John Volanthen

World Record-Holding British Cave Diver Who Played a Key Role in the 2018 Tham Luang Thailand Cave Rescue

Managing risk — Keeping Calm in a Crisis. Volanthen takes his audiences on a remarkable and unforgettable journey, deep into the Tham Luang caves of Thailand where he and his diving partner finally located the missing young soccer team and their coach in the summer of 2018. Volanthen's gripping multimedia presentation follows the process the divers took to search for, find and help guide the boys to safety in a complex rescue that many believed would end in tragedy. Drawing on his thirty years of civilian cave exploration, diving, and rescue work, he shares the lessons that are key to performing under high-pressure and amid great uncertainty. Lessons he believes anyone can learn to lead with calm, focus, and certainty in any situation.

Diving Deeper Into Business. Volanthen firmly believes that the passion and skills developed for cave exploration and rescue directly translate to business. Having founded and exited two IT businesses, he has successfully applied skills more often used in challenging underground environments to create high-performing workplaces. Offering sobering tales from underwater exploration and rescue, Volanthen draws parallels between cave diving and business environments, showing how to remain calm under pressure, make good decisions and work steadily toward goals, even in seemingly impossible situations. Perfect for audiences seeking inspiration, with a good dose of practical advice and realism.

Harnessing Teamwork and Trust. From cave rescue missions to meeting business goals, teamwork is a critical element to countless endeavours. Using anecdotes from decades of cave diving experience, Volanthen explains how skilled individuals can be brought together to achieve what may appear impossible. Through the lens of the Thai cave rescue Volanthen provides an emotive story of the rescue of 13 trapped youths, detailing how teamwork and collaboration can cross cultural and national boundaries to yield spectacular results. Covering core topics such as trust, negotiation, leadership and influencing, as well as touching on self-care and team welfare, Volanthen explains how lessons learned in the harsh underground environment translate directly to improved business and team performance.