



# MARINE RESEARCH & WHALE SHARK CONSERVATION DIVE MASTER TRAINING

Love Manta Rays? Love Whale Sharks? Love Citizen Science, Want to share it with others on a whole new level? Add the Divemaster course to your already amazing All Out Africa Marine programme. Scuba divers look up to divemasters because they are leaders who mentor and motivate others. As a divemaster, you not only get to dive a lot, but enjoy countless ocean safaris too. Swimming with whale sharks and mantas daily is only stuff made of dreams

As a volunteer on the Marine Research & Whale Shark Conservation Project & Dive Master Training you will help carry out the Marine Research and monitoring activities for the project under the guidance of our coordinating project scientists. During your first month you will join other volunteers on the project to collect the data via scuba dives, ocean safaris, and beach walks off the coastline of Tofo in Mozambique. The next two months you will participate in a Dive Master Training course to take your diving to the next level! You can expect an excellent diving, snorkeling and beach experience whilst gaining first hand Marine Research skills and contributing to a worthwhile project.

## ACCOMMODATION & MEALS

During your stay you will be accommodated in Albatroz Lodge, in Tofo. Three meals a day will also be provided, some on a self-serve basis and others cooked for you.

## PROJECT START DATES

Start date for this project is the first Monday of the month throughout the year, with the exception of November & December when the project is closed.

## INCLUDED IN THE COST

- An internationally recognised dive qualification  
(Not included for 2 week volunteers)
- Research dives and ocean safari's to collect data

2017 ARTA WINNER!

2017 GYTA FINALIST!



- Comprehensive 24 hour, 7 day a week support from All Out Africa
- Volunteer projects specifically designed to enable you to make an active contribution during your stay
- Support of volunteer project coordinators who are experts in their fields which ensures the volunteer experience is valuable
- Comprehensive orientation to the country
- All food and accommodation throughout your stay

## VOLUNTEER ROLE

The project involves conducting multiple types of research with different species. The following is a summary of the type of research and Conservation activities you may be involved with. Some of the activities are conducted at specific times of the year whilst others are conducted all year round. Our co-ordinating project scientists will teach you how to assist with data collection throughout your project duration.

In order to carry out these activities you will need to be able or willing to learn to scuba dive. An open or advanced internationally recognized diving course is provided in the cost of the program to facilitate this. Once you have gained your entry level certification, you will be able to move onto the Dive Master Training. Successful completion of the PADI and Advanced dive courses will be required.

*You will also need to be a capable swimmer (able to swim 100m unassisted) and snorkeler. Being able to hold your breath to dive down would be an advantage but is not required.*

The PADI Divemaster course is your first level of professional training. Working closely with a PADI Instructor, you'll fine-



tune your dive skills, like perfecting the effortless hover, and refine your rescue skills so you anticipate and easily solve common problems. You'll gain dive knowledge, management and supervision abilities so you become a role model to divers everywhere.

As a PADI Divemaster, you'll lead others as you supervise scuba diving activities and assist with diver training. PADI Divemasters are respected dive professionals who are aligned with the largest and most respected dive organization in the world - PADI.

*Some of the activities you will get involved in may include:*

**Whale Shark (Annually)** The Whale Shark component of the Project involves joining ocean safaris to snorkel with Whale Sharks in the open ocean. It involves taking underwater photographs for identifying the Whale Sharks as well as recording other ecological information. As a summary, you will collect the following information on the Whale Sharks:

- Date, GPS location, surface and underwater conditions
- Size, sex, scars/distinctive features, behaviour of the Whale Shark
- You will take an ID photograph and identify each Whale Shark & record re-sightings

**Dolphin (Annually)** You will be collecting data which enables dolphin numbers and behaviours to be recorded and uploaded onto databases to share with our Marine Partners. Of particular interest in this study is dolphin behaviour in relation to tourism.

**Coral Reef and Fish (Annually)** This involves carrying out underwater data collection on indicator species of coral fish and the condition and cover of coral and echinoderms on the reefs.

**Seahorses (Annually)** This project will involve traveling to the nearby Inhambane Estuary and snorkeling in relatively shallow waters to evaluate and monitor the seahorse population. The seahorses are counted, and photos taken to identify size of the seahorses, and data then entered into a database to allow for analysis.

**Humpback Whales (June - October)** Monitor the numbers of humpbacked whales on their seasonal migration up and down the coast. This involves sand dune based observations using binoculars and boat based observations recording the numbers of whales, the makeup of the pods and behaviours witnessed.

**General environment (Annually)** A number of more general environmental awareness and clean-up activities will be also carried out during the project.

\* Please note that the activities listed above are based on availability and may vary by season. These are samples of activities that are volunteers are likely to participate in.

## WHERE YOUR PROJECT FEE GOES

By signing up with us you are donating your time and skills to work directly with communities in need through a structured project. There are many benefits of volunteering through an organization like ours. Sometimes it is hard to find projects to support in a foreign country that are safe, worthwhile, and reputable. When you sign-up for one of our projects for 2 or 12 weeks, you become part of a bigger,

## RESERVE YOUR SPACE WITH A 10% DEPOSIT!

INCLUDING PADI/ADVANCED DIVE COURSE | QUALIFIED DIVERS

8 Weeks For	-	R49 609
10 Weeks For	-	R73 573
12 Weeks For	R93 311	R85 325

\*Prices listed in US Dollar. For different currencies special prices, group rates or custom placements please email for a custom quote.

sustainable plan that our team of qualified staff have carefully crafted. You will also receive travel and visa support, orientation, a safe place to stay, logistical support, in addition to clear expectations of the work you will do. This is why we charge a fee for volunteering or interning abroad.

