

CUBA



Photo by Eric Simon, New England College



## CUBA

### UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

"Water Lens 2018"

February 18-25, 2018

*Please join us for a special exploration of Cuba below the surface—an underwater photography contest in Zapata National Park! At more than 1 million acres, the Zapata Peninsula is one of the most extensive remnants of coastal Caribbean biodiversity left in the region.*

*This is an exciting opportunity to connect with resident photographers, learn about the country's fascinating natural areas, and join like-minded people from all over the world who are as enthusiastic about nature and photography as you are!*

### CONTEST HIGHLIGHTS

- Contestants may submit photos in the following four categories: Fishes, Close-Up Photo, Wide Angle (Environment), and Wide Angle (Diving).
- Photographers may take up to 100 photos per day and submit one image in each category.
- Images should be submitted in JPEG format (300 dpi resolution).
- Only original images without any editing/manipulation will be accepted for consideration.
- The jury will include noted Cuban and international photographers, who will judge photos on content as well as artistic and technical quality.
- Visit [holbrook.travel/underwaterphoto-cu18](http://holbrook.travel/underwaterphoto-cu18) for a complete list of rules and guidelines.

# ITINERARY

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

## FEBRUARY 18 - HAVANA

Upon arrival at the Havana International Airport, after clearing customs and collecting your luggage, you will be met by your local guide and transferred to your hotel. You will have the remainder of the afternoon and evening at leisure.

*Overnight at Comodoro Havana Hotel.*

## FEBRUARY 19 - ZAPATA

At 8:30 am, depart from Comodoro Havana Hotel to Playa Girón Hotel in Zapata National Park. At 11:30 am, arrive at Playa Girón Hotel for check-in and registration. Lunch will be served at the hotel between 12 and 1:30 pm. At 4 pm begin accreditation and meet with your technical counselor and the other contestants. Categories for the contest include Fishes, Environment, Model Environment, and Macro.

At 7 pm attend an opening event and dinner at the hotel.

*Overnight at Playa Girón Hotel. (BLD)*

## FEBRUARY 20 - ZAPATA

After breakfast, transfer to your dive sites to start the first day of competition. 1 recognition dive. Have lunch at a local restaurant. Enjoy free time for preparation for competition and relaxation. Dinner at the hotel.

*Overnight at Playa Girón Hotel. (BLD)*

## FEBRUARY 21 - ZAPATA

After breakfast, transfer to the dive sites to start the second day of competition. 2 competition dives. Have lunch at a local restaurant.

*Overnight at Playa Girón Hotel. (BLD)*

## FEBRUARY 22 - ZAPATA

After breakfast, transfer to the dive sites to start the third day of competition. 2 competition dives. Have lunch at a local restaurant.

*Overnight at Playa Girón Hotel. (BLD)*

## FEBRUARY 23 - ZAPATA

The morning is reserved for photographers to select which photographs they will submit in each category. The jury will begin their work after lunch at 1 pm. After the selection time you can enjoy different recreational activities in the area. In the evening, attend a closing activity, awards ceremony, and traditional Cuban dinner with show.

