

Mastering Underwater Photography: Diving into a New World of Imaging

Shooting underwater opens an entirely different visual realm. From vibrant marine life to ethereal light rays, underwater photography offers surreal imagery—but with its own unique set of challenges. Whether you're snorkelling, scuba diving, or simply shooting in a pool, the right approach ensures breathtaking results.

Note; the club has two members interested in this genre; John and Sue.

What Underwater Photography Actually Involves

- Capturing images below the water's surface using waterproof equipment.
- Managing light refraction, loss of colour, and clarity.
- Adjusting to limited visibility, buoyancy, and motion.
- Mastering timing and anticipation for dynamic underwater subjects.

The Pros of Underwater Photography

- **Unique perspectives:** Rare scenes most people never see firsthand.
- **Colourful subjects:** Coral reefs, marine life, and bubbles add visual impact.
- **Creative refractions:** Light behaves differently underwater, adding artistic effect.
- **Weightlessness advantage:** Enables angles and compositions impossible on land.
- **Environmental storytelling:** Promotes marine awareness and conservation.

The Limitations

- **Specialised equipment needed:** Waterproof housing, strobes, and lenses.
- **Loss of colour and sharpness:** Especially reds and warm tones.
- **Focus and exposure challenges:** Limited light, movement, and suspended particles.
- **Short shooting windows:** Air supply or visibility may limit time.
- **Expensive:** Good underwater gear and maintenance costs add up.






How to Use Underwater Mode Wisely

- **Shoot in shallow water:** More light = better colour and detail.
- **Use manual white balance:** Helps correct colour loss at depth.
- **Approach slowly:** Sudden movement disturbs marine life and stirs particles.
- **Use wide lenses:** Get close to subjects to reduce distortion and haze.
- **Practice buoyancy:** Control movement for stable shots and safer diving.

Testing & Hands-On Experiment

- 1. **Colour Loss Test:** Photograph red objects at different depths and compare.
- 2. **White Balance Adjustment:** Set custom white balance using a slate underwater.
- 3. **Bubble Timing Test:** Capture the right moment as bubbles rise from divers.
- 4. **Focus Range Practice:** Learn how close your lens can focus sharply underwater.
- 5. **Housing Dry Run:** Test waterproof housing in a tub before real use.

Camera Manufacturer Symbols Table

Manufacturer	Underwater Mode/Setting Symbol	Additional Notes
Canon	 (Scene Mode: Underwater)	Some PowerShot and EOS R models offer dedicated underwater presets.
Sony	 (Scene Selection: Underwater)	Found in compact models and action cams with water housings.
Nikon	 (Scene Auto: Underwater)	Coolpix models support underwater scene modes.
Fujifilm	 (Film Simulation + Scene Mode)	Presets tuned for blue/green hues underwater.
Panasonic	 (iA or Scene Mode)	Lumix Tough series includes specific underwater scene selections.