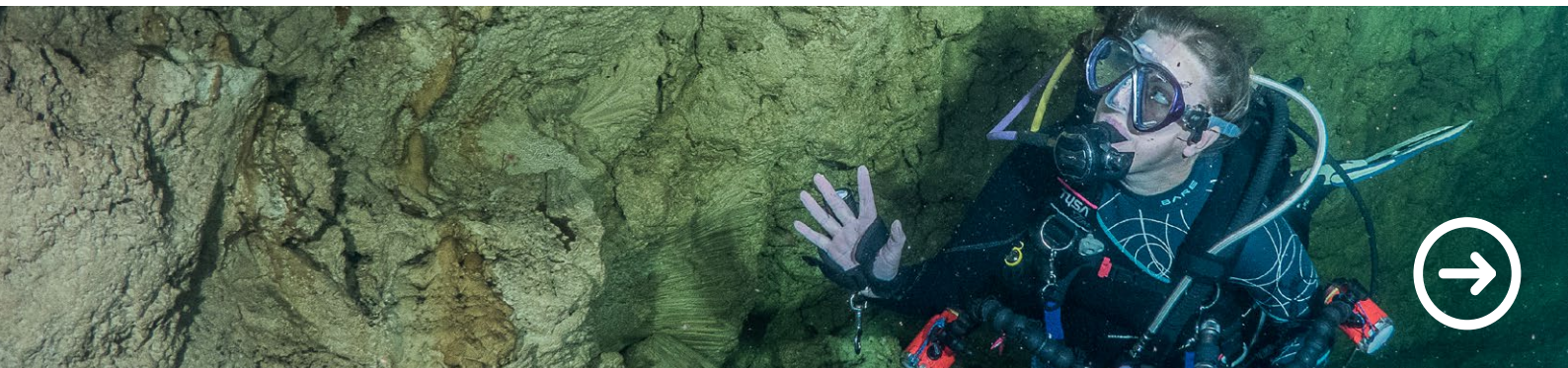
We really enjoyed our dives in the Bay of Pigs. If there will be made some investment in new stairs and entrances, the divesites can be as good as on Bonaire. On 4 of the visited divesites we found a small wreck, a fishing boat in the shallows. Not very special, but nice to see. A lot of divesites had very beautiful canyons. There was a lot to see.

What I really liked on the reefs where the sponges, they were very big.

So I can absolutely recommend diving in the bay of Pigs. Friendly people, not too expensive, easy diving. Then as a cave diver, I absolutely wanted to try the 'cave dives'. My buddy never went in a cave or cavern and normally are 'cave dives' for recreational divers in the cavernzone. So I expected this here too. Cuba is a karstcountry, so it must have caves. We visited several dry caves around Vinales, and now it was time to dive some caves. Our guide told us that the caves we would visit did not have a lot of stalactites, the cave with stalactites was 70km away and that was too far (again fuelproblems). But the ones we would visit would be very nice too. The first one was 'El Brinco'. Our guide showed us a map from an old book that was written in German. It was not

more than just a sketch of the cave or cavern. The bottom was 70m, but of course we did not go that deep. There was a big cavernzone and at a depth around 25m a short tunnel. We would also do that tunnel and then go back and do the other part of the cavernzone. In the shallows we could find some stalactites. We did not need to worry said the guide. I asked about a line, that was not needed? I decided to explain my buddy some things about lines, reels, etc. And we practised this in the beautiful garden of the house. About lights, I had some extra with me and on my strobes also are pilot lights, so for me and my buddy I could arrange 3 lights per person. Our guide said his only light was enough. So the next day we would go to a cave or cavern with a guide that was no cave diver, with a buddy that also had never done such things. All was safe was promised. The 'road' to this cave gave

