# Marine Conservation Volunteer Program



Are you an aspiring marine scientist or passionate conservationist and want to gain experience in practical fieldwork? Maybe you are looking for a fulfilling activity during your travel or sabbatical? Dive Academy Fiji offers the perfect opportunity for you. Our marine conservation initiatives include coral farming, manta research, clean-up activities, teaching at the Primary School and Project Aware courses. In addition to your volunteering, you can dive and snorkel at one of the best dive destinations in the world with an abundance of life beneath the waves and draw an authentic impression of Fijian life and culture. Benefit from the perfect location to become a certified scuba diver and expand your skills or go pro as a PADI

## What's in for you?

Divemaster.

# Depending on the program duration you chose, you will benefit from the following

- Practical field experience in coral farming with a referral letter; including
  - o maintenance of the nursery, out-planting of corals and/or populating the nurseries
  - supporting the documentation of the coral farming progress
  - photo/video documentation
  - o conducting guided tours at the Coral Farm
  - o Accomplish individual assignments based on your knowledge and skills
- Independent of the length of your stay, you will gather work experience by becoming a member of our dive/snorkel and marine conservation team and working in the daily operations
- Participation in clean-up activities and community work
- Certificates in *Project Aware* and/or *Coral Reef Conservation*.
- Certification in Project Aware Shark Conservation and/or Project Aware UW-Naturalist (for divers only)
  Project AWARE is a registered non-profit organization with a focus on implementing lasting change in shark conservation and marine litter.
- Introduction in Freediving and/or PADI Freediver Certificate and further practice
- PADI Discover Scuba Dive and/or snorkelling on the Rainbow Reef for non-divers
- Diving on the Rainbow Reef Fiji, one of the best dive destinations in the world
- · Encounters with manta rays and sharks, supporting research and protection of these beautiful animals
- Cultural experience in Fiji: working hand in hand with our local team, can mingling with the community in the bay and are definitely not staying in a "resort or research bubble"
- Great teamwork and a lot of fun

The program can be adapted to the requirements of your school or university.

# **Optional Diving Programs**

As a certified diver, you have the opportunity to join conservation activities that require scuba diving. If you are not yet a scuba diver or want to expand your skills, you can book PADI Dive Courses from Open Water Diver to Diversater and PADI Specialty Courses at a discounted fee.

# **Accommodation and Meals**

- You stay in a cabin, built from local timber on a platform with porch, sea view, and insect screening
- Single or shared accommodation depending on booking situation
- Equipped with bed, mattress, bed sheets, mosquito net, towels, solar light and charging facility
- Shower and toilet next to the cabin
- Your meals include breakfast, lunch, dinner, coffee, tea, drinking water

Accommodation in one of our resort bungalows with private bathroom and veranda upon request.

#### **Prerequisites**

- Minimum 18 years old
- Confident swimmer and snorkeller
- Good English language skills

The following skills are a plus

- Microsoft-Office / Excel
- Underwater photo/video and editing skills
- Marketing and Social Media skills

#### **Duration 7 nights – Price 1,780 FJD**

- Practical field experience in Coral Farming; freediving or scuba diving (certified divers only)
- Certification in one Project Aware non-diving course: Project Aware or Coral Reef Conservation
- Introduction into Freediving
- One Discover Scuba Dive for non-divers, 1 dive and 1 snorkelling on the Rainbow Reef for divers
- Participation in clean-up activities or community work
- Accommodation in cabin and meals as described above
- Referral Letter

#### **Duration 14 nights - Price 3,600 FJD**

- Practical field experience in Coral Farming; freediving or scuba diving (certified divers only)
- Certification in two Project Aware non-diving courses: Project Aware and Coral Reef Conservation
- PADI Freediver Course including PADI student material and certification fee.
  PADI eLearning includes all theory up to Master Freediver
- 1 Discover Scuba Dive or 1 Dive plus 1 Snorkeling for certified divers
- 6 additional dives on the Rainbow Reef, DSD or certified divers. Project Aware Shark Conservation and UW-Naturalist can be included into the dives for only the PADI Student Material and Certification Fee
- Participation in clean-up activities or community work
- Accommodation in cabin and meals as described above
- Referral Letter

## **Duration 21 nights - Price 4,990 FJD**

- Practical field experience in Coral Farming; freediving or scuba diving (certified divers only)
- Certification in two Project Aware non-diving courses: Project Aware and Coral Reef Conservation
- Accommodation in cabin and meals as described above
- PADI Freediver Course including PADI student material and certification fee.
  The PADI eLearning includes all theory up to Master Freediver
- 1 Discover Scuba Dive or 1 Dive plus 1 Snorkeling for certified divers
- 10 additional dives on the Rainbow Reef, DSD or certified divers. Project Aware Shark Conservation and UW-Naturalist can be included into the dives for only the PADI Student Material and Certification Fee
- Participation in clean-up activities or community work
- Referral Letter

## About Dive Academy Fiji & Viani Bay Resort

Dive Academy Fiji and Viani Bay Resort were founded in 2019 with a focus on marine conservation and giving back to the local community. Their initiatives include providing professional dive education for locals through scholarships, coral farming, teaching at the Primary School about marine life and the Cleanup Taveuni campaign. Dive Academy Fiji cooperates with Manta Trust Fiji, Reef Explorer Fiji and other organisations. They identify new manta ray individuals and help trace the migration patterns. The boutique dive resort benefits from the shortest distance to the stunning dive sites at the Rainbow Reef including the famous Great White Wall. The founders, Marina and Jone are PADI Instructors with a broad range of dive specialty qualifications. Based on their experience from diving around the world, in-depth local knowledge and their professional dive education both in Germany and internationally, they shape Dive Academy Fiji as a place with truly personalised service taking only 4 dive guests per boat, retaining a flexible dive schedule to accommodate for divers' experience, bucket list and local conditions and promoting responsible marine tourism. The resort runs primarily on solar energy, captures water from a mountain spring, refrains from the use of one-time plastics and uses organic cleaners along with disinfectant where required to prevent spreading COVID-19.