



## MALE-SUVADIVA-MALE - 12 NIGHTS

Port of embarkation: Malé  
Port of disembarkation: Malé

3 dives per day including 2 night dives per trip for a total of 30 dives

Central-South-Central Atolls Itinerary:

### **Male – Felidhoo – South Ari – North Ari – Vaavu – Meemu – Thaa – Suvadiva**

#### **SOUTH MALE ATOLL**

##### *Kandooma Thila*

Definitely number one in the ranking of the best dive sites in the South Male Atoll. Longthila, located in the center of the channel, offers spectacular conditions for observing gray reef sharks, white tip reef sharks, sea eagles, large schools of snapper jackfish. with incoming and outgoing current. The north side of the pinnacle is well covered in soft corals with the reef top being home to many reef fish and green turtles. Currents can be quite strong, so negative entry and fast descent is often required.

#### **NORTH ARI ATOLL**

##### *Maaya Thila*

The thila (a pinnacle) has a diameter of about 80 meters and is considered to be one of the best night dives in the Maldives. The upper part of the coral reef at 5 meters facilitates access even with strong currents. The rising side is always very active and full of life, with fusiliers and snappers. Large fish such as jackfish, whitetip sharks, stingrays and moray eels are easily spotted. Some overhangs around the thila provide shelter for the turtles. While it has a reputation for being a night dive, it's also quite popular during the day. A few separate coral blocks south of the thila create a tunnel and are filled with beautiful coral bushes. With the right current this is a place to spot gray reef sharks as well.

##### *Fish Head*

One of the major attractions of the atoll, not to be missed. Due to its exposure to currents it offers a rich presence of fauna and flora. Large schools of jackfish and fusiliers on the uphill side, as well as the huge amount of blue-striped snapper hiding from strong currents within the overhangs all around the thila are the highlights of the place. It is also popular for gray reef sharks, schools of barracuda and tuna fish, as well as turtles and moray eels on the upper reef.

##### *Bathalaamaagaa Kanthila*

A long coral ridge in the center of a channel, extending from the outer reef and gradually sloping down to 25 meters and deeper, and offers good conditions for observing gray reef sharks, whitetip reef sharks, sea eagles and napoleons, as well as schools of fusiliers jackfish. The dive site can be done during both inbound and outbound currents, but may be more challenging during outbound currents during the northeast monsoon. Divers are advised to hide below the depth of the upper reef to protect themselves from the current.

#### **SOUTH ARI ATOLL**

##### *Moofushi Kandu (Manta Point)*

Drift dive with the chance to spot manta rays freeing themselves above the cleaning station at a depth of approximately 14-25 meters. If manta rays are sighted, it is recommended to use the hooks and to stay as long as possible in the cleaning station. The dive site is quite popular during the northeast monsoon and could be overcrowded with divers at times. White tip reef sharks are common visitors to the deeper part of the cleaning station with blue-striped snappers and fusiliers that are resident.

##### *Kudarah Thila*

Thilafa is part of the Marine Protected Area and is often considered the most beautiful site in the atoll with exceptional diving conditions. The overhangs rich in gorgonians and the reef well covered with healthy soft corals are the highlights. It is also known for large schools of blue-striped snappers and snappers, fusiliers and jackfish. It is worthwhile to bring a torch and look inside small caves where large hidden groupers are often found. Entering the water could be challenging due to its exposure to strong currents and with the top of the reef at 15 meters negative entry is recommended.

##### *Kudhima Wreck*

50m long cargo ship lying on a sandy bottom about 30m deep, right next to a tourist island called Machchafushi. It was sunk in 1998 and already offers good coral growth and a large variety of species living there. Nurse sharks, batfish, stonefish, lionfish and moray eels are resident and can be spotted around the wreck. The site is well protected from the current so the only concern will be the no-decompression time as you will spend most of the time below 20 meters.

##### *Maamigili Beyru (Whaleshark search)*

Located on the southern tip of the Ari Atoll within the Marine Protected Area of the South Ari Atoll. Shallow and very easy dive which could turn into a very exciting dive as it is known as the best location in the Maldives for spot the largest fish in the world. Whale sharks can be seen swimming along the reef all year round. Most boats look for them from the surface. Once spotted, divers enter the water, descend and start swimming with them. The code of conduct for whale shark encounters must be followed and is always discussed during the briefing.

#### **VAAVU ATOLL**

##### *Miyaru Kandu*

One of the canal dives not to be missed. The site is characterized by a strong current and the list of possible encounters is impressive. Mainly gray reef sharks but also whitetip reef sharks, sea eagles, napoleons and tuna are quite common and with visibility reaching 40 meters during the northeast monsoon, it can be the highlight of the trip. The outgoing current offers worse visibility but the sharks are still there. The site is not recommended for beginners, a negative entry is often required. Most of the time is spent at depths of 26-30 meters, so it is highly recommended that you check the air and no-decompression time often.

##### *Miyaru Kandu*

Located on the south side of Alimatha Island, it is considered to be one of the best night dives in the Maldives, often being a victim of success and resulting in overcrowding with divers. Every night there is a show performed by a large number of nurse sharks, stingrays and huge jackfish. The maximum depth will not exceed 15 meters and most of the time you will be kneeling on a sandy bottom waiting for the sharks to approach. Definitely not to be missed.

#### **MEEMU ATOLL**

##### *Muli Corner*

The reef is known for hosting many sharks during inbound currents, but also welcomes manta rays at a large cleaning station during outbound current. It is often recommended to enter the water with the BCD empty and not to waste time on the surface, especially with strong currents.

#### **THAA ATOLL**

##### *Whaleshark point*

There is no specific place where diving would warrant encountering a whale shark, but the common practice is to use a strong light in the evening on the back deck of the boat to attract zooplankton which will attract whale sharks in their turn. scuba divers with the shark on the back of the boat are rather not recommended as the bubbles could disperse the mass of the plankton. The best experience is to grab a mask, fins and gently enter the water on the side of the boat, so as not to scare the whale shark and then enjoy the view while snorkeling. Sometimes the whale shark will stay for hours. Instructions given by dive guides must be followed and a code of conduct must be followed by all snorkelers to enjoy the moment to the fullest.

#### **SUVADIVA**

Suvadiva Atoll is the largest and deepest in the Maldives, reaching up to -80 meters. Thousands of desert islands emerge, covered by thousands of palm trees and surrounded by large white beaches. The sea beds are real coral gardens visible in very shallow water. Inside live a myriad of colorful fish and minnows of all sizes. Almost all of the dives take place in the ocean passes or along the corners of the pass, where the currents attract the large pelagics. You will be able to swim alongside dozens of gray and white tip sharks and, sometimes, hammer, fox or tiger sharks. The whale shark instead makes its appearance in the moonlight, under the stern, to eat the plankton attracted by the boat's lights. Encounters with rays, eagles, turtles, dolphins are common.

NB:

To ensure the safety of all guests on board and the crew, in the event of adverse weather and sea conditions, the itinerary described above can be changed at any time by the captain of the boat and the Boat Manager.

#### ALSO IDEAL FOR NON-DIVING GUESTS

Guests who do not practice scuba diving, on a daily basis two of the following activities are guaranteed: snorkeling, descent on a sand bank, visiting desert and inhabited islands, bottom fishing or trolling in addition to the other services available on board such as jet ski, slide and inflatable pool. These activities can be chosen based on what the atolls touched along the way have to offer, the weather conditions and the sea currents.