

Please review the important information regarding your reservation at Manta Lodge

## RESERVATION & TRAVEL POLICIES

**Deposits:** A US \$100 per person deposit is required in order to confirm a reservation. The final balance is due 45 days prior to arrival date. **If you are paying your deposit by credit card, your card will be automatically charged for final payment on the due date.** Reservations are not confirmed until proper payment is received. Reservations made within 45 days of arrival require full payment at time of reservation.

**Payments:** All payments must be made in US currency and must be drawn on US banks payable to *Reservation Services International*. We reserve the right to electronically debit your account if this item comes back dishonored, plus a \$25.00 processing fee (or legal limit) and any applicable taxes. The use of a check as payment is your acceptance of this agreement and its terms. Sender must pay for any and all bank transfer fees. We also accept MasterCard, Visa and American Express for reservation payments; however American Express is not accepted once at the Resort.

**Group Reservations:** Special deposit, payment and cancellation policies apply. Please inquire.

**Cancellations/Refunds:** Cancellations made up to 46 days prior to the travel date are fully refundable. Cancellations made 45 – 30 days prior to travel will forfeit the deposit. Cancellations within 29 day of travel, no-shows, unused nights and/or package features due to premature departure will forfeit the entire amount of the reservation.

**Changes to the Reservation:** There is a \$25.00 per change fee once documents have been issued. Any unused or cancelled portion of the hotel, package and/or dives not completed by customer's choice once travel has commenced and/or diving cancelled as a result of inclement weather and/or acts of God are non-transferable and is not refundable. Manta Lodge is not responsible for missed or delayed flights. We highly recommend the purchase of trip insurance!

**Minimum Stays:** A five night minimum stay is required for all Christmas and New Year's reservations.

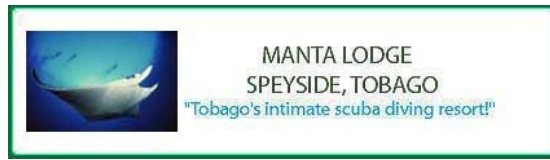
**Entry/Exit Requirements:** Everyone, including children of any age entering Trinidad and Tobago must have a valid passport and a return or ongoing ticket. **The Passport must be valid for at least three months after the end of your proposed visit.** No visas are required for US or Canadian citizens. For other nationalities, it is your responsibility to ensure your own visa requirements, and no refunds will be awarded for customers denied access for lack of a proper visa. There is a departure tax of TT\$100 (US\$16) per person, payable at the airport in Tobago for all passengers under 60 years. Vacationers who have attained the age of 60 are exempt from the tax. The tax is paid at the Tobago Airport unless you have a connecting flight via Trinidad, in which case it will be paid upon departure in Trinidad. Departure tax price is subject to change without notice.

**Children:** When sharing the room with one or two are free if under 5 years old, or \$18.15 per night (inclusive tax and service charge) for children 5 - 12 years old.

**PROTECT YOUR VACATION! We strongly encourage the purchase of trip insurance!**

**[Click here for further information on trip cancellation and interruption insurance.](#)**

**We also encourage all divers to have [Dan Master Insurance Plans](#)**



**IMPORTANT INFORMATION –  
PLEASE REMEMBER TO TAKE THIS WITH YOU!**

**PRE-TRIP PLANNING**

**Packing Considerations:** Casual attire is the norm; evening clothes are casual to casual nice. Comfortable, light cotton clothing is recommended to protect you from hot daytime temperatures, but pack a light sweater as it can get quite cool in the evening. **Please note, it is illegal in Trinidad and Tobago for civilians to wear camouflage clothing and these items will be seized if found in your possession.** For trips into the rainforest, you may want to consider bringing lightweight, long trousers and long sleeved top and by all means sturdy, preferably waterproof shoes for hiking. During rainy season the renting of a pair of “Wellies” for rain forest trips is a must. Your guide will stop by a small stand where you can rent these classic waterproof British Wellington boots, but please be sure to bring your sport socks with you! **Also be sure to pack your binoculars.** Even if your only plan is to view the birds and butterflies at the Lodge and surrounding areas, you will be glad you packed them! (Please inquire if you would like more information on our bird and nature tours!)

You will be near to the equator in Tobago and need to ensure you protect your skin from the strong rays, so be sure to pack plenty of high factor sun screen and a hat or visor. **Mosquito repellent (& bite cream if you are prone to being bothered if bit)** is advised.

In terms of toiletries, we’ll provide you with body soap at the Resort, but please bring your own shampoo, conditioner and hair dryer. Linens are provided including beach towels. Your room is also equipped with a hot water for making tea or coffee. You can either bring along your own tea or coffee or purchase coffee packets or tea bags for \$15 TT at the resort.

