

# SCHEDULE

## DAY 1

17 OCTOBER  
FRIDAY

09:00 – 12:30

### SCHOOLS VISITING HOURS – UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHY COLLECTION

A dedicated morning slot for school groups to explore the Diving Talks | Underwater Photography Collection. Short guided walk-throughs introduce students to the stories behind the images, ocean literacy themes, and safe diving practices. Suitable for ages 10+, teachers included.

[Register your class](#)

14:00 – 18:00

### ATTENDEES REGISTRATION

The Organization kindly asks all Attendees to arrive in the morning of October 18 and travel back on, or after, 19:00 of October 20, so that they do not miss the final Talks.

[Buy tickets](#)

14:00 – 18:00

### BRANDS DAY

Exhibitions, workshops and networking

[Buy tickets](#)

15:00 – 18:00

### WORKSHOPS

To be announced

17:00 – 18:00

### UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHY COLLECTION EXHIBITION INAUGURATION

18:30 – 20:00

### OCEAN EXPLORERS TALES

For the first time at Diving Talks, open doors to the general public. Join today's explorers as they step onto the stage in a storyteller format, sharing captivating episodes from their expeditions, behind-the-scenes moments of discovery, and even the funny side of life as an explorer. An inspiring and entertaining journey into the unknown.

\* This schedule can change at any time and is not a guarantee of attendance to any presentation.



## ENJOY

THE PEOPLE, THE GASTRONOMY, THE WINE.  
WANDER AROUND. FEEL LISBON.

# DAY 2

18 OCTOBER  
SATURDAY

9:00

WELCOME TO THE TALKS  
LET'S TALK ABOUT DIVING!

9:20

OPENING SESSION BY TBD

TITLE

Abstract

Name

COMPANY



9:30

PANEL 1

## SENTIENCE IN THE SEA

The Ocean as a Metaphor for Life  
Sentience, the capacity to experience feelings and sensations – pleasure, pain, joy, and fear – was once deemed exclusive to humans. Assigning human traits and emotions to non-human entities would tank a researcher's career. Now we know better. We invite ocean explorers to "show some emotion" when sharing stories of the sea.



Cathryn Castle & Gui Garcia

C2G2 PRODUCTIONS

## LESSONS FROM A DIVER: HOW TO CREATE A BOLD LIFE

Beneath the waves, explorer Tiff Duong uncovered the courage, clarity, and purpose to transform her life. In 'Lessons from a Diver,' she reveals how scuba's powerful lessons—flow, courage, joy, and resilience—can propel you to brave uncharted waters, unleash your boldest self, and create your own legacy of impact.



Tiffany Duong

TIFFANY DUONG

TITLE

Abstract

Name

COMPANY



10:50

COFFEE BREAK

11:30

PANEL 2

REINVENTING THE SCUBA  
DIVING TRAINING BUSINESS



This presentation will challenge current business with a view of understanding why the diving training business is declining globally by interpreting feedback from 400 diver professionals and challenging key issues in pricing models, training quality, and customer loyalty. The industry has focused on volumes over quality with certificates becoming the actual product at the expense of skill, safety, and sustainability. The presentation will recommend business strategies for change and growth.

Damian Xuereb

BRIDGING STANDARDS AND  
INNOVATION: AN INNOVATIVE  
LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE  
MODEL FOR  
TRANSFORMATIVE DIVE  
EDUCATION



This presentation showcases a hybrid virtual and in-person learning approach in a community-led training model for leadership education that redefines value in a fragmented dive training industry. Through an innovative project conducted as NAUI regional conferences, candidates engage in personalized, competency-driven development, integrating online and in-person skills, non-technical skills, and peer collaboration with access to global expertise as part of their development and training as a dive professional. The result is elevation of leadership training beyond standards and cultivation of a new generation of dive professionals.

David Caldwell

TITLE

Abstract



Name

COMPANY

12:50

LIGHTNING TALK

TITLE

Abstract



Name

COMPANY

13:00

NETWORKING LUNCH

Lunch will be served at the venue, and while it is optional, the organization highly recommends booking in advance. The lunch break is short, and there are limited dining options around Cordoaria Nacional.

[Buy lunch](#)

15:00

PANEL 3

BENEATH THE SURFACE:  
CAPTURING THE BEAUTY AND  
WONDER OF THE  
UNDERWATER WORLD



Join me on a journey through the depths of the ocean, where I'll share my experiences and techniques for capturing stunning underwater photographs. From deep wrecks to mysterious cave systems, I'll share some techniques and ideas on how to create images of my style of photography.

Alex Dawson

ALEX DAWSON

ON THE WAY TO ART



On the way to artful imaging, we'll face several exciting challenges. What distinguishes our photographs from snapshots, considering various aspects of art? We have a look at some methods of improving our art level, starting with the mindset above water and diving deep into the beautiful ocean of art.

Henry Jager

HENRY JAGER

MASTERING SOCIAL MEDIA –  
HOW ANYONE CAN GO VIRAL



Learn about the power of social media and how to use it to generate sales for your business. Find out what makes good content, what are the components of viral content and how anyone can master it. This crush course will change the way you feel about digital platforms!

