

A large sea turtle, likely a hawksbill, is the central focus of the image. It is swimming from the left towards the right, slightly angled downwards. Its head is in the foreground, showing its eyes and nostrils. The shell is a mix of dark brown and lighter, mottled patterns. The flippers are large and have a distinct pattern of dark brown and light brown. The background is a deep blue ocean with a coral reef visible in the lower half of the frame. The lighting is natural, suggesting an underwater environment.

**MARINE SCIENCE
& CONSERVATION
EXPEDITIONS
2027-2028**



Exotic destinations. Ocean adventures. Face-to-face encounters with majestic wildlife. All while you support MarAlliance's species-focused conservation and restoration efforts. Volunteer with purpose, gather crucial data, join us and give back to the sea.*

Adventure. Discovery. Purpose.

Join our team of marine biologists, guides, and traditional fishers on an unforgettable research expedition. Limited to fewer than 10 expeditioners per trip, these bucket-list experiences give nature lovers and adventure seekers the chance to work side by side with our team, learning hands-on research skills while studying iconic sharks, rays, turtles, and big finfish.

The data you help collect advances global scientific knowledge and informs policies that protect these threatened species in a world facing climate change and growing human pressures.

As an ambassador for marine wildlife and MarAlliance, you'll contribute directly to the long-term monitoring and conservation of marine megafauna at key Caribbean and Pacific sites. Most importantly, your participation supports our fisher partners, helping to diversify their livelihoods, reduce pressure on fish populations, and show that conservation can create real economic opportunity.

*As a volunteer, a significant portion of your cost is tax-deductible.



A Variety of Immersive Expeditions that Sustain Local Conservation



What you will learn

- Species identification and size/distance estimation training, through standardized in-water visual transects to assess diversity and relative abundance of sharks, rays, turtles and finfish.
- Deployment and analyses of Baited Remote Underwater Video (BRUVs). These help us to assess abundance, diversity and distribution of sharks or any species attracted to bait.
- On specific expeditions, how to capture and tag sharks and rays and turtles. Assist with baiting and setting longlines, collect biometric and environmental data, and learn best practices handling techniques to safely tag and release sharks and rays.
- eDNA sampling techniques to detect species presence from water samples alone — a cutting-edge, non-invasive tool that helps us map biodiversity in hard-to-survey areas.



What's included

- On-site training by our team of expert biologists and community research staff.
- Tax-deductible donation that supports a portion of the resources needed for our monitoring and research methods, as well as local fisher and boat captain salaries.
- Field accommodations depending on location - glamping tents, beach cabanas, or seaside hotel rooms.
- Boat transfers from the mainland to remote field sites.
- All meals (breakfasts, lunches, and dinners), beginning with lunch on the day of arrival at the Expedition location through breakfast on the morning of departure from the location.
- Meals include coffee, tea, juice, and water.
- Marine Park conservation fees.
- Volunteer Field Kit.

What's not included

- International and domestic airfares
- Accommodations and meals/beverages prior to arrival at and following departure from the Expedition location.
- Travel, health, and cancellation insurance.
- Personal items, prescriptions and incidentals.



PLAYA DEL CARMEN, MEXICO

- 16-20 Jan 2027
- 20-24 Jan 2027
- 15-19 Jan 2028
- 19-23 Jan 2028



Dive with the 'Jaguars of the Sea.' Each year, pregnant bull sharks return to the waters off Playa del Carmen before giving birth, creating a rare opportunity to dive alongside one of the ocean's most powerful predators. This is more than a shark dive. It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for experienced divers to come face to face with bull sharks while contributing to the science that will help protect them.

Working alongside local shark experts, you'll use photography, videography, and cutting-edge monitoring techniques to document these magnificent animals. Your observations will help researchers better understand bull shark residency, migration, habitat use, and reproductive behavior. Expect adrenaline, respect, and an unforgettable encounter with an apex predator, while producing real citizen science that supports shark conservation.

