



流泻的银光

# LIQUID SILVER

Pescador Island in the Philippines gives South Africa's Sardine Run a run for its luxurious glow.

菲律宾佩斯卡多尔岛华丽的银光可以与南非的沙丁鱼潮一较高下。

David G. Hoyle | Beth and Shaun Tenney



## PESCADOR

AS WAS VERY OWN SARDINE RUN

## PHILIPPINES

Located in the Taron Strait, a few kilometers from the western coast of Cebu, is an island where you'll find 70 percent of all species of fish known to the Philippines in the deep waters of Moolool Marine Park.

It's dawn and the boat crew has hauled us out of bed too early to see the sardine run at Pescador Island. We are moored up close to the site and are slumping that vital early morning coffee as we kit up, rushing to leap into the inflatable boat and see if the famed sardines are actually there.

A few years ago, the walls of Pescador were regarded as a beautiful dive but not unusual or unique. Then one day a huge ball of sardines arrived and stayed around for a while, long enough to attract all the relevant predators and capture the attention of the local dive centres.

Naturally, comparisons were made to the more famous South African sardine run as a similar pattern had set in. The huge numbers of small sardines were attracting pelagic predators each day – thresher sharks swooped up from the depths to lead with tuna hot on their heels, while rainbow runners and jacks soon realized the potential for an easy feast. But then as suddenly as they appeared, the sardines disappeared. It was a quite an event, if only a short-lived one.

#### A legend is born

A year later, and the sardines reappeared and – for nearly two years – they have remained around the steep walls of Pescador. No one knows why the fish disappeared, where they went or even why they came back, but they were definitely there.

As soon as the inflatable hit the site, we rolled back into the water and were swimming towards the most massive school of fish we have ever seen. Hundreds and thousands, no, millions of tiny flashes of silver were clustered in a ball just off into the blue.

Our divemaster had briefed us to hover in the shadow of the reef wall and wait for the mass of fish to move in towards the island. We watched in awe as the immense sardine ball approached, then a few moments later, the solid edges started to disintegrate.

A gigantic tuna had come barreling in at great speed, launching itself into the body of the sardine school, and splitting it into myriad smaller groups, nabbing and taking prey, then disappearing off into the distance. As quickly as they had dispersed, the sardines regrouped into a tighter ball, only to be blown apart a second time as a gang of jacks, intent on eating a big breakfast, forced the school asunder once more.

Before we knew it, our tanks were empty, it had been a good 60 minutes of head-spinning action as we watched for tuna, mackerel and rainbow runners. We hoped that the thresher sharks would come up from the depths, but they are not seen as often as the other pelagic species.

#### Second performance

The day moved on and, as the sun headed west, the sardines followed its trailing path. On our second dive, the school of fish

黎明时刻，船员就把我们拖下床。只是时间还太早，看不到佩斯卡多尔岛的沙丁鱼游。我们在非观鱼游的地点停泊，一边坐着一边喝着那下清晨不可缺少的咖啡。然后，就急着想充充气艇，以便去确认著名的沙丁鱼是否真的出现在这里。

几年前，佩斯卡多尔的海墙被视为是一个优美的潜水地点，但还称不上难得或是独特。然后有一天，一大群集结成球状的沙丁鱼来到此地，还逗留了好一阵子，时间长到足以吸引所有相关的潜水者，并引起当地潜水中心的关注。

自然而然地，人们会将其与更著名的南非沙丁鱼游相提并论，因为两者都有着相似的模式。这些数量众多的小沙丁鱼，每天吸引中上层的捕食者前来——长尾鲨从深处处掠食而上觅食；而鲭鱼则在其后紧紧跟随。同时，双带群游鲷鱼也很快地发觉，这可能是一场毫不费力的盛宴。可是后来，就像它们突如其来地出现一样，这些沙丁鱼消失不见了，这真的是一个相当精彩的事件，只是太过短暂。

#### 传说的诞生

一年以后，沙丁鱼再次出现，而且——在将近两年的时间——它们在佩斯卡多尔海墙附近徘徊不去。没有人知道沙丁鱼当初为什么会消失，它们到哪里去了，甚至它们为什么又会回来。但是，它们的确是回来了。

当充气艇一抵沙丁鱼出现的地方，我们就以常规式进入水中，游向我们有生以来所见过的最大鱼群。有成百上千的，不对，是数以百万计闪烁的微小银光，集结成球状就这么游向深海。

我们的潜水早已预示过我们，要守在礁壁阴影中等待大量的鱼群往岛内移动。我们怀着敬畏的心情，看着集结成球状的巨大沙丁鱼群朝我们靠近。几分钟之后，坚实的球状边缘开始瓦解。

