

MCSS Whale Shark Biology & Monitoring Course



The Marine Conservation Society Seychelles are pleased to offer this the first of several formal courses focusing on Seychelles marine life.

This is a five day course aimed at introducing interested people to the biology and ecology of whale sharks and methods used to monitor them. The course is designed for the general public so no previous experience is necessary apart from being a good swimmer if you want to participate in the in-water monitoring activities. There is no scuba-diving involved in this course but the course does fulfil the requirements of the PADI Project Aware Whale Shark Awareness Specialty which all participants will receive on completion.

The courses are organised and run by leading whale shark researcher Dr. David Rowat and will include five mornings of presentations, tutorials and workshops with four afternoons spent putting the theory into practise with the MCSS whale shark monitoring team and meeting these sharks up close and personal!

The morning knowledge development sessions will cover the following whale shark topics:

- General biology and ecology
- Range and factors affecting occurrence
- Mortality and exploitation
- Research and monitoring methodology
- Conservation and management

The four afternoon monitoring sessions are all boat based and for those that wish will include in-water monitoring activities. For the in-water work you will need mask, snorkel & fins and we recommend a full-body skin-suit; we do have rental equipment available or you can purchase your own at the Underwater Centre.

Three courses are planned this coming whale shark season for a maximum of seven persons per course:

- September 20th – September 24th
- September 27th – October 1st
- October 18th – October 22nd

The cost of the course is Euro 1135 inclusive of the five tutorials, four whale shark monitoring trips, use of any MCSS in-water equipment and the PADI Project Aware Whale Shark Awareness Specialty.

Please note that whale sharks and weather are unpredictable and for this reason we have one afternoon free of activities in case we have to move monitoring trips around.



Course & Accommodation Packages

For ease of booking we are also pleased to offer a package with accommodation using local hotels and ground handlers and extension packages with learn to dive or diving packages with Underwater Centre / Dive Seychelles as follows:

Basic whale shark course accommodation package

This package is for six nights in a standard room at the Sun Resort Beau Vallon and includes:

- Airport – Hotel – Airport transfers (with Masons Travel)
- Six nights sharing twin standard room on bed & breakfast basis
- MCSS Whale Shark Course

Package cost per person	Euro 1575
Single Supplement (for 6 nights)	Euro 236
Additional nights sharing, per person per night	Euro 72
Additional nights single, per night	Euro 112

Extensions with Underwater Centre / Dive Seychelles

Learn to Dive Package:

Includes an additional 5 nights at Sun Resort, on bed & breakfast, sharing twin basis and the PADI Open Water Diver course with certification through PADI.

Package cost per person	Euro 795
Additional nights and single supplements as above	

Dive Seychelles Package: (for certified divers)

Includes an additional 5 nights at Sun Resort, on bed & breakfast, sharing twin basis and 10 standard range boat dives, with cylinder & weights.

Package cost per person	Euro 645
Additional nights and single supplements as above	

All above costs are on a pre-booked pre-paid basis; other hotel and accommodation options are available, please contact us with your requirements.