



MANTA
EXPEDITIONS

MALDIVES

- BAA, RAA & LHAVIYANI -

28 September
8 October 2023
(10 nights)

2,815 USD*
per person

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THE EXPEDITION

This special manta expedition, has been 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.

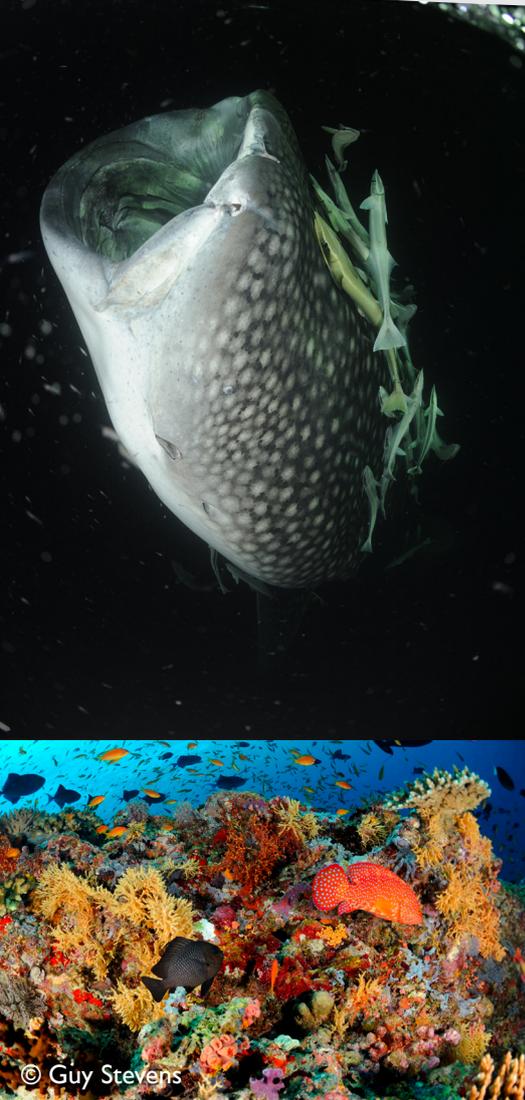
On this expedition we will explore the pristine and rarely visited northern atolls of Baa, Raa and Lhaviyani diving on untouched reefs and looking for poorly studied manta ray populations. A trip designed especially for adventurers looking for something new and rarely offered in the Maldives!

Baa Atoll is off the main route for the majority of dive liveaboard and we will venture into this more northern atoll specifically to seek out the famous feeding mantas of [Hanifaru Bay](#) and hopefully a few whale sharks as well. To see several of the world's largest fish feeding amongst dozens of the world's largest rays is something most people will never forget.

Just north of Baa we will venture into **Raa Atoll**, one of most unexplored atolls of the Maldives regularly visited by mantas and hosting some stunning dive sites. Vertical walls covered in soft corals, gardens of anemones and mantas gliding above our heads are only a few of the marvels of this region.

Before descending back to Malé we will finally visit **Lhaviyani Atoll**, 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 a Manta Trust's scientist.



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ON-BOARD MANTA EXPERT

As on all Manta Expeditions, a Manta Trust scientist will be onboard for its entire duration, offering everyone the opportunity to interact and learn from a leading manta expert.



The presence of a Manta Trust scientist onboard will enhance your experience in a number of ways:

- motivate and inspire you, by learning about the marine ecosystems you will be exploring
- gain access to an accumulated wealth of knowledge and expertise, providing you the opportunity to become actively involved in cutting-edge scientific research.
- offer you an educational and much more rewarding experience by making your underwater encounters more personal, and by involving you first-hand in marine research and conservation.
- be environmentally aware and proactive and become an active member of an initiative which stands to have strong implications for the on-going persistence for manta rays worldwide.

Collectively the Manta Trust and Manta Expeditions teams possess over two decades of experience working in the Maldives, studying its manta population and marine life and have assembled a vast amount of knowledge and expertise, knowledge you will have access to on this expedition.

A core focus of the expeditions is not only to provide close encounters with manta rays but to enthuse and educate divers in marine conservation issues and the environment surrounding them. Through a series of activities and presentations on topics covering local marine species and habitats led by the Manta Trust expert, you are sure to leave with an increased awareness of the threats facing our oceans and, perhaps more importantly, how you can help.

Using the knowledge of the Manta Trust scientists you will gain a brand-new perspective to diving and experiencing the underwater world; by understanding what you see you will gain a better appreciation and love for the ocean and its creatures. Ultimately, with the guidance of the Manta Trust researcher you will have the chance to give something back to the ocean which we believe is fundamental considering how much we take from it!

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 coordinate 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 | SEAFARI EXPLORER MALDIVES 2

The beautiful Seafari Explorer 2 is a modern liveaboard fully rebuilt in 2020 that caters to 24 guests in 12 cabins. Each cabin is en-suite with air-conditioning, ample storage space, and have either two singles, a double or double plus one single bed. Spread out over 4 decks, the Seafari Explorer 2 yacht has plenty of space for relaxation. Tastefully decorated throughout, guests can chose to relax in the spacious air-conditioned salon, enjoy the sea breeze in the covered outdoor lounge or soak up the sun on the large roof-top sun deck. The entire top deck is a massive solarium with partially-shaded sun deck, featuring lounge chairs and offering breathtaking views over the boat's wake as you look to the gorgeous clear waters stretching to the horizon. Between dives you can also relax in the large jacuzzi on the bow of the vessel! The chef prepares international and local dishes and once every week a traditional Maldivian night is organised, featuring authentic local food.

BOOKING

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



Trip costs for this 10-nights expedition in full board accommodation and three dives / snorkelling excursions per day includes transfer Male airport/vessel and return, drinking water, coffee and tea and GST tax. **Free NITROX** included!

* Cost does not include Hanifaru park entry fee (20 USD per person), Green Tax (6 USD per person per day), Service Charge (150 USD), Crew Tip, rental dive gear and alcoholic beverages. Upper deck cabin available with a supplement of 100 USD.