一只巨大的鲭鱼以极快的速度横冲直撞而来，冲入沙丁鱼群之中将鱼群裂解成无数个小团体，抢夺和捕捉它的猎物，然后消失在远处。而这批沙丁鱼重新集结成一个紧密球形的速度，就像它们之前被开料一样地快速。只是当一群鲭鱼围拢来上一顿丰盛的早餐时，它们又被第二次击散，鱼群被击再一次四分五裂。

不知不觉间，我们的气瓶已经耗尽，在再不敢给地观察鲭鱼、鲭鱼和双带群的过程中，我们度过了美好的60分钟。虽然我们很希望长尾鲨能从深处出现，但是，它们并不像其他中上层鱼类那样常见。

#### 第二场演出

时间持续推进，当太阳向西移动，沙丁鱼也追随它拖曳而过的路径离去。在我们第二次的潜水活动中，鱼群在潜水者的潜水活动结束之后，似乎更甚自在。这让我们能安全地往外游向蔚蓝的大海，更加接近集结成球状的鱼群，向它们完全忽略我们这一群庞大又嘈杂的闯入者。相应地，这些沙丁鱼的表现，我们也只能是一场舞蹈表演来加以形容了。

要写这篇关于这个不可思议的海洋现象很难，我们已经在很多其

“ Huge schools of sardines attract predators — thresher sharks feed with tuna hot on their heels. ”

数量众多的沙丁鱼，吸引捕食者——长尾鲨紧随其后，以鲭鱼为食。

”



图: The Visayas is always full of colorful soft corals.

seemed more relaxed after the predatory activity has passed. That made it safe for us to swim out into the blue and get closer to the fish ball, which completely ignored our group of huge and noisy interlopers. Instead, the sardines instigated a display of what can only be described as a dance performance.

It's a struggle to write an adequate description of this incredible marine phenomenon. We have seen massive schools of fish in many other places but what made the sardine activity so utterly unique, were the variation of movements the clusters of sardines made.

One tiny fish would slide away from the ball, piquette then descend and a whole clan of followers would mimic the maneuver. As they twirled, their tiny bodies would glisten in the sun leaving ribbons of liquid silver trailing through the sea. Larger groups would divert from the main ball, and slide through the water leaving larger rivulets of molten metal. Then suddenly there would be a choreographed, coordinated change in "flight path" and they would all rush back, creating a ball so dense and in such a tight space that the sun was completely obliterated.

By the third dive of the day, the requirement to be part of this incredible dance had passed and all the divers hung quietly in awe of the spectacle, cameras finally away from faces and videos on pause as we knew this was the last chance to simply watch and absorb this inspiring marine ballet.

上图: 色彩斑斓的菲律宾群岛的珊瑚礁。

### Vined Visayas

Of course, the impressive experience at Pescador is not the only reason for diving in the Visayas. We had landed in Cebu and joined liveboard, Philippe Stern with a hit list of sites to visit. Our first dives in the Philippines had been around these beautiful tropical islands but that was a decade back, so we were anxious to relive the wonderful experience.

At Cahilao's Talsay Tree on the north eastern coast, we stumbled over two very handsome frogfish that were nestled inside the folds of an enormous elephant's ear sponge before swimming further along the wall to discover porcelain crabs and an orangutan crab.

We were delighted to find a cluster of pygmy seahorses living in a fan at the base of Lighthouse Reef - a flat reef skimmed by lush sea grass, full-to-bursting with juvenile fish and banded sea snakes. These curious creatures would wind their way surreptitiously under our legs as we hovered to admire a pipefish or anemone with its bright orange residents.

We headed south to Panglao and the charming vertical walls off Alona Beach. The dive that always made us smile and managed to "live it" again was Apo Point, where a tunnel has been carved through the wall to a completely flat, white sand reef top above.

他的地方看过大规模的鱼群，但是，让沙丁鱼活动之所以如此独特的原因，是因为沙丁鱼群变化多端的动作。

一只小鱼从集结成球状的鱼群中溜走，它会先急速旋转然后下降，而鱼群中的追随者会模拟这个花招动作，当它们旋转时，它们的小小身体会在阳光下闪闪发光，在海洋中画出一道道流动的银光闪过整个海洋，而较大的群体则会从集结成球状的主群体中转向，滑过水中，留下一条条更长的，有如蜘蛛网般的流动痕迹，然后，在“飞行路线”上会有突如其来的一排经过又会作无间的跳跃变化，接着，它们会全部急速返回，形成一个紧密的球状，而在这样一个湍急的空间里，阳光完全被隔绝在外。

在同一天里的第三次潜水活动中，所有的潜水员不再要求成为这个绝妙舞剧的一部分，我们默默地以欣赏的心情观看这个奇景，相机终于从眼前移开，手指柄也暂停拍摄，因为我们知道这是我们能近距离观赏和吸收这一壮观舞剧人心海洋芭蕾的机会。

