



WHALE SHARK ADVENTURE IN **ST. HELENA**

16th-23rd
February 2019

from
£3,385 pp*

BACKGROUND

Be one of the first to dive and snorkel the waters of St. Helena Island - one of the most remote and extraordinary islands on earth.

A British Overseas Territory, St. Helena is a sub-tropical paradise sitting near the centre of the Southern Atlantic Ocean - roughly 1,200 miles off the coast of Africa, and 1,800 miles from South America. Until recently, the only way to reach St Helena was by a Royal Mail ship, a journey taking an astonishing five days each way. Now, this unique island can be reached by air, providing a rare opportunity to discover and dive a place that few have ever had the chance to visit. Aside from a unique marine ecosystem harbouring 750 marine species, including several endemics found nowhere else, St. Helena plays host to a seasonal aggregation of ocean giants.

For a short time each year, large numbers of adult whale sharks gather in the the incredibly clear waters around St. Helena. This volcanic seamount also attracts other large pelagics, including devil rays, turtles, and various cetaceans - earning it the unofficial title of 'the Galapagos of the Atlantic Ocean.'

ST. HELENA



TRIP LEADER
Danny Copeland

Danny Copeland is a marine conservationist and underwater multimedia specialist. Born and raised in North Wales, his work has taken him diving on media and conservation projects across all seven continents. A passionate advocate for our oceans, he collaborates with world-leading marine scientists and NGOs, and has spearheaded initiatives that have furthered the conservation of several sharks and rays. Aside from a passion in creating underwater 360VR content, Danny has worked alongside BBC cameramen, assisted photographers on assignment for National Geographic, and contributed to filming several productions - including the award-winning Netflix documentary, Chasing Coral.



**BLUE MARINE
FOUNDATION**

CHARITY PARTNER
Blue Marine Foundation (BLUE)

BLUE exists to combat over-fishing and the destruction of biodiversity by delivering practical conservation solutions, including the creation of large-scale marine reserves, and the implementation of sustainable fisheries models. They played a pivotal role in pushing the UK government to declare St. Helena as a Marine Reserve, and are working with local partners to improve the island's revenues through a sustainable tuna fishery and ecotourism industry.

CONSERVATION & EDUCATION

St. Helena is special in that the whale sharks visiting the island are often adults (>8m/26ft), including seemingly pregnant females - a phenomenon that has attracted the attention of scientists studying this species.

In support of their efforts, Danny will be running workshops on how to take and submit ID photos of the sharks. He will also be offering informal educational talks most evenings, offering guests further insight into whale shark science, the island's history and its wider marine ecosystem. Representatives from BLUE & local partners will also join guests on relevant excursions, providing them with access to their study sites and species, whilst also giving guests an opportunity to connect with the conservationists and see their work in action.

THE RESORT

Located in the heart of Jamestown, the Mantis St Helena hotel is a combination of restored historic buildings and a new contemporary structure, within walking distance of the seafront and local attractions. It will serve as the base of operations for the trip, with guests being picked up each morning for the day's activities, before returning in the evening for educational talks and optional group dinners in the surrounding town.

BOOKINGS

All bookings are handled through Dive Worldwide - an award-winning ATOL-protected travel agency based in the UK, who specialise in diving itineraries to far-flung places.

For more information on the itinerary and how to secure your place on this ocean adventure, please email Danny Copeland via:
danny@dannyunderwater.com.

*INCLUSIONS & OPTIONS

The price of £3,385pp includes return flights from Johannesburg, South Africa, and x2 nights at a hotel (one night either side of the trip). The price excludes international flights, although these can be added to bookings if desired.

Price also includes x7 nights in St. Helena with daily breakfast and some evening meals, x10 boat dives, min. x3 whale shark tours, x2 land tours, dive tanks and weights, and all transfers. Finally, the price also includes a donation to the trip's charity partner.