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away to sea

Mantaray Island, Yasawa, Fiji

Diving in Mantaray Island, Yasawas

The diving
The waters around Mantaray Island Resort are an internationally recognized refuge for Manta Rays.

With or without these creatures present, the diving is outstanding all year round and shouldn't be missed! But, each year between May and October the waters are blessed with the elegance of the Pacific Manta Ray. So if you do have the freedom to plan, then hit their season! As many as thirteen manta rays have been recorded in front of the resort at one time. Daily snorkeling trips allow visitors to experience these magnificent creatures up close as they glide majestically through the nutrient rich channel just around the corner. This strait can't be dived, but the reefs just outside sports over 25 dive sites, and they certainly can. In these Pacific waters you will find sublime visibility and an extremely colorful marine life hanging out on healthy reefs. The house reef just in front of the beach is a perfect example of the wealth in this area.

No matter what previous experience you have in diving you need to keep in mind that it is the Pacific, you can't go wrong on the diving here!

Area name / Island name
Mantaray Island, Yasawa, Fiji

Nearest airport
Nadi airport on Viti Levu

Season
All year round
Best season for Manta Rays are May to October

Center type
SSI Dive center
Friendly and experienced
English owned

Experience level
PADI or SSI Open water diver or equivalent.
Is suitable for all experience levels.
The dives are easy accessible from the beach or a short boat ride

Minimum age for participation
12 Years

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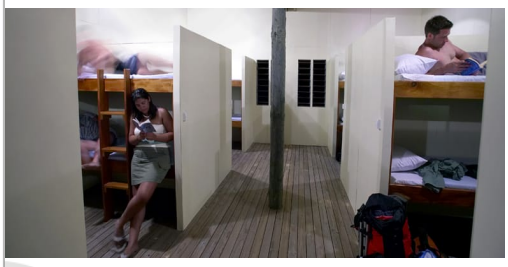

Location
Located in the Fiji Islands premier destination, the Yasawa Islands, Mantaray Island Resort sums up the perfect Fijian holiday. Boasting idyllic white sand tropical beaches, vibrant coral reefs, a marine reserve teeming with life, fantastic cuisine, refreshing cocktails, chilled out tunes and a close affiliation with the local village, this island offers the complete Fiji Experience.

Your resort
Mantaray Island Resort is an environmentally friendly resort, from the toilet systems to the reef awareness programs. It simply ensures that you can come back to Mantaray Island over and over again and experience the same incredible atmosphere.

And as for the atmosphere, you will find a young and lively crowd with all cool activities on hand. Chill out during the day with kayaking, snorkeling, diving or the popular sun tanning. Enjoy a laugh in the evening with new friends as you try out some local Fijian dance moves or put a bet on your favourite crab in the crab races, whatever it is you're into, it is the perfect place to mix it up!

Your accommodation
Dorm room, fan and sea breeze. Don't worry, it is a cool dorm room!

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This is only a selection of the many dive sites represented on this particular destination. The diving is dictated by the safeness of the environment.

The Beach
This beach can offer just as many rewards as joining the boat for the more isolated dive sites. Although this may not offer the thrill of a huge drop off, the amount of life it houses is more than enough to make up for it. If you are more interested in the fish life, the beach is probably the best for variety, with all major schools inhabiting here. Fish are abundant in the middle where the current picks up above the hard red coral, with sergeant majors dominating. Schools of yellow snapper hang around at the end of this chain, and bannerfish hover silently and effortlessly under pillars of coral. Look closely into the necks of some of the corals, and you may find some anemone shrimp creeping along the folds of an adhesive anemone. Always looking closely at the coral will benefit you, you'll see the hidden treasures.

Caves of Babylon
For those who want a bit more of a ethereal (mystic) experience, the caves may be a new encounter for you. This dive starts around 15-18m with a variety of caves depending on the direction of the current, and the ability level of the group. Once you've entered the caves the sunlight will stream from the other end, illuminating tiny fish snuggling together in a tight school in the protection of the caves. A very 'Aladdin' feel, unfortunately no hidden treasure in terms of trunks of gold, but nudibranchs often take shelter in the caves and the pleasures of the coral garden that awaits you is reward enough.

