

Cameras Underwater with Cameraman Jeff Goodman.

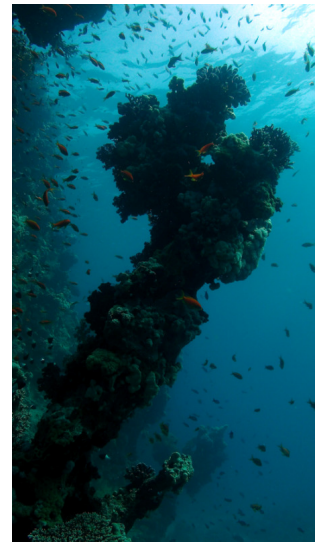
Jeff Goodman blog from the Red Sea March 2011

Having finished another successful underwater wildlife video and editing course at Marsa Shagra I took a taxi up to Hurghada to join the Fleur de Passion, the sailing ship belonging to the Changing Ocean Foundation. www.changingoceans.org



The Changing Oceans Expedition is campaigning for an improved network of marine protected areas to help preserve our oceans. The expedition was launched in 2009. The objective is to visit 100 of the world's most important marine eco-regions in a 10 year period, measuring the pace of change in our Oceans and providing a point of reference for future generations.

Scientific projects are carried out onboard in collaboration with universities around the globe, as well as an awareness program with documentaries, multimedia, educational tools and internet. In addition the expedition supports socio educative projects and invites members of the public to join the adventure to help preserving our oceans.



Although there were underwater cameras already on board, I preferred to use the XR550 in its Gates housing from Cameras Underwater. It was giving me HD quality video as well as 12 Mega Pixel photos and, total reliability. The main camera on board was a Sony EX1 which in itself is a great camera as well as being vastly more expensive than the XR550. A different animal really. However, the well known brand housing for it was not so hot. It continually gave problems and in the end was unusable, so the EX1 and the very expensive housing for it, sat in two very expensive flight cases while I continued to use the XR550 and producing great results. Point being that spending huge amounts of money on equipment does not always give you the results you expect. Look at the market, choose carefully a camera and housing that fits your requirements and then check review web sites for other user comments. Of course, the underwater environment is a harsh one for any equipment, but reliability is essential when you are filming away from any accessible technical support.

I rejoin the ship from mid April to mid May for more filming in the southern Red Sea and will of course be using the XR550 in its Gates housing from Cameras Underwater.