*Overnight at Playa Girón Hotel. (BLD)*

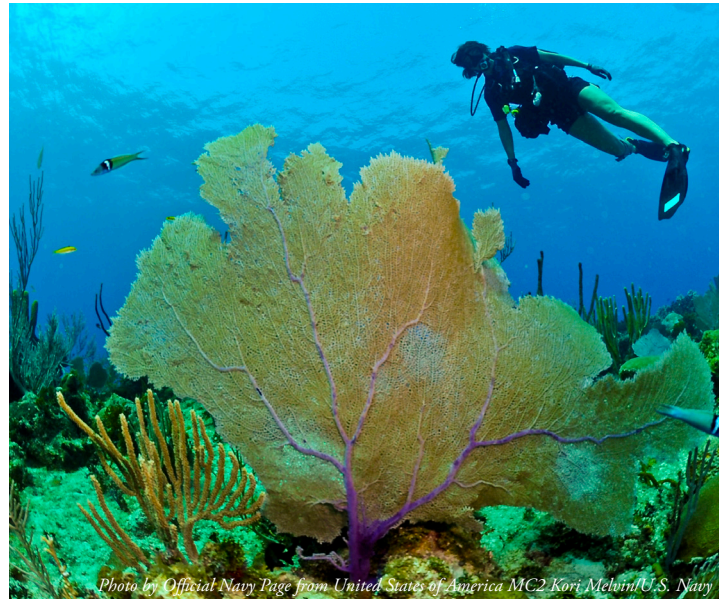
## FEBRUARY 24 - HAVANA

After breakfast, check out and transfer to Havana. You will have the remainder of the day at leisure.

*Overnight at Comodoro Havana Hotel. (B)*

## FEBRUARY 25 - DEPARTURE

This morning you will be transferred to the Havana International Airport for your flight(s) to your home city. (B)



*Photo by Official Navy Page from United States of America MC2 Kori Meloni U.S. Navy*

## PROGRAM PRICING

**\$1,120**

*Cost is per person in single occupancy.*

*Double room credit is \$100 per person.*

*Non-diver credit is \$140 per person.*

*Additional night at Comodoro Havana Hotel: \$125*

Price includes accommodations, meals per itinerary with non-alcoholic beverages, in-country transportation, activities as mentioned, full-time guide, and Cuban visa.

Cost does not include international airfare, gratuities, or items of a personal nature. Holbrook can assist with your flight arrangements if desired.

## THE FINE PRINT

*A \$200 deposit and enrollment form are required by November 25, 2017 to reserve your space on the trip. This deposit is refundable minus a \$100 cancellation fee until December 5, 2017, at which time non-refundable final payment is due. Traveller trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. For more information call Travel Insured at 800-243-3174 or visit [www.travelinsured.com](http://www.travelinsured.com). Holbrook Travel's agency number is 15849.*

*Please note that this event is sponsored and organized by a Cuban tourism operation and is different from our other programs. All activities, contest rules, guiding, etc., are established by the Cuban organizing entity. This is not an itinerary with a comprehensive series of sites and points of interest. Holbrook cannot make modifications to the program, as it is an event organized by an outside entity.*

## FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ENROLL:

Contact Sandy Schmidt at [schmidt@holbrooktravel.com](mailto:schmidt@holbrooktravel.com) or 877-907-5360 or visit [holbrook.travel/underwaterphoto-cu18](http://holbrook.travel/underwaterphoto-cu18)

## **WATER LENS CONTEST REGULATION-2018**

### **DIVING-FCAS**

#### **RULES FOR SHIPS AND MODELS**

- This competition will be based on the CMAS General Regulation on Underwater Photography and the specific regulations issued by the Audiovisual Commission and the FCAS Sports Committee.

#### **PARTICIPATION AND REGISTRATION**

- Photographers and their participating models must be accredited upon arrival at the event and submit all their certification documents.
- Participating photographers or models must be at least 16 years of age. They must present an authorization document signed by their parents in order to participate.
- All photographers must have at least CMAS 2 \*\* Stars certification and / or equivalent certification and a certificate of health for divers (medical check).
- At the time of the accreditation and registration, the one designated by the organizing committee delegated by FCAS will verify the certificates and documents to be delivered by the participants.
- Whatever the FCAS delegate and the doctor specializing in hyperbaric medicine considers as not complete or adequate, the participant will not be able to compete.

#### **ORGANIZATION OF COMPETITION DIVING.**

- The maximum possible time for each dive per diver will be 90 minutes. And at the end of the prescribed time every competitor must return with the instructor as security. The underwater diver will take the competitor's immersion time and model. At the end of 90 minutes, he will indicate the return.
- Each photographer or assistant has the right to have two tanks (bottles) per day of competition. The capacity of this tank will be 12 liters and the filling pressure 200 bar or atm will be the same for each competitor.
- Each diver will be able to dive in the same dive sites.
- Any competition after the start may only be interrupted by unexpected circumstances, and this can only be considered as valid under the decision of the FCAS Judge.
- Only the Judge of the FCAS is qualified and authorized to decide the interruption of the
- Competition.
- The photographers and the assistants will dive in pairs, but for the cases that we are companions, the Organizing Committee will be able to find an option for this situation.
- In the event of an unexpected situation (for example an assistant diver is unable to dive), confirmed by the official doctor, the team captain will assume the role of assistant diver for the photographer who does not have it
- The maximum authorized depth will be 30 meters.

