

Legends

UNITED KINGDOM



Leigh Bishop

Leigh Bishop has been exploring shipwrecks for the last two decades and was one of the first British divers to use mixed gas in order to dive deep shipwrecks around England. His particular dedication to exploring the thousands of wrecks in the English Channel has led him to identify scores of previously unknown sites as well as discover several famous wrecks.

During the 1990's Leigh led an expedition to explore the HMS King Edward VII, lying at 380ft. He was also the official expedition photographer for the National Geographic Channel 2003 project diving the *Britanic*.

During the early 1990's Leigh was fascinated by the possibility of bringing home photographs of wrecks deeper than 330ft and he brought back the first photographs of the famous gold ship the 'Egypt,' sunk in deep water off north west France.

To capture large panoramic shots of wrecks Leigh pioneered the art of shooting fast black & white film with long exposure times, at depths of up to 400ft. Shooting wrecks around the world under this new concept, his images began to grace the covers of many of the world's scuba magazines.

Leigh went on to photograph such ocean liners such as the *Transylvania* sunk in the North Atlantic in 450ft of water.

In 2003 he was a photographer on a NOAA scientific expedition to *Titanic*. Leigh has led expeditions that have discovered significant sunken U-Boats as well as lost British submarines and with his teams became the first to explore previously lost wrecks such as *HMS Affray* & *HMS Vandal*.

Today he lectures on the subject of shipwrecks extensively. During the English diving off season he travels the world regularly attending major dive industry shows, headlining speaker line ups.

In England he lectures at museums and nautical conferences and restores artifacts from shipwrecks, which are displayed in several English Museums.

Leigh also writes treatments for television shipwreck documentaries and has appeared in many of these shows as a leading exploration expert, using rebreather technology of which he has been involved in the significant development of with UK companies.

Although his shipwreck travels have taken him around the globe he still continues to explore shipwrecks in what he calls his 'back yard,' the English Channel. "As long as they are there we shall keep photographing and documenting them for others to enjoy, others that may not have for whatever reason, the option of visiting them for themselves."

Leigh's website includes many of his images and expeditions and can be found at: www.deepimage.co.uk