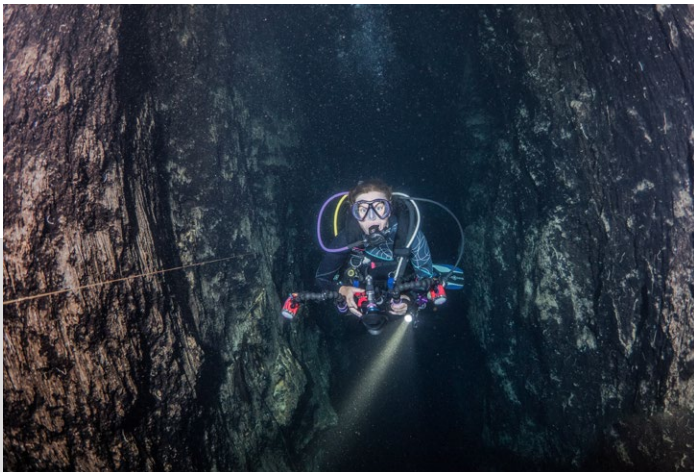
exactly the same feeling as in Mexico. Also the entrance of the cave was like in Mexico, you smell the batshit, lot of musquitos and a nice small place of water. The water temperature also is like in Mexico 24 degrees. We had to wait about 30 minutes till the sun was on the best spot to find the best sunharps under water. We jumped in and yes, 24 degrees is quite chilly in a 3mm wetsuit (the sea was 30). But at 8m depth we had the halocline and under the halocline the water was 26 degrees. In the whole cave we could see the entrance point, except the tunnel of about 35-40m lenght. In this tunnel was a line and here we could not see daylight. The tunnel was crystal clear and not narrow. With 90 bars left in the tank our dive was finished. It was a nice place. Not that rich of stalactites as in Mexico, but it was as clear as Mexico, with a nice halocline to play with. Also my buddy really enjoyed this dive.





Our next dive would be a reef dive, but our guide told us we would enter a tunnel first. I was thinking about a seacave, something you can find in a lot of places. So we entered this tunnel from the sea. The depth was only 8m. There was a strong current, an outflow in this tunnel and the water was not completely clear due to fresh water coming out of this tunnel. We went in further and further and I was worried that there was no line, so was thinking about turning. But then a line started. We followed this tunnel and went out of the cavernzone. But there was a really strong outflow. Then we could not go further, the tunnel went too narrow for backmount. So we had to turn back. It was just a few minutes and we flew out of the tunnel. Our guide told us that this tunnel came back to the surface in the jungle, but that you need to have 2 cylinders and sidemount. For me it was really a pity that I could not go in with 2 tanks. It sounds very interesting. So this seacave had more than just a short tunnel as I expected. Our 3rd dive in a cave was in '35 Anniversario'. Again in the jungle. We had to walk about 180m as our car got stuck. There was a nice cenote in the forest, but it was not very clear and the water smelled

bad. Again this cave was about 70m deep, and had an upstream tunnel and a downstream tunnel. We would do from both sides a short part to a maximum depth of about 35m. Here was also a nice halocline and some beautiful formations. In the cave zone a line started and we followed a short part of this line. Our guide really enjoyed these dives. We had some deco because we dove only air. The tunnel was quite small, but really high. So there was no risk of hitting anything. From what I understood from our guide, the tunnels in this cave are about 400m long. Again, I found it a pity that I did not have the equipment to really get in this cave. The last cave we visited was 'La Cueva de los Peces'. Most divers only do here an ocean dive, but the cave itself is really nice. It is again a cenote, but this one is clean and clear. It has a very interesting ecosystem. The first 70-80 cm is fresh water with fresh water fishes. And this, it is salt water and there are a lot of fishes swimming that you also find in the sea. So there must be an connection with the sea side. But, the vegetation in this cavern is like a fresh water cavern. This means the fresh water layer is not always at the same depth.



The viz under the halocline started not that good. We followed the guide and swam into the cave. At one moment there was still no line, I looked back, could see daylight and the shape of the tunnel. I signed my buddy to look at this, was thinking about turning back because of no line and then I happily found a line, ok, a line that stops when you see the exit, absolutely no open water, but there was no chance of a zero viz. We followed the line, the cave became crystal clear. But it was absolutely no cavernzone anymore. We swam further and further and I was really thinking when to turn back. Gas enough, not risk to get entangled because of the high tunnel and no things to get entangled, but we were really in a cave with a single tank. And not that shallow, around 33m deep. Also the ndl was counting away and we would have some deco for sure when

we turn now. The line went deeper and deeper if we followed this further. At that moment I decided to sign my buddy we had to turn back. I was here with 2 none cave divers, the guide had only 1 light and this was absolutely no cavern dive anymore. So we turned back and finished our deco in the cavern, not boring. Again this cave was about 70m deep told the guide us. I discussed the dive with my buddy and the guide and when I asked her to look back, she did not realise what I wanted to show, the guide was absolutely not worried as there was some line and just one tunnel, so what could happen? This is also Cuba. Near the parking lot I found another hole in the ground filled with water. Oh, there have been divers in the guide told, and this hole end in another hole further in the jungle.

