

from around the world SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL OFFERS



intrepid travel tours

10% off select Australian adventures in small group tours. Just some of the adventures are 6 days in Tasmania, 5 day Top End and Arnhem Land Adventure, 10 days Perth to Broome overland or 5 day outback camping adventure. 'Intrepid is committed to protecting our planet' and have been offering carbon neutral tours since 2010. All trips use public transport where possible, reusable water bottles, minimal flights, waste and energy usage. Offers of up to 10% off Europe and Middle East and 10% off for students*



kokomo private island, fiji

Book a stay of 5 nights or more and receive free air transfers from Nadi or Suva International airport to Kokomo island for two guests per bedroom. As mentioned in our Manta Ray feature on page 15. Includes gourmet breakfast, lunch and dinner daily, non alcoholic beverages, non motorised water-sports, 1 x Introductory spa treatment per stay, 1 x Tank scuba dive per stay, Kids Club daily, Nanny services (0 - 3 years) from 9am to 5pm daily. Offer for travel between 06 Oct - 19 Dec 2019 and 12 Jan to 31 Mar 2020*



inkaterra machu picchu pueblo hotel

Book 2 nights at Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel and get a 3rd night for free. This boutique hotel of just 83 casitas, is a member of National Geographic Unique Lodges of the world and home to 214 bird species and the world's largest orchid collection of 372 species. Rates include daily breakfast, welcome kit, upgrade on arrival (if available) and a complimentary 25 minute de stress massage. Valid for reservations with stays from now to December 31st, 2019, with limited availability and full payment upon booking*

**Terms and Conditions*



*You can book these and many other offers with us. Generally not combinable with any other deals or specials and subject to availability. All bookings are subject to a booking fee from \$150 per twin share and more for complicated multi country destinations. This covers time spent putting together your unique travel itinerary and your point. For more travel@thesustainabletraveller.com



LATEST SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL NEWS

- Theme for 2019 #worldtourismday is 'Tourism and Jobs - A Better Future For All'
- Prince Harry advocating for sustainable tourism
- The latest hotel chains removing single use plastic amenities from your hotel room



The need to better understand Sustainable Travel and Eco Tourism is on the rise. Which is good news for the planet, people and wildlife.

We stand by the fact that travel is a huge privilege, enjoyed by few but the affects are felt by many. The need for sustainable travel is now at the forefront of travel industry discussions and world leaders and will eventually become the norm.

The theme for this year's UN World Tourism Day is "Tourism and Jobs – A Better Future For All" and Goal 8 of the Sustainable Development Goals. This is a reminder to travellers that they have a unique opportunity to spend their 'tourism dollars' on travel that will directly benefit the local communities, employment, empower minority groups and job creation.



Prince Harry amplified the message by announcing 'Travelyst' a global alliance with booking.com, Ctrip, Skycanner, TripAdvisor and Visa 'with the ambition to change the impact of travel, for good' A message we share too Harry.

To further help you on your sustainable travel journey, global hotel brands of Marriott, International Hotel Group IHG, Shangri-La and Ovolo have announced they are ditching single use bathroom amenities. Finally we say.

