

Digital Dilemmas

Answers to Your Most Common Camera Questions

BY JACK & SUE DRAFAHL

Ever since we started writing this column, we have asked readers to send us their questions, and it has been obvious that most underwater photographers have plenty of questions regarding digital

cameras and digital imaging with the computer. Here are a few:

- What's the best digital camera for underwater photography?
- Which one allows me to take pictures both

underwater and on land?

- Will it enable me to take both macro and wide-angle images?
- What camera is easy to use and still provides great results?
- What camera can make really big prints?
- What resolution should be set for e-mail so that it doesn't take forever to load?
- Is the resolution different for images on a Web page?
- Which manufacturer makes the best housing to protect my digital camera?
- What options do I have if a stock housing isn't available for my camera?

WHEW! HERE ARE SOME ANSWERS:

Most of the major camera manufacturers have cameras with plenty of bells and whistles, but you may or may not need such capabilities.


High-end digital cameras can provide professional results, but they can also be confusing to novices. New divers might be better off with a simpler, turn-key system that lets them see their results immediately.

As with any tool, you have to learn how to use it properly. So practice on land until you feel competent to take it underwater.

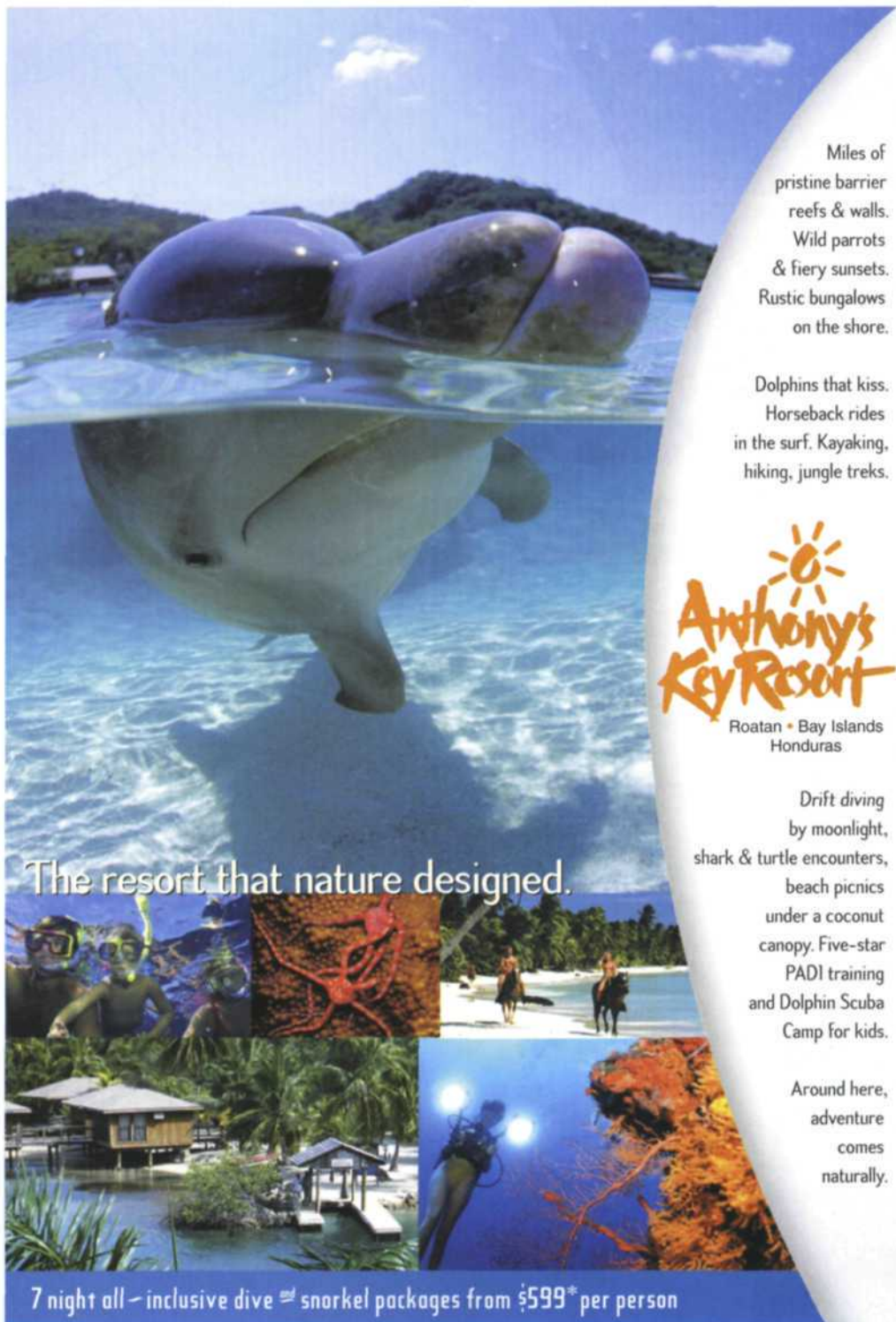
If you want to make really big prints, you will need to invest in a camera with more memory. If you are more interested in sending images over the Internet on e-mail, all that is needed is a camera that can provide 640x480 pixels. Otherwise, they will take forever to load and download. Likewise for the images used on the Web.

Check out all the Web sites of the housing manufacturers (see below) to see if they make a stock housing for your camera.

If you invest in a digital camera system, you need a computer system to view and catalog your images.

Keep your questions coming. Send them to us at digitalduo@jackandsuedrafahl.com. Check out our Web site at www.jackandsuedrafahl.com for information on our workshop and seminar schedule or to purchase our new book, *Digital Imaging for the Underwater Photographer*. 

DIGITAL CONNECTION: Here are some companies to contact for products relating to this months column: **SeaLife** www.sealife-cameras.com, **Sony** www.sony.com, **Canon** www.canon.com, **Sea & Sea** www.seaand-sea.com, **Light & Motion** www.uwimaging.com, **Amphibico** www.amphibico.com, **Ewa Marine** www.ewa-marine.de



Miles of pristine barrier reefs & walls. Wild parrots & fiery sunsets. Rustic bungalows on the shore.

Dolphins that kiss. Horseback rides in the surf. Kayaking, hiking, jungle treks.

Anthony's Key Resort
Roatan • Bay Islands Honduras

Drift diving by moonlight, shark & turtle encounters, beach picnics under a coconut canopy. Five-star PADI training and Dolphin Scuba Camp for kids.

Around here, adventure comes naturally.

The resort that nature designed.

7 night all-inclusive dive and snorkel packages from \$599* per person

* Per person, double occupancy in Hill Standard room. Valid May, Aug, Sep, Oct, Nov 1-22, Dec 1-20, 2003. 16% hotel tax not included.

For the perfect vacation call 800.550.1422 / 954.929.0090 or visit www.anthonyskey.com