

## Eco-Photo Explorers

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## Available Programs

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### New Programs for 2012

- Maldives: Diving in the Rainbow Sea
- Haunted Long Island

#### Maldives: Diving in the Rainbow Sea

The Maldives have long held a spot on many diver bucket lists. With picture-perfect beaches, remote island atolls and spectacular diving, the attraction is understandable. Many divers come to the Maldives looking for Liveboard adventures. This program explores an alternative approach: luxury diving from land based resorts. Join Eco-Photo Explorers as they explore the magnificent world beneath the tropical seas of the Maldives, with just a small dash of decadence thrown in!

#### Haunted Long Island

Do ghosts inhabit the supposed haunted houses of Long Island? Join Eco-Photo Explorers as they uncover the spine-tingling stories of our resident ghosts, ghouls and monsters. In this program, viewers will learn the real story behind "The Amityville Horror", and will hear about Oyster Bay's haunted Raynam Hall. In addition, we will explore numerous other "hauntings" across Long Island, while also examining the stories behind the Montauk Monster, and the rumors of strange animal experiments at Plum Island. This is a fun filled program sure to raise more than a few goose bumps!

#### Beneath the White Sea: Ice Diving in Russia's High Arctic

The pristine wilderness of Russia's High Arctic presents unique and demanding challenges to SCUBA divers wishing to explore the frozen White Sea. In order to witness the silent beauty of the only inland sea to completely freeze in winter, divers must endure arduous travel logistics, harsh weather and bone-chilling cold. But beneath the ice lies a world of sublime beauty, filled with unearthly ice formations and unique wildlife. Journey with Eco-Photo Explorers as they dog sled across the fabled Lapland region of Finland and then venture out onto the ice in Russia for a unique and spellbinding experience.

#### Curacao, the Caribbean's Desert Island

Curacao, an arid Caribbean island located just off the northern coast of Venezuela, boasts some of the best diving in the Caribbean. Divers can explore healthy reefs teeming with marine life and iconic shipwrecks rich in history and character, and photographers will revel in the gin-clear water that washes over the drop-offs from deeper water. All this and you can still be back in time for lunch with the family! This presentation introduces you to one of the most colorful islands in the Caribbean.

#### Bonne Terre: Deep Earth Diving

Massive underground caverns and mammoth architecture. The sunken remains of a working mineral mine, complete with equipment, rail tracks, ore carts, elevator shafts and even intact buildings. A billion gallon underground lake with crystal clear water and constant temperatures year round. And miles of underwater trails to explore. Bonne Terre is an adventure for all divers and its right here in our own backyard. Located just 40 minutes south of St. Louis in the foothills of the Ozark Mountains, Bonne Terre is a unique diving experience that will capture your imagination and beckon you back for more. It is truly like a "Dive to the Center of the Earth." Join Eco-photo Explorers as they journey below ground to explore the underwater treasure that is Bonne Terre.

#### Frozen Fins: The Art and Science of Ice Diving

When the weather turns cold and the local waters turn to ice, many divers pack up their dive gear and wait for the return of summer. Some hasten its arrival with a trip to warmer climates while winter maintains its grip on the north. But the arrival of winter does not need to mean the end of local diving. In this program, you will learn the techniques, equipment requirements and reasons for safely venturing below the ice in one of diving's most challenging, and

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rewarding, activities: Ice Diving. Join Eco-Photo Explorers as they explain the “hows” and “whys” of ice diving and introduce you to some of the best places to dive beneath the ice.

### **Pushing the Envelope: Long Island Diving Alternatives**

Sure we have some good shore diving. Certainly we have some of the very best shipwreck diving in the world. But what else is there for Long Island Divers? For divers new to the sport as well as jaded veterans, there are plenty of interesting ways to keep active in the sport we love. Join Eco-Photo Explorers as they examine some exciting and adventurous diving alternatives available to all of us. You may be surprised at what's possible right here in our own backyard!

