



MANTA
EXPEDITIONS

MALDIVES

- BEST OF NORTHERN -

22 October -
1 November 2023
(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.

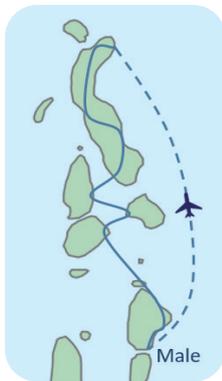
On this expedition we will venture all the way to the rarely visited northernmost atolls of the Maldives looking for understudied manta populations and diving some of the most untouched reefs the country has to offer! This [trip designed especially for adventurers](#) looking for something new and rarely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



© Guy Stevens



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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 ongoing 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!

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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-Hanifadho (\$246) and crew gratuities. International flight can be arranged on request.

