EMPEROR EXPLORER 2

Best Of Maldives 7 Nights aboard Emperor Explorer 2

Male to Male | Ari, Vaavu and Male atolls

The most famous dive areas of the Male, Ari and Vaavu atolls in a single week.

Around Male, channels and thilas with cleaning stations give you every chance of manta rays, grey reef sharks, eagle rays and turtles.

At sunset in Vaavu, resident nurse sharks of up to three metres gather, and a night dive among them is a must.

In North Ari, a protected pinnacle has resident turtles, big schools of fusiliers hunted by trevally, patrolling grey reef sharks and a school of bluelined snapper.

South Ari finishes with more channels and thilas, and a chance of manta rays and whale sharks, with hammerheads an occasional bonus.

LENGTH	DEPARTURE PORT	ARRIVAL PORT	EXPERIENCE
8 days / 7 nights	Male	Male	Advanced advised







Your itinerary

DAY 1

Boarding in Male

Free airport transfers run at 12:00 and 16:00, and you can usually board from around 13:00. Meet the crew, join the safety briefing, complete your dive paperwork and settle into your cabin. The boat stays in port tonight.

DAY 2

Check dive and sail

Up to 3 dives

Your first dive is a check dive near port to settle your kit and buoyancy.
The boat then leaves Male and the week begins.

DAY 3

North and South Male

Up to 3 dives

Dive channels (kandus) and pinnacles (thilas) where cleaning stations give you every chance of manta rays, grey reef sharks, eagle rays and turtles.
Kandooma Thila is a highlight.

DAY 4

Vaavu Atoll

Up to 3 dives

A sunset or night dive at Alimatha is a must, with the resident nurse sharks, which can reach three metres, gathering at the end of the day.



DAY 5

Rasdhoo and North Ari

Up to 3 dives

Fish Head is a protected pinnacle with resident turtles, big schools of fusiliers hunted by trevally, patrolling grey reef sharks and a school of bluelined snapper.

DAY 6

South Ari Atoll

Up to 3 dives

Ari offers more channels and thilas, with a chance of manta rays and whale sharks.
Hammerheads are an occasional bonus.

DAY 7

Last diving day

One dive

One morning dive, keeping to the no-flying rule.
The boat is back in Male around 13:00 and stays moored overnight.
You can take an optional land visit, then pack your gear and settle your bill.

DAY 8

Check out in Male

Check out is at 07:00, with transfers to Male airport arriving by 07:30. There is no diving today.

GOOD TO KNOW

On land and on the way

Night with nurse sharks

The Alimatha sunset or night dive is one of the most popular encounters of the week.

Snorkelling

Snorkel gear and a snorkelling guide are included, so non-divers and snorkellers are welcome.

Port visit

On the last afternoon, in port, you can stretch your legs with an optional land visit.

Check in

Free transfers leave Male airport at 12:00 and 16:00. You can usually board from around 13:00.

Check out

Check out is at 07:00 on the last morning, with transfers to arrive at Male airport by 07:30.

Last dive

One morning dive on the last diving day. The boat is back in port around 13:00.

INCLUDED

What your trip covers

INCLUDED IN THE TRIP PRICE	NOT INCLUDED
Full board meals, snacks and a special dinner	International and domestic flights
Water, tea and coffee	Soft drinks, juices and alcoholic drinks
Guided diving from a dhoni, with a dive guide	Dive equipment rental
Nitrox up to 32% for certified divers	Dive courses
Snorkel gear and a snorkelling guide	Wi-Fi data packages
Land excursions	Local purchases and souvenirs
Cabin and deck towels	Crew tips (voluntary, around 10%)
Free airport transfers from Male or Gan on arrival and departure days	Travel and dive insurance (mandatory)
Environment (green) tax, fuel surcharge and port fees	

BEFORE YOU GO

What to bring

ESSENTIALS

- Dive certification card and logbook
- Dive computer, surface marker buoy and reef hook (needed on every dive)
- Torch for night dives
- Reef-safe sunscreen
- Swimwear, hat and sunglasses

AND ALSO

- Light clothing and sandals
- Personal medication and toiletries
- UK 3-pin travel adaptor (220V)
- Passport
- Copy of your travel and dive insurance

WORTH KNOWING

Key notes

Insurance

Travel and dive insurance covering dive injury, medical evacuation and travel is mandatory

Experience

You do not need a minimum number of dives, but you should be comfortable in currents, and Advanced Open Water is advised because many dives go below 18 m

Diving

Diving is from a dhoni, usually 2 to 3 dives a day and up to 17 dives in a week, to a maximum depth of 30 m

Required kit

You need a dive computer, surface marker buoy and reef hook on every dive

Respect the reef

Please do not touch or collect marine life. Emperor does not bait or feed sharks

Medical form

If you have a condition on Emperor's medical list, bring a medical form signed by a doctor within the last 12 months

Flying

There is no diving for 24 hours before a flight