COIBA, PANAMA

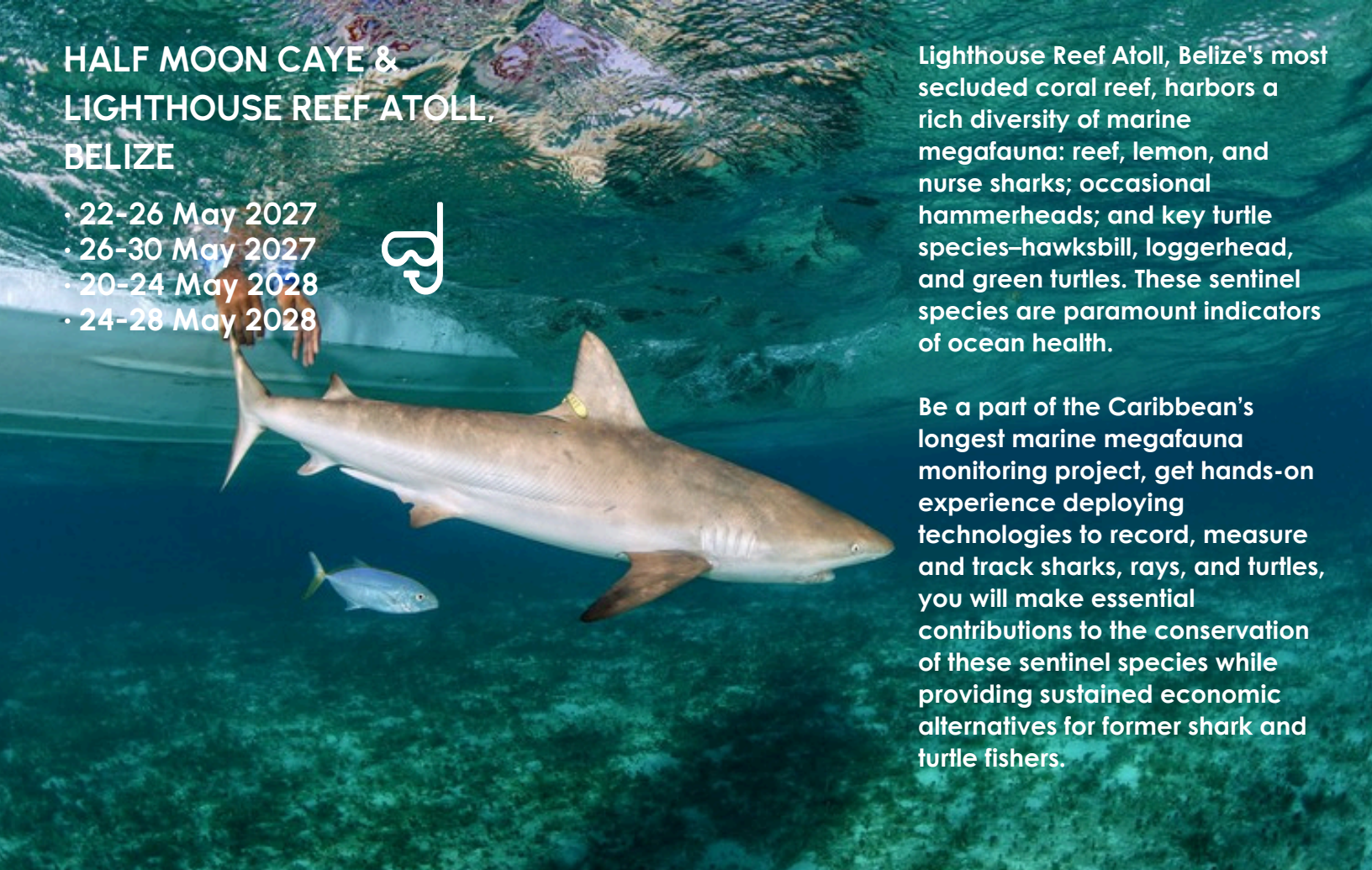
- 13-18 Mar 2027
- 18-23 Mar 2027
- 11-16 Mar 2028
- 16-21 Mar 2028



Coiba National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site off Panama's Pacific coast, is one of the most biodiverse marine reserves in the Eastern Tropical Pacific -home to hundreds of fish species, dozens of shark species, rays, sea turtles, and the large pelagics that pass through this stretch of the migratory corridor shared with the Galápagos. Decades of protection and low human disturbance have left its reefs and channels remarkably intact.

