

WISH I WAS HERE

WISH I
WAS
HERE

 LANNOO

THE WORLD'S
MOST EXTRAORDINARY
PLACES ON AND
BEYOND THE SEASHORE



The sea, the sea,
the open sea!
The blue, the fresh,
the ever free!

Bryan W. Procter

PREFACE

There are five great oceans on the planet. A hundred and thirteen seas. This means that, in all, over 72 per cent of our planet is covered in water. This is not what fascinates us now, however. What intrigues us is a much smaller percentage: the parts where water touches land. There is something about the way waves lap the sand. How beaches form, the colours they adopt. But especially: how humans interact with them. Hammocks are strung between palm trees. Colourful parasols are placed in the pearl-white sand. Little boats sail along the coast searching for transparent waters. To many people, the area separating land and sea appears to be the highest good attainable. If there exists a paradise, let it have a beach.

All of this has led us to bring together people and places from all around the world that share the love of this magical frontier. *Wish I Was Here* offers a selection of the most beautiful places in and around the water. Hotels on or by the sea that you can only dream of. On islands so small there is no room for worries. We show restaurants whose meals, prepared by the best chefs in the world, lose out to their locations on, by or even under the sea. We show big cities that gained fame thanks to their proximity to the sea. Islands surrounded by nothing but azure natural beauty. This photo book is one, big wish list of places in the world you would like to visit someday.

But we also interview passionate photographers. Surf photographers who cannot live for even a day without the sea. Who were so taken by the sea when they first saw it that they could no longer live without it. Who travel the world for the best wave, the most spectacular water. Who sometimes find themselves face to face with a school of dolphins or a pod of whales, and may even risk their lives for that one, perfect shot. And all just to share their passion with the rest of the world.

We let underwater photographers talk about life on the other side. About the fragility of the flora and fauna, about animal species that are endangered and must be protected. And about the beauty they encounter while doing all of the above. Colours that almost transport you to another world.

Wish I Was Here shows an overview of life on and around the water. The most beautiful pictures taken from under and on the water, from land and air. We show paradise. Destinations everybody has heard of at some time and others that are still almost completely unknown. We want to emphasise how very precious it all is and how much we should all be looking after it. Because before you know it, it could be gone. — AMBASSADOR.LAND

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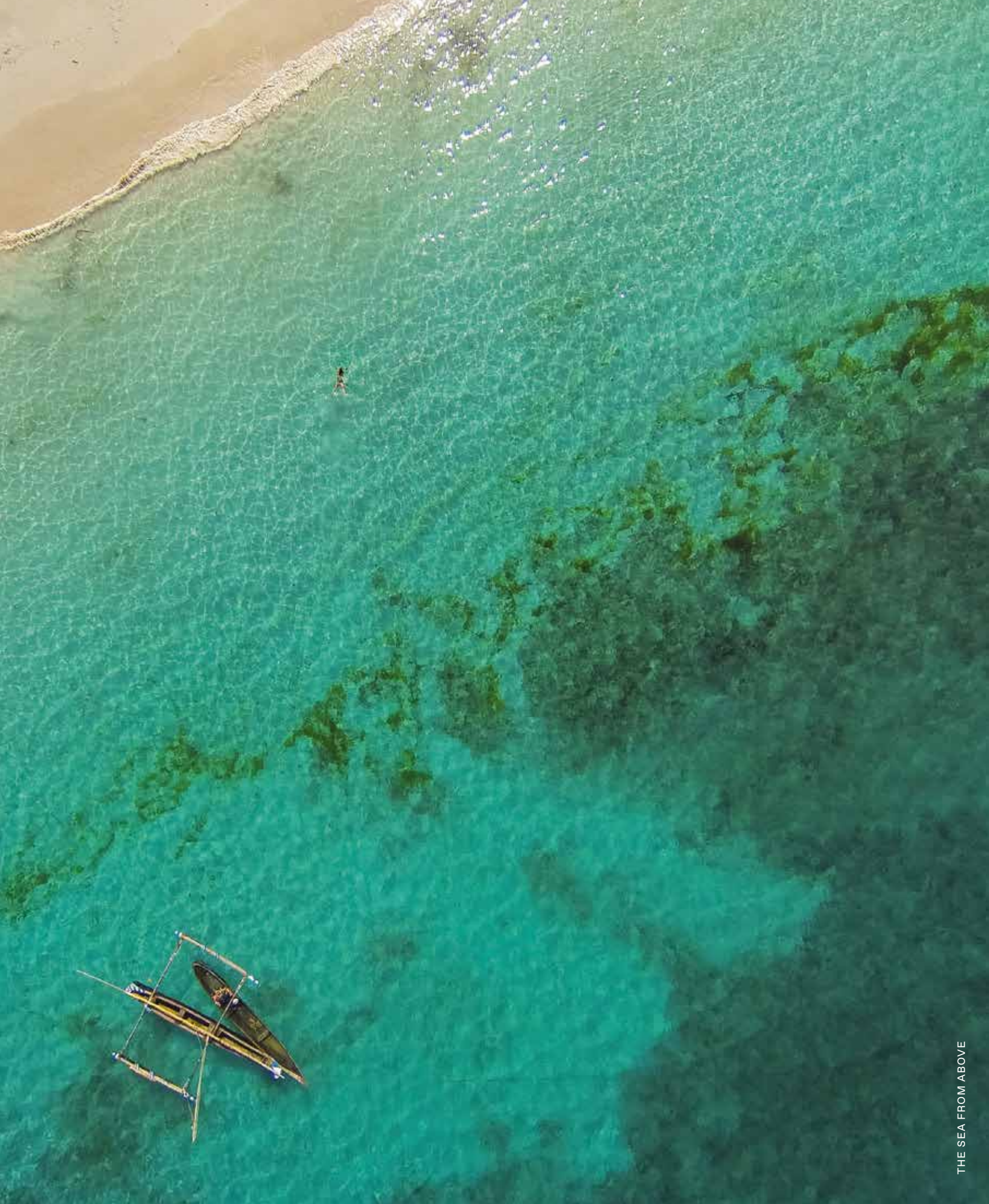
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FROM

