AMBA

Hanifaru Manta and Whale Shark Expedition, Baa and Raa atolls

Dharavandhoo to Dharavandhoo | Hanifaru Bay in Baa and Raa atolls

LENGTH	DEPARTURE PORT	ARRIVAL PORT	EXPERIENCE
9 days / 8 nights	Dharavandhoo	Dharavandhoo	10+ dives, AOWD

This dive safari is perfect for keen divers who want crystal clear water and spectacular experiences around Hanifaru Bay, world famous for its huge gatherings of manta rays, especially in the plankton season in July, August and September, with the occasional whale shark at the anchorage.

The week mixes drift dives and reef dives over vibrant coral gardens, caves, channels and healthy reef walls, with very experienced local guides from Dhonfanu, the island just 50 metres from the bay.







Your route

STOP 1

Arrival day

The crew greet guests at the airport at Dharavandhoo from 12:00, and for guests who arrive later the transfer is arranged about about an hour after the flight lands.
To be in time for the boat and safety briefing, arrive at the airport by 16:00.

STOP 1

Arrival day (continued)

On board there is a welcome drink, a lime-scented towel and cakes while the tour guide introduces the boat and the plan for the day, and then time to settle into your cabin.
Check in documents are checked at 17:00 and the dive equipment is set up on the dhoni with help from the dive crew.
Dinner is at 18:00, followed by the introduction of the crew and a full safety briefing.
There is no diving on the arrival day.

STOP 2

Days 2 to 8

Two or three dives a day, usually three, from the dhoni, including a night dive on every trip.
Dives are made in self-reliant buddy teams with experienced guides, and the guides brief every dive in English, German, Italian and Spanish.

STOP 8

Last diving day

The final dive is at 07:30 on the day before disembarkation.
Equipment is rinsed in the freshwater tanks and left to dry before packing.
In the afternoon you can explore the island, and the evening is for the farewell and dinner.

STOP 9

Departure day

A light breakfast is served and check out at Dharavandhoo is between 06:30 and 08:30, with earlier check out available on request.
Late check out is not possible.
Guests with late flights can store luggage at the airport.

THE ROUTE

Where the boat dives

The route depends on the weather, and the sample itineraries and sites are shown for illustration only. The exact route and dive sites are at the captain's discretion and can change with regulations, weather and logistics.

HANIFARU BAY

Hanifaru Bay is a major gathering site for manta rays, most of all in the plankton season in July, August and September, with occasional whale sharks at the anchorage. If rangers report mantas or whale sharks nearby, the crew may cancel the scheduled dive and move to the bay to snorkel, so guests may not complete all three dives that day.

BAA AND RAA ATOLLS

The diving is a mix of drift dives and reef dives, with coral gardens, caves, channels and walls.





THE DIVING

Diving and snorkelling

DIVING EXPERIENCE

Divers need at least 10 logged dives, Advanced Open Water or an equivalent certification, and Nitrox certification. Divers who have not dived for more than two years, or who are unsure of their skills, should take a refresher course before the trip, and less experienced divers may be kept from the more challenging sites.

HOW THE DIVING WORKS

All dives are guided by experienced dive professionals, and all the diving is on Nitrox. Dives are made in self-reliant buddy teams with experienced guides, and divers must be able to make independent ascents, using a surface marker buoy when necessary. Briefings are in English, German, Italian and Spanish.

Dives start from the dhoni, the dive boat. There is no diving on the arrival or departure days, and divers make two or three dives a day, usually three, with a night dive on every trip. The last dive is on the day before disembarkation, and divers should wait 24 hours after the last dive before flying.

DIVING EQUIPMENT

Each diver needs a mask, BCD and fins, a surface marker buoy, a signal whistle, a reef hook, a Nitrox-capable dive computer, a regulator with an alternate air source, a cutting tool and a torch, and all of it is used on every dive. A hood, snorkel, boots and compass are recommended. Spare and rental equipment is available on board, but wetsuits cannot be rented. The minimum age for divers is 18. Because tiger sharks and bull sharks can come very close, black equipment, black fins, a black hood and a black full-length wetsuit are recommended, and bright colours are best avoided.

SNORKELLING

The boat welcomes snorkellers. Guests can snorkel with manta rays and whale sharks when the crew moves to Hanifaru Bay.

ON BOARD

Food, service and the team

CUISINE

Three freshly prepared meals are served each day, with afternoon snacks, cakes and fruit, and drinking water, tea, coffee and juice throughout the day. German and Maldivian chefs bake fresh bread every morning, and the menu mixes Asian dishes with international and Western food, with vegetarian and vegan options. Beer and wine are available.

SERVICE AND THE TEAM

A tour guide, dive guides and a dive crew look after the guests, and the multilingual crew, local and international, speaks English, German and Italian and is trained in first aid. Daily room cleaning, towels and toiletries are included, and the welcome on board includes a drink and a lime-scented towel. Wi-Fi is available on board.

DECK PLAN

The upper deck has an outdoor lounge for relaxing between dives, and the partly covered sun deck has sun loungers. Inside there is a saloon and a dining room, and the boat also has a leisure deck, an observation deck and outside showers. The shaded dive deck has rinse hoses, and a 16 metre dive dhoni with a freshwater shower and a toilet takes the divers to the sites, with smaller speedboats for nearby islands.

INCLUDED

What is included

- Accommodation in the booked cabin category
- Up to three dives a day with a dive guide
- Weights and weight belts
- Nitrox fills
- Airport transfers to and from the boat
- Breakfast, lunch, snacks, fruit and dinner
- Drinking water, tea, instant coffee and juice
- Daily cabin cleaning and towel service
- Shower gel, soap and shampoo
- 17% tourism sales tax

Not included are 15 litre tanks, rental equipment, soft and alcoholic drinks and dive courses. A tip is paid in cash.

EXTRA CHARGES

The domestic flight between Malé and Dharavandhoo is not included, and has to be booked separately by the guest. The green tax is paid in advance.