Airline luggage restrictions have been constantly changing, **be sure to check your airline's web site(s) for the most current information on baggage allowances and restrictions.** For most international flights, any luggage over 50 pounds will have a surcharge and you could potentially be told to remove something from the bag. In most cases luggage over 70 pounds will not be accepted. Domestic flights especially those booked independently of the international flight will most likely have other allowances and restrictions. Best advice is travel light!

In the unlikely event you arrive on Tobago without your luggage, please make sure you have packed your “trip essentials” in your carry on bag, such as **your C-Card for diving or Referral Papers for Dive Courses**, a pair of shorts, bathing suit, dive mask, medicine, sunglasses or anything you consider necessary to begin enjoying your stay from the moment you arrive. **Caribbean Airline** passengers should keep in mind that the overhead compartments are very small and most carry on luggage will need to be checked curb side before boarding the plane.

**Lithium Batteries:** Spare lithium batteries may not be packed in checked baggage. They MAY be packed in carry-on baggage. Lithium batteries already installed in a device may be packed in either checked or carry-on.

**Vaccinations:** There are currently no compulsory vaccination requirements for entry to Trinidad & Tobago. However in common with travel to all Caribbean countries, you may want to consider a vaccination against



Hepatitis A and Yellow Fever, especially if you plan to spend time in the rainforest. The [Center for Disease Control](#) in the US offers updates and advisories for travelers.

**Dive Safety Gear Considerations:** Diving in Tobago often involves drift diving. To ensure your easy and safe return to the dive boat, Tobago Dive Experience requires all divers to wear a safety sausage. Sausages are available for rent at the dive shop for those who do not have their own.

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### **ARRIVING IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**

**Arriving in Trinidad:** If your flight to Tobago is via Trinidad, you will need to clear customs in Trinidad. Once you have cleared, you (and your luggage) will pass a number of duty free shops on your way to the Caribbean Airlines check in counter. Please be aware that you can make duty free purchases despite the fact you will be traveling “in transit.” However you will need to remember to pack any liquid or gel items purchased in your checked baggage.

**Arriving at the Tobago Airport:** If you purchased a reservation package that includes transfers, and have notified us in advance of your flight plans, you will be met by a Manta Lodge representative just outside the airport terminal. Please be sure we have your accurate flight information to ensure we are there to meet you! After securing your baggage, simply depart the building and look for a Tobagan holding a sign bearing your parties name. In the event you do not see your designated driver, please go to the Information Desk in the airport terminal and ask for assistance calling Manta Lodge.

**Exchanging Currency at the Airport:** The local currency is the Trinidad and Tobago Dollar (TT), which is the most commonly accepted form of currency. Most hotels, restaurants and shops will accept foreign currency as a form of payment, but usually this is at a poor rate of conversion. It is highly recommended that you change your money at the Airport Cambio to the TT dollar upon arrival. You can reconvert any currency before your departure. Most ATMs will give advances on credit cards in TT dollars and banks can also convert your cash. Note: If using credit cards on island, please be aware that most credit-card companies are now adding an extra 2% to 5% fee on international transactions in addition to any currency-exchange commissions.

**Getting to Manta Lodge:** The drive to the lodge takes approximately 1 ½ hours via roads winding through Tobago’s lush mountainous terrain. Should you wish to stop for water or snacks for your journey, we advise you ask your guide to do so while you are still “in town” before departing for the more remote areas. You should also be aware that your driver is not just a taxi service, but one of Manta Lodge’s carefully selected and hired Tour Guides. Should you be planning on taking any tours of the island or nature hikes, it is likely to be arranged with one of our transfer drivers. So enjoy your drive with him, as you will have a great resource available to you during this time! A tip of approximately \$20.00 US would be appropriate for the guide (at your discretion.)



**Arriving at Manta Lodge:** The front office staff will be available to welcome all guests regardless of arrival time. When completing the guest registration form, we will request a credit card imprint as a deposit against incidental charges incurred during the stay. If a guest does not have a Visa or MasterCard, then a US \$200 cash deposit per person will be required. No personal checks will be accepted on island.

**Electricity:** The voltage is 110, the same as in North America. The standard electric socket is a two (sometimes three) pin socket, so no adapters are needed.

**Phone:** The international dialing code for Trinidad and Tobago is 1-868 followed by the seven digit number. To call the Resort from the US or Canada, please dial 1-868-660-5268. On the island, use the seven digits alone. Mobile phones that run on the GSM network will work here, but expect a patchy service, as much of the island has severe terrain, and this can interfere with the signal.

**Internet:** Wireless Internet access is available with your laptop or with a shared computer in the common area of the Lodge for \$5.00 per person per day, \$25.00 per week

**Food Service:** Meals at The Green Moray are expertly prepared by Chef Joe, who you will likely have the pleasure of meeting early in your visit. The Green Moray Bar & Restaurant is open 7 days a week, from 7:30 am – 10:00 for breakfast and 12:00 noon – 3:00 p.m. for lunch, and 6:30 – 9:00 pm for dinner. The Bar remains open until midnight. There are also two or three other restaurants within walking distance, as well as a small convenience store. (You'll need TTL currency at the convenience store!)