ABOVE





THE SEA FROM ABOVE





INTERVIEW

TOMMY CLARKE

Tommy Clarke grew up on the south coast of England where he spent nearly every childhood holiday by the beach. This sparked a deep interest of the interaction between water and land and how people connect with that location. But it wasn't until he was living in Sydney that he embarked on his first aerial shoot over Bondi Beach, capturing the colorful surfboards strewn across the beach which became his first series – *Shore*. Since then Tommy has hung out of helicopters and small aircraft everywhere from San Francisco and Mexico to the Canary Islands and Utah.

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How did you start your career as an aerial photographer?

TC I was a fashion photographer for many years, which fortunately took me all over the world. I found myself living and working in Sydney for a few years, where I ultimately fell out of love with fashion and focused on photographing the coastline, which had always been a passion of mine, having grown up near the sea. Striving to get unique photos, I got to a point where I needed to do something radically different to get shots I was really happy with. I'd seen the tourist sightseeing helicopters going over the beaches for months, so I saved up, booked one, took the door off, and kept my fingers crossed it would go well and I wouldn't be wasting my money.

What's it like to hang out of a helicopter?

TC I find it an incredibly peaceful experience now when I'm flying in helicopters, but for the first few years of my career as an aerial photographer, money was very tight, and I was very aware of the cost of these machines per hour, so I found it all very stressful to start with.

A lot of aerial photographers use drones; you work from a helicopter. Do you think you can get the same results?

TC I started shooting from the air before the age of drones. If you wanted aerial shots, you hired a helicopter; it was as simple as that. The feeling of actually being up there, being able to scan the landscape for your next shot, is incredible. I can't imagine you get that feeling looking at a screen at sea level with a remote control in your hand. Drones are amazing bits of kit, and I've seen wonderful images shot by them, but for me, I prefer to actually get up in the air to take the photos

How do you set up a trip, choose your destination?

TC As I mentioned, the cost of a helicopter is so high that preparation is key. You need to plan out the time you're in the air so as not to waste money. Most shoots take months to plan, even if it comes down to just a few hours in the air. You must look at weather, wind direction, tide times, and time of day so as not to get the shadow of the helicopter in the shot.

What's your favourite photo?

TC I fell in love with the earth from above because of magazines like *Condé Nast Traveller*. When my photograph of boats moored off a French beach became the cover of that magazine, it was an incredible feeling, and that photo has given me a great sense of pride because of it. (next page)







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is incredible.

Tommy Clarke





What are you looking for in your photos?

TC Many things, but largely colour, texture, points of interest, and more so now, an abstract feeling to them.

Your work concentrates a lot at or around the water and the coastline. Why are you so focused on the ocean?

TC I grew up right by the sea. Fishing, surfing, swimming. As I grew up, I was always drawn back to this area where the sea meets the ocean; it's where I feel 100% at ease and happy. My first few shoots were spent trying to capture that colourful strip of sand by the sea, trying to encapsulate those feelings I've always had whilst on a beach.

Do you have a favourite destination to shoot aerial photos? Or is there a destination you're still dreaming of?

TC I was lucky enough to shoot over Iceland last year, which had been a dream of mine for years. It's such an otherworldly landscape. I hope to keep shooting there for many years. New Zealand is probably now top of my list with its glacial lakes and snow-capped mountains. (end)

COLOPHON



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