



UNDERWATER FILM-MAKER WORKSHOP

Kwazulu-Natal, South Africa, June 21st-27th 2026

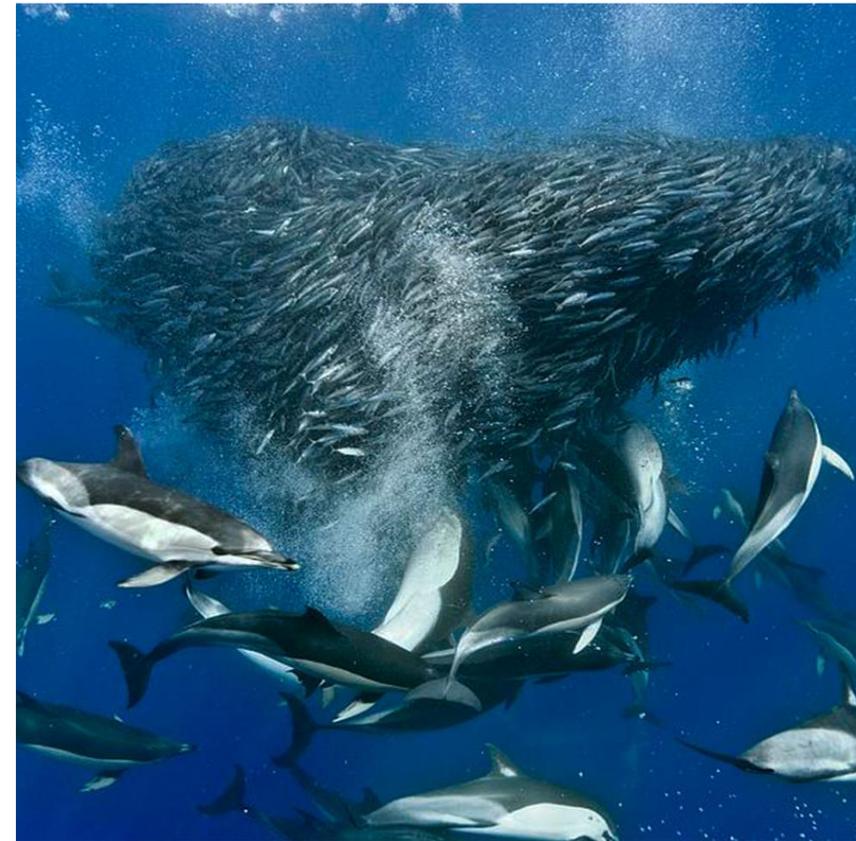
INTRODUCTION

David Diley's Underwater Film-Maker Workshop is a fresh and more detailed take on traditional underwater videography workshops. Designed to cater for all abilities, the workshop aims not only to expand your knowledge of the technical aspects of filming underwater, but more importantly, to inspire you to unlock your creativity and help you tell engaging stories using your own creative voice.

You will learn about underwater cinematography and the art of diving as a camera operator, editing and post-production, topside cinematography and effective storytelling techniques. Whether your focus is films or social media, David includes everything needed to turn your videos into engaging content whether you have a GoPro, or a top end broadcast camera.

Team-work, questions and enthusiasm are encouraged and you will have unrestricted access to an award-winning film-maker with professional expertise both behind and in front of the camera.

Whether you want better holiday videos to share with friends or you want to become a professional yourself, this workshop is the ideal place to do some world class diving, learn and most importantly, have fun!



THE DIVING

Five days of diving with two dives per day with the potential to see multiple species of sharks, dolphins, whales, sailfish, marlin and sea birds and witness one of the greatest annual predation events on earth, the world famous "Sardine Run."

The focus of the workshop is the filming of large pelagics, predators and predatory events. All diving is offshore at sites close to your accommodation.



DIVE SITES & SPECIES

The diving will primarily focus on one of South Africa's greatest sites, Protea Banks. Dive sites here include the northern pinnacle where we can find caverns filled with Sand Tiger Sharks, the southern pinnacle, with sites including Kingfish Gully and Playground, where we can find Tiger Sharks, Scalloped Hammerheads and various species of Ray, and of course the sardine run safaris, where huge bait balls gather and predators of various species come in to take part in one of the natural world's most incredible annual predation events.

During the Sardine Run, Oceanic Blacktips and Bull Sharks are common with occasional visits from Tiger Sharks, Hammerheads and if you're really lucky, Great Whites. Add to that dolphins, seabirds, large gamefish and even whales! This is high-energy, high-octane predation and an opportunity to capture some spectacular footage!

Also included will be at least one baited shark dive allowing you to get some incredible close-up footage of Blacktip and Bull Sharks and anything else that decides to turn up. The most predictable thing about Protea Banks is its unpredictability and its potential for once-in-a-lifetime encounters with charismatic marine predators!



