

Manta Ray

The social butterfly of the ocean

- The reef manta is among the largest in the world of the ray family.
- Manta rays have very few predators because they are so huge. Unlike many smaller rays, they do not have a venomous barb.
- Manta rays fuel their massive manta bodies by eating a lot, so they need to find food sources that are always in abundance. Their diet includes plankton and tiny floating organisms.
- Filter feeders, the manta ray has cephalic lobes on either side of their head which they use to funnel the water into their mouths.
- The manta ray has a skeleton made of cartilage, and this allows them to move their wings in a fluid-like movement.
- The manta ray has the largest brain-to-bodyweight ratio in the ocean: it is an intelligent fish.

Manta rays regularly visit places where little fish feed off the parasites collected on their bodies. This prevents skin infections.



“Manta rays are our ocean’s social butterflies. Scientists say they are able to recognise each other and form friendship groups.”

PHIL BRESLIN,
BUILT TO SURVIVE HOST