The Blue Room
The 'Blue Room' earned its name because of its depth, with a bluish tinge streaking the bottom. The volcanic wall is guaranteed good visibility, being a bit further from the shoreline. You're more likely to see some pelalgic activity at this site, and hopefully our herd of bumpheaded parrotfish - 24 in total - will make an appearance for you. If you like your dinnerfish wahu, spanish mackeral, and yellow fin tuna are frequent visitors, attracting in turn the pelalgics. There is a maori wrasse that also lives amongst the depths, so keep your eyes peeled.

Conditions:

Visibility
15 to 30 meters

Temperature
27 to 31 degrees

Current
Zero to stronger currents depending on dive site

Surface
30 to 32 degrees at day
can drop to around 20 degrees at night

Special marinelife
Manta rays hanging out in the season, black & whitetip reef sharks (the kind ones!)

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Itinerary
On the day of arrival you will be greeted with a welcome drink, shown your room and given an orientation of the island activities and of the dive sites or courses you will be doing. You'll typically do two dives a day. Between dives you'll hang out on the island where the lunch will be served, unless you've scheduled two morning dives. A third dive or a night dive can be organized on location for an extra fee. There will be no refund on dives not used. Check out time is matched with your boat when you decide to continue your journey up through the Yasawas. It is highly recommended that you book extra nights prior and post your package, Manta Ray is a very popular resort, and it can be quite impossible to extend your stay once you are there.

DIVE PACKAGE 1: Fundiving Mantaray Island
The short option with 4 dives spread out on 2 days of diving with one day of rest and 2 nights of accommodation, the dive sites will vary depending on weather and experience level. One dive can be done as a night dive without extra charge.

DIVE PACKAGE 2: Fundiving Mantaray Island Extended
The longer option with 8 dives spread out on 4 days of diving and 1 day of rest, and 4 nights of accommodation, the dive sites will vary depending on weather and experience level. One dive can be done as a night dive without extra charge.

If you want a longer itinerary, you can add extra days of diving and accommodation upon booking.

Please note
Due to ocean and weather conditions, the itinerary can be subject to change.

Activity starts
Every day depending on request

Activity starts from
The dive center right on the beach
The best possible wreck or reef will be chosen according to weather conditions, experience level and requests

Group Size
No Limit,
No more than 4 divers
pr. Instructor or dive master

Language
English

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Transfer Information

The Yasawas is a long group of islands, all of them very different from each other. Therefore many travelers prefer to explore/experience several of these on a single trip. One clever company has provided an extended boat schedule service to take the so-called "island hoppers" back and forth between the islands. Each and every day you can catch a ferry and "jump" one, two or several islands North or South. Check with your local KILROY office for details on schedules, prices and accommodation between the islands.

You need to let the dive center know your arrival at least one week in advance. You will find the details for the dive center on your voucher.

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away to sea

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Prices below are based on 2 persons sharing accommodation, unless stated otherwise.

Supplements

Prices for supplementary accommodation are based on 2 persons sharing accommodation, unless stated otherwise.

Supplements
A supplement can be choosen to add on your package. All supplements can also be booked on site. In high season, bungalows and boats get filled fast - you might find trouble getting an extra night in your resort or an extra day of diving. If you are booking a course, it is recommended to book an extra night of accomodation prior your course, to get settled and get up front on the studying.

Included
Diving as stated in package
All dive equipment guide or instructor
Boat when boatdiving
Accommodation as stated
Bed linen

Not included
Transfer
All meals (3 meal package can be purchased on location for 119 FJD a day)

Also available on site
Extra days of accommodation if available (the accommodation is popular)
Extra days of diving if available
Upgrading to private room if available

Continuing education
All continuing courses available on site

Cancellation
As in terms and conditions

Dive insurance
Basic dive travel insurance required

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General terms and conditions

GENERAL CONDITIONS

CHANGES OF BOOKINGS:
You can change your booking request or start date free of charge.
If you need to change your booking you must contact the **dive center** directly by e-mail or phone. You will find the contact details on your voucher. For verification purpose, please remember to mention your name and booking ID.

If you want to change your start date, we recommend that you do so minimum 10 days before the beginning of your dive package. Later than this, might cause the accommodation to be fully booked for alternative dates. During high seasons, 10 days might not be sufficient time, please allow extra time for changes in the high season. As a reminder, you will receive an email with general information and contact information of your dive center 10 days prior to your start date.

CANCELLATION RULES:
Any customer has the right to cancel their booking with Blue Venture Diving. In order to do so, you must contact your selling agent. The cancellation fees and rules of your selling agent will apply for your cancellation.