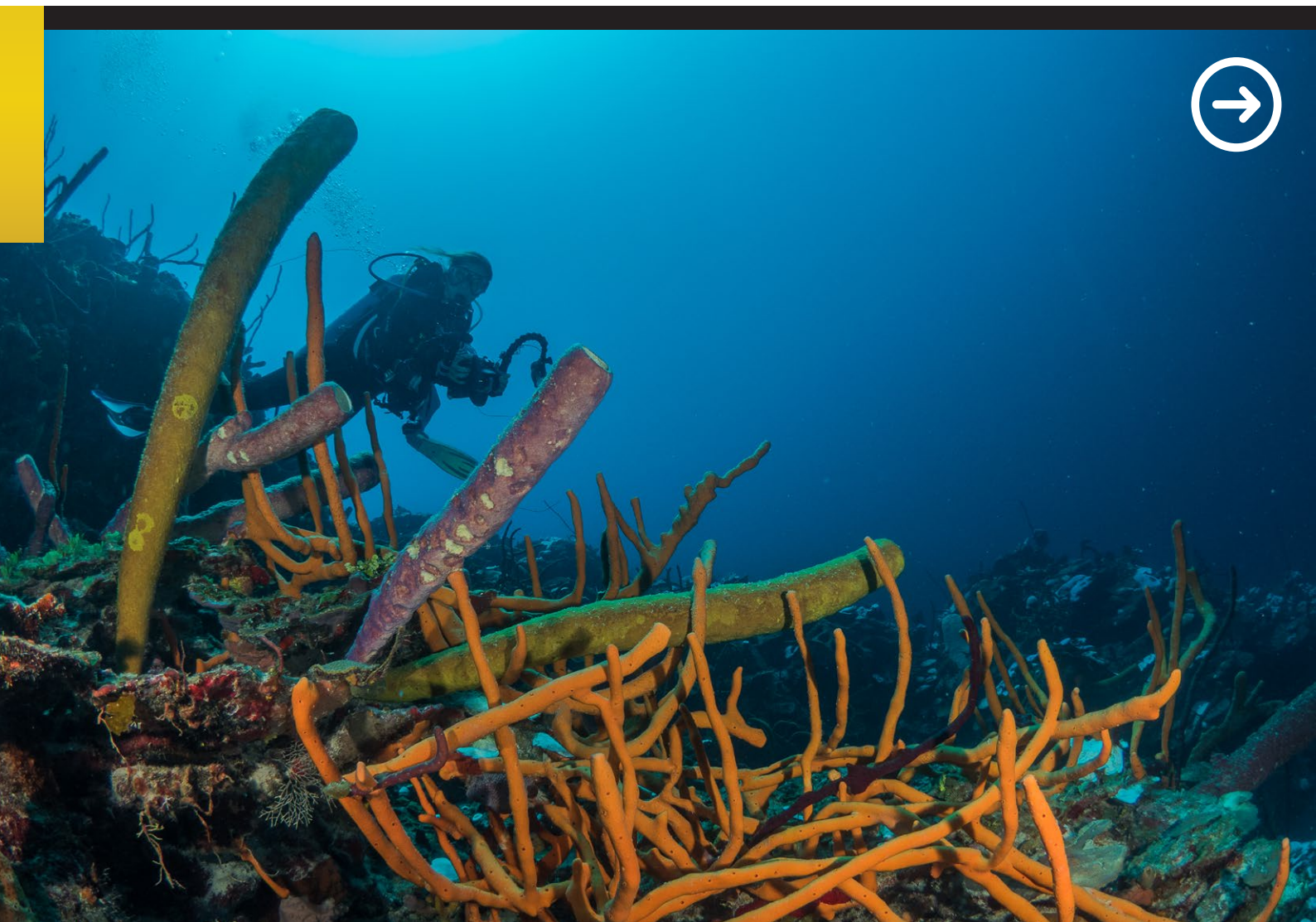
So the caverns or caves in Cuba are there, there have been people in it because there are lines. But if you want to dive them now, it is hard or impossible to find the right gases. Making something sidemount from some cylinders is possible, but without oxygen and helium you cannot come far. But I think it is interesting diving there. Locals know a lot of entries, but have not dived them all, so not all details are known. Maps I also did not found from the caves when I was back home. Our guide was absolutely careful, he respected gas limits, he had read about line protocols etc, but never had the chance to do a real cave course. The lines all started in the cavernzone, but not in open water, they were layed by divers with knowledge, but sometimes old. I gave my arrows and cookies to our guide.

