



30 March -  
13 April 2025  
(14 nights)

**4,690 USD\***  
per person

# The 500 miles journey

## THE EXPEDITION

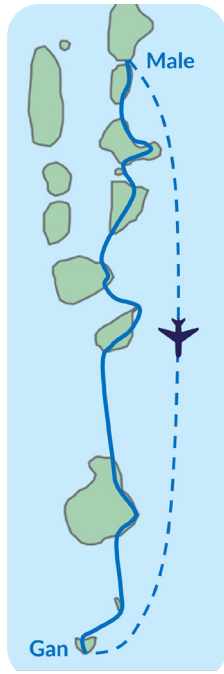
On this manta expedition we will visit 11 of the 26 Maldivian atolls experiencing the best diving the country has to offer on a journey of well over 500 miles! Starting in the southernmost point of the Maldives, Addu Atoll is home to a resident population of reef manta rays we will have the chance to encounter at the famous cleaning station of Mukadan while also experiencing some of the stunning coral gardens this atoll has to offer!

This expedition is also timed to coincide with the arrival of the **giant oceanic mantas** in Fuvahmulah, a small island that acts as a magnet to many other **large pelagic species** such as whale sharks, tiger sharks, thresher sharks and more which we will visit for two full days!

The far south of the Maldives is shark territory and in Huvadhoo, Laamu, Thaa and Meemu atolls we will have the opportunity to dive in some of the most shark-populated channels where schools of **dozens of grey reef sharks** are typical! **Tiger sharks, whale sharks**, the occasional **thresher and hammerhead shark**, schooling eagle rays and resting turtles are just some of the many other attractions we are likely to encounter on this unique expedition.

Moving further north into Laamu, Meemu and Ari atolls, we will also get the chance to encounter **cleaning reef manta rays** at a number of different sites. Vaavu atoll will offer us some spectacular dives on reefs covered in **colorful soft corals**, further chances to encounter hammerhead sharks and an amazing night dive with dozens of nurse sharks and stingrays. Ari and South Male atolls will finally provide a more diverse diving experience as we will dive some famous sites with breathtaking landscapes and high fish diversity.

With this 14 nights expedition, we have put together a trip which will offer us the chance of encountering **both species of manta rays**, more than **10 different species of sharks** and experience some of the most spectacular dive sites the Maldives has to offer, accompanied by world leading experts from the **Manta Trust** and **Fins Attached**.







**MANTA**  
EXPEDITIONS

## MALDIVES



**Fins Attached** is USA charity which mission is to conduct research, promote conservation, and provide education for the protection of the marine ecosystem.

Fins Attached core belief is the preservation of our world's precious resources and that through the **protection of the ocean's apex predators**, marine ecosystem balance can be maintained for the benefit of all living things on Earth. Fins Attached efforts are directed in:

- Shark Research & Conservation
- Public awareness and education
- International Policy and Advocacy

### ONBOARD EXPERT | Dr. Alex Antoniou

Dr. Antoniou began his shark conservation path in 1994 as the Director of Field Operations for the Shark Research Institute and has over 25 years of experience in shark research and conservation.



He is currently working as the volunteer CEO for Fins Attached, which he founded in 2010 and has worked on projects in Honduras, Baja California, the Galapagos, Costa Rica, Malpelo Island, Guadalupe Island, and the Revillagigedo Islands. Dr. Antoniou's work has been instrumental in many shark conservation victories such as the protection of whale sharks in Honduras, the listing of this species to CITES at the CoP12 and the inclusion of Oceanic Whitetip sharks to the US Endangered Species list. In recognition for his dedication towards shark conservation, Alex was awarded the 2017 "Shark Guardian of the Year" award from the Shark Project of Germany.