Blue Venture is not liable for any cancellations done by the customer of personal reason such as/or in the same category as sickness, family, missed flights etc, or other circumstances that is beyond reasonable control such as force majeure.

Blue Venture booking cancellation
In the unlikely event that Blue Venture is forced to cancel a booking, the customer will get direct notice. A cancellation will only happen if Blue Venture finds that the contracted dive center can't perform the needed service of the booked package or if the dive standards can't be fulfilled accordingly. Minor changes in the itinerary will not be defined as a valid cancellation reason, as diving is dictated by the environment and the people enrolled in the activity.
Blue Venture will always do their best to find another operator of same or higher standard, but it is up to the customer to decide whether they want to accept the change or get a refund.

INSURANCE:
A cancellation insurance is not included. It is highly advised recommended that you obtain adequate travel insurance prior to your departure from your home country.

REFUNDS:
Medical Statement
To enroll in an Open Water Course, all students MUST fill in the Medical Statement. Please ensure that you have received the medical statement from your travel agent. If any questions are replied with a "Yes", the medical statement must be signed by a doctor. Failing the medical statement at the destination, and therefore not being able to enroll in the diving course, you will not be entitled to a refund.

If you have not received your Medical Statement, please make sure to print it from this link.
https://blueventure.net/files/information/12.pdf

Restricted dives
Diving is dictated by the environment and the people enrolled in the activity. All diving is performance based. It is up to the discretion of the dive guide/instructor to restrict divers from entering activities that goes beyond their experience level. All guides strive to reach the expectations of the customers. However, if they find that the safety of the group or an individual is jeopardized or at risk by one or several individuals, it is up to the dive guide/instructor to restrict any divers from entering the water.
In this event the dive center or Blue Venture is not obliged to give a refund.

Dives not completed
There is no refund for dives not carried out.
Refund for dives not done for any reason is up to the discretion of the dive center. Most dive centers do not give refunds for dives not done with personal causes such as seasickness, low on air situations or a failure in mastering the equipment etc. All log books will be checked prior to the dive and the dive sites will be chosen accordingly to the experience level. It is however expected that certified divers keep within their limits and do not cross their comfort zone. Blue Venture and your travel agent is never responsible to pay a refund for dives not done.

Courses not completed
There is no refund for courses not completed! All courses are performance based, but it is up to the instructor to pass the student. If a customer can not complete a course with success they will receive their course documents for an optional referral, but the contracted dive center, your travel agent and Blue Venture is not responsible to pay a refund.

Boats or dives not departing
If boats or dives are cancelled due to bad weather or sea conditions, it is up to the dive center to re-schedule and compensate with a similar dive trip when conditions allow. If the customer does not have adequate time to enroll in another trip/course it is up to the customer to make sure the dive center notify Blue Venture of this in order to secure a refund via the sales agent who completed the sale with the customer. There will only be refund on the diving and not the accommodation.

ACCOMMODATION:
Unless mentioned in the destination information folder the accommodation is always part of the package.
If the dive center by any means can't deliver the agreed accommodation, it is up to their discretion to supply immediate accommodation of the same or higher standard. (the destination information folder is found on the Blue Venture website.)
If the accommodation somehow does not live up to satisfactory standards of the customer, the customer must contact Blue Venture by phone or email as soon as possible (preferably while still on site) in order to solve the problem.

DIVE INSTRUCTORS & DIVE GUIDES:
All contracted dive centers has been handpicked based on their level of professionalism and expertise. Blue Venture ensures that all guides and instructors have the correct education and experience. In the unlikely event that a customer suffers a bad experience with any guide, instructor or dive center facilities, Blue Venture is entitled to know, but can't by any means be held liable.
At the end of you dive experience as questionnaire will be sent out to you, that we would like you to answer. By doing this, you help securing a high level of professionalism towards all customers.

MEDICAL STATEMENT & LOGBOOK:
If you are about to enroll in a dive course (entry level only), you must fill out the RSTC Medical Statement before you leave your home country. Please make sure your agent has provided you with the RSTC Medical Statement. You can also print the medical statement from the link, further up on this page. If you need the medical statement reviewed by a doctor, you have 10 days from the date of the booking with the option of cancelling for free.
If you are already certified as a diver and about to go fundiving, you must remember your current dive certificate and your personal logbook or dive computer.