



Dear ,

The ocean can provide a wonderfully soothing antidote to the frenetic pace of modern life, so if you're in need of a break, check out our dive expeditions below. They are located in some of the most beautiful parts of the planet, and if you're not scuba qualified, don't despair – some of these expeditions also have snorkelling teams.

2008 is International Year of the Reef, and in this **March Reef Special**, see what Earthwatch is doing to protect coral reefs around the world (Research Destination).

And don't forget – our first lecture of the year is rapidly approaching – find out below how to get tickets. We look forward to seeing you at the Royal Geographical Society this month.

With warm wishes,

Jane

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## NEWS AND EVENTS

### [Earthwatch and BBC Wildlife launch Nature Writer of the Year Award](#)

Unleash your creative talent in this exciting 2008 competition and win a place on an Earthwatch expedition.

### [Dolphins across the Med](#)

Come along to the first of our 2008 lectures at the Royal Geographical Society, from 7pm on Thursday March 27th.

### [Live from the Alboran Sea](#)

- [News and Events](#)
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Read Ric Sagarminaga's latest blog about the life of the Earthwatch turtle.

**Do you have animal antics footage to share with us?**

If you've captured unusual or quirky animal behaviour on your Earthwatch expedition and have some great film footage, please send your DVD to Zoe Gamble here at Earthwatch Europe. We may be able to host your best footage on our website.

**EXPEDITIONS OF THE MONTH**

2008 is [International Year of the Reef](#), so why not use your diving skills to help ocean life? Earthwatch supports some fascinating dive projects - dip into these for starters.

**[Coral Reefs of Thailand](#)**

Help gather data on amazing coral reefs in the Gulf of Thailand and Andaman Sea. This expedition has separate teams for scuba divers or snorkellers.

**[Coral and Coastal Ecology of the Seychelles](#)**

Gear up for an underwater exploration of marine biodiversity in this survey of unique coastal ecosystems in the Indian Ocean.

**[Sustainable Southern Belize](#)**

Snorkel or dive as part of a multi-national initiative to monitor and protect the health of the Meso-American Barrier Reef ecosystem, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

**RESEARCH DESTINATION...**

**[Coral reefs](#)**

This month we take a look at what coral reefs are, why they are important, and what Earthwatch is doing to understand and protect these special habitats and the communities that depend on them.

**GOING LOCAL**

**[Historic cavern recaptures its magic](#)**

A Peak District cavern which has fallen into disrepair is returning to its former glory thanks to the efforts of an adventurous Earthwatch volunteer.



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© Dave Smith



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## REPORTAGE

### [South Africa's Brown Hyaenas](#)

Photographer Niall Riddell captured brown hyaenas on camera when he teamed up with researchers and volunteers trying to find out more about one of South Africa's rarer carnivores.

### [Dolphin hunting in the Med](#)

In the Times Online, read Jo Eede's lively first-hand account of how Earthwatch is helping dolphins off the coast of Spain.



© Niall Riddell

## EARTHWATCH EXTRA

### [Mother Earth](#)

In the month that marks Mothering Sunday (2<sup>nd</sup> March), we examine the mothering behaviour displayed by some of the animals from our research expeditions.



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