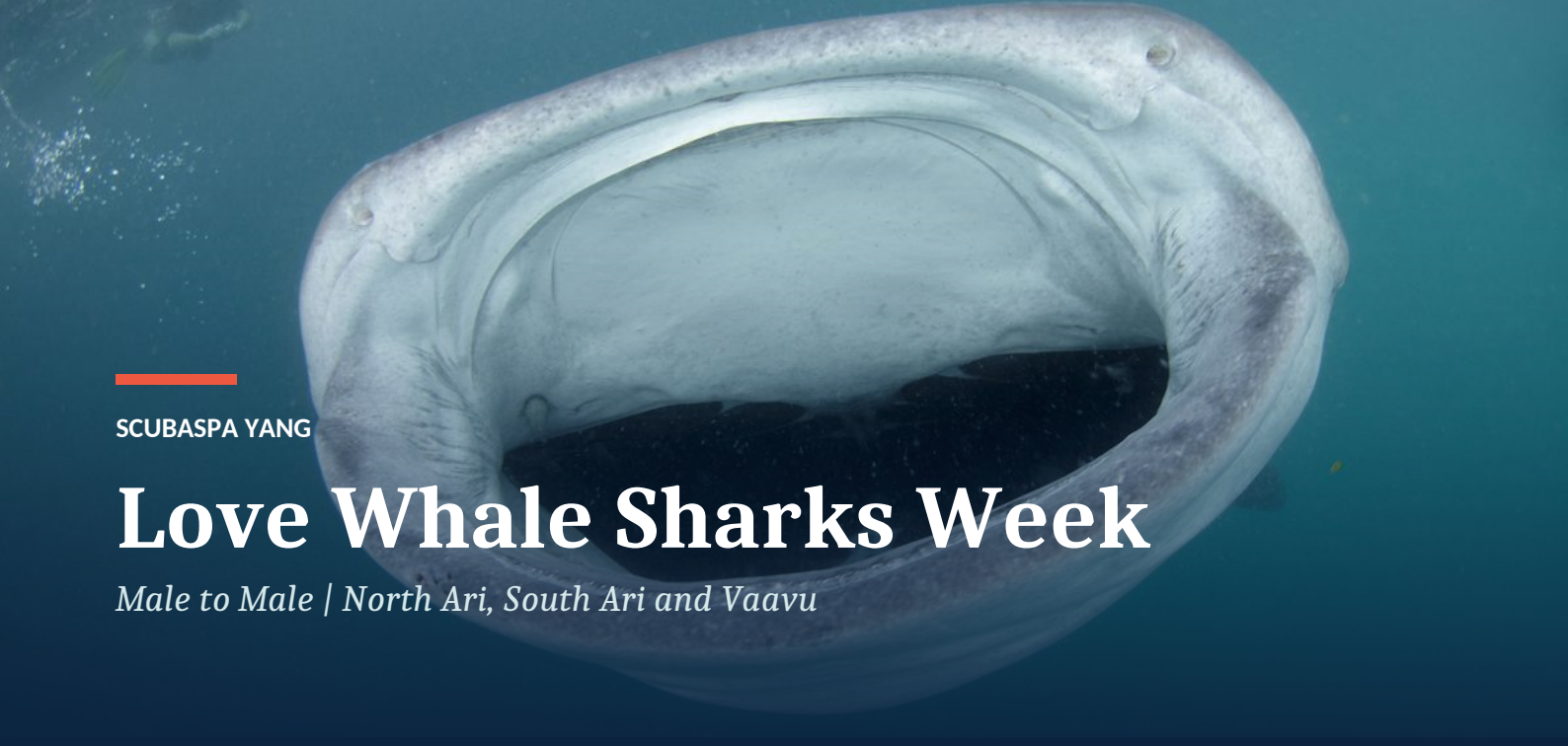


SCUBASPA YANG

Love Whale Sharks Week

Male to Male | North Ari, South Ari and Vaavu

A week to celebrate the biggest fish in the sea, with whale sharks as the whole point of the trip.

Two full days in the South Ari Marine Protected Area bring whale sharks and mantas at their cleaning stations.

After dark there is night snorkelling with whale sharks around the boat, and the chance of more than one visitor makes staying up late worthwhile.

North Ari adds pinnacles and outer atoll walls, with encounters with pelagic megafauna.

In Vaavu Atoll, a once in a lifetime night dive waits with nurse sharks and stingrays.

LENGTH	DEPARTURE PORT	ARRIVAL PORT	EXPERIENCE
8 days / 7 nights	Male	Male	No minimum level







Your itinerary

DAY 1

Saturday: Welcome aboard

Meet the team at Velana airport, transfer to the yacht and settle in.
After the crew introductions and safety briefing there is a welcome dinner on board.

DAY 2

Sunday to Monday: North Ari

Up to 3 dives a day

Dives focus on pinnacles and the outer atoll walls, with encounters with pelagic megafauna, and the first talks and activities of the week.

DAY 3

Tuesday to Wednesday: South Ari

Dive or snorkel

Two full days in the South Ari Marine Protected Area, home to whale sharks and to mantas at cleaning stations.
After dark there is night snorkelling with whale sharks around the boat, and the possibility of more than one visitor makes staying up late worthwhile.

DAY 4

Thursday: Vaavu Atoll

3 dives

In Vaavu Atoll a once in a lifetime night dive waits with the nurse sharks and stingrays of the Alimatha jetty.

DAY 5

Friday: Back to Male

Up to 2 dives

The yacht cruises back to Male, with a final dive and the farewell dinner.

DAY 6

Saturday: Departure

Check out after breakfast and transfer to the airport.

THE EVENT

Talks, courses and film nights

Guest speakers from the Maldives Whale Shark Research Programme cover whale shark biology, their presence in the Maldives, swimming guidelines, research methods, current projects, citizen science and photo identification. The Project AWARE course is included, as a theory only course.

Big Fish Talks

Whale shark biology, behaviour and conservation status, and how you can become a citizen scientist gathering data.

Shark Talk

The value of sharks to ecosystems and economies, and how to challenge the myths about them.

Whale Shark Night

An evening on the whale shark mysteries while the stern platform lights up to draw in plankton and whale sharks.

PADI AWARE Shark Conservation is offered as a specialty with two course dives, for divers aged 12 or over who are at least Junior Open Water certified. Film nights on the spa deck include Ocean Wanderers, which follows two

cameramen filming oceanic white tip sharks without a cage, and Whale Sharks: Gentle Giants. There are shark themed cocktails and photography competitions for the biggest and smallest fish of the week.





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.

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