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SWIMMING WITH MANTA RAYS

WRITTEN DAYANA BROOKE

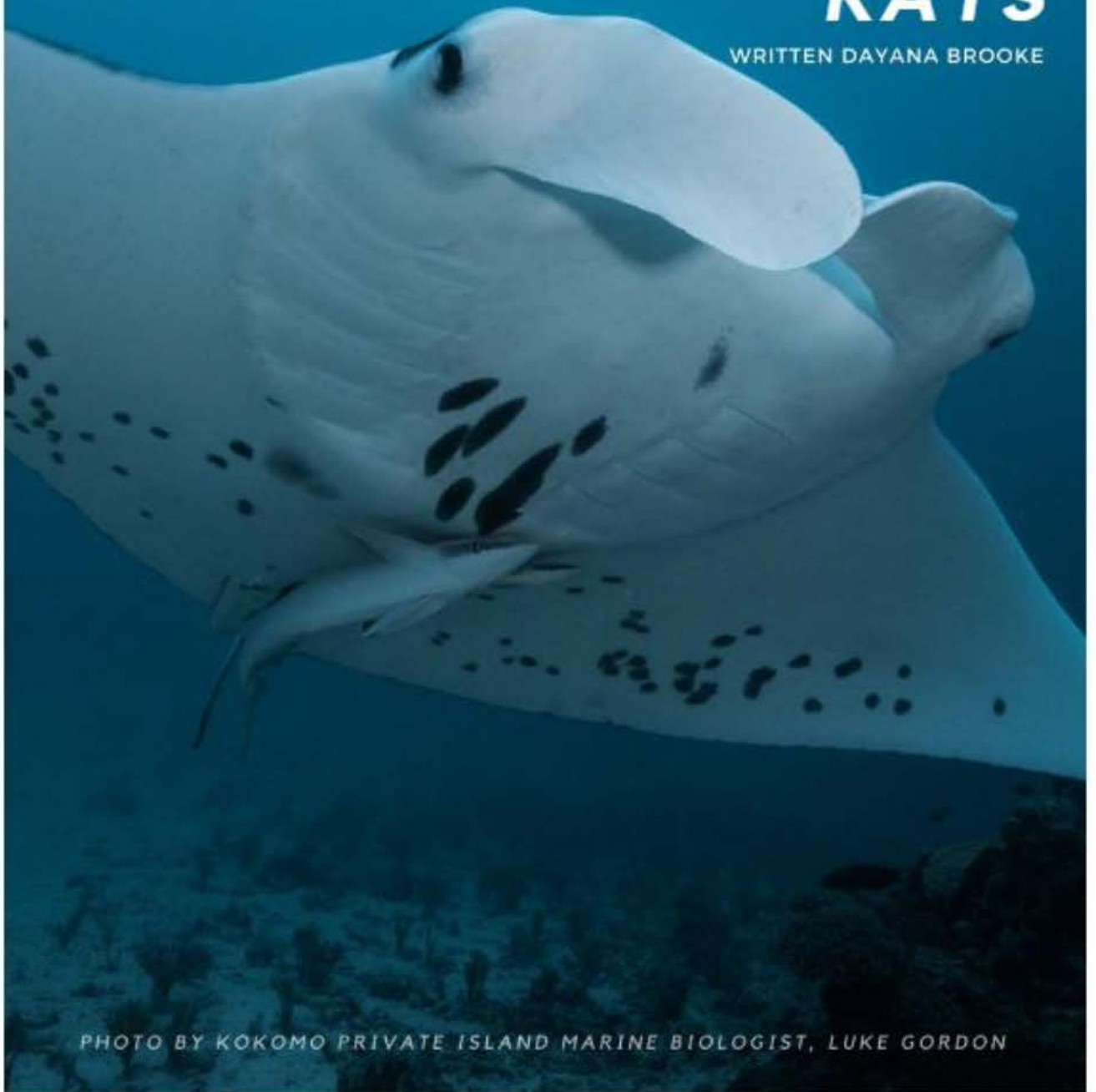


PHOTO BY KOKOMO PRIVATE ISLAND MARINE BIOLOGIST, LUKE GORDON



PHOTO BY KOKOMO ISLAND MARINE BIOLOGIST, LUKE GORDON



If you have recently watched **Our Planet** series on NetFlix narrated by Sir David Attenborough, I'm sure you felt an admiration and perhaps desperation to protect and preserve the planet we call home.

As travelers, we seek experiences that excite us and takes us out of our everyday lifestyles and routines and that tends to **involve nature**.

SWIMMING WITH MANTA RAYS

is an eco tourism experience, that attracts travellers from the around the world to just a few unique dive spots in places such as Maldives, Fiji, Hawaii, Indonesia and Australia.

An opportunity for travellers to snorkel or dive with these large fish, but importantly to help contribute to valuable research at the same time.

With the collaboration of UK based charity **Manta Trust**, many resorts encourage guests to bring along an underwater camera to help capture photographic images of the belly of each Mantra which helps identification and tagging.

KOKOMO PRIVATE ISLAND

located in the south pacific nation of Fiji, is a luxury resort that opened in 2017.

The location is ideal for snorkelers and divers with direct access to the fourth largest reef in the world.

THE GREAT ASTROLABE REEF.

The resort has a **PADI** certified diving centre and year round diving sites with Manta Rays. For snorkelers, the best times are from April to September.



Since opening, Kokomo has collaborated with **Manta Trust** and committed to the research of **Mobuild Rays**, their habitat and providing measures for conservation.

And more recently, the resort announced the '**Kokomo Acoustic Manta Project**' the first of its kind in scientific research of Manta Rays in Fiji and South Pacific.

Marine Biologist and Project Leader of Mantra Project Fiji, Luke Gordon said,

"The feeding aggregations (around Kokomo) are currently seen no where else in Fiji; being in the middle of a cyclone of 40+ huge manta rays is an experience you will never forget..."

Pack your underwater camera to help capture photographic images for identification and tagging.

