



MANTA
EXPEDITIONS

MALDIVES

- FAR NORTH -

2 - 12
October 2022
(10 nights)

from
3,060 USD*
per person

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THE EXPEDITION

This expedition has been specifically timed to coincide with the most productive monsoon winds and lunar currents, which strongly influence the movements and feeding habits of reef manta rays. The aim of this trip is to use the knowledge of [Manta Trust](#) experts to find these feeding aggregations and allow the guests to experience the wonder of immersing yourself amongst a feeding frenzy of these gentle giants.

On this expedition we will venture all the way to the rarely visited northernmost atolls of the Maldives looking for understudied manta populations and diving some of the most untouched reefs the country has to offer! This [trip designed especially for adventurers](#) looking for something new and rarely offered in the Maldives!

Descending through [Haa Alifu](#), [Haa Dhaalu](#), [Shaviyani](#) and [Noonu Atolls](#) we will dive some incredibly colorful and rich reefs while surveying rarely visited manta aggregation sites.

[Raa and Baa Atolls](#) are home to huge number of mantas during this season and we will make sure to spend the necessary time here to make the most of what these two atolls have to offer, in particular we will visit [Hanifaru Bay](#) for a chance to swim with mass feeding mantas and, who known, maybe one or two whale sharks as well! To see the world's largest fish feeding amongst dozens of the world's largest rays is something most people will never forget.

[Lhaviyani](#) is another spectacular northern atoll. Here sharks, schools of eagle rays, tunas and other large pelagic fishes will be the main characters of our dives with the possibility of encountering more manta rays and dive one of the most beautiful shipwrecks of the country.

While the weather in the Maldives at this time of the year is likely to be more changeable, these monsoonal conditions are [exactly what create the planktonic blooms](#) upon which the mantas and whale sharks aggregate to feed. Furthermore, we can never guarantee these natural events, but we have put together a trip, which maximises our chances of being in the right place at the right time, guided by the expertise of The Manta Trust expert Niv Froman.





MANTA EXPEDITIONS

MALDIVES

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TRIP LEADER

NIV FROMAN



Niv has been passionate about nature for as long as he can remember. His dream has always been to live in close contact with the world's wild places and to try to understand their fascinating mysteries.

After graduating summa cum laude with a degree in Natural Sciences from the University of Milan, Niv completed a Masters degree in Environmental Management, focusing primarily on animal behaviour and evolution.

In 2010, Niv started working as a marine biologist in the Maldives, an experience that brought him closer to marine life and developed his passion for the underwater world. Building on his background as a professional swimmer, Niv quickly became a proficient freediver and qualified as a Dive Master.

Following his first encounters with the Maldivian manta rays, their complex and poorly understood behaviour drove his desire to learn more about these majestic animals and work to aid in their conservation. It was this drive that brought Niv to the Manta Trust, with whom he worked as the Project Leader for the Maldivian Manta Ray Project from 2013 to 2017.

In 2017 Niv moved on to lead the development of the IDtheManta platform as Global Database Manager and began in 2018 his PhD on the reproductive ecology of the reef manta population of the Maldives at Cambridge University. This exciting new project aims to shed new light into the mysterious life of these gentle giants and aid improving their conservation status.

Throughout the expedition, Niv will be providing lectures and informal talks on manta ray and whale shark research and conservation. In addition, Niv will conduct general presentations on marine biology, with a focus on the diverse and productive marine ecosystems of the Republic of Maldives.

The Manta Trust representative / trip leader may change without notice based on staff availability.

CITIZEN SCIENCE - GET INVOLVED!

On this expedition, you'll have the opportunity to experience and participate in **cutting-edge conservation** research to protect one of the ocean's most majestic animals. Manta Trust scientists will be collecting photographic identification images of all mantas encountered throughout the expedition - a task that guests are welcome and encouraged to participate in. All new manta rays will be added to the database and guests will be invited to name these new mantas.

THE MANTA TRUST

A UK registered charity, the Trust's mission is to advance the worldwide conservation of manta rays and their habitat through robust science and research, by raising awareness and providing education, influence and action. The Manta Trust was formed in 2011 to co-ordinate global research and conservation efforts for these amazing animals, their close relatives and their habitat.

Data Collection: The Manta Trust has a number of research projects worldwide, incorporating population data, research on manta movements, and genetic analyses - to name a few - in order to better understand the general ecology of manta and mobula rays.



THE BOAT | M/Y BLUE VOYAGER

M/Y Blue Voyager was built specifically for divers and originally sailed in the Red Sea. She welcomes 26 divers on board with spacious modern comfort, providing the best Maldivian diving experience.

M/Y Blue Voyager is a 37-metre, steel hulled vessel that boasts three roomy double cabins and ten twin cabins and features an indoor dining area, a bar and sky lounge, as well as a Jacuzzi. A shaded outdoor lounge area can be found on the Mid Deck, plus four different sun decks: a viewing deck located at the front of both the Mid Deck and Upper Deck, an open air deck on the Top Deck and an ocean deck at the stern of the boat, all providing comfortable seating and loungers.

The ocean deck is a unique feature allowing guests to relax in the open air while close to the water. On many evenings the flood lights will illuminate the water just off the ocean deck to attract plankton which brings the manta rays and whale sharks.

BOOKING

To reserve your place on this Maldives Manta Expedition, please send an email to Niv Froman via info@mantaexpeditions.com.

Payment and booking for this Manta Expedition will be handled by our trip partners, [Blue O Two](#). Trip costs for this 10-nights expedition include transfer from Male airport to vessel, full board accommodation, BBQ dinner, water, coffee and tea and three dives per day.

* Price is for a standard cabin (twin or double) based on double occupancy. Superior cabin upgrade available at an additional \$125 per person. Cost does not include Hanifaru park entry fee (20\$ per person), Green Tax (6\$ per person per night), domestic flight Male-Hanimadhu (\$235) and crew gratuities. International flight can be arranged on request.



blue o two
DIVE TRAVEL