

# MANTA - Marine Science And Nautical Training Academy

## Coral Reef Summer Study

### Abroad—Virgin Islands 2022



#### **Program Dates:**

**July 10 –24**

#### **MANTA Program Fee:**

**\$4490**

[www.manta-online.org](http://www.manta-online.org)



#### **Program Course:**

***Introduction to Marine Science Diving and Coral Reefs***

#### **Highlights**

- ◇ **Live-aboard, island-hopping exploration**
- ◇ **PADI Scuba certification and scientific dive training**
- ◇ **College level coral reef instruction and training**
- ◇ **Perform research via SCUBA**

#### **Program Information:**

Students study the biology, ecology, and conservation of the Caribbean coral reef ecosystem. The emphasis is placed on field methods and labs, including field experiments that contribute to ongoing research projects. The program is conducted aboard a 80 foot yacht that serves as the accommodations, transportation, classroom, and research platform. Each day the class will cruise to a new island in the archipelago of the British Virgin Islands to investigate new habitats. Students also receive practical nautical training (seamanship, navigation, small boat handling, knots) to better prepare them as deckhands aboard a research vessel, they will earn their PADI Open Water, Advanced, or Specialty Scuba certification, and gain hands-on research diving experience. Students are required to complete the classroom portion of PADI's diver training online prior to departure for the trip. [www.manta-online.org](http://www.manta-online.org)

Students participating in this course should expect the following conditions/activities: snorkeling, SCUBA diving, swimming, hiking, tropical summer heat, lifting scuba tanks, living aboard a boat, and prolonged physical activity.

#### **Program Director:**

**Dr. Rusty Day, Biology Department/Grice Marine Lab, [rusty.day@manta-online.org](mailto:rusty.day@manta-online.org), 843 817-7791**

Dr. Rusty Day is an Adjunct Professor of Biology at CofC and the Executive Director of MANTA. He has a diverse scientific background that includes tropical field ecology, fisheries, wildlife toxicology, and chemical and isotopic tracers in marine organisms. Dr. Day has directed the BVI study abroad program since 2009 and is also a PADI Master Scuba Diver Trainer, and licensed U.S. Coast Guard Captain.

#### **To Apply:**

**MANTA Application:** <http://manta-online.org/high-school-application/>

The Program fee is all-inclusive of room, board, scuba training/certification/gear, ground transportation, and all program activities. Round-trip airfare not included. Inquire about scholarships and financial aid at [rusty.day@manta-online.org](mailto:rusty.day@manta-online.org).

College of Charleston Magazine Article:

<https://today.cofc.edu/2016/11/02/marine-science-british-virgin-islands/>

Video preview of the MANTA experience and student testimonials:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ul6yFIw8WX0&feature=youtu.be>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KGfV8YiaPUU&feature=youtu.be>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IQUJhi96A7Q&t=>

MANTA research topics:

<http://manta-online.org/research/>