

INDONESIA

20th - 27th September 2018 (7 nights) | \$2,520 per person*



THE EXPEDITION - DIVE WITH MANTAS IN KOMODO!

The diversity of marine life in Komodo National Park is so unique, the park is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and **considered one of the seven nature wonders of the world!** The mix of large and small animals, reef creatures and pelagics, invertebrates and vertebrates, shallow reefs, drop-offs and drift dives, produces exceptional diving, as expected of a key site within the Coral Triangle - the epicentre for the planet's marine biodiversity.

While on board we expect to visit multiple, globally-renowned manta ray sites within the marine park, the entrance fee for which directly supports marine conservation and community development projects within the region. Like all of our Manta Trust Expeditions, part of the money generated from this trip goes back into the charity to fund our charitable aims and conservation initiatives.

The itinerary will vary depending on manta sightings, and will be aimed at maximising our encounters with these ocean giants. With one of the largest populations of reef manta rays in the world, resident year round, Komodo National Park is among the best destinations to encounter these inquisitive species. It also offers a chance to encounter the elegant black morph reef mantas that are typical of this region's population!

During the expedition we will dive famous manta cleaning stations such as Matak Makassar and German Flag (aka Manta Alley), where mantas often aggregate in large number to socialise.

But Komodo offers so much more than mantas, and we will have the opportunity to experience its whole diversity throughout the expedition. Schools of trevally, gardens of colourful soft coral, barracudas, bizarre nudibranches, and of course, a visit on-land to encounter the legendary Komodo dragon!

OPTIONAL ADD-ON (\$490 p/p) - THE SUNFISH & MANTAS OF BALI

If you wish to experience more of Indonesia's stunning and diverse underwater world, we offer (through our Partner Dune Atlantis), the option of an extra three nights stay in Sanur, either before or after the liveaboard expedition. This add-on package includes a three night stay in a hotel (double or twin room) and two full days of diving (four dives in total) in Nusa Penida. At this time of the year you will have the best chance of encountering the elusive Sunfish (*Mola mola*) at Crystal Bay, as well as meeting the reef mantas of Manta Point - a shallow cleaning station uniquely set against the towering cliffs of Nusa Penida island. Speedboat transfers are included in this package.

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.**

Every manta sighting is crucial information in developing effective management and conservation strategies for these increasingly vulnerable animals.



INDONESIA

NIV FROMAN (TRIP LEADER)

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 a new research project and conduct his PhD on the reef manta population in the Chagos archipelago – a part of the British Indian Ocean Territory. In his new role Niv will collaborate with many biologists and research institutions to further our understanding of manta foraging ecology and movements in this super-sized marine protected area. This information will be critical to further the species' conservation measures both in Chagos and on a global scale.

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 Komodo National Park.



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 | MSY AURORA

The MSY Aurora is a spacious, double masted, teak motor-sail yacht, built according to the 'traditional Pinisi style' and designed for a discerning dive clientele. As a guest aboard, you will experience modern comfort combined with the charm of a traditional boat. Aurora has been built in Sulawesi following modern and environmentally friendly principles and gives us the opportunity to explore remote areas which only a few – if any – have seen.

The yacht has 8 double cabins each with private bathroom, A/C and daily room service to make your cruise enjoyable and comfortable. A crew of 14 members will welcome you on-board and will be dedicated to making your Indonesian experience a memory you will never forget.

BOOKING

To reserve your place on this Manta Expedition, please send an email to Conny Paul via info@mantaexpeditions.com referring to "Komodo Manta Expedition 2018."

Payment and booking for this Manta Expedition will be handled by our trip partners, DUNE Indonesia. Trip costs for this 7-night expedition includes transfers from Labuan Bajo, full board, and 3+ dives / snorkelling excursions per day. Please let us know in your email whether you would like to include the optional Bali add-on package.

**Costs do not include the Komodo National Park fee (\$20 / day to be paid on-site).*

