

MANTA
EXPEDITIONS

MALDIVES

- NORTHERN ADVENTURES -

18 January -
1 February 2026
(14 nights)

from
4,900 USD*
per person

THE EXPEDITION

Embark on an unparalleled journey with this **exclusive expedition**, offering a Maldives **itinerary like never before!** While most liveboards head south at this time of year, we'll venture north, exploring remote atolls in search of manta ray feeding and cleaning aggregations. This voyage will take us to the northern reaches, including the recently established Manta Trust project at **Makunudhoo Atoll**, a hotspot for hundreds of manta rays during this season!

Baa Atoll – We will explore Baa Atoll as we head north. Here, vibrant **soft coral**-covered channels and abundant marine life set the stage for encounters with mantas seeking cleaning stations.

Raa Atoll – Raa Atoll remains relatively untouched and is home to a large manta population. We'll search for feeding and cleaning mantas, visit the country's first recognized manta nursery, and conduct exploratory dives to uncover new aggregation sites. Raa's lively reefs are also home to grey reef sharks, turtles, and schools of fish.

Makunudhoo Atoll – A true **hidden gem**, this remote atoll is very rarely visited by liveboards. However, the newly established Manta Trust project has uncovered **large manta aggregations** of up to 80-100 individuals! We'll dive into these mesmerizing manta ray experiences, meet Manta Trust researchers, and contribute to ongoing research on this unique population.

Shaviyani Atoll – This northern atoll offers stunning underwater pinnacles rich with marine life, including rare **guitarfish** sightings. We'll also visit a remote manta cleaning station, where we'll work with the Manta Trust to identify new manta individuals.

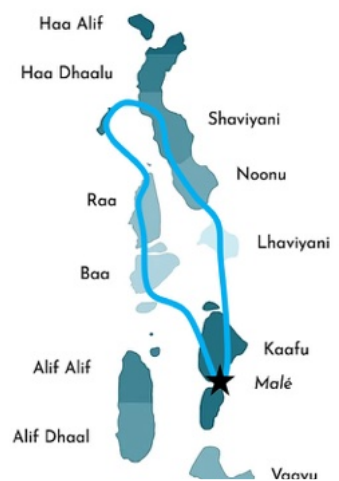
Noonu Atoll – As we move toward Male, Noonu Atoll offers **secluded dive sites** teeming with marine life. Here, encounters with guitarfish, grey reef sharks, and vibrant underwater scenes await.

Lhaviyani Atoll – To fully experience the Maldives' diving wonders, we'll visit Lhaviyani Atoll, famous for its **channels full of sharks**, Napoleon wrasses, eagle rays, and jacks. Dive with some of the country's largest **green turtles** and explore an incredible **anemone garden**.

North Male Atoll – Just off the capital city of Male, North Male Atoll offers outstanding diving, featuring more sharks, eagle rays, schools of tropical fish, and vibrant coral-covered reefs.

This new expedition has been crafted to offer an **adventurous journey** that maximizes your chances of seeing mantas at their best, all while being guided by the expertise of a Manta Trust scientist.

Note: Itinerary may be subject to change based on weather and ocean conditions.





MALDIVES



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!

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 | KEANA

Guests of the Keana are accommodated in 8 cabins located on the main and upper decks. All cabins are tastefully furnished and feature an en-suite bathroom with a rainforest shower, individually adjustable air conditioning, and windows. Two of the cabins on the main deck have single beds that can be arranged side by side. Two additional cabins are equipped with double beds. Access to the main deck cabins is through the salon. Access to the 4 cabins on the upper deck is from the outside. All of these cabins have single beds, which can be arranged side by side upon request. The two forward cabins offer a great view looking forward in the direction of travel.

The ship features a sun deck with loungers and mats that can also be used for yoga exercises, as well as a cozy salon on the main deck where meals are served. At the rear of the upper deck, you'll find a largely shaded lounge area and an open bar with a draft beer system.

Sustainability is an important focus on the Keana with the hot water on board being generated using solar energy.

BOOKING

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

Trip costs for this 14-nights expedition include transfer from Male airport to vessel, full board accommodation, water, coffee and tea, GST tax at 16%, Service Charge, and 2-3 dives per day

* Room category prices per person: Main Deck USD 4,900, Upper Deck USD 5,250. Price excludes Governmental Green Tax (USD 12 pppd), Fuel surcharge (USD 130), rental gear, WiFi, Nitrox and crew gratuities.