

# Mantanani & dugongs

The warm tropical waters around Sabah make it an excellent destination for snorkeling, scuba diving or inland hopping. Our waters are teeming with some of the most amazing sea creatures of every imaginable shape, size and colour, from the prickly sea urchin to the awe inspiring Dugong.

Dugong or sea cow is a large marine mammal belonging to a group of animals known as Sirenians because in ancient times sailors who saw sea cows mistook them for mermaids (sirena). All it takes is a little imagination, or you could lose the specks, squint a little and see your 'mermaid' first hand.

One area where you can consistently see dugongs is at Mantanani Island. Mantanani Island consists of a group of three isolated islands located northwest of Kota Belud. Just an hour drive from Kota Kinabalu, Mantanani Island is easily accessible to locals and tourists. The island surrounded by clear blue waters filled with a myriad of marine life and white sandy beaches fringed with coconut palm trees making it an exceptional location.

Excursions to the islands can be arranged through Scuba Paradise 088-266695. The local mermaid affectionately named "Nicky" as a result of its characteristic nick on its tail usually drops by; an encounter with this beautiful mammal has given many snorklers an up close and unforgettable experience.

Guest arriving on the island



Jetty where boat departs to Mantanani Island

Aerial view of Dugong beach



Areal view of Mantanani Island



Dugong with divers