### 生气盎然的米沙耶群岛

当然，佩斯卡多尔令人难忘的经历并不足以让我们米沙耶群岛潜水的唯一理由。我们跳上宿雾市的土地，携带着一份我们预期游览的热门地点清单，加入了 Philippe Stern 的船队。我们第一次在菲律宾潜水地点，一是围绕环绕着这些美丽的热带岛屿。不过，那已经是十年前的往事了，因此，我们热切的期望能重温那些美好的经历。

在菲律宾东海岸土墙的「Lighthouse Reef」，我们无意间在象耳海绵的褶皱里发现了两只非常漂亮的蛙鱼，随后，我们沿着壁面向更远的地方游去，又发现了一些瓷蟹和一只红毛蟹蟹。

我们很高兴地在「Lighthouse Reef」——覆盖着美丽海草，以及满布幼鱼和青环海蛇的平坦珊瑚礁——的基部，发现了一些栖息在海面上的侏儒海马，这些可爱的动物在我们守在近旁欣赏一只尖嘴鱼，或是欣赏海葵那亮橙色的房客时，偷偷地绕到我们的脚下。

我们往南来到碧山以及阿罗那海岸外迷人的高立岩礁，而总是能让我们展露笑颜，并想方设法要再次前往的潜水地点是「Apo Point」，那里有一条穿壁而过的隧道，可以到达完全平坦的白色沙滩顶部。

从礁岩游过去，我们首先发现了一些美人虾，接着，我们出现在阳光点点的沙滩上，并发现了一只我们深信十年前就已经绝迹的此种侏儒海马，而这只能所有潜水活动爱好者的惊喜，一怒之下从它栖息的黑色岩缝中冲出，以极快的速度摆摆摆摆地穿越海底。

在那附近夜潜总是能圆满成功，而阿罗那海岸保护区也不惜备让。虽然，大量的珊瑚在满壁上，庇护着众多小小的夜行者，但是，最能引起我们兴趣的区域是珊瑚礁内部的沙滩和碎石区，还移动不到几米的距离，我们的手电筒光束就照亮了海草礁上的一只小螃蟹，还有一只法那像进洞而去的侏儒海马，我们也看到了一些我们叫不出名字的扁扁蛤和软体动物，以及飞快游去的侏儒海马。

一直以来，东尼埃罗斯的Davao海湾是我们最喜欢的潜水地点，然而，这里已经是一个彻底改变的地方，一些曾经在黑沙洲






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top: A seaperch fish preparing to be a sponge.

上圖：一只假珊瑚魚在覓食。

Swimming through the tunnel, we spotted some coral handed shrimp before we emerged onto the sun-dappled sand to find a pitch-black frogfish that we swear had been there ten years ago. The froggie was annoyed by all the diver activities and launched off his black sponge perch in a huff, waddling at great speed across the seabed.

Night dives around Panglao were always a great success and Alona Beach Sanctuary did not disappoint. Although the wall was coated with extensive corals harbouring many small night dwellers, the area that interested us most was the sand and the rubble area inside the reef. We could hardly move a few meters before our torch beams would highlight a tiny crab on a seapen or a dwarf cuttlefish trying to hide in a crinoid. We saw pleurobranchs and opistobranchs that we couldn't name and decorator crabs that would scuttle away at speed.

Daan Bay on Negros Oriental had been our favourite muck dive, yet this was a completely changed place. The weird and wacky critters that once lived on the dark sand slopes had gone on holiday along with the rubbish that no longer littered the seafloor. The bay seemed barren but it forced us to slow down. Soon many small and unusual critters appeared — ornate ghost pipefish, minute mantis shrimp and the flamboyant cuttlefish. We even spotted a Pegasus sea moth rushing around in the short seagrass.



Bolicasag Island, however, set the world back to rights as the memory of gentle and peaceful dives at Blackforest was completely obliterated by a seriously up-tempo adrenaline rush. In the space of an hour, we encountered half a dozen turtles cruising along the sloping wall, then, on accent, we ran into a massive school of chevrons barracuda that cruised slowly through the crystal clear water.

Amazed, we even swam out to admire them, but as soon as we returned to the wall, we firmed right into a huddle of jacks. The size of this school was possibly double that of barracuda but, like them, the jacks remained hanging happily in the sun's rays. A little later in the day, we visited Diver's Heaven. Although, we were on the other side of Bolicasag, it felt like a repeat performance as the barracuda school reappeared and we recognized several of the turtles we had seen earlier.

At Sumilon Island, we paused to admire a cluster of shrimpfish grazing a black coral when we glanced up to see the divemaster finning faster than usual, banging his tank even more rapidly. Everyone looked into the direction of his raised arm as the ocean's most beautiful giant passed overhead, flicked its tail then disappeared into the blue off Sumilon Island along the southern reef.

