

Parting Shot

The island of Yap in Micronesia has two passages in the surrounding outer reef, Goofnuw and Mi'l channels, where manta rays come to visit cleaning stations. I had patiently spent the previous day with a wide angle lens in Goofnuw with my fingers crossed. I roamed back and forth between the two known hot spots but to no avail. Huge stands of various hard corals and some cooperative angelfish where my take away this day. I did spot an unusual shrimp in a mushroom coral and decided my next dive would be with a 100mm macro lens to capture this eye candy crustacean.

Luckily Yap Divers and Manta Ray Bay Resort are flexible with their schedules and I switched boats the next morning to return again to Goofnuw.

I attempted to ignore the two manta rays I passed on my way to the shrimp, who was beautiful and cooperative. With my mental macro blinders on, I decide to check out the cleaning station to just take in the majesty of the manta swooping over the coral to nearly Hoover while cleaner wrasse and butterflyfish checked her over for parasitic morsels. Now I would not recommend anyone gear up with a macro lens, let alone



Canon 5D mark IV and a Canon EF100mm f/2.8 macro, f/14, 1/80sec, ISO320, in an Ikelite dry-lock housing with twin Ikelite 161 strobes on TTL.

a 100mm macro lens with the intent to capture one of these creatures with your camera, but after the fourth close pass by I thought what the hell. I moved my strobes out to the extent of my arms and fired a few shots. To my

surprise and delight and with a few tweaks in Lightroom and Photoshop I came away with this image.

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Parting Shot.**

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