#### **- SPECIFIC RULE**

**It will detail the 4 categories for the individual classification:**

**1- FISHES.** In this category, only fish should appear; Alone, or in schools. Turtles, brunettes and octopuses will not be accepted. It will cover the best characteristics of this creature

**2- CLOSE-UP PHOTO** without theme (macro photo or close-up about any subject except of fish or the subject of the competition that is the main subject Details of fish or subject that is the subject of the competition, Nor will they be accepted in this category.

**3- WIDTH ANGLE (ENVIRONMENT) WITHOUT DIVING** Achieve a perfect composition where you can appreciate the beauty of the underwater environment showing elements of the fauna.

**4 - WIDE ANGLE (DIVING) WITH DIVING** Subtract photo taken with wide angle may include a diver who may be an assistant diver, with colored lights in an underwater environment. They can be included in this category of photos, land-water. (Half surface-half water)



## PHOTOGRAPHS

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- - The competition will only be for the use of digital cameras will be able to use any type of digital camera that you like or prefer. Cameras with a wireless interface (wireless) such as WLAN or Bluetooth will not be authorized in the competition.

- - The minimum resolution of the images will be:

- • 3000 x 2000 px and the measurement of 3: 2 photos

- • 2800 x 2100 px and the measurement of 4: 3 photos

- • 3100 x 1750 px and the measurement of 16: 9 photos

- - Images must be saved with the best quality and without being compressed.

- - Only the original images without any manipulation will be accepted in the competition. All images must be in a file in JPEG format. If the camera that is used has the possibility to save images in RAW + JPEG file the participant must use the files in RAW formats and integrate them (pass them) to a JPEG file in separate files and not only in RAW file or only what interests him.

- - Photographers will be able to use any type of memory card they want or prefer. They must have capacity for a minimum of 100 images of the best quality. The host federation must have card readers for all types of cards that may be available (if they exist in the market)
- If it is possible to use more than one memory in the camera, a single port must be used, keeping the other card slot empty during the competition.
- - At the beginning of each day of competition, the Judge shall maintain control of the following:
  - . The mark of the format (sign) of the memory cards in the cameras of the participants.
  - The housing tightness of the cameras. In case it is necessary to quickly open the housing (for a control of the judge on suspicion of tampering or violation of what is established, all images that have been taken up to that moment will not be presented for use in the competition.
  - - Every day of the competition (2 dives) the photographer will have the opportunity to take 100 images.
  - Images that exceed the number 100 will not be considered by the uploader to the PC of the same ..

### **Obligations of the Competition.**

- At the end of the day of competition the camera housings shall be opened under the control of the Judge
- International of the FCAS.
- Your storage must be provided by the Deputy Judge of the FCAS.
- The Judge will copy the first 100 images of the memory cards to an external storage (PC, external disk or other peripheral). The file with the copies of those images must be renamed with the participant's number of the photographer.
- The photographer will receive back his memory card, to focus and select the images that he wants to be registered in the competition. And in time you must tell the Judge the number of these images, for the vote of the Jury only these images of which have copies made after the competition in an external warehouse. This ensures that such images have not been manipulated.
- - Image manipulation.
- The improvement of the images during the time of competition that are taken during the process of filming with the camera (in everything related to contrast, lighting, brightness, definition) will not be considered a manipulation.
- Any improvement of the image made after the moment of the photo is considered a manipulation and will be penalized with the disqualification.
- . Additional use of digital images
- - Picture Selection.
- . All files downloaded to the Organization's computer from the cameras will be controlled by the Organizer and kept in an open folder for each of the registered users, without these shots being manipulated at any time. All images taken by Competitors will be in their possession after downloaded in the folder that will enable the designee. At no point will the competitor's memory be erased from the competitor's memory, this will allow the competitor a better criterion of choice when he is called to the official selection ceremony and presented to the jury.
- . The maximum time to choose the photos will be 40 minutes by photographers. As competitors are named, according to the previously known

list, they will go to the place where a judge will put at his disposal a computer with all the photos taken by the photographer. At the end, give the model with the numbering of the selected photos.

