

**AUDIO SCRIPT**

**[F1= Female Interviewer; M1= Male Guest]**

F1: Welcome back to the program, viewers. With me today is Jeff Anderson, Director of the Voluntourism Foundation. We were talking earlier about ecotourism in rural communities. There are obviously a lot of opportunities for people who want to build houses, plant trees, and so forth. What about marine ecotourism? For example, if someone wants to take a vacation by the sea ...

M1: Well, Donna, there are many marine ecotourism opportunities you could try. People who want to stay on dry land should participate in beach cleanup projects. You wouldn't believe the amount of trash that washes up on the shore. Cleaning up beaches not only helps marine life, but also the animal species that live on or near the shore, such as birds, seals, and turtles. There are several groups that organize annual coastal cleanups for volunteers on vacation or, as we call them, voluntourists. Voluntourism is also a great way to make new friends because you're working side-by-side with people who care about the environment just as much as you do.

F1: Now, for those who want to be *on* the ocean, what are the options besides an eco-unfriendly cruise?

M1: Well, to be fair, Donna, over the past decade, many cruise companies have taken steps to be more eco-friendly by reducing waste and carbon emissions, recycling, installing solar panels, and so on. So if you want to take a cruise, why not make it a green cruise? As for volunteer work, there are many options around the globe. Help save the Great Barrier Reef off the north-east coast of Australia. Unfortunately, the reef is being badly affected by climate change and because of invasive plant life and damage from boats and pollution. The reef is 1,800 miles (3,000 kilometers) long and consists of more than 400 types of coral, 1,500 species of fish, sea turtles, and manta rays. Volunteers can join a boat crew and help remove unwanted plants, collect and analyze samples, and generally help record the health of the reef.

F1: What are *manta rays*, Jeff?

M1: A manta ray is a large, flat fish with a wingspan of 25 feet (7.6 meters). Rays are highly intelligent with a large brain-to-body ratio, but they're not dangerous to humans.

F1: Hmm, fascinating. And of course it's a very beautiful part of the world.

M1: Yes, it is, Donna. Now, if you're interested in going to Africa, there's a program in Kenya where volunteers can assist local groups that care for endangered sea turtles. By some estimates, the sea turtle population has declined by about 90% in the past 100 years. Sadly, this is almost all due to human activity.

F1: It's an absolute disgrace, isn't it, Jeff. What about whales?

M1: If you care about whales, I suggest you join a conservation group working off the coast of British Columbia, Canada. Volunteers can work on boats alongside scientists who are studying the effects of climate change on whales. You can monitor the underwater activity of whales by using sonar and underwater video.

F1: Well, that sounds wonderful. We'll be right back after this short break...