

MANTA - Marine Science And Nautical Training Academy

Coral Reef Summer Field Studies — Virgin Islands 2024



Program Dates:

July 24 - Aug 7

MANTA Program Fee:

\$5495

www.manta-online.org



Intro to Marine Science Diving and Coral Reefs

Highlights

- ◇ **Live-aboard, island-hopping exploration**
- ◇ **PADI Scuba certification**
- ◇ **American Association of Underwater Scientists (AAUS) scientific dive training and certification**
- ◇ **Coral reef instruction and training from college professor**
- ◇ **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 modern 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, and American Association of Underwater Scientists (AAUS) scuba certifications, 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

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, 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 Master 200 gross ton 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.

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/>