SCUBASPA YANG

Deep South: Male to Kooddoo

Male to Kooddoo | Central atolls, Meemu and the Huvadhoo channels

The central atolls start the week with colourful pinnacle and wall dives, and at night curious nurse sharks and stingrays come to the lights.

A day in Meemu Atoll brings encounters at the manta cleaning stations.

Further south the channels take over, with strong currents that attract rich pelagic life and almost untouched corals, deep caves and unusual formations.

The Huvadhoo channels hold silvertip, hammerhead and bull sharks and large schools of grey reef sharks, and in the evening whale sharks come to the stern for night snorkelling.

LENGTH	DEPARTURE PORT	ARRIVAL PORT	EXPERIENCE
8 days / 7 nights	Male	Kooddoo	Advanced, 100 dives







Your itinerary

THE ROUTE

What the week holds

You start in the central atolls with colourful pinnacle and wall dives, and in the evenings night dives bring curious nurse sharks and stingrays to the lights. A day in Meemu Atoll brings unforgettable encounters at the manta cleaning stations.

Further south the channels take over, with strong currents that attract rich pelagic life. The route includes the Huvadhoo channels, a world famous dive area with silvertip, hammerhead and bull sharks and large schools of grey reef sharks.

In the evening the crew moves to the back of the boat for night snorkelling with whale sharks. There is a good chance of more than one visitor, and if you stay up late a one to one encounter is possible.

WHO IT SUITS

Experienced divers

Many sites on the Deep South routes are swept by very strong currents, so the cruises are recommended for divers with an advanced certification and at least 100 logged dives. The corals are almost untouched, with deep caves, channels and unusual coral formations, and the cooler, nutrient rich water draws pelagics from reef sharks to whale sharks. The manta cleaning stations of the southern atolls are hotspots for close encounters.

THE DIVING

How the diving is organised

A separate 20 metre dive boat, a dhoni, goes with the yacht and carries the equipment and compressors, so the yacht stays quiet while you prepare. It has plenty of seating, several entry points, a stern platform, a sun deck and a toilet on board. The yacht is a PADI 5 Star Dive Resort, the instructors speak several languages, and courses run from introductory dives to certification, with children from ten years old able to learn.

Dives are limited to 30 metres. A dive computer is compulsory, diving alone and decompression dives are not allowed, and night dives and dives deeper than 18 metres are for advanced certified divers. You can upgrade your certification on board.







THE SPA

Treatments, yoga and calm

The Asian style spa covers 300 square metres over two decks, the largest on any liveaboard in the Maldives. There are four treatment rooms, including one for couples, a secluded deck for open air Thai massage and meditation, and a shaded lounge.

More than fourteen treatments are on the menu, including Swedish, Balinese, Thai, Filipino, Hilot, Shiatsu, Ayurvedic, Hawaiian, Lomi Lomi, warm bamboo, lava shell and hot stone massage, plus facials and Ayurvedic champissage for the hair. The products are made for the boat with organic ingredients, botanical extracts and essential oils, and you can buy them from the on board boutique.

Yoga runs every morning and at sunset on the open deck, with asanas, breathing and meditation for beginners and experienced practitioners alike.







ON THE TABLE

Food, drink and celebrations

Internationally trained chefs cook European, Mediterranean and Asian dishes with local flavours, served as three buffet meals a day with live cooking stations in the al fresco restaurant. The menu runs from the catch of the day, lamb and beef to a sushi bar, tapas and flaming crêpes Suzette, and fresh lobster can be ordered for a small extra charge. Dietary requirements are catered for.

The bar sits next to the restaurant and opens onto the shaded lounge deck, with wines, champagnes, cocktails, beers and spirits and a daily happy hour. Once a week the crew hosts a moonlit barbecue on a sandy beach.

The chefs will also plan birthdays, anniversaries, engagements and weddings, from a private dinner on a separate deck to champagne at sunset.







PACKAGES

Choose how you spend the week

Every guest chooses one of three packages for the week. The packages cannot be mixed, and dives cannot be swapped for treatments. Regular packages apply, with dive numbers depending on the route.

Scuba holiday

Up to 17 dives over the week. This package is for certified divers, and you can book extra spa treatments on board when there is space.

Spa holiday

Eight spa treatments in the week, plus yoga and snorkelling. A Discover Scuba Diving experience can be added if you would like to try diving.

Scuba and spa

Six dives and four spa treatments. This is also the package for the PADI Open Water course, which runs on the seven night cruises.

CONDITIONS

Seasons, water and sea life

The water stays between 26 and 29 degrees all year. From November to May the north east monsoon brings clear skies and little rain, with channel dives on the eastern sides of the atolls and mantas at the cleaning stations on the western sides. From June to October the south west monsoon brings fewer crowds, with mantas on the eastern sides and the channel dives on the western sides. Routes are adjusted to the monsoon, the weather and the tides.

Expect mantas, whale sharks, turtles, reef sharks, eagle rays, stingrays and big schools of tropical fish.

INCLUDED

What your trip covers

INCLUDED IN THE TRIP PRICE

- Cabin accommodation with three meals a day
- Welcome drink, drinking water, coffee and tea
- Airport transfers on the regular arrival and departure days
- Yoga classes every morning
- Snorkelling, with equipment included
- A barbecue on a deserted island and the excursions in the programme
- The diving or spa treatments of the package you choose
- Wi-Fi, with a 5 GB allowance per cabin

NOT INCLUDED

- International and domestic flights
- Service and administration charge and the nightly green tax, shown on our trip listings
- Dive and travel insurance
- Dive equipment rental
- Drinks from the bar and extra spa treatments
- Crew gratuities, which are optional