

**2016 Season**



  
*Ray of Hope*  
EXPEDITIONS



***MANTA RAY EXPEDITIONS TO THE WILDEST PLACES ON EARTH***



Andrea Marshall is a world-renowned expert on manta rays and the director of the Marine Megafauna Foundation, a non-profit organization that spearheads conservation efforts for manta rays across the world through rigorous research programs and the application of sound management practices. Andrea, dubbed the “Queen of Mantas” by the BBC in the Natural World documentary by the same name, was the first person to receive a PhD on manta rays and remains a global ambassador for the species.

Based in Mozambique, Africa, Andrea and her husband Janneman Conradie developed the concept of “Ray of Hope Expeditions” to allow MMF’s scientific team to access remote areas of the globe to conduct research on these enigmatic animals. Only a handful of expeditions are carried out each year – the destinations carefully selected to provide her and other MMF researchers unprecedented access to some of the most important populations of manta rays in the world.

Members of the public who join these expeditions have the rare opportunity to learn from some of the leading manta ray scientists and experience what it like to conduct field research. Through their participation guests are able to fuel on-going research programs or help explore new areas of interest. Most importantly Ray of Hope Expeditions allow the public to engage in citizen science, assisting Andrea’s team with field observation and data gathering. The goals of each of her expeditions are unique but every trip is tailored to engage participants while producing high quality science.





## EXPEDITION LOCATIONS

Each year, a new combination of Ray of Hope Expeditions are selected to suit the research needs and schedules of MMF's manta ray research team. These bespoke expeditions are each crafted to allow participants ample time with the mantas while also enabling them to experience the other diving highlights of the area. To ensure the best outcome for both the researchers and for participants, we tailor the expeditions to the best season for the animals and always use the best operators and the best dive crews available.

In order to accommodate a whole spectrum of budgets, we try each year to offer both high-end and budget options. We even entertain special requests for large groups when possible. Please see our website ([www.rayofhopeexpeditions.com](http://www.rayofhopeexpeditions.com)) for more details and for a complete list of upcoming expeditions. Where possible, we endeavour to plan our schedule a couple of years in advance to allow participants to plan their adventures with us.

It is our goal to offer our participants the most sensational encounters with manta rays. To accomplish this we preferentially select areas of the world renowned for stable sightings, interactive animals and pristine conditions. Ray of Hope expeditions also supports the long-term research efforts of the Marine Megafauna Foundation through financial donations and logistical support.

## 2016 EXPEDITIONS

- » Mergui Archipelago, Myanmar & Surin Islands, Thailand
- » WildCoast, South Africa
- » Komodo, Indonesia
- » Yucatan Peninsula, Mexico
- » Isla de la Plata, Ecuador
- » Raja Ampat, Indonesia



*Ray of Hope Expeditions are my way of engaging with the public. I want to introduce them to manta rays the way that I see them and exposing them to the field research and conservation efforts that are saving them globally. – Andrea Marshall*

# CONNECTING THE PUBLIC WITH MANTA RAYS ACROSS THE GLOBE



## ALL AROUND THE WORLD

Ray of Hope Expeditions has been creating bespoke experiences with manta rays since 2010 to locations around the world. While our itinerary is constantly changing, we regularly conduct trips to the same locations to support the long-term research efforts of the Marine Megafauna Foundation.

- » Mexico
- » Ecuador
- » The Galapagos
- » Indonesia
- » Thailand
- » Myanmar
- » Mozambique
- » South Africa



The image shows three manta rays swimming in a deep blue ocean. The largest ray is in the foreground on the right, with its wings spread wide. Two smaller rays are visible in the background on the left and center. The text 'SAVING OCEAN GIANTS FROM EXTINCTION' is overlaid in the bottom left corner.

***SAVING OCEAN GIANTS FROM  
EXTINCTION***



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