

Featured Photographer

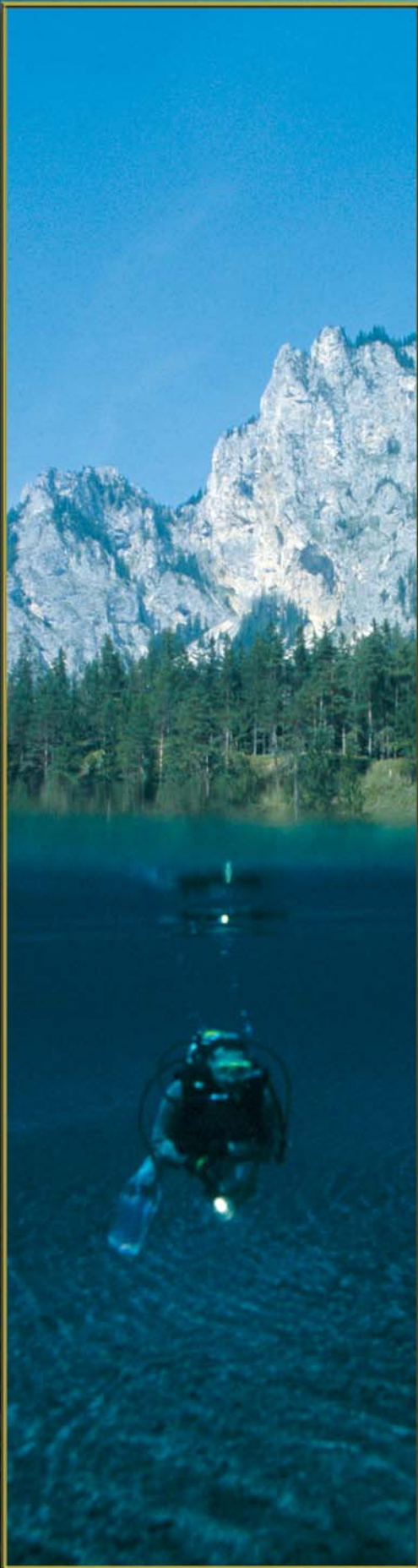
Gaby Nenadal



Born and raised in Vienna, Austria — the heart of Europe — Gaby Nenadal is a fanatic diver with special love for tropical seas. Although her dream of diving was imminent from her childhood days, it took a friend persuading her on her 20th birthday in 1992 to try out diving for herself. Since this day, her passion for diving has grown.

Gaby's diving career started in a deep cold Austrian lake with no visibility at 4°C. Discouraged by this attempt she took a vacation to one of the most beautiful diving destinations: the Maldives in the middle of the Indian Ocean.

This time, since she was so deeply impressed by her adventures, she decided to capture them on film as a memory to share them with family and friends. Due to budget restrictions during her university years, the first camera was a borrowed Sea & Sea Motormarine II. A year later, she saved enough money for her first underwater camera, a Sea & Sea Motormarine II-EX, which accompanied her for several years.

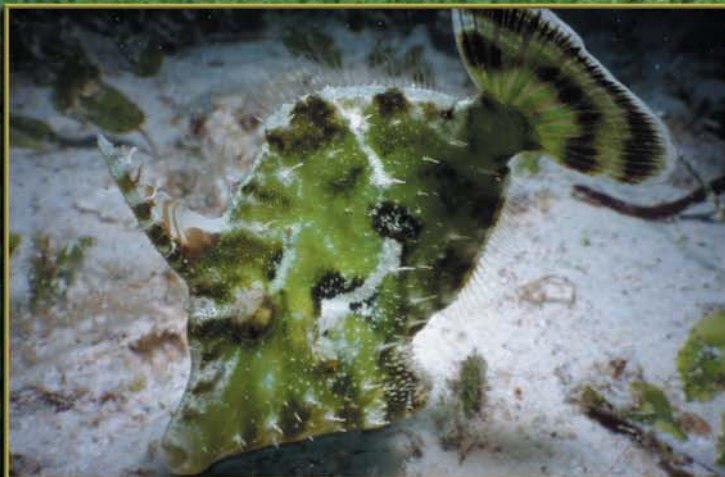


Now, she takes her photos with a Canon EOS 300 in a UK Germany-housing and a Subtronic Gamma flash. She enjoys both macro and wide-angle photography.

Gaby has visited the Maldives several times, as this destination is very famous for its dream islands with white beaches, gin-clear water and lush palm trees. Of course, like all underwater photographers Gaby insists that discoveries found below the surface are what really matter. Some of these "big" finds include schools of fish (barracudas, snappers, jacks, fusiliers), mantas, sharks (especially white tip, grey reef sharks), whale sharks, and small, rare creatures like different kinds of frog fish, sea horses, cuttle fish, crabs and others.

After having visited the Philippines, Thailand was next on Gaby's list. In this locale, the Andaman Sea on Thailand's west coast captured her interest since visibility is better and a bigger variety of species can be found. The well-known and idyllic Similan Islands are a favourite spot with colourful soft corals and lots of fish, while diving locations like the famous Hin Daeng/Hin Muang deep down in the South offer encounters with (whale) sharks and mantas.

Being very fond of marine biology, her stay at the Malaysian island of Mabul, east of Borneo, has been her most interesting and exiting location so far.



Since the islands of Mabul, the neighbouring Kapalai and the world-famous Sipadan lie close together, these diving spots offer a great combination of wall diving and muck diving with rare critters. For example, there may be hammerhead sharks, barracudas and tons of turtles on the morning dive and ghost pipefish, mantis shrimp and flamboyant cuttlefish in the afternoon! Mabul also has a well-equipped tech-diving base, called SMART-TEC, offering nitrox, trimix, rebreather as well as cave diving in Sipadan's famous turtle cave. (Please visit www.tdisouthchina.com/mabul/ for more information on this locale.)

Between her travels, Gaby's diving is restricted to the cold and mysterious Austrian lakes. Nevertheless, a nice dive in this environment is sometimes possible. The impressive Green Lake, which is only filled with water after the late spring thaw, is just one example. Although it is extremely cold, Green Lake offers a visibility of up to 100 meters, not to mention the countryside surrounding this lake seems to be out of a fairytale. The high, rugged mountains with snow covered peaks that lead down to a dense, lush forest with a small lake shimmering in all shades of emerald and turquoise in the middle make it a scenic experience outside the water as well as inside.

Nevertheless, Gaby insists that she prefers tropical seas for their location, flora and visibility. Her next travels will take her to Burma (Mergui archipelago) to watch the "big guys" and, once again, to Malaysia (Lankayan/ Borneo), the "world of critters".