- Each photographer will select from among all the photographs downloaded in his folder the ones he wants to submit to the contest: one for each modality that competes, placing them in a file to present to the Jury, so that only these will be encrypted with the author's password to be integrated in the databases containing all the photographs presented.

-. The selection of the photos to submit is the responsibility of each competitor, the jury will only know the file number with the selected photos that will be the same of the photographer.

- After the images have been selected by the participants, all other images should be deleted from the storage by the host federation. Only the images for the competition must remain in this storage.

- The photos submitted to the jury of photography will be owned by FCAS and this organization can use them without paying, but always with the name of the photographer, as a promotion of the activities of FCAS or the affiliated associations as well as the organization that sponsors the event.

#### **- DISQUALIFICATION**

- - The following decisions are absolutely prohibitions during the competition and in practice they result in an immediate disqualification:

-. Any unfair action

-. Any action contrary to the rules

-. All actions that result in pollution of the environment.

-. Have another participant view the contents of another competitor's memory card.

-. Make known unused cards during the dive in the official time of competition.

-. Image manipulation

-. Use dead creatures as if they were live animals.

-. Photograph (copy) other photographs or slides

-. Use scooter or other underwater vehicles.

- - Infringing the decisions on section 9.1 taken by Judge FCAS ..

- - the disqualified person (photographer or assistant) can not be replaced by another person

- - All that is included in the section on protection of the environment (Article 12).

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#### **SECURITY MEASURES**

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- - Among the registration documents, each participant must sign a letter certifying that he does not have a physical impediment to dive.

- Competitors must ensure their own safety in the course of the tests as indicated by the requirements and imperatives of underwater diving, the sole participation in the competitive event implies the perfect knowledge of the regulation. The hydrostatic vest and the manometer are mandatory for the photographer and the assistant. The photographer must have a complementary air outlet (double regulator, regulator in the vest or reserve of air). The assistant must have a sufficient level of diving equivalent to photographer-assistant in respect of C.M.A.S. regulations.

- The host federation will provide all medical care and safety measures during the event and will have to provide the necessary information about the emergency assistance and any services of the competent local emergency.
- The organizers will have all the means of communication necessary to face any emergency and oxygen supplies will be available on board during the competition and will be used exclusively for this purpose.
- - throughout the competition there will be a doctor specialized in diving diseases.
- - Each boat that participates in the competition will be equipped with the oxygen tank and equipment for any emergency situation. When this tank is used, this must be known to the Judge
- of the event.

### **RESPONSIBILITIES**

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- Photographers will be responsible for the equipment they use during the competition, as well as for all the personal equipment they have declared for the competition.
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- **PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT**
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- - No participant or assistant may touch a creature underwater. They must declare any manipulation or destruction of specimens of flora or fauna during the competition including the day of the practice.
- Carlos Fonseca Vallés



- Pte. Audiovisual Commission
- FCAS

### **JURY AND SELECTION OF WINNERS**

- The jury will be composed of national and international photographers, of recognized trajectory, who will value both the content and the artistic and technical quality of the images presented. (Later the names of these will be announced).
- The decision of the jury will be final and unappealable.
- A Grand Prize will be awarded and 1 winner will be selected for each category. 2nd and 3rd places will be granted, as well as mentions to the photographs that the jury estimates.



**PARTICIPATION IN THIS COMPETITION IMPLIES THE  
TOTAL ACCEPTANCE OF THESE BASES.**