

Scientific stay

Studies on whale sharks and green turtles

Nosy Be, Madagascar

October to December 2017



Since 2015, an in-depth study of Nosy Be's whale sharks (Madagascar Whale Shark Project) has been conducted in partnership with FIU (Florida International University), MMF (Marine Megafauna Foundation), National Center for Oceanic research (CNRO) and MADA MEGAFUNA (formerly Baleines Ass'eau). The objective of this study is to identify the population of whale sharks that come to feed in the northwestern waters of Madagascar from the end of September until mid December.

This study has so far allowed to identify a large population of whale sharks: between 130 and 150 individuals were identified between 2015 and 2016.

In addition, in 2016, Argos satellite tags tracked the movement of 8 sharks for several months.

This program keeps going in 2017 under the leadership of Stella Diamant, supervised by Dr. Jeremy Kiszka (FIU) and Dr. Simon Pierce (MMF), sharks and marine megafauna specialists. Stella will be supported by 2 assistants who will participate actively in the research.



At the same time, a program to identify and count green turtles on the Nosy Sakatia grass bed was launched in 2017 under the responsibility of Dr. Jeremy Kiszka.

During the 2017 season (October to December), the outings at sea will be provided by the operator "Les Baleines Rand'eau" as part of its ecotourism activities.

Participants of the scientific stay program will be on the operator's boats with program manager or one of his assistants.

Program

Data collection on whale sharks

- Training in photo ID of whale shark and processing for individual identification of animals;
- Training in collection of data on the behavior and sex of whale sharks;
- Participation in a program to raise awareness about the rules of approach to tourists.

Study of green turtles

- Training in the identification and enumeration of green turtles (photo ID and processing of photos, enumeration transects, etc.);
- Participation in a program to raise awareness about the rules of approach to tourists.

* NB: Participation in the green turtles program will vary during a stay of 3 weeks. The realization will depend on many parameters (timing of the tides, visibility and number of persons already on the grass bed).

Standard day organization

- 7.45 am: Breakfast at MADA MEGAFUNA center - Briefing with the manager
- 8.15 am: boarding. Morning at sea to search and observe whale sharks - data collection on observations (GPS position, sex, behavior) and photos ID
- 1 pm: Photo ID of green turtles and transects
- 2 pm: Lunch on the island of Nosy Sakatia
- 4 pm: Return towards MADA MEGAFUNA center - Debriefing with the project manager and recording of data taken during the day
- 6 pm: End of the day

Profile :

- ✓ Knowledge of the marine world - Training in marine biology is a plus ;
- ✓ At home in the water (surface and apnea) - a training in scuba diving is a plus - and on the boats (no seasickness) ;
- ✓ Knowledge in underwater photography is a plus ;
- ✓ Good physical condition ;
- ✓ French / English speaking – Proficiency of French is a plus ;
- ✓ Open minded, good adaptability ;
- ✓ Available 3 weeks between October and December 2017

TARIF = 510 euros / week

LIMITED PLACES - Booking recommended before 31st July

We focus on 3 weeks (21 days) stays

For shorter or longer stays, please contact us...

Included

- Accommodation: The accommodation is a house located 3 minutes walk from the beach and Mada Megafauna center - 2 bedrooms, a large living room (including 1 bed), fitted kitchen, water filter, running water (cold) Housekeeper, night guard, fans.

Depending on the number of participants in the program, the room can be shared with another person.

- Meals: Breakfast at Mada Megafauna center, Lunch on the island of Nosy Sakatia (the days of excursion), and at the restaurant "gargantua" located behind the center (when there is no excursion).
- Sea excursions: 15 days (minimum) at sea for a stay of 3 weeks
- Support and training in scientific data collection: Stella Diamant (project manager) and her assistants will be in charge of continuing education.
- Transfers (to and from the airport)

Not included

- International and national flights.
- Visa fees (about 30 euros)
- Civil and repatriation insurance (compulsory)
- Evening meals (average price of a meal: 5 euros)
- Internet connection. An open access connection is available at the center during opening hours (8 am - 6 pm) - 3G keys are on sale in Nosy Be
- Activities. During the free days, numerous activities are possible in Nosy Be: Scuba diving, snorkeling, discovery of the islands, land reserve, horse riding ...

Contact / information / reservations

Elina Sourisseau

Coordinator of the association "MADA MEGAFUNA"

mada.megafauna@gmail.com

032 26 527 64– 032 54 577 41

Depuis l'étranger : 00261 32 26 527 64 – 00261 32 54 577 41