Whether it was the barracuda or the turtles, the jacks or the whale shark, the theme of this trip was definitely the larger and pelagic species. But nothing will eclipse the memory of the sardines dancing in the sun, decorating the blue Visayan waters with ribbons of liquid silver.

#### ✈ Getting There

To dive the Visayas fly to Cebu City. International airlines include Singapore, Philippine, Qatar, Cathay Pacific and Delta. Smaller regional airlines include Silk Air ([www.silkair.com](http://www.silkair.com)), Cebu Pacific ([www.cebuair.com](http://www.cebuair.com)) and Tiger Airways ([www.tigerairways.com](http://www.tigerairways.com)).

#### 🇵🇭 Visas

For citizens of member countries of the ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations), including Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam visas are not required for stays of up to 21 days. China, Macao, and Hong Kong residents can stay without visa up to 14 days. Citizens of Taiwan need to apply for tourist visa for visiting Philippine.

#### 🗣 Language

While most Filipinos speak Tagalog, English is spoken at hotels, resorts and dive centres.

#### 💰 Currency

The unit of currency is the Philippine peso but many operations will accept US Dollars. It's important to have some pesos as some services, like departure tax must be paid for in cash.

#### 👤 Dive Operator

Worldwide Dive and Sail: [worldwidediveandsail.com](http://worldwidediveandsail.com)  
Serena Resort: [www.dalisenaresort.com](http://www.dalisenaresort.com)  
Plantation Bay Resort, Mactan Island, Cebu: [www.plantationbay.com](http://www.plantationbay.com)



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“ Being engulfed in a school of jacks.  
被一群群鱼包围。”

路上惊喜的稀奇小生物已经消失无踪，还有海豚也不再像往常杂乱的嬉戏。这个海湾看似荒芜，但我们不得不放慢速度。不久，出现了许多不寻常的小生物——华丽的锤吻刺刀鱼，微小的牙鲛和灿烂如火的墨鱼，我们还发现了一只只在短草周围游动的海魷鱼。

然而巴厘卡萨岛让世界重回正轨！记忆犹在「Blackbird」潜水既温和又平静，但是巴厘岛完全被这层肾上腺素飙升的感觉包围。在一个小时的空间中，我们遇到了六只沿着斜坡游动的海龟，然后，重点是，我们遇到了一大群硬骨游过清澈水域的布氏金枪鱼。

真是太神奇了，我们甚至还想再去看它们，但是，当它们一回到岸边，马上就挤成一团的鲷鱼。这一群鱼的规模可能是梭鱼两倍的两倍，但是就像梭鱼一样，鲷鱼仍然愉快地呆在阳光下。当天稍晚的时候，我们拜访了「Divers Heaven」。虽然，我们在巴厘卡萨岛的另一端，但是，当梭鱼群再次出现，而我们又认出了几只在前早之前已经见过的海龟时，感觉就像是重温了它们早上的表演。

在苏米龙岛，它们停下脚步欣赏装点着珊瑚礁的成群甲壳鱼。当它们抬头一看，看见我们的潜水艇的速度比平时还快，甚至更快地敲打着手拍的气球。我们每个人都穿着他手臂高举的方向游去，离开见到海洋最美丽的庞然大物从头上游过。它轻轻地摆动尾巴，然后沿着南方的珊瑚礁消失在苏米龙岛外的蔚蓝海水中。

无论是梭鱼还是海龟，鲷鱼还是海星，这趟旅程的主题绝对是巨大的中上层鱼类，但是，没有任何事物可以抹杀沙丁鱼在阳光下舞动，以流泻的银光点缀珊瑚岛前蓝色水域的记忆。

#### ✈️ 交通

如果要前往米沙鄢群岛潜水，你必须飞往宿雾市。可以搭乘的国内航空公司包括：菲律宾航空、泰国国际航空、中越航空、国泰航空和达美航空。而规模较小的区域航空公司包括：胜安航空、宿雾太平洋航空，以及欧本虎航。

#### 🇵🇭 签证

东南亚国家联盟成员国(包括：汶莱、柬埔寨、印尼、泰国、马来西亚、缅甸、菲律宾、新加坡、泰国、和越南)的公民不需要签证，最多可以享受21天。而中国、澳门、香港的居民也无需签证，最多可以享受14天。至于台湾的公民到菲律宾游览，需要申请旅游签证。

#### 🗣️ 语言

虽然大多数菲律宾人使用的是菲律宾国语——他加禄语，但是，在饭店、度假村和潜水中心可以使用英语。

#### 💰 货币

货币单位是菲律宾比索，但是很多业者会接受美金。不过，身边携带一些比索是很重要的，因为有一些服务，如：离境税，仍必须以现金支付。

#### 🏠 潜水业者

Worldwide Dive and Sail: [www.worldwidediveandsail.com](http://www.worldwidediveandsail.com)  
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