

HANIFARU & NORTH

July to October | Male to Male

Baa Atoll, North Male Atoll, Lhaviyani Atoll, Raa Atoll

ITINERARY HIGHLIGHTS

- Timed with new & full moon phases during July & October for best chances of Manta action.
- Chance to snorkel the UNESCO World Heritage site of Hanifaru Bay.
- Dive manta stations in the northern atolls of Lhaviyani and Baa plus renowned Kuredu Express and Kuredu Caves.
- Expect to see, manta, turtles, grey reef sharks and whitetip reef sharks.
- We've packed this itinerary with hotspots to hopefully give you manta sightings all week long. Sightings can't be guaranteed but diving at this time means your chances are high.

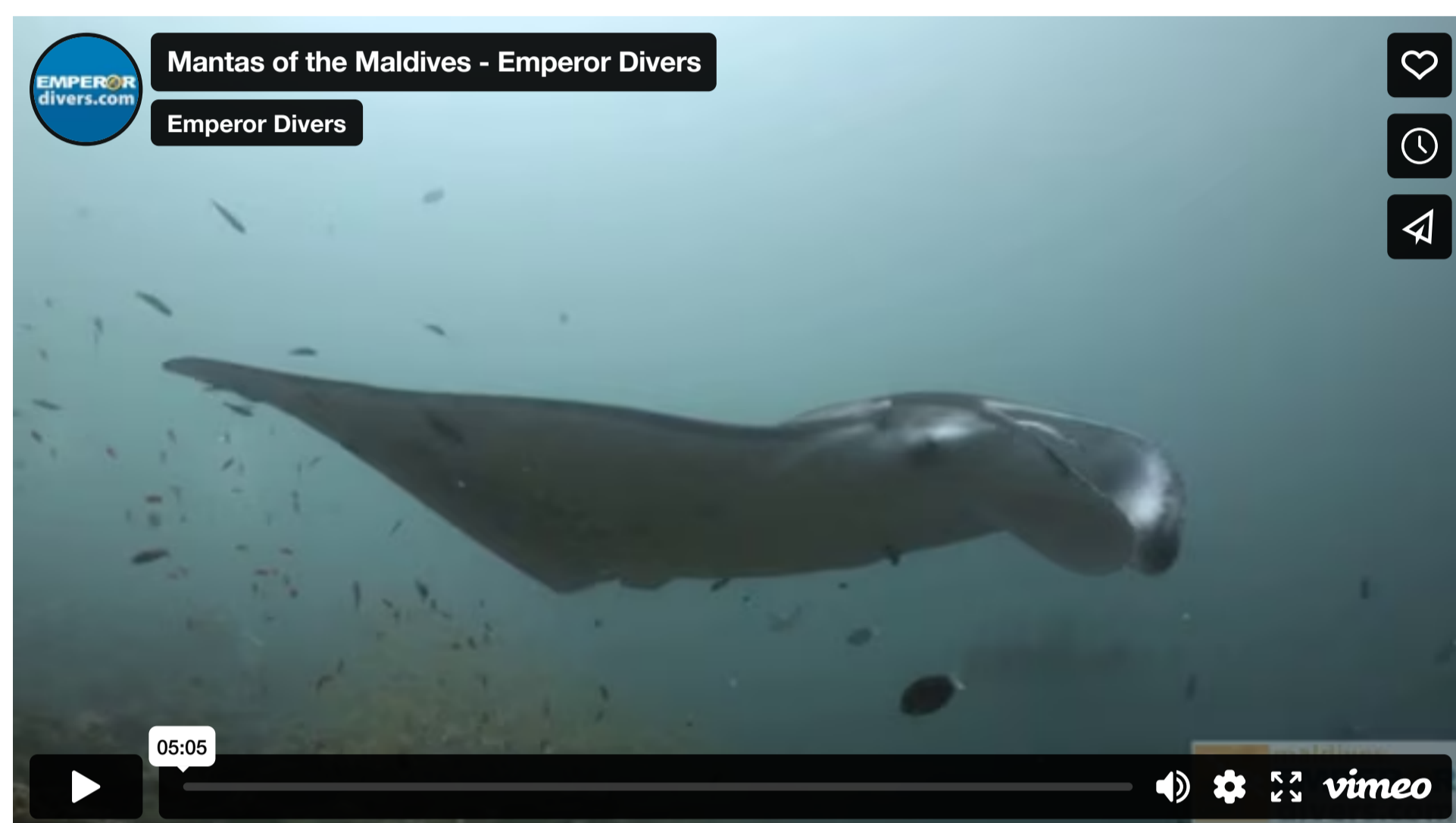
This itinerary runs around the New Moon phase when tidal ranges are greater resulting in a greater flow of plankton into the world famous Hanifaru Bay, where the massive majestic mantas aggregate for a plankton feeding frenzy between July and October each year.

We sail from Male to the northern atolls of Lhaviyani, Baa (Hanifaru Bay) and Raa taking in the renowned sites of Kuredu Express, Labyrinth and Shipyard amongst many more.

As well as mantas, you can get close to turtles, grey reef sharks and whitetip reef sharks. One of the big attractions is the chance to encounter mantas feeding and cleaning.

Thanks to the currents that sweep plankton into the shallow lagoons, mantas follow in vast numbers to feed. Although diving is not permitted in the UNESCO World Heritage site of Hanifaru Bay, we are allowed to go in and snorkel with these gentle giants in the lagoon. After a manta has had its feed it needs to get cleaned, so we will take you to known manta cleaning stations in both North Male and Baa Atoll. So hopefully these will give you sightings all week long. Of course, sightings cannot be guaranteed but diving at this time means your chances are high.

