

"SAVING PHILIPPINE REEFS"

Live Aboard Coral Reef Monitoring Expedition to
Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park
Sulu Sea, Philippines
April 21-27, 2018



Organized and sponsored by:

The Coastal Conservation and Education Foundation, Inc.
In collaboration with

Expedition Team Members

THE PLACE

Tubbataha Reef in the Sulu Sea, Philippines is a premier diving destination in Southeast Asia. The Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park, declared a World Heritage Site in 1994, lies in the global center of marine biodiversity. The two atoll reefs that form Tubbataha are one of the best examples in the Coral Triangle Region of a well-protected, no fishing, marine park that contains a very diverse and abundant array of fish, corals and other animals in clear and pollution free waters. This diving site is rated among the top ten in the world.

THE EXPEDITION PURPOSE

This reef monitoring expedition will determine the coral reef condition within the Tubbataha Marine Park and surrounding reefs (Jessie Beasley Reef) in comparison to monitoring data collected in 2014, 2012, 2008, 2004, 2000, 1996, 1992, 1989 and 1984 using similar methods. The expedition results will support the current management of Tubbataha Marine Park and indicate effectiveness of protection from illegal fishing and improper tourism activities in the area. The expedition also supports the CCE Foundation through capacity building of its staff.

DIVING VOLUNTEERS – WHAT WILL THEY DO?

The expedition volunteers are experienced scuba divers and most have participated in one of the "Saving Philippine Reefs Expeditions" while new divers are welcome. The volunteers will make reef surveys using prescribed methods during morning and afternoon dives and snorkels. The first day will be mostly dedicated to practice dives to help the divers hone their survey skills. Volunteers are welcome to make optional recreational dives after survey dives are completed.

ACCOMMODATION

SPR Team has the exclusive use of the Palau Sport dive boat. The Palau Sport Dive Boat is reliable and has an excellent reputation for service and experience in the Philippines. Palau Sport has 11 Cabins in the upper deck and each cabin has private baths. Facilities for diving, cameras, meetings and food are all efficient and comfortable.

HOW TO JOIN?

This trip is limited to 24 persons. Those interested should respond to this notice and indicate their desire to join the trip on a first-come first-serve basis until the trip is filled. The total cost is US\$3,800 and covers all expenses for 6 nights on board including (regular tanks and weights) food and park entrance fee to Tubbataha Natural Park worth \$100 per person. Not included are Nitrox tanks, drinks and snacks ordered on board the boat, scuba gear, airfare (international and domestic flights) and lodging in Puerto Princesa. The briefing expedition begins in Puerto Princesa City. Full Payment (\$3,800) can be sent by telegraphic transfer and/or check to the account of Coastal Conservation and Education Foundation, Inc. on or Before January 5, 2018. Bank details will be provided as soon as we get your confirmation to join. Questions regarding the trip arrangements are welcome and recommended.



MEETING PLACE AND TIME

Saving Philippine Reefs expedition members will be met in the Puerto Princesa airport, Palawan Island, Philippines depending on their arrival time from Manila. Divers will be transported to the boat anchored nearby. The boat will depart Puerto Princesa in the afternoon of April 21st for Tubbataha. The boat will return to Puerto Princesa on April 27th in time for the daily flights to Manila.

HOW TO RESPOND?

All communications should be to the Coastal Conservation and Education Foundation, Inc., c/o Vangie White, vangiewhite@hawaiiintel.net or Moonyeen Alava, CCEF Executive Director, ccef@coast.ph
Phone in Philippines: +6332-233-6909

WHO ARE THE ORGANIZERS?

The Coastal Conservation and Education Foundation, Inc. is a non-profit organization in the Philippines working to conserve coral reefs and to support the implementation of effective marine protected areas. The CCE Foundation continues to support monitoring in the Tubbataha Reefs initiated in 1984 by the Principal Investigator, Dr. Alan White, who assisted with the development of the Tubbataha Natural Park plan in the early 1990s.

WHO'S IN CHARGE?

Principal investigator:	Alan T. White, PhD.
Co-Principal investigator:	Aileen Maypa, PhD.
Logistics:	Vangie White, Agnes Sabonsolin, Bhing Toyong and AJ Lozada
Technical Dive Masters:	Jonathan Apurado and Dean Apistar