Isidora Dekalo

DIVE INTO LIFE

16:40

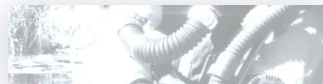
COFFEE BREAK

17:20

PANEL 4

DEBATE

Abstract



Name

MODERATOR



Name

COMPANY

18:20

TALKS' CLOSING

19:30

#### DIVING TALKS DINNER

Dive into the unmissable Diving Talks dinner! Engage in dynamic Q&A, fueling imaginative discussions and sharing captivating stories. Join the fun-filled, informal gathering where excitement knows no bounds. Don't miss out!

Dinner is served at the venue. Optional – not included in the attendance ticket.

The organisation encourages attendants to book the dinner as soon as possible because availability is limited.

[Book dinner](#)

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## DAY 3

19 OCTOBER  
SUNDAY

9:30

#### PANEL 5

##### MARINE PROTECTED AREAS AND DIVING IN MADEIRA ISLAND...THE CHICKEN OR THE EGG?



In Madeira Archipelago, Portugal, the creation of MPA, as well as the creation of artificial reefs, have always gone hand in hand. It's sometimes difficult to understand where it all began. It is a successful journey that started in 1971 and that is the story I will tell you about.

Paulo Oliveira

IFCN

##### USING RECREATIONAL AND TECHNICAL DIVING SKILLS TO COMPLEMENT SCIENTIFIC DIVING PROJECTS THROUGH CITIZEN SCIENCE



CCR is a phenomenal tool for Scientific Diving due to increased bottom time capability. Using CCR for Marine Science in the 'Twilight Zone' (Metaphoric range between 50 & 200 metres).

Phil will walk us through a successful 9 day project diving numerous remote walls and Sea Mounts off the West Coast of Scotland to gather samples for a University team with a live onboard lab utilising Technical volunteer Citizen Science divers. Learn how your diving can lead you to contribute to the expansion of knowledge of our oceans.

Phil Short

PHIL SHORT TECHNICAL

##### DEEP UPDATE, TBD



Abstract



Kirk Krack  
DEEP – MAKING HUMANS AQUATIC

10:50 COFFEE BREAK

11:30 PANEL 6

GOING BIG FROM THE START:  
LESSONS FROM EXPEDITION  
BUTENG

Expedition Buteng in Indonesia was the very first project under Nixie Expeditions, and we went in large. With a diverse, international team of cave divers, speleologists, scientists and local collaborators, we set out to map and study the uncharted Laulawi cave system. The project tested our capacity to coordinate across disciplines, cultures, and environments, revealing valuable lessons about teamwork, leadership, and what it truly means to merge exploration with science. In this talk, Maria Bollerup share what worked, what didn't, and how this ambitious first step shaped the future of Nixie Expeditions, with takeaways for those who dreams of starting a project of their own, or is curious about remote expeditions and team diving.



Maria Bollerup

TITLE

Abstract



Kirill Egorov

GUE

VANILLA FARM: LAYING LINE  
AGAINST THE BULLDOZERS

Vanilla Farm: laying line against the bulldozers Thanks to urban development a cave was discovered. Yet the very forces that revealed the path to it now threaten to erase it forever. Vanilla Farm tells the bittersweet story of exploration born from bulldozers and condo blueprints, set against the backdrop of one of Mexico's fastest-growing tourist hubs. It's a journey into discovery, fragility, and the race to document what may vanish before our eyes.



Tamara Adame

12:50 LIGHTNING TALK

TBD

Abstract



Name

13:00

## NETWORKING LUNCH

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15:00

## PANEL 7

**THE ITALIAN DREAM:  
VIMINALE WRECK**

The legendary and old alpine climber Walter Bonatti's hands were thick, but in spite of that, the Alps' cold wind cut them. Wreckers' hands test the water, touch very gently, toss roughly or smoothly. Hands, for us wreckers, are more than eyes: they feel, see, and perceive. These hands sometimes plunge as do Amore's marble fingertips into Psyche, remembering the classic tradition of sculpture. Touch is decisive, but cognitive. Hands clutch, and fingers cling into a pianist's dance. This is the story of the Ocean liner MN Viminale, sunk during World War II by an American torpedo boat off the coast of Palmi, South Italy. The Ship now lies at 107m / 350 ft of depth.

Andrea Murdock Alpini

WRECK DIVING

**TITLE**

Abstract



Marco Ali &amp; Susana Vallejos

VRACK MUSEUM OF WRECKS

**TITLE**

Abstract

**Name**

COMPANY

16:40

## COFFEE BREAK

17:20

## PANEL 8

**DEBATE**

Abstract



Name

TBD



Name

COMPANY

18:20

DIVING TALKS 2025 CLOSING

## INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT



## DIVING SAFETY PARTNER



## SPONSORS

Associate your brand with the event and showcase your products and services to the community of recreational divers, technical divers, and scientific divers, that will attend.

Why to sponsor?





Welcome to  
**PORTUGAL**  
IMMIGRATION SERVICES

## MAIN MEDIA PARTNER



## MEDIA PARTNERS



## OFFICIAL CARRIERS



Event of PUBLIC INTEREST according to a decision of the Government of the Portuguese Republic published in the DRE 8 - II Series - Order 567/2025 of 13 January of the Official Republic Journal.



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