

Cathy Church's



Underwater Photo Fest Grand Cayman - 2011

What to expect at Cathy Church's Underwater Photo Fest 2011

Have you ever had to end a dive before you were done shooting because the boat's 40, 50 or 60-minute time limit was up? Has your dive ever been over too soon because there just wasn't enough air in your tank or your camera batteries were dead? Or, have you ever jumped off the boat at a dive site that made you wonder why they ever installed a mooring ball there? If you're an underwater photographer or videographer, you can likely answer YES to all of these.

The Cathy Church style of boat diving at her Underwater Photo Fest addresses all of these issues. First of all, we will go only to Cathy's favorite dive sites with the most beautiful, unique and "fishiest" locales—proven to be photographically productive and relatively shallow (40-50 feet to allow extended bottom times). Grand Cayman's famous wall dives will be part of the week too and dived to the boat's routine profile, with a second shallow dive of approximately 90 minutes to follow.

So, how do these extra-long bottom time photo dives work? After the briefing, the dive deck will be open for a whopping 150 minutes. You can dive, shoot, come up when you get low on air, get some water or fruit while your tank is being changed (you don't even have to get out of the water). Then you go back down, shoot some more, come back up, get out and change your camera batteries and/or memory card while your tank is being changed, hydrate and do it all over again until 2.5 hours are up. In fact, you might want to bring some extra exposure protection to avoid getting chilled during these marathon dives. There will be a photo coach assigned to each boat who will work with divers in the water—helping out with a nudge of a strobe arm, or writing a note of encouragement/advice on a slate, or pointing out a lovely subject to shoot.

Once you return to the resort, you'll have time for some lunch, a well-earned nap, more diving at Sunset House's backyard reef (one of the best shore dives in Grand Cayman where fish come up to you to get their picture taken)—whatever you'd like. Fun and informative lectures and critiques from Cathy and her knowledgeable staff will be available each day. You choose which lectures you want to attend, or attend them all on subjects such as Composition, Advanced Lighting, Photo or Video Editing. Other diving opportunities include a night boat dive and the most excitement you can find in twelve feet of water—Stingray City (additional charge applies for SRC). You will have lots of chances to socialize with the other underwater photographers and divers—sharing fish tales and cocktails as you watch the spectacular sunset at the famous My Bar, sharing some jerk chicken or rice & beans at the two waterfront BBQs planned for the group, and sharing your beautiful u/w photos at the critiques and final evening slideshow. Of course, a week long photo event must have a contest. In fact, we're having several contests with great prizes and giveaways for every level, so a person shooting a very simple point-and-shoot system won't be competing against a seasoned photographer with a professional-level system. In fact, Cathy even has a special category where only the worst photo can win! And with fabulous sponsors like Olympus and Scubapro, the prizes will be terrific.

Nowhere else can you find the quality & style of photo friendly diving that we will be offering, but even if all that were not enough, you can't miss this rare opportunity to meet, learn from and dive with Cathy herself. She is a legend in underwater photography; having received every award the industry has to give. She is first and foremost a teacher, generously offering her 40+ years of knowledge and experience to every student—no matter what their level or equipment. And remember, SHE taught the coaches who will be assisting you during the week, so you can expect excellent instruction from them as well.

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Most importantly, however, as you can see from the photo of our hosts below, the focus of the week will be on fun and frivolity. So if you're a seasoned underwater photographer or videographer, a new or wannabe underwater photographer or videographer, or even a diver who has no desire to hold a camera but wants to spend A LOT of time underwater you need to be at Cathy Church's Underwater Photo Fest May 7-14, 2011. Join us, won't you?

Enjoy The Journey!

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The Package includes:

5 x multiple tank boat dives with 2.5 hours of bottom time
1 x 1 tank boat night dive
Unlimited shore diving
7 nights accommodation
Airport transfers
Arrival/departures on Saturday
Daily made-to-order breakfast

All boats are camera friendly with Cathy Church or her staff of Fabulous Photo Coaches onboard
Emmy award winning Video Editor, Tony Mark present lectures and coaching on video techniques and editing
20% off of rental cameras
Photo critiques from Cathy or her staff of Photo Coaches
Photo Contests & Lots of Giveaways/ Demo Gear
Boats include fresh drinking water and fruit

Below is the most up to date schedule of events for the week:

Saturday

Arrivals all day
Guests receive welcome rum punch, welcome packet with gift
Shore diving available
On own for dinner

Sunday

Program orientation
Boat dive
Shore diving available
Complimentary buoyancy control class/specialties
Photo critiques from Cathy or her staff of Photo Coaches
Lecture Intro U/W Photography or Intro to U/W Video
Welcome Happy Hour with Fruit or Rum Punch, hors d'oeuvres

Monday

Boat dive
Lecture Cathy Church Critter Talk
Shore diving available
Photo critiques from Cathy or her staff of Photo Coaches
SRC trip (additional charge)
Dinner on own
Night Boat Dive Group 1

Tuesday

Boat dive
Shore diving available
Photo critiques from Cathy or her staff of Photo Coaches
Lecture Underwater Video 2 or Lecture Composition
SRC trip (additional charge)
Waterfront BBQ dinner

Wednesday

Boat dive
Shore diving available
Photo critiques from Cathy or her staff of Photo Coaches
Lecture Creative Lighting
SRC trip (additional charge)
Dinner on own
Night Boat Dive Group 2

Thursday

Boat dive
Shore diving available
Photo critiques from Cathy or her staff of Photo Coaches
1 tank boat night dive
Lecture Photo or Video Editing
Dinner on own
Night Boat Dive Group 3

Friday

Shore diving
Underwater Treasure Hunt from shore
BBQ and Photo Contests Slideshow / Giveaways/ Final Video/ Slideshows