

ECOTOUR

2018 Yap & Ulithi Atoll

Marine Debris Beach Clean Up to Restore Nesting Sea Turtle Habitat

JOIN US!

The expedition is offered in collaboration with Bluecology, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to preserve marine wildlife and ecosystems through community-based programs. Bernard has led four previous Bluecology expeditions to Micronesia.

Come with us to Yap and Ulithi Atoll for an exceptional opportunity to explore remote islands and reefs that reveal some of Micronesia's renowned biodiversity. We are hosted by our partner organization the Ulithi Falalop Community Action Program, offering us special insights to the local traditions and special access to the Turtle Islands.

Our partnership provides unique opportunities for the public to support sea turtle conservation in Micronesia.

ENJOY AND GIVE BACK!



- Micronesia's largest sea turtle nesting ground
- A manta ray sanctuary
- The best coral reef snorkeling
- Cultural experiences through our partnerships

Micronesia offers miles of coral reefs with white sand beaches, secluded lagoons, nesting sea turtles, amazing coral diversity, manta rays, and clear waters that abound with colorful tropical fish. Hawai'i Wildlife Fund, in collaboration with our nonprofit ecotourism partner Bluecology, is sponsoring a once-in-a-life time expedition to these beautiful islands where daily life is still steeped in traditions.

With only one lodge on the entire atoll, we immerse ourselves snorkeling the colorful reefs, exploring uninhabited islands, and enjoying the welcoming community of Falalop. Visiting the largest green turtle nesting beach in Micronesia, we provide a community service with a Marine Debris Beach Clean Up to help Restore the Nesting Sea Turtle Habitat .

May 1-13, 2018



BLUECOLOGY



Manta Sanctuary

Manta rays, with fin spans of up to 20 feet, are found year-round in Yap and frequently can be observed within one of Yap's shallow channels. Daytime observations enhance opportunities to photograph these graceful creatures. The channels are also productive biomes for countless fish, and the nearby shallow reefs are filled with a wealth of diverse Western Pacific marine species. The Yapese community continues to practice their traditional lifestyle, and our program will include a cultural tour with opportunities to see local crafts made on the island.

ULTIHI

Located northeast of Yap, Ulithi consists of one of the world's largest lagoons and 200 miles of pristine reef. The atoll hosts some of the most important nesting and feeding grounds for green sea turtles in all of Micronesia.



We visit with our partner organization, the Ulithi Falalop Community Action Program, to learn about their green turtle monitoring project on the "Turtle Island" of Gielop. Our trip coincides with peak turtle nesting activities and we accompany local guides on their monitoring rounds. Natural history activities include beachfront and boat snorkeling excursions plus bird watching, cultural events and beach walks.

Hannah Bernard, Hawai'i Wildlife Fund's co-founder and executive director, will lead the expedition, sharing her vast knowledge of coral reef ecology and Micronesian flora, fauna and culture. We stay in comfortable, double-occupancy rooms with private baths. Snorkeling excursions are aboard privately chartered boats. Micronesia boasts some 300 species of corals and more than a thousand species of fish, so participants will have an opportunity to appreciate the region's renowned biodiversity.

The Yap & Ulithi Atoll trip is part of an ongoing effort to establish and strengthen ties between these communities and Hawai'i.

Date: May 1-13 Cost: \$3,290 (does not include airfare from home to Yap)

To learn more about the 2018 expedition, please contact: tripmanager@bluecology.org, visit Bluecology.org, or call 415-755-5174.



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