AREAS OF FOCUS

CINEMATOGRAPHY

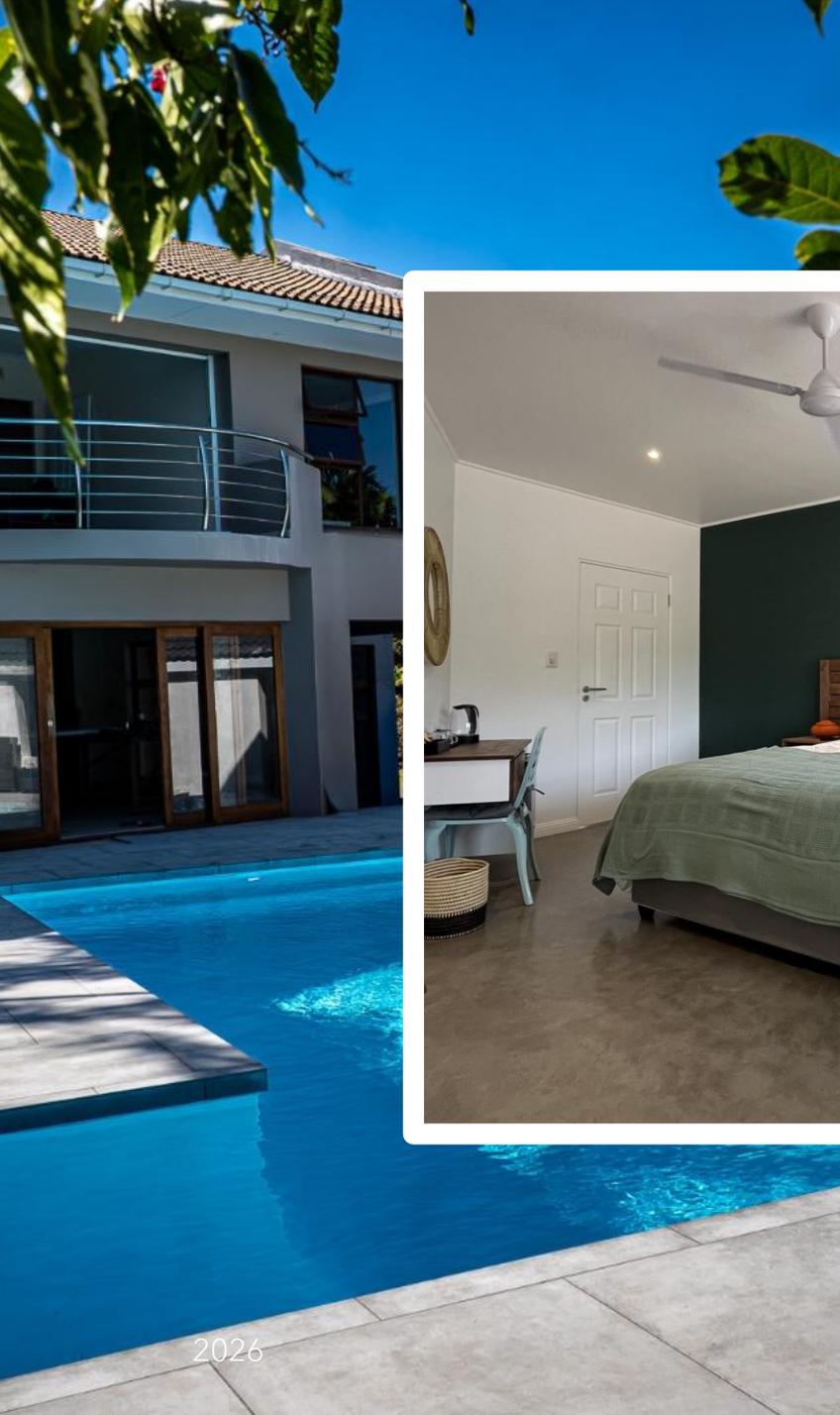
- Best camera settings and moving away from “auto”
- Framing and composition
- Lighting
- Shooting a sequence not just a selection of shots
- Cinematic techniques (camera movement, reveals, focal length, light & dark)
- Building a mood in your footage
- Story-telling techniques
- Finding your “creative voice”

DIVING & DIRECTION

- Directing your on-screen (human) talent
- How to approach wildlife
- Diving during predations

POST-PRODUCTION

- Logging and organising your footage.
- Editing techniques
- Colour correction and creative colour grading.
- Export settings for best quality uploads.



ACCOMMODATION

A beautiful guesthouse with eight individually styled, en-suite double rooms. The guesthouse has a heated pool, relaxing outdoor area, secure gear storage, rinse stations, quality linens and towels and is powered throughout by solar energy.

“The Lookout” is a beautiful, peaceful retreat where you can relax, edit your footage, socialise with other guests, take a swim or just chill out in your room.

The perfect place to be after the high-energy morning dives.

REQUIREMENTS

Minimum Advanced Open Water Certification (or equivalent) with at least 50 non-teaching dives.

This is wild diving so there will be current.

Experience with drift diving and handling currents is preferable. A dive computer is mandatory, as is a reel and SMB for each diver.

Your own camera and housing. We are unable to provide you with any filming or editing equipment so whether it's a GoPro or professional Underwater set up, bring what you have available to you which allows you to film underwater. A Laptop is highly recommended along with a hard drive to store your footage. You are welcome to bring extras like lights, tripods, sound recorders etc. if you want to!





ABOUT DAVID

David Diley is a multi award-winning filmmaker and underwater cinematographer based in the U.K.

Best known for his work with sharks and charismatic marine life, he has created content and provided footage for broadcast, theatrical and commercial clients including SKY TV, Panasonic, CBC, Channel 5, Apple TV, Amazon Prime, Casio, Apeks, Aqualung, Fourth Element, David Attenborough's "Ocean," Tourism Fiji, Red Sea Diving Safari, Aqaba Tourism, Natural England, The Manta Trust and numerous documentaries, short films and features.

David is a HSE certified commercial diver and media dive team contractor with fourteen years experience working around the world in tropical, sub-tropical and cold-water environments.

He has a passionate approach to his work and prides himself on his commitment to quality, his client focused approach, dedication and love for his work and the people he works with.

Further information and examples of his work can be found [here](#).



PACKAGE PRICE & BOOKING

€1350pp Sharing

€1500pp Individual

Includes:

7 nights accommodation

5 days of diving, 2 dives per day

5-day Workshop

Breakfast

Airport transfers from Durban

*Guests will need to book their own flights to Durban and travel insurance.

Places are limited. To book your place on the workshop, please email info@southcoastdiving.co.za