SCUBA News

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Hello divers. Lots of offers for you today.

However, the good people at Divebooker are now offering us some great Black Friday deals. Buy a diving gift voucher for 50% less than its value, **valid for three years**. And up to 50% off liveaboards - see our selection below.

Contents:

What's new at SCUBA Travel?
Blotched Fantail Ray (Marble Ray) is our Creature of the Month
Dive for less: Liveaboard diving offers
Diving news from around the World

You can download SCUBA News as a pdf.

What's New at SCUBA Travel?

Golden Dahab

Spectacular shore dives dropping off to great depths. This laid-back town offers not only great diving, but great food as well. We've been diving there for over 30 years so use our experience to plan your trip.

GO NOW

Diving Cape Verde: Atlantic Adventure

Way out in the Atlantic Ocean, divers love the Cape Verde islands for the caves, wrecks, dolphins, sharks, manta rays, loggerhead turtles & invertebrates.

LEARN MORE

Liveaboard Diving Offers: Dive for Less - and even bigger discounts with our exclusive code

November always brings the best diving deals - and this year is no exception, plus you will also get up to 10% off your next trip automatically. What are you waiting for, dive in.

1. **Blue Horizon, Egypt**, **SAVE 40%** on diverse itineraries in the Red Sea, from Northern wrecks to deep South.

40% OFF DIVING EGYPT

2. **Neptune One, Indonesia**, **SAVE 25%** dive yacht operating in Indonesia. With space for 16 guests to visit some of the region's most challenging and rewarding dive sites.

GET YOURS

3. **Scubaspa Yang, Best of Maldives**, **SAVE 20%** Yes, this luxury liveaboard does have a spa.

MORE INFO & BOOK

4. **Manta Queen 3, Thailand**. **SAVE 20%**, Similans, Surins and Richelieu Rock for Whale sharks, manta rays, ghost pipefish, sea moths, frogfish, ribbon eels, nudibranchs...

JUST £582

5. **Bahamas Aggressor, Exuma Cays and Southwest Eleuthera**, **SAVE $1200**, Price from USD ~~3,395~~ 2,195 per trip per person

SAVE $1200

6. **Sea Serpent Serena Dreams, Egypt**, **SAVE 8%** on 7-night trips with up to 18 guests in 9 cabins.

FROM £1,027

See more liveaboard deals to some of the best diving in the world - Micronesia, Philippines, Galapagos, Indonesia, Cocos Islands...

Blotched Fantail Ray is creature of the month

The Blotched Fantail Ray has many names. I've always known it as the Marble Ray, some books call it the Blackblotched Stingray whilst Wikipedia refers to it as the

Round Ribbontail ray. Its scientific name is now *Taeniurops meyeni*, a revision of the previous *Taeniura meyeni*.

Giant with venomous spines

Whatever you call it, the first thing you notice about the Marble Ray is its great size. It can be 3 m (10 ft) in length and 1.7 m (6 ft) wide. Round in shape it is covered with a dense pattern of black spots. It is not aggressive but you need to be careful of the spines on the tail which in the past have fatally wounded divers attempting to ride on its back.

Blotched Fantail Ray, Maldives. Tim Nicholson

Where to see them

You see the Marble Ray in the Indian and Pacific oceans. It occurs in a wide range of habitats, from shallow lagoons to outer reef slopes, and often has trevallies swimming near them waiting for foraging opportunities. Carnivorous, the Marble Ray eats bottom fish and crustaceans, stirring up the sea bed as they feed. They venture as deep as 500 m down.

In the Seychelles, Massimiliano Finzi

The species have refuge in areas where coral is healthy and fishing pressure is lower

including the northern Red Sea and the Maldives. It is seen frequently inshore by divers in Oman at the Mussandam Peninsula and the Daymaniyat Islands.

