ARIYAL

Explore Maldives

Male to Male | The best of the Maldives: North Male, South Male, North Ari, South Ari and Vaavu

A week through the best known dive sites of the Maldives, from the shark and manta sites of the Ari atolls to the channels of Vaavu and the pinnacles of South Male.

One of the most famous manta points in the Maldives fills with rays in the west monsoon, and a manta night dive brings them in again after dark.

South Ari is a whale shark hotspot all year round, and famous pinnacles hold sharks, turtles, octopus and cuttlefish.

South Male finishes it with grey reef sharks, whitetip sharks, eagle rays and schools of jacks and snappers.

LENGTH	DEPARTURE PORT	ARRIVAL PORT	EXPERIENCE
8 days / 7 nights	Male	Male	Open Water diver







Your itinerary

DAY 1

Malé and boarding

1 check dive

Guests board at around 1pm for introductions, briefings and equipment set-up.
The check dive is at Hulhumale Nerumathi, a tiger shark and stingray point.

DAY 2

Lankan Paradise and Maaya Thila

2 dives

A dive at Lankan Paradise Manta Point, one of the most famous manta points of the Maldives in the west monsoon.
You then cross to South Ari, about 5 hours of cruising, for a night dive at Maaya Thila, a famous pinnacle for sharks, turtles, octopus and cuttlefish.

DAY 3

Bathala Thila and Fish Head

3 dives

Bathala Thila is a shallow pinnacle covered in reef life, with sharks, tuna and jacks, and a place to look for frogfish.
Fish Head is one of the most famous dive sites in the Maldives.
The day ends with a manta night dive at Fesdhoo Lagoon, where you can also snorkel.

DAY 4

Maalhos, Moofushi and Dhega

3 dives

Maalhos Thila is covered in soft corals and can have strong currents.
Moofushi Corner is a manta point on an oceanic wall, and Dhega Thila is a tour between pinnacles with turtles.
At night you can snorkel at the Mirihi whale shark point, where whale sharks sometimes appear in the high season.



DAY 5

Kuda Rah and South Ari

3 dives

Dives at Kuda Rah Thila, the South Ari Marine Protected Area and Broken Rock, a hotspot for whale sharks all year round.
A beach barbecue on an island ends the day, then you cross to Vaavu, about 4 hours of cruising.

DAY 6

Vaavu channels

3 dives

Miyaru Kandu, one of the most famous channels of the central atolls, with sharks, eagle rays and napoleon wrasse, then Dhevana Kandu and Dhiggiri Lagoon, a nurse shark and stingray point.
You then cross to South Male, about 3 hours of cruising.

DAY 7

Kandooma and Kuda Giri

2 dives

Kandooma Thila is rated the best dive site in South Male, with grey reef sharks, whitetip sharks, eagle rays and schools of jacks and snappers, and it can have strong currents.
Kuda Giri is a shallow pinnacle with an artificial wreck.
You cross to Male, about 2 hours, for a city tour.

DAY 8

Check out in Male

Check out and airport transfer between 8 and 9am, depending on your international flight.
There is no diving today.

GOOD TO KNOW

On land and on the way

Manta rays

Lankan Paradise Manta Point, Moofushi Corner and the manta night dive at Fesdhoo Lagoon.

Whale sharks

Broken Rock and the night snorkel at Mirihi, with whale sharks seen most often in the high season.

Sharks

Nurse sharks at Dhiggiri Lagoon, tiger sharks at Hulhumale Nerumathi and grey reef sharks at Kandooma Thila.

Daily rhythm

Wake up call at 6:00, then a light breakfast and the first briefing and dive at 6:30. Full breakfast at 8:30, second dive at 10:30, lunch at 1:00pm, third dive at 3:00pm, afternoon tea and snacks at 5:00pm and dinner at 7:30pm. Times change with tank filling, cruising hours and weather.

Check in

Check in is from 12:30 pm. You are met in the arrival area at Velana Airport, at counter D-6. Normally there is a check dive on the first afternoon, as long as all guests are on board by 2pm.

Check out

Check out is between 8 and 9am. An earlier check out can be arranged if you have an early flight.

Last dive

Two morning dives, ending before lunch on the day before departure. Keep to the no-flying rule for your flight.

INCLUDED

What your trip covers

INCLUDED IN THE TRIP PRICE

- Full board meals, with snacks, drinking water, tea and coffee
- Welcome cocktail on arrival
- Airport transfer
- Diving package with free nitrox and night dives
- Snorkelling guide
- Land excursions
- Towels and Wi-Fi on board
- VAT

NOT INCLUDED

- Flights, including the domestic flight on Deep South trips
- Environmental tax, charged per night
- Fuel surcharge, charged per day
- Mandatory service charge, per trip
- Alcoholic and soft drinks
- Rental dive gear and snorkel gear
- Extra dives, private dive guide and dive courses
- Laundry and pressing
- Dive and travel insurance

BEFORE YOU GO

What to bring

ESSENTIALS

- Dive certification card and logbook
- Completed diver medical questionnaire
- Details of your dive and travel insurance
- Dive computer and surface marker buoy
- Reef-safe sunscreen

AND ALSO

- Swimwear, hat and sunglasses
- Light clothing and sandals
- Personal medication and toiletries
- Travel adaptor
- Passport

WORTH KNOWING

Key notes

Good to know

Dive sites are an example of the route and are not guaranteed. The final route is at the captain's discretion, and depends on the weather and local conditions

Good to know

Divers should wait at least 24 hours after their last dive before flying

Insurance

Please arrange dive and travel insurance before you travel

Good to know

You must be an Open Water qualified diver to join Explore Maldives