### **Long Island Maritime History: Stories of Tragedy and Rescue**

Long Island has a very rich maritime history. From the early colonial days to modern times, the shores and offshore waters of Long Island have often been the stage for fascinating drama. Tragic shipwrecks, heroic rescues, unbelievable courage and fascinating history are all part of the fabric of Long Island. The story of the *Pelican*, a fishing boat lost off Montauk in 1951, will be a featured story in this program, along with other spellbinding tales of marine rescues and shipwrecks. The program will conclude with an examination of the history of the Life Saving Services here on Long Island. Join Eco-Photo Explorers for a fascinating look into the Maritime History that is Long Island.

### **The Sharks of French Polynesia**

The islands of French Polynesia are a tropical paradise. Spread over a section of the South Pacific Ocean larger than Europe, the many islands and atolls offer rich luxurious lagoons, beautiful coral reefs, exciting marine life encounters and heart-stopping SCUBA Diving adventures in the surrounding reefs. As beautiful as these islands are above the water, the underwater world is the hidden secret to the true beauty of these islands. And on many of these islands, sharks are the star attraction. Join Eco-Photo Explorers as they dive with Grey Reef Sharks in Bora Bora, Lemon Sharks in Moorea, Blacktip Reef Sharks in Fakarava and Silvertip Sharks in Rangiroa. Learn about jaw-dropping Manta Ray encounters in Manihi and where the best place is to see Humpback Whales. Travel logistics, as well as a wealth of diving information, will be presented on this outstanding destination.

### **Queen Anne's Revenge: Exploring the Legend of Blackbeard**

For a brief period of time in the early 1700s, Blackbeard the Pirate terrorized the seas around the Bahamas, the Caribbean and the Carolina coast. Little is known of this infamous historical figure, including his real name, but his reputation as a brutal force on the high seas has long outlived him. In 1718, shortly after the famous blockade of Charleston South Carolina, Blackbeard ran two of his vessels aground at near Beaufort Inlet, North Carolina, including the *Queen Anne's Revenge*. For nearly 300 years, this shipwreck has eluded searchers who have come here to find the long lost flagship of Blackbeard's fleet. But recently, a wreck presumed to be that of the *Queen Anne's Revenge* has been found and is currently being recovered by teams of researchers and archaeologists. Join Eco-Photo Explorers on an adventure to examine the legend of Blackbeard and to dive on the wreck of his most famous ship.

### **Galapagos: Darwin's Enchanted Islands**

In 1835, Charles Darwin reached the Galapagos Archipelago, a cluster of islands straddling the equator 600 miles off the west coast of South America. His five weeks on these strange volcanic islands formed the basis for his theories on the evolution of species, concepts which shook the world in controversy that continues to this day. Today, the Galapagos Islands are a mixture of Ecuadorian National Parks, scientific research stations, bustling towns and a thriving tourist industry. Most visitors to these islands come to see the famous land tortoises, marine iguanas and equatorial penguins that are trademarks of the Galapagos. But the real treasures of these islands lie beneath the waves. Swirling in the colliding currents from the north and south are massive schools of Hammerhead Sharks, Galapagos Sharks, Manta Rays, Eagle Rays, Sea Lions, Dolphins and the breathtaking Whale Shark. Join Eco-Photo Explorers as they dive the world renowned Darwin and Wolf Islands and take you along on other awe-inspiring

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adventures both above and below the waters of these enchanted islands. Travel logistics and diving details are discussed along with descriptions of the magnificent wildlife that can be found in the Galapagos Islands.

### **A Baker's Dozen: 13 Diving Hot Spots**

All divers are asked the same question: "Where is your favorite place to dive?" If you've been diving for any length of time, you know this is a difficult question to answer. Why settle on one? Join Eco-Photo Explorers as they uncover the secrets of 13 of the world's greatest diving locations. The colorful reefs of Fiji, the dramatic shipwrecks of Truk Lagoon, heart-stopping Shark Cage diving in Guadalupe Island and the frozen wilderness of Antarctica are just a few of the destinations that will be examined in this interesting and exciting program.

### **Pirates, Ghost Ships and Seafaring Superstitions**

The ocean can be a dangerous, frightening place. Through the years, mariners have encountered pirates who plundered their ships and terrorized their crew, and have seen ghost ships that seemed to be sailing the seas without a trace of their crew. Through it all, these brave seafarers sought explanation for the many mysteries of the sea and comfort from its dangers in legend and folklore. *Ahoy, Matey!* Join Eco-Photo Explorers for a fun-filled program as they tell the real stories of Pirates, Buccaneers and Privateers and examine the mysteries of some of the most famous Ghost Ships of all time. Along the way, many of the superstitions of the sea will also be discussed.