Up to 7 pups

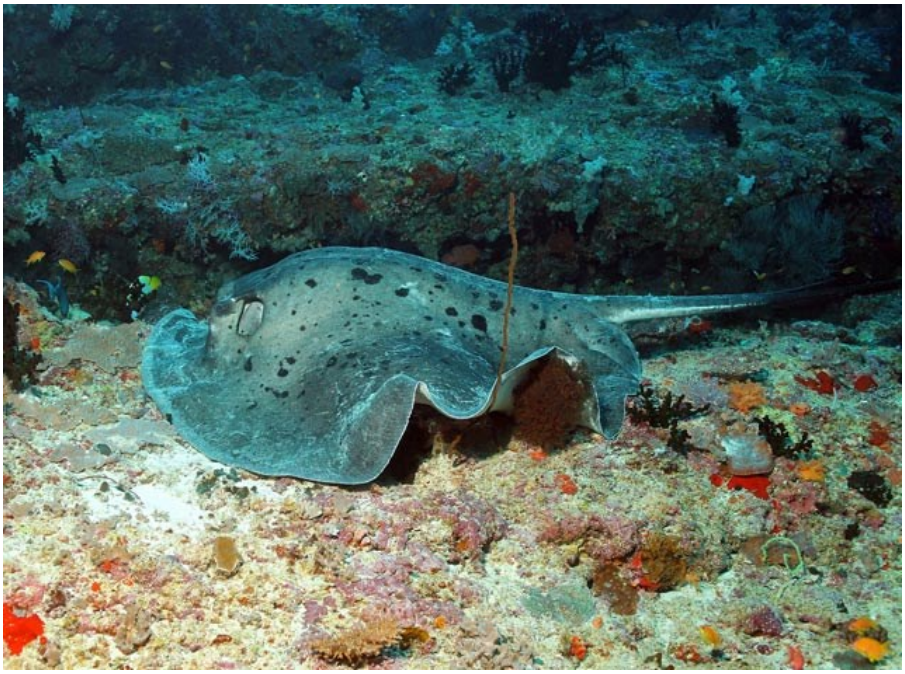
The female bears live young: the eggs are kept in the body of the female where the embryo develops. Up to seven pups hatch from the egg capsules and are born soon afterwards.

Tim Nicholson

Vulnerable

The ray is classified as "vulnerable" on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. This means that it is at high risk of endangerment in the wild.

Overall, fishing pressure is significant over most of the species' range throughout Asia and across its Indian Ocean range (India, East Africa etc). Additional pressure exists on its habitat in that region due to destructive fishing practices (dynamite fishing) and run-off impacting coral reef systems, the main habitat of the species.



Another in the Malives

Further Reading:

Coral Reef Guide Red Sea , Ewald Lieske and Robert Myers (2012)

Sherman, CS et al 2024. *Taeniurops meyeni. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species* 2024: e.T60162A124445924. Accessed on 25 November 2025.
Kiszka, J.J. et al. Stingrays as possible facilitators for foraging trevallies in a nearshore sandflat. *Mar Biodiv* 45, 625-626 (2015).

Class: Elasmobranchii > Order: Myliobatiformes > Family: Dasyatidae > Genus: Taeniurops > Species: Taeniurops meyeni

Diving news from around the World

Reef-world impact report shows how sustainable tourism is protecting fragile coral ecosystems

Achieving an overall reduction of 26% in environmental threats across green diving operations.

Two species of coral declared functionally extinct in Florida

Backbone of the reef, staghorn and elkhorn corals, killed off by the 2023 heatwave.

Leatherback protection fund launched

Leatherbacks turtles make one of the longest migrations on Earth - swimming thousands of miles. Yet, along their journey, they face mounting threats: poaching, coastal development, sand mining and climate change.

Mauritius rethinks coral restoration

80% of Mauritus corals bleached in the latest event leads to questions whether coral restoration works in the face of mounting threats: from heat stress, ocean acidification and marine pollution.

Fisherman gets $76,000 in fines plus fishing ban for illegal catch

A Nova Scotia fisherman has been fined more than $76,000 for fishing in a closed area and lying about where he was.

Study finds deep-sea mining waste threatens life and foodwebs in the ocean's dim twilight zone

Particle plumes ejected by mining operations into deep Pacific waters threaten food source of more than half of the zooplankton.

Study provides new forecasts of Maldives' vulnerability to sea level rise

20 islands in the Maldives were flooded when a distant swell event in the Indian Ocean coincided with an extremely high tide level. This once rare event could happen every two to three years by around 2050, data shows.

Underwater art inspires reef conservation on the Great Barrier Reef

Divers can explore an mbitious project blending creativity, conservation and community action to protect the world's largest coral reef system.

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