**Dive Registration, Orientation & Marine Park Fee:** Tobago Dive Experience, which is located on property, opens at 8:00 am. Divers will need to register at the dive center on their first morning (at approximately 8:30) and bring their (1) dive certification card, (2) diving vouchers, (3) and a Master Card or Visa credit card for a security deposit. Tobago Dive Experience conducts a short land based orientation session on their first morning of diving. Our boats depart for one tank dives at 9:00am, 11:30am and 2:00pm every day of the year, plus night dives when requested at 6:30pm. **Note on Nitrox:** Nitrox is generally available for \$15.00 per tank surcharge however there have been occasion were oxygen is not available on island for mixing the gases.

**Gear Storage & Gear Considerations:** Gear storage is available free of charge. The dive shop will provide you with a "gear bucket" to transport your gear to the dive docks, and unless you have requested otherwise, will set up, rinse and store your gear for you for the next dive day.

**Water Temperature:** Water temperature ranges between 77°F (25°C) and 82°F (28°C), with the average being 81°F (27°C) for most dives, unless a cold current is coming in, or you are going on a particularly deep dive. A 2-mm shortie to 3-mm full suit is recommended for divers.

**Weather:** Located just 11° north of the equator, safely outside the main hurricane belt, Tobago enjoys a tropical climate and is sunny all year round. The average daytime temperature is 83°F (29°C). Trade Winds blow consistently, cooling the island so effectively that air-conditioning is the exception rather than the rule. Tobago has two seasons: the Dry Season between December and May, and the Wet Season between June and November. Although rain fall is at its heaviest during the Rainy Season, it is quite possible to get it at any other time as well, and generally in short, sharp bursts that thankfully fall around dawn giving way to sunshine for the daylight hours..



**Time:** Tobago is 1 hour ahead of Eastern Standard Time (EST).

**Tippling:** Tipping is much the same as in North America. **Please note that Tobago Dive Experience does not include a service charge in their rates!** Divers are requested to present tips for the dive staff to the Dive Manager or Assistant Dive Manager for subsequent distribution to the staff.

**Security & Safety:** Tobago is a safe island; however visitors should exercise common sense and not keep large amounts of cash in their rooms or valuables unattended. There are no safes in the rooms; however there is a safe available at the Front Office where you can secure valuables you will not need during your daily activities. One of the beauties of Tobago is the fact that you are still able to wander off the 'main' routes and down any lane or street anywhere on the island, without ever feeling at risk. So feel free to explore the area around the lodge on foot on your own at any time.

**Language:** The official language of Trinidad and Tobago is English, but Spanish and to a lesser extent French patois, Hindi and Chinese is spoken by some segments of the population through culture and heritage.

**Legal Age:** 18 for drinking beer and other alcohol; 21 for gambling in a casino and for renting a car.

**Insects:** All tropical destinations have their fair share of insects. Fortunately, Tobago has few poisonous or venomous creatures. The bites of smaller insects are generally no more than an inconvenience. As with everything, prevention is key, so we encourage guests to follow the standard guidelines: use a good mosquito/insect repellent containing 50% DEET and apply it regularly to exposed body parts as well as your clothing and avoid wearing black or dark colors in the evening as these colors are especially attractive to mosquitoes. It is also best to refrain from wearing perfume or aftershave.

**Drinking Water:** The water on Tobago is safe to drink, but visitors with slightly sensitive stomachs or immune systems may find a degree of sensitivity if they drink too much of the water over the first few days and may want to stick to bottled water, which is readily available at the bar. Please be sure to remain well hydrated while on holiday!

**Medical Care & Emergencies:** Medical care on Tobago is somewhat limited compared to that in North America and the main hospital a good hour drive away. Proof of ability to pay may be required before treatment is given. The hospital can be contacted on **631-2551/2552**. All complex medical cases are transferred to Trinidad, where excellent medical facilities exist. A hyperbaric recompression chamber is located in Roxborough, a short 15 minutes drive from Manta Lodge. We strongly recommend that you obtain comprehensive travel and medical insurance before traveling. Please call us at 866 486-2246 to inquire.

**Return Flight Information:** Once on island it is not necessary to reconfirm your return flights. Please be sure you are at the airport 2 hours prior to your scheduled departure for direct international flights, or one hour before for flights connecting via Trinidad. Please note that food service is NOT available inside your gate at the Tobago Airport, but is available outside the terminal near your flight check in point as well as readily available at the Trinidad Airport.

**Exit Requirements:** There is a departure tax of TT\$100 (US\$16) per person, payable at the airport in Tobago for all passengers under 60. Vacationers who have attained the age of 60 are exempt from the tax! The tax is paid in Tobago if you are departing for North America directly or in Trinidad if you have a connecting flight. Price subject to change without notice.