

CONTE MAX

Southern Atolls

Male to Laamu | South Male, Felidhoo, Mulaku, Thaa and Laamu

Five atolls on the way to the far south, with channels known for big fish, vivid soft corals, sea fans, black coral and gorgonians.

Near Male there are close encounters with tiger, hammerhead, bull, lemon and spinner sharks, often over dozens of stingrays.

Meemu has a sloping reef that turns into a wall for drift dives, with grey reef sharks, eagle rays and healthy yellow and white soft corals.

In Thaa whale sharks come to feed on plankton at night, and in Laamu grey sharks, silvertips and manta rays are here all year.

LENGTH	DEPARTURE PORT	ARRIVAL PORT	EXPERIENCE
8 days / 7 nights	Male	Laamu	Open Water, certified







Your itinerary

DAY 1

Embarkation

Check dive

Departure is from Velana International Airport in Male.
After boarding there is a check dive, and the boat then heads south through the central atolls.

DAY 2-7

Route

3 dives a day

The cruise crosses five atolls, South Male, Felidhoo, Mulaku, Thaa and Laamu, from Male or the other way round, with channels and big fish, and a night with whale sharks in season.
The weeks are offered all year, and the best time for weather, currents and visibility is December to May.

DAY 8

Disembark

The cruise ends at Laamu with a flight over the atolls back to Male, or at Male for the other direction.
Cruises that end in Male may finish with an optional visit to Villingili.

GOOD TO KNOW

On land and on the way

Nerumathi, North Male

Known as the Shark Tank, at the entrance to Hulhumale harbour. Close encounters with sharks, including tiger, blacktip, hammerhead, bull, lemon and spinner sharks and guitarfish, and often dozens of stingrays. The depth runs from about 8 to over 30 metres.

Kandhooma, South Male

A thila at the bottom of a channel, with the top at about 14 metres and slopes dropping to about 40 metres. The east and north slopes have overhangs and soft corals, with large schools of fish, eagle rays, whitetip and grey sharks and green turtles. It can be dived on either current.

Miyaru Kandu, Vaavu and Felidhoo

A channel and the area around it are a marine protected area. Miyaru means shark in Dhivehi, and the drop-off has passing grey reef sharks, eagle rays, schools of jacks and pelagic fish.

Mulaku Kandu, Meemu

The first channel northeast of Meemu Atoll. The channel is narrow and lies at 25 metres, and can be crossed if the current is not too strong. Rays and whitetip sharks at the sandy entrance, grey reef sharks, tuna and barracuda, hammerheads sometimes early in the morning, and many turtles along the wall.

Gaahuraa Kandu, Meemu

A sloping reef that turns into a wall, swept by gentle to moderate current and good for drift dives. Grey reef sharks, eagle rays, snappers and fusiliers, with healthy soft yellow and white corals and gorgonians.

Olhugiri Kandu, Thaa

Thaa has passes with steps that are not very deep, with grey sharks, jacks and barracuda on the steps and coral formations on the corners. At Olhugiri the step is broken by a shoal full of life, with caves covered in sea fans.

Whale Shark Point, Thaa

A couple of spectacular sites where whale sharks come to feed at night in the plankton. The best way to meet them is with a mask and snorkel, in the evening and at night.

Fushi Kandu, Laamu

In the first northern channel on the east reef of Laamu, and considered one of the most beautiful dive sites in the archipelago. Grey sharks, silvertips and sometimes tiger sharks, barracuda, eagle rays and schools of fusiliers, jacks and snappers.

Mundhoo Kandu, Laamu

A pass with beautiful coral on both corners and a double step, the first at 25 metres and the second between 35 and 40 metres. With the current coming in there are grey and whitetip sharks.

Hithadu Corner, Laamu

Manta rays are here all year, with the most in the two mating seasons, October to November and April to May.

Non-divers

The cruises suit divers and non-divers, with guided snorkelling, island visits and fishing, and a free try dive in the lagoon for non-divers from 8 years old, with equipment included.

On board

A diving dhoni, a kayak and paddle boards, underwater scooters, and rebreather support on request. Italian and international cuisine, with a bar, a boutique and a massage service.

End of the cruise

Cruises that start and end in Male may finish with an optional visit to Villingili, to see the Save the Beach Centre and the coral restoration site, and snorkel with a marine biologist.

Check in

The best time to arrive is between 07:00 and 11:00, and the earliest is 06:30 to 07:00. If your flight arrives after about 11:00 to 11:30 you need to arrive the day before. An airport representative meets you in the arrivals area with a board and takes you to the dhoni.

Check out

Check out is at 08:00 on the last day.

Dives

The check dive is on the arrival day, and there is one dive on the morning of the last diving day.

INCLUDED

What your trip covers

INCLUDED IN THE TRIP PRICE

- Cabin share (twin or double) with private bathroom and full board, with an afternoon snack
- Unlimited drinking water, tea, coffee and fruit
- Airport transfer by dhoni
- Diving and night diving, with the dive dhoni and free Nitrox
- Guided snorkelling
- Sunset fishing, trolling and free use of the kayak
- Excursions and island visits
- GST
- Dive instructors and dive guides

NOT INCLUDED

- International flights
- Service charge, on your invoice
- Green tax per person per day, paid on board
- Alcoholic and soft drinks
- Diving and snorkelling courses
- Dive and snorkel equipment rental, to request when booking
- Wi-Fi
- Dive insurance (mandatory)
- Beach dinner on request
- Onboard purchases, plus 10% service and GST

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 with reel
- 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

The route changes with the weather, the currents, the season and guest preferences, so every cruise is different

Insurance

Dive insurance is mandatory, and travel insurance is recommended

Good to know

Nitrox is free of charge

Flying

A flight from Laamu (Kadhdhoo) back to Male is needed for the Male to Laamu direction, and is not included