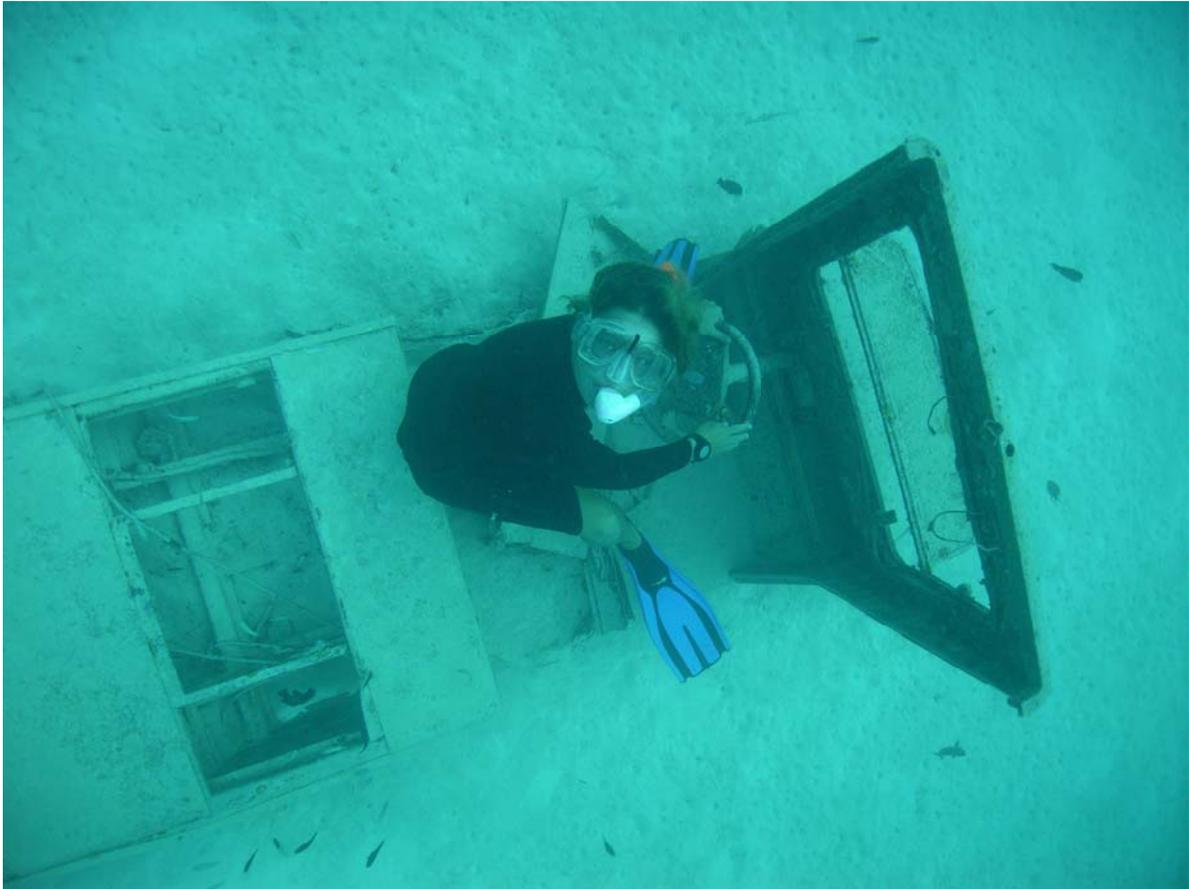


## A day in the life of...

**Name:** Katie Clements



**Job title:** Resident Marine Biologist, Four Seasons Resorts, Maldives.

### **Responsibilities:**

I work across three resorts in the Maldives. Two are island resorts and the third is a luxury cruise ship. I am responsible for delivering scientific and environmental education to both staff and guests, leading dive, snorkel and specialised expeditions to observe the marine life, conducting independent research and assisting on existing research projects, teaching swimming and snorkelling with a bit of aquarium husbandry also thrown into the mix. I operate an 'outreach' program with local school groups to introduce them to the marine environment and I also work with local schools on small projects which are part of the syllabus that is taught in local schools. I also act as a consultant on the resorts current environmental practices and proposed future plans.

### **Daily routine:**

There is no 'typical' day for this job! Every day is different! On the islands my morning can be taken up with either SCUBA diving, working with the young guests on the island, working with local school groups, conducting research, assisting with field work, teaching snorkelling or swimming or meeting with senior management to discuss environmental issues. Most afternoons I lead a snorkelling excursion to a nearby reef and a specialist cetacean search, both of which are preceded by formal lectures. In the evening I host a longer formal presentation on a

specialised environmental based topic. Whilst on board the cruise ship my days are taken up with water sports interspersed with formal lectures.

### **How I got here:**

I completed my BSc in Marine Biology at Swansea University in 2005 and my MSc in Aquaculture and the Environment, also at Swansea University in 2007. I have held many temporary jobs for organisations such as the Environment Agency and Countryside Council for Wales from which I gained many useful skills. I began volunteering for the education department at the London Aquarium in 2004 and was offered a paid position there less than one year later. I used this job and to finance my MSc and to gain experience in informal environmental education. I remained with the London Aquarium after I finished my MSc and was given the opportunity to head up a small team investigating captive elasmobranch behaviour, before accepting my current post in the Maldives.

### **Best bits:**

Every day is different! I don't know exactly what I will be doing from one day to the next which makes it very exciting. I also get to spend at least 50% of my day in the water which is great. Although the big highlight for me actually comes from introducing people to the marine environment either through swimming, snorkelling or diving and helping to nurture their interest – that's the really satisfying aspect to my job.



*Instructing a group of young people during their first snorkelling experience and giving them their first insight into the marine world.*

**Worst Bits:** Being stuck inside during spells of bad weather!

### **Additional information:**

Getting a job in this field is highly competitive; however, experience is just as important as academic qualifications. There are many different organisations and companies that accept interns and/or volunteers and these placements can provide you with a great deal of experience which will improve your chances of successfully getting a job in this field. You will not make huge amounts of money working in this field, but the job satisfaction more than compensates for this!