Global Reef Expedition

Episode Guide

GLOBAL REEF EXPEDITION: INDIAN OCEAN
The scientific team aboard the "Golden Shadow" visits the Chagos Archipelago, a tropical paradise with some of the healthiest coral reefs on the planet. They come to study reefs seemingly untouched by man, but instead become witnesses to a bleaching incident that transforms the reefs right before their eyes. Before they leave, they also discover rays of hope in little sprigs of coral that fight on.

GLOBAL REEF EXPEDITION: GALAPAGOS
Situated at the confluence of major currents, the Galapagos Islands are not tropical – in fact they are cold. Reefs were only discovered here in 1975. With the help of a local guide, the team battles rough seas and cold water. They discover some flourishing reefs at Darwin Island, and further south, a natural laboratory to test the future of what reefs might expect in just a few decades.

GLOBAL REEF EXPEDITION: COOK ISLANDS
The people of the Cook Islands have created one of the world's largest marine parks, and now they're working together to figure out what that means to a bevy of conflicting interests, from fishermen to miners. The scientists aboard the "Golden Shadow" lend their expertise, exploring reefs at a far-flung island and helping the residents map their resources.

GLOBAL REEF EXPEDITION: GREAT BARRIER REEF
The team settles in for a month on the Great Barrier Reef, the largest reef in the world. One scientist is studying sharks, and in a flashback we visit French Polynesia where sharks abound and the team films their natural feeding behaviors for the first time ever. Back on the GBR, the scientists explore the northern Reef, which until recently was the healthiest part. The program concludes with new footage of the 2016 bleaching and severe die-off among these corals.

GLOBAL REEF EXPEDITION: JAMAICA
These reefs, once the most famous in the world, are now struggling just to survive. Local fishermen have to work much harder to make a living. They team up with conservationists, the Jamaican government, and "Golden Shadow" scientists to set up a fishing sanctuary, hoping to restore their endangered fishery.

GLOBAL REEF EXPEDITION: THE BAHAMAS
Voiced by a local conservation officer, this episode explores one of the largest barrier reefs in the world, which stretches for nearly a thousand miles in the Caribbean Sea. Working together with local scientists and conservation workers, the Golden Shadow team documents the reefs in The Bahamas and probes their ability to cope with the perils of climate change.