Plus you can now '**adopt a manta ray**' which helps contribute much-needed funds to further research, ID and ways in which their habitats can be protected.

THE MALDIVES

in the Indian Ocean has grown to become the location for beach-loving travelers, seeking a secluded romantic island experience.

It was here in 2005, that Manta Trust began with the help of **Four Seasons Hotel Landaa Giraavaru**.

More recently, **Six Senses Resort Laamu** has joined forces with Manta Trust, Blue Marine Foundation and Olive Ridley Project and created

The Maldives Underwater Initiative (MUI).

MANTA TRUST RESEARCHER HAISHAM RASHEED
APPROACHES A WILD REEF MANTA RAY
TO SCAN IT AT SIX SENSES LAAMU



This collaboration brings together a team of 10 visionary marine biologists, Duo-Scan technology and veterinary efforts to the 125 reef manta rays that call Laamu home.

The resort is also close to a manta ray cleaning station which makes it even more unique.

Unlike other resorts where sightings are seasonal, **'We are lucky to have year-round sightings'** says Megan the Sustainability Manager of the resort.

Only **certified divers** can swim with the manta rays as the dive location is 16 metres deep and under a surf break and channel.

Divers can also get involved with research as 'citizen scientists', photo identification, learning how research is conducted and even measure and detect pregnancies.

The resort also directly contributes to many community initiatives such as clean drinking water to the local islands and schools, plastic-free waste management and marine life research in partnership with **Blue Marine Foundation** and **Manta Trust**.

Dives last one hour and include light refreshments from a single trip to a full day experience and even night dives for certified divers.

Minimum age is 8, so a great way to get the children involved and learning about marine life and conservation at an early age.

Have you swum
with Manta Rays?
Would you like to
help with
conservation?
We would love to
hear your stories
using hashtag
**#swimmingwith
mantarays**



The Marine Protected Area (MPA) of **Raja Ampat in Indonesia** is described as one of the best dive and snorkel sites on the planet.

This geologically blessed destination is nutrient rich with diverse coral reefs and marine life and where you can find both species of mantas, the reef and oceanic rays and a manta cleaning station.

In other parts of Indonesia, mantas are extinct due to the pressure of fishing for their gills which are dried and used in traditional Chinese medicine.

The Raja Ampat Manta Project was set up in 2010 by Manta Trust, and has built a database of 700 mantas which they use as a tool to lobby against fishing in Indonesia.

The best way to explore the archipelago islands of Raja Ampat is undoubtedly by sailing and the ideal times from October to April.

Aqua Blu is the newest luxury vessel to offer 7 night voyages to Raja Ampat and 12 nights to include Flores or Spice Island.

Each expedition will be led by expert crew, guides and dive guides with the inaugural voyage being the 16th of November this year.

The vessel is boutique in size with only 15 suites, indoor and outdoor spaces, five star dining and a menu inspired by local cuisines and sustainably sourced seafood.



You can see more on our website www.thesustainabletraveller.com/mantarays



PHOTO BY SEBASTIAN PENA BARBARI ON UNSPLOSH

Plan Your Getaway

Kokomo Private Island Resort is located in Fiji and accessible by international airports of Suva and Nadi. Your daily rate is all inclusive of meals, non alcoholic drinks, non motorised sports, 1 x 45 minute spa treatment, 1 x tank scuba dive per day, kid's and teens club. Save 10% when you book 60 days in advance.

Six Senses Laamu is located in the Maldives and an ideal eco friendly hideaway and surfer's haven. Enjoy all inclusive rates, USD100 food and beverage credit, complimentary 50 minute massage, upgrade and more. Stay 7, Pay 6 and save 10% when booking at least 60 days in advance.

Aqua Expeditions offers 8 day cruises on board Aqua Blu to Raja Ampat Indonesia. All meals are included, laundry, group transfers, all excursions, dives and equipment and non motorised water sports. Highly exclusive with a 1:1 crew to guest ratio for personalised service. Incredibly high standards in operations to protect the natural environment where they sail.

You can help support the manta ray conservation and research.

Check out **Manta Trust** and **Manta Matcher** to learn more about the ongoing research and collaborations and how you can get involved.

Support the conservation work of **Oceanic Preservation Society** in partnership with **4Ocean** and purchase a recycled glass bead bracelet. Each bracelet helps to remove 1 pound of plastic from our oceans. Use **#4MantaRays** to show your support on social media

Share your thoughts with us on social media

The more awareness we raise, the more we can help the conservation and research efforts for Manta Rays

To book your own sustainable travel experience, contact us travel@thesustainabletraveller.com