

MANTA EXPEDITIONS

MALDIVES

- NORTHERN ATOLLS -

21 - 31
August 2023
(10 nights)

2,870 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. [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!

[Shaviyani](#) and [Noonu Atolls](#) are off the route of most liveboards while the marine life is rich and diverse with chances of seeing guitar rays, nurse sharks, leopard sharks and diving on bountiful reefs filled with schooling fish, soft corals and anemones! [North Ari Atoll](#) is famous for some of the richest and most spectacular dive sites of the Maldives.

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.

The last days in [North Male Atoll](#) will offer us the last chances of manta encounters on the famous cleaning station of Lankan and enjoy spectacular and colorful dives at some of the country's most famous sites!

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!



Male



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 | MV THEIA

The MV Theia is a beautiful 32m vessel, designed to explore the stunning underwater world of the Maldives in luxury. The Liveaboard has 10 tastefully decorated air-conditioned cabins, all with en-suite bathrooms and accommodates a maximum of 20 guests, ensuring a comfortable stay. The cabins are distributed as follow: 2 suites with double beds on the upper deck, 2 junior suites of which one has panoramic seaview and 1 cabin on the main deck. 4 double-bed and single-bed cabins as well as the Deluxe cabin (double bed and single bed) are located on the lower deck. The MV Theia offers a beautiful outdoor dining area with stunning ocean views, where your meals will be served either plated or buffet style, and the 'Sky Bar' offers the perfect place to relax and unwind after a day of diving. For further relaxation, the air-conditioned salon also offers a TV and entertainment system. The 10 professional and friendly crew of the Theia are on hand to ensure all your needs are met on this perfect dive vacation in the Maldives.

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), Service Charge (170 USD), Fuel Surcharge (100 USD), Crew Tip, rental dive gear and alcoholic beverages. Sea View cabin supplement USD 38 per person per night, single cabin supplement 320 USD/night.