### **Yucatan: In the Shadow of the Maya**

The Yucatan Peninsula is home to some of the world's greatest diving. It is also an area steeped in fascinating history. Journey to this area and explore some of the best diving in the world, including the reefs of Mexico's Cancun, Cozumel and Playa Del Carmen. This program also takes the viewer to the offshore atolls of Belize, including Lighthouse Reef where we dive the fabled Great Blue Hole. Finally, the viewer is transported back in time to discover some of the fascinating history of the ancient Maya civilization as we tour some of the restored ruins, including Tulum, Chitzen-Iza and Altun-Ha.

### **Deception Island: Diving in a Restless Volcano**

Deception Island is a volcanic island located in the South Shetland Islands off the northwest side of the Antarctic Peninsula and has been a focus of human activity since the early 1820s with the hunting of seal. With frequent eruptions, the most recent of which occurring in 1992, this volcano is now the home to Antarctic Fur Seals, Southern Elephant Seals and the world's largest colony of Chinstrap Penguins. Join Eco-Photo Explorers as they examine the fascinating history of this foreboding place and discover the rich diversity of life here. Finally, join the team as they plunge beneath the icy waters into the caldera of this restless volcano on a unique Scuba dive to document life below the surface. This presentation will also detail expedition logistics, scuba diving equipment, Antarctic wildlife, the Southern Ocean and other important aspects of Antarctic expedition travel.

### **Exploring Long Island's Shipwrecks**

This informative and exciting presentation follows on the enormously popular "Long Island Shipwrecks" program by exploring a number of different shipwrecks from all eras in Long Island history. In this program, we discuss the history of shipwrecks from the Revolutionary War through modern times and show the viewer what some of these wrecks look like today underwater. A discussion that highlights some of the marine life that inhabits these artificial reefs is included.

### **Long Island Insects: Backyard Beasties**

Some of the most interesting creatures in the animal kingdom live right in our own backyards. Eco-Photo Explorers uses unique photographic techniques to capture the insect life that thrives here on Long Island. From the bizarre to the beautiful, the terrifying to the cute, these creatures are a vital part of our natural environment. The life cycles and natural history of insects are discussed, as well as techniques for attracting beneficial insects and repelling pests...naturally. Also discussed are ways of attracting bats to keep flying pests under control and constructing butterfly gardens.

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### **Manatees: The Gentle Giants**

Once the inspiration for the legend of the Mermaid, Manatees today are hardly known as the Sirens of the Sea. Although they are loveably cute, gentle in disposition, harmless to Man and lacking in natural predators, today the Manatee finds itself on the brink of extinction. In this program, Eco-Photo Explorers will examine the Manatee's natural history and explore the many reasons for their decline. Through the use of a multi-media show and video, the viewer is transported to the inland waterways and natural springs of Central Florida to witness Manatees in their natural environment. This presentation is an educational and entertaining experience for all.

### **In Search of Buried Treasure**

Eco-Photo Explorers examines the exciting world of treasure hunting through the use of photography, history, and with a discussion that highlights some of the treasure ships that are found in Long Island waters. Some of the specialized equipment and technologies that are used to seek out lost treasure and shipwrecks are also discussed.

### **Long Island Marine Life**

The waters around Long Island are home to an astounding variety of interesting Marine Life. In this program, Eco-Photo Explorers will explore lakes, rivers, wetlands, the seashore and even journey offshore to uncover the secrets of this fascinating underwater world. Some of Long Island's most commonly seen marine creatures, as well as some of the most unique, will be discussed. This is a program that will appeal to people of all ages who are interested in learning more about the environment here on Long Island. A Multimedia show will conclude the program by taking the viewer beneath the waves to explore Long Island's exciting underwater world.

