MALDIVES MASTER

Manta Trust Expedition: Central Atolls & Baa

Male to Male | North Male, Baa, Ari, Vaavu and South Male

This expedition is timed for the monsoon winds and lunar currents that influence the feeding of reef manta rays, with an expert on board leading presentations and activities.

You can take part in the photo identification of the mantas you meet.

Baa Atoll is best known for Hanifaru Bay, where manta rays gather to feed at certain times of the year.

Whale sharks can be seen around Ari throughout most of the year, and the channels of Vaavu hold grey and white-tip reef sharks in large numbers.

LENGTH	DEPARTURE PORT	ARRIVAL PORT	EXPERIENCE
11 days / 10 nights	Male	Male	30 dives, Deep training







Your itinerary

DAY 1

Embarkation

No diving today

The crew meets you at Male airport and a dhoni takes you to Maldives Master.
Once everyone is on board there is a boat orientation and safety briefing, followed by dinner.
There is no diving on embarkation day.

DAY 2

North Male

Up to 3 dives

H.P.
Reef, a marine protected area with soft corals and caves, Lankan Manta Point and Lankan Caves, and Rasfari North Corner, with sharks, barracuda, rays and sweetlips.

DAY 3

North Male

Up to 3 dives

More time around North Male, with the sites picked by the captain and dive team to suit the conditions.



DAY 4

Baa

Up to 3 dives

Baa Atoll is best known for Hanifaru Bay, where manta rays gather to feed at certain times of the year.
Diving is not permitted in the bay, but snorkelling is allowed with an official guide.
The diving is on thilas such as Dhigala Haa, Dhonfanu Thila, Dharavandhoo Thila and Dhigu Thila.

DAY 5

Baa

Up to 3 dives

More time around Baa, with the sites picked by the captain and dive team to suit the conditions.

DAY 6

North Ari and Rasdhoo

Up to 3 dives

Fish Head, known as one of the best places for grey reef shark encounters, Maaya Thila, with white-tip reef sharks, Rasdhoo Madivaru, a marine protected area channel, and Fesdhoo Lagoon, where mantas gather in the evening and the crew attaches lights to the stern to attract plankton and, hopefully, mantas.



DAY 7

South Ari

Up to 3 dives

Rangali Madivaru, a good manta site between December and April, Kudarah Thila, and Maamigili Beru, best known for whale sharks, which can be seen in this area throughout most of the year.

DAY 8

Vaavu

Up to 3 dives

Miyaru Kandu, a channel where grey and white-tip reef sharks gather in large numbers, and Alimathaa, where nurse sharks circle around the divers.

DAY 9

South Male

Up to 3 dives

Cocoa Corner, a sloping reef and wall with caves and overhangs, Kandooma Thila, a teardrop shaped thila renowned for its soft corals and turtles, Guraidhoo Kandu, for sharks and schools of eagle rays, and Lhosfushi and Medhu Faru, with overhangs covered in sea fans and soft corals.



DAY 10

Last diving day

Two morning dives

Two morning dives, at about 06:30 and 10:45, before the boat heads back to port after lunch. Check your flight time so there are at least 24 hours between your last dive and flying.

DAY 11

Disembark

Early breakfast on board, then disembarkation at 08:00 with a transfer to the airport. There is no diving today.

GOOD TO KNOW

On land and on the way

Manta Trust

Presentations and activities led by the Manta Trust expert.

Hanifaru Bay

Snorkelling with an official guide, if it is active.

Check in

Meet the representative in front of Burger King in the airport terminal, holding a Master Liveaboards sign. The dhoni leaves at 12:30 or 16:00 only. There are no hotel or resort pick ups, so arrive at the airport in time for the first transfer.

Check out

Disembarkation is at 08:00, with a transfer to the airport.

Last dive

Two morning dives on the last diving day, then the boat returns to port after lunch. Allow at least 24 hours between your last dive and flying.





INCLUDED

What your trip covers

INCLUDED IN THE TRIP PRICE

- Full board accommodation
- Water, tea and coffee
- All diving offered in the itinerary
- Tank, weights and air fills
- Transfers between the airport and the boat, by dhoni

NOT INCLUDED

- Green tax, paid in advance
- Alcoholic and soft drinks
- Rental equipment
- Nitrox
- Dive courses
- Crew gratuity
- Internet
- A fuel surcharge, if it applies
- Domestic flights, where needed
- Dive insurance (mandatory) 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 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

Insurance

Dive insurance is mandatory, and travel insurance is recommended

Experience

Divers need at least 30 logged dives, open water with deep (30 metres) training, and advanced open water is strongly recommended, and experience of currents and drift dives

Flexible route

Dive sites we visit can change from one trip to the next, depending on the weather, tides, currents and marine life. The route is not fixed

Good to know

All divers must use a dive computer and carry a surface marker buoy and reel on every dive

Good to know

The expedition is built around manta encounters, which can never be guaranteed