After 12 dives in the Bay of Pigs it was time to move to Varadero. Varadero has no problems with electricity. The diveboats also are quite modern. But also here no nitrox available. Every participant got the same tank, but there were not enough DIN-adapters, so my buddy and I got the ones from the compressor and needed to give them back after every day diving. In the technical meeting they draw down who was on which boat. And told about what time every boat had to leave the harbour. We shared the boat with 2 Cuban photographers. First they tried to do the deepest dive first of the day, but that was impossible. The Russian wreck was the deepest divesite, and was combined with a very shallow divesite of only 9m. But you cannot have too many divers on the wreck as there was a rule that no other divers were allowed on the wide angle photo. They also told us about the safety that there were

10 doctors standby, an ambulance in the harbour and the chamber in Varadero if needed. But a simple first aid kit with plasters was not there in the harbour. My buddy hit her toe and it was bleeding. Not a big deal, but we asked for a plaster. It ended with getting this in the ambulance. Also this is Cuba. In the harbour before the dives you must let seal your camera housing and show that you putted in a specific date that was not the real date. Changing lenses or batteries was only allowed on a specific place on the boat under supervision of a judge. There was 1 training day and then 2 competition days. So in total the participants did 6 dives. Happely we did on the trainingday the wreck and the shallow site 'Aquario'. Not everything went smooth, but it was just a trainingday. We had no waves and no current this day. It was a very long day, leaving the harbour around 9 and returning around 6.30p.m. The first competition day was

a copy of the trainingday. But after sealing the housings you had to go to the doctor to let check your blood pressure. And if it was too high, there was a pill available. For me and my buddy it was no problem, but some participants had some discussions about not wanted to take the pills. At the end everybody could start. Our first competition dive was the Russian wreck. But this time we had very strong current. It took us 17 minutes to swim from the boat to the bouy to get down to the wreck. This 17minutes were part of the 90 minutes divetime you had. Also at the wreck we had current. This meant that my buddy had to swim and swim and swim to take the wide angle with model picture. But at the end I thought I have a good picture. I also tried to make the wide angle picture as the 2 sites for tomorrow had bad viz people told us. Within the NDL we surfaced.





The second dive was on the shallow divespot 'Aquario'. This is best for macro. It is a quite boring divesite, but has a lot of fish, but all the same species. Here I tried to take the theme picture of a tube worm. The NDL was here no problem, the divesite was simply too shallow.

The next day started again with sealing the housings, and then the doctors stood ready again. But these were not part of the organisation, but from the government? , so there was told to ignore them. Yesterday due to that blood pressure check all boats left behind their planned schedule the harbour, so now the organisation tried to

avoid that.

When I checked my tanks, I had to change them 4 times because there was never 220 bars in it. And this was required.

The first dive was at Claraboyas 1. This site does not have a lot of different species, is also not as colorfull as the wreck, but has nice fans. Sadly the viz was not that good that I was satisfied with my pictures of the fans.

The second dive was on Tiburones reef. But no sharks here. It is potentially an interesting divesite, but sadly the viz was bad when we were there. Macro was the best option for this dive.



After these 2 days we had to choose the final picture to participate with. I only had 3 were I was satisfied with, so decided to put in 'fish' as 4th picture. When we got the results, I was 9th with the theme picture, 12th with the modell picture, 13th with the wide angle, so 3 times in the best 15 and never last, I think this was not that bad for the first time of participate on the world championships.

After visiting Havana it was time to go back home. It was a great time in a very special country. I liked the Bay of Pigs more than Varadero due to the easy shore dives and a friendly guide. If I ever get the chance to come back and focus on cave diving, I will do this.





Gabriel Katter - Instructor Trainer

Gabriel Katter, better known as "Gaba", is a diver for 35 years, 22 of them as an IANTD instructor. He has a great passion for IANTD for a long time, for several reasons, but mainly for its pioneering spirit, safety, and true interest in training true divers, always striving for quality not quantity.



Luis Sánchez - Instructor Trainer

I Love IANTD because the founders of this agency were the pioneers in technical diving and my inspiration to grow in my tek diving area , IANTD has been the first agency to open new courses that are now available in the market and the main directors in charge are awesome professionals and great persons.