On this expedition, you'll join Dr. Rachel Graham and her team on guided dives and in-water surveys to document this natural wonder firsthand - contributing to photo identification, camera trapping, megafauna tagging, and eDNA sampling that expand our understanding of the species using this critical, still-understudied corridor. Your work will help build the baseline data needed to guide long-term protection of one of the Pacific's last great marine wildernesses.





HALF MOON CAYE & LIGHTHOUSE REEF ATOLL, BELIZE

- 22-26 May 2027
- 26-30 May 2027
- 20-24 May 2028
- 24-28 May 2028



Lighthouse Reef Atoll, Belize's most secluded coral reef, harbors a rich diversity of marine megafauna: reef, lemon, and nurse sharks; occasional hammerheads; and key turtle species—hawksbill, loggerhead, and green turtles. These sentinel species are paramount indicators of ocean health.

Be a part of the Caribbean's longest marine megafauna monitoring project, get hands-on experience deploying technologies to record, measure and track sharks, rays, and turtles, you will make essential contributions to the conservation of these sentinel species while providing sustained economic alternatives for former shark and turtle fishers.



GLADDEN & RANGUANA CAYE, BELIZE

- 8-12 June 2027
- 14-18 June 2027
- 15-19 June 2028
- 19-23 June 2028



Idyllic Ranguana Caye, a remote private island paradise within Belize's southern barrier reef and the Gladden Spit & Silk Cayes Marine Reserve, hosts crucial populations of Caribbean reef and nurse sharks, rays, turtles, and large predatory fish such as snappers and groupers.

Your participation in this long-standing conservation project will help us collect invaluable data on populations, abundance, density and habitat preference of a range of species with traditional fishers, and will help evaluate the effectiveness of protected areas and the ban on fishing nets on the progress of marine rewilding in Belize's southern seas.

LAS PERLAS, PANAMA

- 1-5 July 2027
- 5-9 July 2027
- 2-6 July 2028
- 6-10 July 2028



The breathtaking Las Perlas Archipelago, a global biodiversity hotspot within the Eastern Tropical Pacific's Bay of Panama, boasts diverse marine habitats for sharks, rays, sea turtles, and numerous finfish species. Unfortunately, this area faces significant conservation challenges due to inadequate management and a broad lack of baseline data. On this expedition, you'll be at the forefront of addressing these predicaments.

With hands-on training alongside Dr. Rachel Graham and a dedicated team of researchers and local fishers, you'll learn monitoring techniques, identify and tag various megafauna species, including white-tip sharks and sea turtles, and even assist in collecting eDNA samples. Your efforts will not only contribute vital data for conservation efforts but also provide sustainable career alternatives for the local fishing community.

ISLA MUJERES, MEXICO

- 17-20 July 2027
- 21-24 July 2027
- 15-18 July 2028
- 19-22 July 2028



Picture a flowing, swirling tapestry of open-mouthed, white-spotted whale sharks and graceful, jet-black manta rays. Guided by Dr. Rachel Graham, our founder and a world-renowned expert on both species, you'll learn the latest science and gain invaluable insights into these regal, tranquil creatures. Snorkel alongside the world's largest fish, and if conditions are right, the world's largest ray. Contribute to a global citizen science project mapping the whale sharks' migratory paths and population dynamics.

Testimonials

"I am still glowing and feeling inspired from my time on the atoll with the team! I have a much better understanding of MarAlliance's work, accomplishments, and challenges faced, and I look forward to using what I learned to be a better steward."

Rachel F.

"My experience at MarAlliance was incredible; it reminded me that not all classrooms have four walls, and with that in mind, I learned more about the oceans and the care we should give to nature."

Eli L.

"This was an amazing trip. Trip details, ongoing communications, and updates were great. I loved the pre-trip and daily evening educational information from Rachel. Both boat and marine animal protection and safety were high priority. I would highly recommend this trip."

Sue H

"The trip was incredible! The team is so impressive and hard-working and such lovely individuals. I really enjoyed my time with them. The tagging of sharks was very exciting. The accommodation was definitely glamping and the food was excellent. Having the turtles lay eggs next to our tent was the icing on the cake!"

Meryt H.



Join us and immerse yourself in this unique experience.

Contact us at expeditions@maralliance.org and let us know which Expedition you're interested in joining.

Space is limited.

www.maralliance.org | [@maralliance](https://www.instagram.com/maralliance)

