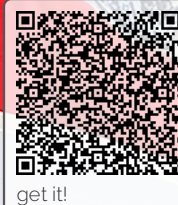




Marine and Turtle Conservation

Conservation



Last updated:
2020-09-07
A newer version
might be
available. Click or
scan the code to
get it!

📍 Maldives - Gaafu Dhaalu Atoll

Gain hands-on experience working in a marine environment with incredible animals such as turtles!

This program offers you a chance to gain knowledge and experience in a variety of ecosystems surrounding the island, learn more about coral reefs and what organisms you can find in them and contribute to one of the largest databases for coral surveying on Coral Watch. During your time, you also get to learn about what local life is like in the Maldives.

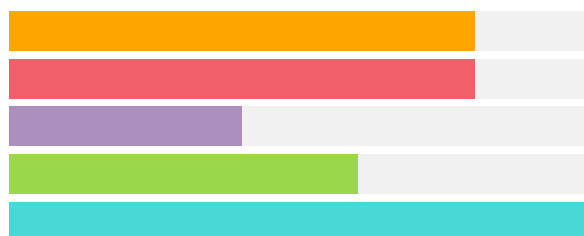
Culture

Learning

Leisure

Community Engagement

Physical Demand



Program Description

This program is a great chance to get involved in marine conservation and work closely with amazing sea turtles. Sea turtles are brought to the turtle rehabilitation centre after being kept as pets or after being found in the wild injured/sick, these turtles will then be rehabilitated and kept in the centre until they are ready to be released. The program is run by our resident marine biologist, allowing you to learn from and work with other ocean enthusiasts. You will also take part in coral gardening in an attempt to restore the degraded reefs. There is an opportunity to learn and take part in reef monitoring, to record the health of the surrounding reefs.

You will be given the chance to immerse yourself in a different culture and experience the 'real' Maldives. The Maldives is far more than just luxury resorts.

Turtle Conservation

Our marine program is extensive and relies on participant support to help us achieve all our project aims. Simply put, without you, we would not be able to ensure the upkeep and continued operation of our turtle rehabilitation centre. Monitoring work is time-consuming and extensive so we require all the help we can get in maintaining our coral frames and surveying local reefs.

You will work closely with our resident marine biologist. Daily tasks are varied and may include:

- Cleaning and feeding the rescued turtles
- Conducting reef surveys on atoll islands
- Cleaning the coral frames/assessing coral health
- Organizing community beach cleans/marine awareness sessions

Coral Conservation

Coral Survey

We carry out coral surveys on the house reef in various locations collecting data on the corals we find in the Maldives. This includes branching, boulder, plate and soft corals. The patterns we are looking for are the colour changes between each colour and colour variations between each location. This allows us to track the progress of each reef, including whether bleaching is becoming more abundant or whether a reef is recovering from the effects of bleaching.

Coral Planting

This activity involves collecting healthy coral polyps from fruitful reef locations. These are then securely placed in areas of reef that are suffering. This encourages the organisms to colonize the distressed areas of reef and initiates healthy development of corals.

Coral Farming

Carrying out coral farming is one of the most popular ways of conducting coral conservation. Similar to coral planting, healthy polyps are collected from the reef. However, these pieces are then attached to a metal-framed structure and placed in an area suffering from coral degradation. These corals attract a variety of marine organisms which help to encourage the growth of the corals to form a successful area of coral reef restoration.

We recommend you to arrive in the Maldives on a Saturday and start the program on Sunday onwards. In the Maldives, Fridays and Saturdays are holidays.

Program Duration & Availability

Min duration (weeks): 2

Aims & Objectives

To rehabilitate and release sea turtles and help conserve the marine life and the coral treasures.

Schedule

Sunday to Thursday

Your daily work will include the following activities. Apart from these activities, you may be required to assist with various tasks and activities at the centre depending on the needs at the time.

- Cleaning tanks
- Feeding the sea turtles
- Assist visitors when required
- Twice a week we will teach at local schools, here we educate them about marine conservation and the importance of a healthy ocean.
- Cleaning the tanks
- Feeding the sea turtles

Other activities:

Activities during your time may vary. We also encourage you to snorkel as much as possible as time permits and learn about the fish, coral and invertebrates in the Indian ocean. It also helps us in our surveys and also in the awareness programs we conduct to education the locals.

There will also be excursions, reef monitoring and coral gardening depending on the day.

This schedule can be changed and/or amended depending on weather conditions, local conditions and unforeseen circumstances.

Starting Dates

During 2020

This program starts every week.

During 2021

This program starts every week.

Participant Criteria & Requirements

Minimum age:	18
Maximum age:	60
Minimum English level:	Basic
CRB required:	On Signup
Passport copy required:	On Signup
Resume copy required:	No
Required qualification:	None

Additional Requirements

There are no additional requirements.

Additional Equipment

Snorkeling Gear (Goggles / Snorkel / Flippers)

Life Jacket - optional

Underwater Camera / Go Pro

Clothes you don't mind getting dirty

Rashie top for snorkeling (Woman)