### ITINERARY & HIGHLIGHTS \*

This expedition will take place in the south of the Maldives, renowned for its pelagic marine life, stunning reefs and channels. A few highlights are:

- Pelagic megafauna of Fuvahmulah, such as tiger sharks and potential sightings of oceanic mantas, thresher sharks, hammerheads, silvertips, whale sharks to name a few.
- Stunning channel diving: a highlight of this region are its atoll channels, which concentrate marine life in crystal clear waters and where we will encounter schooling grey sharks, white tip reef sharks, schooling eagle rays, jackfishes, Napoleon wrasses, and much more.
- Manta diving: we will be diving different manta cleaning stations scattered along the way with the unique opportunity of encountering both reef and oceanic mantas!
- Over 10 different species of sharks including tiger sharks, grey reefs, white tip, black tip, nurse sharks, hammerheads, spinner sharks and many more!

- **Day 1: Addu** - embarkation

- **Day 2: Addu** - check dive and manta dives

- **Day 3: Fuvahmulah** - mantas, tiger sharks, thresher, hammerheads, grey reefs and visit to the island

- **Day 4: Fuvahmulah** - as above

- **Day 5: South Huvadho** - channel diving, turtles, eagle rays, sharks, beautiful reefs

- **Day 6: North Huvadho** - channel diving, turtles, eagle rays, sharks, possibility to visit a deserted island

- **Day 7: Laamu** - mantas, channel diving

- **Day 8: Thaa** - channel diving, sharks, possibility to visit a deserted island

- **Day 9: South Meemu** - mantas, possibility to visit a local island

- **Day 10: North Meemu** - channel diving, sharks, soft corals

- **Day 11: East Vaavu** - channel diving, hammerheads, sharks, soft corals

- **Day 12: Vaavu** - sharks, night dive with nurse sharks

- **Day 13: South Male** - channel diving, soft corals, sharks, possibility to visit a local island

- **Day 14: South Male - Male** - last dives including Hulhumale harbour sharks and rays dive and visit to Male

- **Day 15: Male** - disembarkation

\* Please note that this itinerary can be subject to changes.

**Embarkation** time is flexible but guests will need to arrive in Male no later than 6pm (ideally in the morning) to catch a domestic flight to Addu on the 30th March. If guests want to travel to Addu earlier than the 30th and stay at a guesthouse/resort before the expedition they will also need to arrange their own domestic flight (which can be done through their hosting hotel).

**Disembarkation** will be at 8:30am or earlier for those departing on early morning flights. For those departing in the afternoon/evening there is the possibility to drop the luggage at the airport and visit Male or Hulhumale, wait at the airport or book a day use hotel room near the airport (~USD 70pp).



**MANTA**  
EXPEDITIONS

## MALDIVES



### ON-BOARD MANTA EXPERT

On this Manta Expedition, 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 the 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 expedition 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 experts, 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 scientist 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 [cuttingedge 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 | M/Y DUKE OF YORK

Launched in 2010, the Duke of York motor yacht is a luxurious gateway to experience the magnificent waters of the Maldives. At 36m (118ft), she offers ample interior and exterior areas to relax and unwind. A total of 23 guests can be housed across eleven rooms spread over three decks, including a mixture of cabins with single and double beds. All ensuite rooms feature their own windows and air conditioning. On the main deck, the salon boasts comfortable lounge seating, ottomans and an entertainment center.

The exterior living space aboard the Duke of York is equally generous. The main aft deck is shaded and boasts teak dining tables and chairs, with wrap-around decks leading to a spacious foredeck, complete with a large oversized seating area / sunpad and cocktails table for socialising in the evenings. The top deck offers partial shade and ample further chaise lounges, also ideal for star gazing by night, for the romantics in the group.

The Duke of York is also accompanied by a comfortable 15m traditional Maldivian dhoni, fully equipped for scuba diving excursions and other activities, including canoeing and sunset fishing.

### BOOKING

To reserve your place on this Maldives Manta Expedition, please send an email to [Niv Froman](mailto:Niv.Froman@mantaexpeditions.com) at [info@mantaexpeditions.com](mailto:info@mantaexpeditions.com)

Trip costs for this 14-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 Domestic flight Male-Addu (USD 200), Green Tax (USD 12 per person per day), Service Charge (USD 130 per person per week), rental dive gear and alcoholic beverages. Upper deck cabin supplement USD 300 per person.