



The Coral Cay Team are on Baby Turtle Watch!

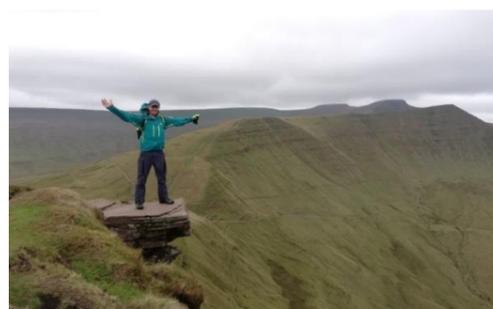
Anyone who has had the opportunity to dive in the Philippines knows that it's a haven for a huge variety of fauna and flora. One megafauna that is very close to all of our hearts is the sea turtle, and it was with great excitement that last month our local boat driver, Bok, Project Scientist, Anik Levac, and Science Officer, Jasmine Corbett, got to watch a female Hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) nest on the beach right next to site! The Hawksbill is listed as critically endangered on the [IUCN Red List](#) due to a combination of factors including over-exploitation through the curio and tourist trade, and the degradation of marine habitats and nesting locations. This is exacerbated by an extremely slow maturation rate, which means turtles only produce young once they have reached around 25-30 years of age. All the more reason to be delighted to watch a successful nesting on our doorstep!

Many females choose to return to the same beach as where they were born to lay their own clutch of eggs, and each female will nest multiple times throughout the season, averaging around 140 eggs per clutch. They drag their bodies high up onto the shore, not an easy task with a typical weight of 80 Kilos (176 lbs), dig a deep hole using their rear flippers, before laying clutches of eggs and covering them up with sand. The process can take hours and the smallest disturbance can disrupt the process and send the female back to the ocean, wasting all of the energy expended so far. With this in mind the staff were very careful to follow best practise guidelines, staying quiet, being sure not to approach too closely, and keeping all lights off.

We will be keeping our eyes peeled later this month when the hatchlings will hopefully be making their appearance, and will be sure to shout about it on our [blog](#)!



Jack, hard at work perfecting his species ID!



Alex, feeling on top of the world (or in this case Fan Y Big)!

Coral Cay Conservation

During a volunteers' first couple of weeks they embark on a thorough diving and scientific [Skills Development Programme](#) after which they have all the skills to join our research teams in Sogod Bay. Those who join us for longer periods may expand their knowledge into other subjects such as advanced hard coral or butterflyfish species identification. They may also have the opportunity to help with a whole range of other activities from assisting with teaching new arrivals in species identification, to undertaking trash and invasive species removal dives on the Napantao house reef.

Recently one of our volunteers grabbed these opportunities with both hands. Not only did Jack master both advanced hard corals and butterflyfish identification, but he also excelled at dive surveying and became what we now call the "wrasse master". During his free time Jack researched the common local species of wrasse found on the house reef. With the assistance of our local staff he was able to study these species during fun dives and snorkelling. He was also able to guide our project scientist in identification underwater, while obtaining photos of various wrasse species and various colour morphs. During his final week, Jack presented a "Wrasse Biology and Species Identification" presentation to CCC staff and volunteers. The team learned various interesting facts about the fish family, in addition to noting key identification features. The presentation was a great success and will be added to CCC's advanced species identification collection for future volunteers!

Recent Events

Alex, [Adventure Lifesigns](#)' UK Trainer, has been embarking on his Mountain Leader (ML) training since earlier in the year. This intense course allows individuals "to lead groups in the mountains, hills and the moorlands of the UK and Ireland". You can read more about Alex's experiences on the foundation six day course [here](#). Once a student has completed the first course they must log at least 20 quality mountain days before they are allowed to undertake the 5-day assessment to be signed off as a ML.

Last weekend Alex grabbed the opportunity to visit the beautiful Brecon Beacons National Park and spent three days hiking and camping in the Welsh mountain range. Often MLs will practise with a group of people in order to improve their management skills but this weekend was a lone visit and a chance to fine tune some of the skills demanded by the ML course. After setting up a base camp Alex spent the first day on micro navigation - where the explorer must use a compass and map to navigate to an exact location on a map, to a macro level. Saturday and Sunday were then focused on hiking some of the more demanding hills in the Brecons, including Fan Y Big and Cribyn.

This is a course where quality is more important than quantity, and students must try to ensure that each hike recorded in their logbook demonstrates that they have tested their skills in dynamic risk assessment, navigation, group management and survival skills. Well done Alex on a successful trip!

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We want every traveller to smash their #FundraisingGoals, which is why we've partnered with easyfundraising! When family & friends shop online in support of your expedition, with over 3,300 online retailers such as Amazon, eBay, Mountain Warehouse, JUSTEAT & trainline, they raise FREE funds, to help towards YOUR kit-list essentials & expedition costs, easy!

PLUS, if you [register](#) OR raise a donation before the 19th October you could WIN a £50 bonus donation. That's a big fundraising BOOST you don't want to miss. It only takes a few minutes to [sign-up](#).

[Register your expedition](#)

Future Events



We will be holding the four day QA Level 3 Certificate in [First Response Emergency Care \(FREC\)](#) on the 29th October – 1st November 2018, at our Head Office in Surrey. This course is ideal for those who have a specific responsibility to respond to emergency situations, for instance medical response teams, security teams, fire fighters, senior first aiders and community first responders.

The usual cost of this course is £495.00 plus VAT but we are happy to be able to gift a **10% discount** to anyone who mentions 'October Newsletter' when they book on! Please call Pauline on 01483 810785 or email at ukoperations@lifesignsgroup.co.uk for more details.

Terms & Conditions: Offer applies to specified course and course date only. Offer is only redeemable through the mention of 'October Newsletter' at the time of booking. Offer cannot be combined with any other offer. Offer subject to availability. This offer has no monetary value and no cash or product alternative will be offered. Usual course Terms and Conditions apply.

Offer of the Quarter

With the first day of Autumn officially bringing the end to Summer we don't know about you but a little sunshine, sea and sand is looking very attractive right now! Join our Coral Cay Conservation [Philippines site](#) and for every three weeks that you [book on](#) for, we'll give you **one additional week for free!** Just make sure to write 'October 2018 Offer' on the booking form.

Terms & Conditions: Offer applies to Coral Cay Conservation Philippine expeditions only. Expedition start date must take place within 2018 or 2019. Offer can only be redeemed until the 15th December 2018. Offer is only redeemable through the mention of 'October 2018 Offer' on the booking form. Offer can be applied to stays of more than three weeks i.e. one additional week free with a three week stay, 2 additional weeks' free with a six week stay etc. Offer applies to expedition fee only. Offer cannot be combined with any other offer. Offer subject to availability and usual site closure schedule. This offer has no monetary value and no cash or product alternative will be offered. Usual CCC expedition [Terms and Conditions](#) apply.

Remember to follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) for regular updates, and tag us at [#coralcayconservation](#) to let us know what you are doing to help our planet!