Doug Ebersole - Instructor Trainer

I feel fortunate to have been associated with IANTD for over twenty years. I first came to IANTD as an advanced open water diver looking for technical diving training, I was impressed immediately by the thoroughness of the training, both in terms of the academics and the in-water skills. Several years later I became an IANTD instructor which I consider one of the best decisions I have made in my scuba diving career. Led by pioneers in the technical, cave, and rebreather diving arena, IANTD has always been and continues to be a trail blazer with new courses and new materials as technical diving evolves, while always emphasizing safety and quality. They have allowed me to grow as a diving professional and have always provided me the support I need to train students and instructors so that they achieve their diving goals and reach their highest potential. I am truly proud to be a part of the IANTD family.



Mel Clark - Instructor Trainer

It was through a stroke of luck that I found myself a member of IANTD. This luck I will never forget. IANTD has allowed me to grow as an instructor through amazing support and allowing me the freedom to teach to the highest standards I can. I cannot say enough great praise I have for the agency. They truly care about the people who are training the students and quality of instruction that is provided under their name. As an instructor for them I am given the freedom to teach to the highest level I am able without restrictions. IANTD as a agency is one of the first and finest technical training agencies who are still blazing the new path we all follow in this ever evolving underwater technical and CCR diving world.



Kurt Storms - Instructor Trainer

For me, the only organization that works for me. Years ago, I Came in contact with IANTD, and my world opened up. The knowledge I gained then made me the instructor I am today. For me, IANTD is the market leader in Technical diving, and let it be these dives that fascinate me. So why go and get our knowledge from someone else, when you can learn it from the source. Also, the support given to instructors and students are of unseen value. Even after your course. For this reason, I remain committed to the organization where my heart is, IANTD.



Cesar Gentile - Instructor Trainer

In more than thirty years dedicated to diving, I have been able to witness many things, joys, sadness, mistakes, successes, learning. Among the many experiences mentioned above, in the different agencies I worked for, one of them made me better in several aspects as a person, diver and professional. Seriousness, pioneering spirit, suitability, ethics, technical competence, credibility, all this and much more can only be found at IANTD! For these and other reasons I love IANTD!





Don Bailey - Instructor Trainer

IANTD gives me the ability to share my love and passion for the underwater world with new students every day. The thought of igniting a flame in the next generation of divers that can one day change the world is invigorating and my new calling. Being able to make self-sufficient, self-reliant divers unafraid to ask questions is a testament to IANTD's commitment to excellence and the trust they have in their instructors to create divers that can think critically. The opportunity to work with people you learned and read about through your diving career and have them appreciate and care about your input shows that IANTD is still dedicated to being the innovators that they were and continue to be. I'm honored and consider myself fortunate to be a part of such an amazing organization and look forward to our continued success as technical diving argonauts.



Dustin Proper - Instructor Trainer

I am an active IANTD Instructor Trainer who can be spotted at dive sites enjoying the underwater world. I am proud of teaching IANTD programs and offering training programs on the forefront of the industry. IANTD truly is a family and is more than just an agency.



Carlos Janovitch - Instructor Trainer

IANTD is the easiest agency to work with, is very proud of its instructors and deals directly with HQ Brazil and USA. It gives a lot of value to its instructors, in short, a great family!



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WELCOME NEW INSTRUCTORS

Ruben Arias Casttrelon, Mexico

Yam Barak, Israel

Robin Bedert, Madagascar

Tomer Biton Libovitz, Israel

João Carlos, Borges, Brazil

Dominik Budschun, Germany

Raul Calderon, Argentina

Marc Czudai, Germany

Kace Davis, United States

Jakub Dębski, Poland

Linas Duoblys, Lithuania

Juliane Fagundes, Brazil

Nicolas Febvay, France

Leonardo Fernandez, Argentina

Gaëlle Fouailly, Egypt

Bryce Gerber, United States

Nils Hansen, Germany

Mateusz Harasymczuk, Poland

Kevin Kenworthy, United States

Rahysa Knopff, Brazil

Dmitry Konkov, Israel

Alexandre Lesage, Madagascar

John Lovelace, United States

Agata Lumpe, Poland

Nereus Mallari, Philippines

Lucia Belen Marinaro, Argentina

Fernando Mazzola, Argentina

Artemasia Oliveira, Brazil

João Lucas Oliveira, Brazil

Siena Parente, United States

Federico Peña Pedulla, Uruguay

Paulo Sandoval Ramirez, Mexico

Eliso Santos Neto, Brazil

Ludovic Scordia, France

Andrey Shapovalov, Bulgaria

Ryan Soyka, United States

Alireza Taheri, Iran

Yechiel Timsit, Israel

