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The Switchblade is the perfect accessory to capture the most creative underwater GoPro footage possible. The red glass color corrects in blue and tropical waters, while the powerful 10X glass macro lens enables razor sharp close-ups of aquatic life. Both the red and macro filters swing open & closed giving users the ultimate versatility.



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The Ultimate Local Dive Site?

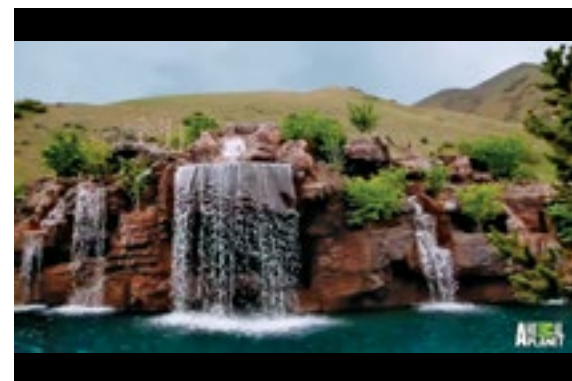
This \$2 million backyard creation is not the kiddie pool of your childhood

BY PATRICIA WUEST

Animal Planet has broadcast TV shows beloved by divers and nature lovers — including *Blue Planet*, *The Crocodile Hunter* and *Whale Wars* — but it's produced some wacky shows too (we're looking at you, *Mud Lovin' Rednecks*). *The Pool Master* might not be as far-fetched as some other shows run by the network — the series showcases backyards transformed by pool designer Anthony Archer-Wills — but a 140-foot-long pool in Springville, Utah, featured on one episode definitely qualifies as over the top.

The 360,000-gallon pool cost \$2 million to build and

is a water lover's playground, with a 60-foot water slide hidden inside a massive man-made mountain, five waterfalls, and a 300-foot-long lazy river. And that's not all: You can put on dive gear (the owners are certified), splash into a 54-foot-long,



26-foot-deep tunnel built inside the mountain, and find your way to the main pool. As we went to press, there were no underwater attractions installed (what, no replica of the *Titanic*?), but something tells us this family isn't finished yet.

Fancy your own backyard dive site? All you need, according to Animal Planet's website, is "a suitable-size plot of land for the project, a sufficient budget already tucked away, and some out-of-this-world ideas." animalplanet.com

The iPad Aquatic

Divers can now map reefs, consult field guides and compile fish surveys — all without breaking the surface

BY AMANDA CASTLEMAN



Feel naked without your iPad? Never fear: It can come along on your next dive with a new housing by iDive, which inflates a thin, flexible bubble over your iPad screen. Brave inventor Michael Berumen, a marine sciences professor, first tested the idea with a Ziploc in his bathtub. With the help of Watershot Inc., he added a sturdy frame that stands up to extreme pressure, and a system to bleed air on ascents. Plugged into a CO₂ cartridge, the device can tag along with advanced divers to 130 feet.

Even in the shallows, the housing is a game-changer: ReefID is working on an app that draws on facial-recognition technology, so any diver or snorkeler can help scientists catalog marine life.

But don't plan on checking Facebook on your safety stop just yet — there are (thankfully) some places cell and Wi-Fi signals still can't reach. idivehousing.com

KNOW YOUR FISH



BICOLOR DAMSELFISH

SCIENTIFIC NAME:
Stegastes partitus

RANGE:
Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico

SIZE:
Maximum 4 inches

DID YOU KNOW:
This small fish — known for its split black-and-white coloring — typically has a black anterior, however it occasionally exhibits a reverse-color phase.

Become a Rolex Scholar

Our World — Underwater Scholarship Society looking for candidates

Know any passionate divers between the ages of 21 and 26 who are considering a career in an underwater-related profession? The Our World — Underwater Society is accepting applications until the end of the year for three Rolex Scholars, one each from North America, Europe and Australasia. Recipients spend a year working with current leaders in underwater fields, ranging from field studies and underwater research to scientific expeditions, and equipment testing and design. Scholars also receive a stipend for the year's living and travel expenses. For more, visit owuscholarship.org/scholarships.



BY GUYE COLLECTION/ALAMY. OPPOSITE, FROM TOP: COURTESY ANIMAL PLANET; COURTESY iDIVE



The Grande Dame of Grand Cayman



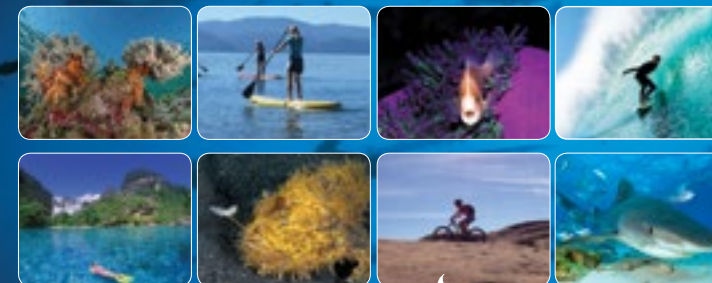
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