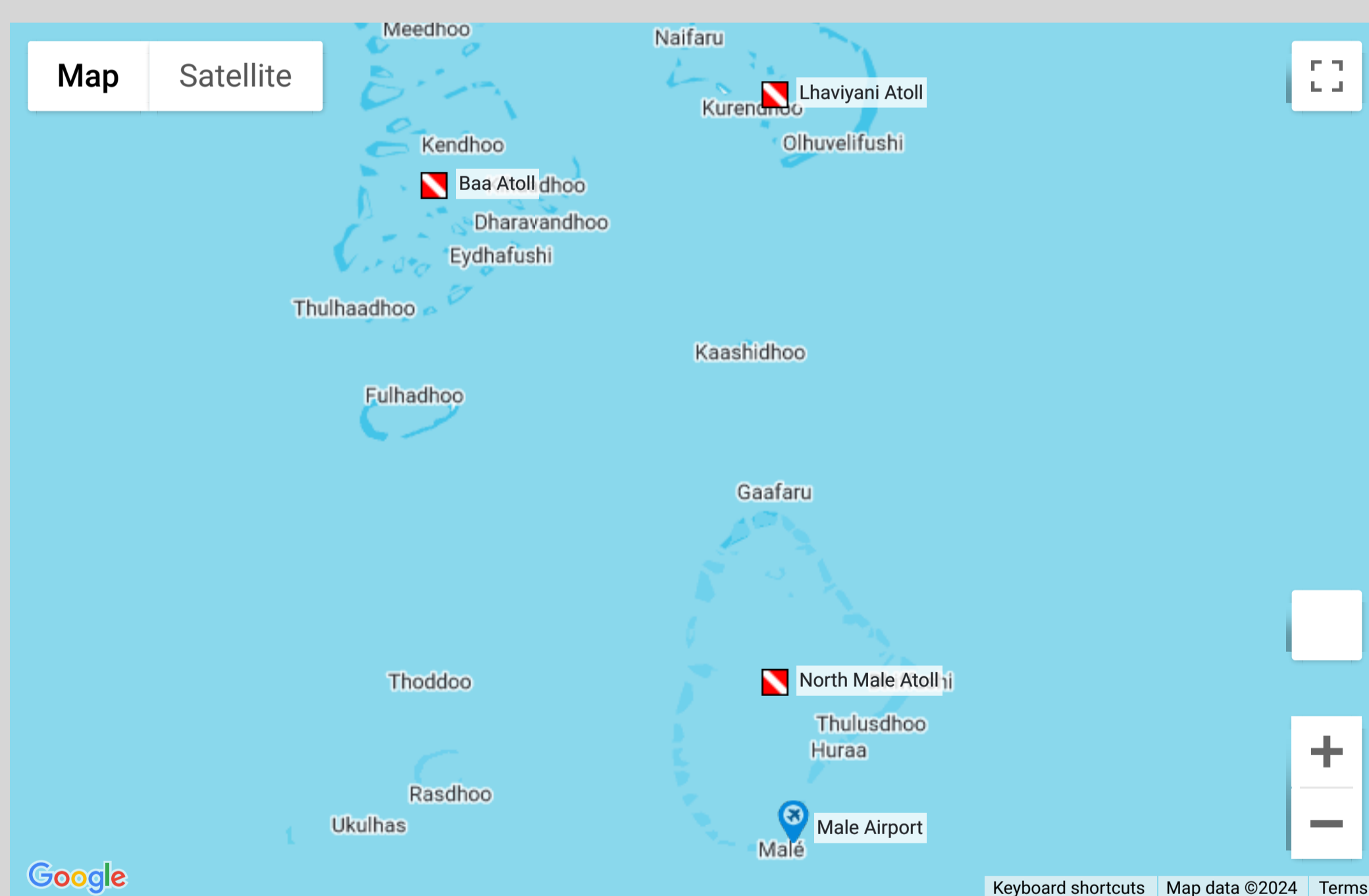
*Please be aware the dive sites and areas mentioned in our itineraries are not guaranteed. They are subject to change based on weather conditions and are at the discretion of our cruise director/captain. This is to ensure we provide the best sightings and activities possible during your dive experience while also prioritising your safety.



DIVE SITES

Click dive site markers for detailed descriptions.

Dive sites & areas that we may visit are subject to weather conditions.



ALSO IMPORTANT

Check Dive & Depart Male

Once onboard there will be a safety briefing, crew introduction, complete and check dive paperwork, cabin allocation and boat orientation. Our boats moor in port on arrival day departing early next morning. The first dive is a check dive near port. Following the first dive we depart from Male port and commence the Hanifaru and North itinerary.

Return to Male & Optional Land Visit

On the last diving day, 1 dive is available in the morning whilst observing the rule of no diving within 24 hours of reaching altitude. We return to port at approximately 1pm and moor here overnight. There is the option of an afternoon land-visit to stretch your legs and escape the boat whilst in port. Evening-time pack up diving equipment, settle any outstanding bills ready to depart for the airport at 7am the following morning.



ITINERARY EXPERIENCE

All experience levels including snorkellers and non-divers

This is a great itinerary for everyone regardless of your experience level. You don't need a minimum number of dives to join this trip, but you should be comfortable diving in current as they can be unpredictable and strong. Many dives are below 18m therefore we recommend having advanced experience or taking your PADI Advanced Open Water course on board to maximise your enjoyment from the trip. Divers may find some dives challenging and may be asked by the Cruise Director to skip dives that are not suitable for their diving experience. Diving is from a dhoni to give precise entry and exit points.

To find out more about current strengths and how they are affected by the moon's phases [click here](#).