### **The RMS Titanic...Her Final Days**

On a cold April night in 1912, the magnificent new luxury liner R.M.S. Titanic struck an iceberg as she was making her way towards New York on her maiden voyage from England. In a few short hours, she sank beneath the icy waters of the North Atlantic, taking with her the lives of more than 1,500 people. The tragedy shocked the world and, through the years, the legend of this story has continued to grow. Seventy-three years after the sinking, the wreck of the Titanic was discovered 2 ½ miles below the surface by an intrepid group of Oceanographers using state of the art technology. Join Eco-Photo Explorers as they recall the tragic history of the R.M.S. Titanic and the exciting search for her remains. The show will also feature discussions on the technology used to find the wreck and will examine the current controversy over the recovery of artifacts from this site.

### **Long Island Lighthouses**

Join Eco-Photo Explorers as they weave their special blend of beautiful photography and informative lecture to explore the fascinating history of some of Long Island's most interesting lighthouses. During this program, the viewer will travel from Coney Island to Montauk, examining lighthouse architecture, their technology, and the stories that make these vital structures such an integral part of our local history. In addition, the story behind Long Island's Life Saving Services will also be discussed. The program concludes with a multi-media presentation in celebration of the dramatic beauty of these lighthouses both here on Long Island and around the country.

### **Cocos Island: Journey to Jurassic Park**

Cocos Island is an island shrouded in mystery and blessed with beauty some 300 miles off the coast of Costa Rica and over 35 hours by boat. It is a special place that through the years has captured the imagination of adventurers, explorers, writers and more recently, scuba divers. Mist and fog often obscure its steep mountainous terrain. Its dense vegetation is fed by over 30 feet of rainfall a year, and over 200 waterfalls cascade down to the nutrient rich waters that surge along its shores. Swirling in its riotous currents is an abundance of marine life unparalleled in the world today. Schools of Scalloped Hammerhead Sharks circle the island, while large Manta Rays dance in the ocean swells. White-tip Reef Sharks patrol the rocky reefs by the dozens and dense schools of Jacks, so numerous they block out the sunlight, can be found between its steep, undersea pinnacles. Join Eco-Photo Explorers as they take you on a journey of discovery to the island that inspired both Robert Louis Stevenson's "Treasure Island" and Michael Crichton's "Jurassic Park". Explore the island's natural history and dive beneath the waves to encounter some of its

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most interesting denizens. Finally, travel inland and navigate through icy cold, hip-deep rivers filled with large rocks and boulders, dense, water soaked vegetation and a treacherous humidity filled jungle terrain to a thundering 200ft waterfall.

### **Beneath the Emerald Sea: The Pacific Northwest**

Tucked quietly away in the Northwest corner of the United States is a marine wonderland of cold, clear water teeming with life. Journey with Eco-Photo Explorers to Washington State's San Juan Islands, the Straights of Juan de Fuca, the Olympic Peninsula and Canada's Vancouver Island to dive into these mysterious waters. This presentation introduces the viewer to the diverse forms of marine life found here, from pods of resident Orca Whales to walls of fascinating invertebrates, from Kelp forests to huge Metridium Anemones and everything in between. Find out what it is like to dive in these cold waters, where swift currents and massive tidal changes dictate the dive schedule. Explore the shipwreck of the HMS Saskatchewan in Canada and photograph Wolf Fish in the Puget Sound. From the peaks of the Olympic Mountains to the underwater wilderness offshore, Beneath the Emerald Sea is a fascinating journey to one of the special places in North America.

### **The Ghost Fleet of Truk Lagoon**

In February 1944, Operation Hailstorm, a well-orchestrated attack on Japanese forces at Truk Lagoon by the American Navy, sent dozens of ships to a watery grave beneath the tranquil seas of Truk lagoon. In just a few days of fierce action, freighters, cargo vessels, submarine tenders, submarines and destroyers were all sunk, creating a watery grave of unprecedented proportions. Today, the tragedy of war has given way to the splendor of the underwater world as these ships have now been transformed into living reefs of riotous colors and teeming marine life. This presentation first examines the history of the island and the wartime activities that took place here, and then takes the viewer on a journey to some of these fascinating ships, including the Fujikaka Maru, San Francisco Maru, Heian Maru and others.