Your project fee goes towards a company you can trust, an experience that is worthwhile and an opportunity that will make a positive and sustainable impact on the community you have chosen to serve.

## DAY IN THE LIFE OF A VOLUNTEER

**7:00** Wake up to see the sunshine and get yourself started for the day with breakfast!

**7:30** Get prepared for your research dive - get your equipment together and head to one of the dive sites or you may go on an ocean safari and go searching for Whale Sharks and dolphins to take photo ID shots and record behavioral data

**12:30** Time to return to your accommodation for lunch after an action packed morning!

**14:00** Go to the office and enter data onto our databases of the research work

**15:00** Depending on the time of year - you may be collecting data on humpback whales from the top of the sand dunes, uploading photo IDs into the database, conducting turtle nest surveys or improving the beach environment with a clean-up collection.

**16:30** Return back to your accommodation and share your day's adventures!

**18:00** Enjoy a delicious evening meal and relax.....

## NOT INCLUDED IN THE FEE

✗ Local transport fares to your projects





- ✗ Medical/Travel insurance
- ✗ All Flights & Visas
- ✗ Scuba Equipment for Dive Master Training

## ITINERARY FOR YOUR EXPERIENCE

**Day 1** Fly into Inhambane Airport, usually connections are available from OR Tambo Airport Johannesburg or Maputo Mozambique where you will be met by an All Out Africa staff member who will transfer with you to your accommodation.

**Day 2** Your orientation will start with a presentation by the coordinating project scientists to prepare you for your project. You will then be shown around Tofo and have a tour of the nearby city of Inhambane.

**Day 3-5** Begin your scuba diving course which usually lasts between 4 & 7 days depending on weather conditions. This is an internationally accredited course and upon completion you will get a certificate permitting you to scuba dive to 18m anywhere in the world. Those who already hold an open water course will complete an advanced dive course (qualifies you to dive to 30m).

After scuba class you will be treated with a series of interesting educational talks on some of the amazing megafauna you will be swimming with over the next few weeks including how to ID several different kinds of fish species.

**Day 6-7** At weekends there is time to explore the stunning palm-fringed beaches of Tofo: relax, surf, swim and enjoy your beautiful surroundings. During the first weekend you may also be completing your open or advanced water certificate.

**Day 8-30** Once your dive course is completed you will officially be an assistant scientist! Your dives in the morning/afternoon will be for the purpose of collecting data and the second part of the day you will be responsible for communicating that data into the proper vehicle for safe keeping and analysis at a later date.

On days when you are not in the water, our social projects guide may take you on activities around Tofo such as Portuguese lessons, historical walking tours and/or local handicraft creation.

**Day 30-90** Congratulations! Now that you have participated as a citizen researcher for one month on our Marine Research & Whale Shark Conservation project, you can begin your Dive Master Training (DMT)! Shift gears and spend some quality time with our dive team as you explore the beautiful waters of Tofo a little deeper!

*It is important to note that daily activities may change due to weather conditions or other circumstances beyond our control at any given time. Attention to the daily posted schedule will be vital.*

## EQUIPMENT REQUIRED

Volunteers **MUST** arrive with the following equipment to participate in the DMT project. Dive centre will provide weight belt, weights and cylinder).

- Wetsuit (*Recommended 5mm full*)
- Mask

- Shaker
- Surface Marker Buoy
- Finger Reel
- Karabina
- BCD & Reg

*Available from our dive partner R3500 (ZAR)*

**\* Dive Computer** - This is not a requirement, however it is strongly suggested. If you do not have access to a dive computer, then a must have some form of time device that you can dive with in order to use the dive tables safely.

### Additional information for those booking onto the Mozambique Marine Program

- As part of the project activities, you will complete an Internationally Recognized Dive Qualification during a normal 4-week program, along with 11 or 12 ocean activities (ocean safaris or research dives) depending on the dive course chosen. Numbers of ocean safaris and research dives are calculated accordingly for shorter/longer programs.
- In order to carry out the activities required of you in the Marine Conservation Project you will need to be a capable swimmer (able to swim 100m unassisted) and snorkeler; being able to hold your breath to dive down would be an advantage.
- Volunteers who sign up for a 2-week project must have either their open or advanced water dive certification.
- Volunteers who have pre-existing medical conditions or are over 45 years of age must also bring a medical clearance letter permitting them to dive.
- Any volunteers taking Lariam/Mefloquine/Mephliam/Tropicure (or any other derivatives) as anti-malarial treatment (prophylaxis) will not be permitted to dive, as it causes increased risks when diving. Please advise your doctor that you are going on a dive holiday, and request another suitable anti-malarial treatment.
- Accredited divers must bring their dive cards (listing their last logged dive) with them to the project site as proof.
- Dive accredited volunteers not requiring/wanting a dive course but who have not logged a dive within 6 months of their project will need to complete a Scuba Review before they can participate in their research dives. The cost of a Scuba Review is not included in the project cost, and a small fee will be paid locally for this directly to the Dive Centre we partner with.
- The open water certificate qualifies volunteers to dive up to 18 meters, and some of our dive sites are between 20-30 meters deep. It is not essential to dive at these deeper sites, but should you wish to participate in deep diving (up to 30 meters) you will either need to complete a Deep Dive course at a small additional local cost, or there is also the option to complete an Advanced Water Course at an additional cost.
- Ask for our fish-list if you would like a head start on coming to grips with all the different species that you will be seeing on your dives!

All Out Africa DMT project is in partnership with