### **Heron Island: Island of the Turtles**

Towards the southern part of Australia's Great Barrier Reef lies a tiny island called Heron Island. Here, visitors can escape to a world dominated by nature. Sea birds abound and the nearby reefs teem with life. Huge Manta Rays sweep across shallow reef outcroppings while large schools of colorful fish dart by. However, the island is dominated by the nesting Green Sea Turtle. Visitors can observe these majestic animals as they haul themselves up onto the beach each night to deposit eggs. The fierce struggle for existence is also evident as tiny hatchlings emerge from their nests and scamper towards the sea. Join Eco-Photo Explorers as they journey "down under" to visit one of nature's special places.

### **The World's Greatest Shipwrecks**

Join Eco-Photo Explorers as they discuss some of the most famous and fascinating shipwrecks from around the world. This exciting presentation features discussions of such legendary shipwrecks as the Italian luxury liner Andrea Doria, the famous Spanish Galleon Neustra de Atocha, the world's largest treasure trove, the SS Central America, the USS Arizona in Pearl Harbor, the RMS Rhone in the Caribbean and many others. In addition, Eco-Photo Explorers will take you on a journey underwater to visit sunken shipwrecks through the magic of multimedia.

**Note:** A TV or some other type of video projection equipment with a VCR is required for the optional video portion of this program.

### **Antarctica: Voyage to the Frozen Continent**

The frozen wilderness of the last continent, Antarctica, has long held a spellbinding fascination for scientists and explorers alike. Join Eco-Photo Explorers as they journey across the turbulent Drake Passage to explore the pristine wilderness along the Antarctic Peninsula. Along the way, dramatic landscapes, fascinating wildlife and heart stopping adventure both above and below the water make for a truly inspiring program. This program will discuss the history of exploration in Antarctica, expedition logistics, scuba diving equipment, Antarctic wildlife, the Southern Ocean and the

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geology of Antarctica. Finally, Eco-Photo Explorers will look at the Antarctica of today and take a glimpse into the future of this very special place.

### Caribbean Journeys

Like a jeweled necklace, the islands of the Caribbean stretch across some of the most beautiful waters in the world. Divers and explorers can find fantastic adventures in every corner of this paradise. Join Eco-Photo Explorers in this fast paced tour of the Caribbean, visiting such island paradises as the Turks and Caicos Islands, the British Virgin Islands, Antigua, St. Lucia, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Eustatius, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, the Bahamas and the Cayman Islands. Each island has its own charm and natural beauty, and beyond the sun splashed beaches lie colorful coral reefs bathed in warm, clear tropical waters. Come experience the island gems that make up the Caribbean.

### Inside the Cage: Shark Cage Diving in North America

Sharks have long held a unique fascination for people the world over and for SCUBA divers, being in the water with these creatures has always been a high adrenaline activity. There are many shark dives the world over, but divers need not travel to exotic destinations to witness sharks in their natural element. Join Eco-Photo Explorers as they venture inside the cage right here in North America to dive with Blue Sharks in California, Rhode Island and New York. This program will conclude with heart-stopping action from Mexico's Isla de Guadalupe, home to some of the largest Great White Sharks in the world.

### Off the Wall: A Turks and Caicos Adventure

With clear, beautiful turquoise water, brilliant sugar white sand beaches and sumptuous coral reefs, the Turks and Caicos Islands are the ideal destination for SCUBA divers. However, in addition to these obvious treasures, there are other, more magnificent wonders to experience here. In this program, Eco-Photo Explorers will take the viewer on dramatic dives along the Turks and Caicos' sheer vertical walls. In addition, we will journey to the nearby Silver Banks to witness the exciting mating rituals of the North Atlantic Humpback Whale. Whether it's a relaxing dive on a luxurious reef, a breathtaking wall dive or a heart-stopping encounter with a Humpback Whale, the Turks and Caicos Islands offer adventures that are truly off the wall!

### Program Fees & Information

The standard price for all programs is \$275.00, but these prices can be higher depending on the type of event and where it will be held. Contact Eco-Photo Explorers for exact program pricing.

All programs are suitable for family audiences and run approximately 90 minutes in length. All programs can be tailored to specific audience needs.

*Prices subject to change without notice – 12/21*